

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on supply and price control of Sugar on Sunday.

 **Bureau Report**

The premier said that in previous months the govern-

Shehbaz Sharif directed to prepare a strategy to ensure the provision of the commodity and other essential items at reasonable rates. "The federal and

He said that during the holy month of Ramazan, negligence would not be tolerated regarding control of prices of essential items. The meeting was briefed about the sugar production and that there was its sufficient stock available in the country. It was

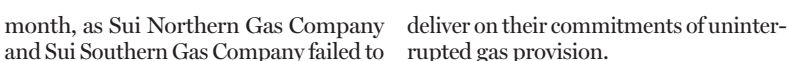
Action would be ensured against illegal hoarding of sugar and work at the district administration level would be taken vibrantly in this regard, chief secretaries briefed the meeting. Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik and other high-ranking officials attended the meeting. Chief secretaries of all provinces also attended the meeting via video link.

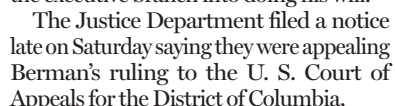
Spokesman Report

According to details, gas distribution companies had pledged uninterrupted supply during Sehri and Iftar hours. However, on the first day of Ramazan, residents in various cities, including Karachi and Rawalpindi, reported complete gas outages.

The gas crisis on the very first day of Ramazan has raised concerns about the reliability of supply throughout the holy

 Reuters

Jackson said in her ruling Saturday, opens new tab that upholding Trump's



Jackson, who was named to the bench

The Trump administration previously urged the U. S. Supreme Court, which has already delayed a ruling in the case, to get involved earlier this week.

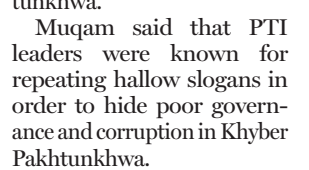
 Commerce Desk

According to Finance Ministry sources, the nine-member review mission will be led by Nathan Porter. The mission will stay for two weeks, concluding on March 15. The review will begin with technical discussions before

Sources added that talks will involve key institutions, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Planning, and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The IMF team will also engage with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), and other state departments.

 Correspondent

He said that terrorist incidents have increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as evident of the Haqqania mosque blast at Akora Khattak Nowshera while PTI leadership was concentrating to get relief

 **Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: The Prime Minister's Ramadan relief package of Rs20 billion has garnered widespread praise from people across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), with citizens from all walks of life lauding the unprecedented financial support.

This package, which is the largest ever announced for the holy month of Ramadan, is expected to offer significant relief to millions of poor families across Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement of the Rs20 billion package on Saturday has been hailed as a much-needed gesture in these

The package aims to support approximately 4 million deserving families, benefiting about 20 million people, including those in KP.

This move is seen as a substantial increase over last year's relief of Rs7 billion, representing a 186% increase.

Politicians, economists, teachers, and civil society members have all voiced their support for the relief initiative, but it has particularly resonated with low-income groups

Workers, farmers, laborers, and low-paid employees expressed their gratitude, saying the relief would ease the financial burden during the holy month.

AJK PM calls for fair and objective journalism

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that governance is a serious business that cannot be run merely on someone's wishes but in accordance with the law and constitution.

The PM said this while addressing a function after administering oath to newly elected Vice Chairman of the Press Foundation, Sardar Zulfiqar Ali here today. Speaking on the occasion, the PM, while terming self-accountability as key to develop a sense of self integrity and responsibility, said, "We all have to undergo self-accountability"

Referring to a specific mindset that fails to think rationally, the PM said, "How can I treat those intellectually blind and immature minds who are unable to see the difference between the civil liberties of Azad Kashmir and Occupied Kashmir?" Highlighting the Pakistan army's significant contribution in defending the territorial sovereignty of the State, he said that those who criticize the presence of the Pak army in the liberated territory must realize the fact that there would be no one to protect or defend them from the enemy if armed forces of Pakistan leave



the territory.

Stressing on the need to practice fair and objective journalism, the PM said, "There is a difference between a professional and an accidental journalist"

He said that professional journalists should come forward and give their valuable input and suggestions to the government in order to promote truth and counter falsehood and lies.

Terming journalism as a sacred profession, the PM said that the government would provide all possible resources for the welfare of journalists.

On the occasion the PM announced an increase in the annual grant for the Press Foundation from Rs 5 million to Rs 10 million.

HESCO's recovery campaign in Ramazan faces criticism

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: President of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Muhammad Saleem Memon, has made an urgent appeal to the Federal Minister for Energy and the Chief Executive of HESCO to ensure that the company's recovery campaign during the holy month of Ramazan is conducted with decorum, fairness, and respect for citizens. He strongly condemned the recent incidents of public humiliation, baseless FIRs, and unjustified arrests as part of HESCO's recovery efforts, calling them not only a violation of basic human rights but also a cause of social unrest.

President Saleem Memon emphasized that while HESCO has the legal right to recover outstanding dues, this right must not be exercised through coercion, mistreatment, or exploitation of the public. He stressed that Ramazan is a month of patience, worship, and goodwill, and subjecting citizens to fear and intimidation during this sacred period is both inhumane and unethical.

He urged the Federal Minister for Energy, the Chief Executive of HESCO, and all MNAs and MPAs of Hyderabad to ensure that the recovery campaign during Ramazan is conducted with leniency and transparency. He called for an immediate halt to raids on public places and business centers, as well as the unwarranted arrests and legal harassment of citizens.

President Saleem Memon also stressed the importance of ensuring an uninterrupted power supply to all business centers and commercial hubs during Ramazan to prevent disruptions in economic activities. He proposed that declaring Ramazan as an official "load-shedding-free" month would be a commendable and public-friendly initiative, benefiting both traders and ordinary consumers alike.



Meeting on enrollment campaign 2025 held in Multan



Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Chief Executive District Officer (DEA) Multan, Dr. Safdar Hussain Wahga, chaired a meeting at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Comprehensive, Multan, as part of the Enrollment Campaign 2025. The meeting was attended by district heads of educational institutions (male and female), including Munavwar Kamal (District Education Officer SEI, Multan), Riaz Ahmed Asif (President, District Headmasters & Principals Association, Multan), Mrs. Asma Tabassum (Principal), Mrs. Samina Zafar, and Abid Fareed Buzdar, who also addressed the participants.

Speaking to the heads of institutions across Multan, Dr. Safdar Hussain Wahga emphasized the importance of achieving the enrollment targets and urged them to enhance the beauty and environment of their schools. He also stressed the need to conduct the 2025 Matriculation Examination with complete transparency and instructed all teachers to fulfill their duties with honesty and dedication.

Work accelerated for Metro bus service in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD, MAR 02 (APP): Work has been accelerated to finalise Metro bus service for providing affordable and efficient urban transport facilities in Faisalabad city.

In this regard, a team of Punjab Transport Department, headed by Managing Director Punjab Mass Transit Authority Kanwar Anwar Ali Khan, visited Faisalabad and met Director General Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) Muhammad Asif Chaudhry.

The team comprised of General Manager Operations Punjab Mass Transit Authority Uzair Shah, Manager Operations Rizwan Aziz, Senior Engineers NESPAK Musa Dar Sameed Anis, Obaidullah and Project Manager Jamshed Faisal.

Sehri on street

KARACHI: People heaving meal during 1st Sehri (pre-dawn) of the holy month of Ramazan at a street, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Commissioner Multan Aamir Kareem Khan inaugurates RO Filtration Plant

Zain Khan

MULTAN.: Commissioner Multan, Amir Kareem Khan, along with Mohsin-e-Multan Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, inaugurated a modern RO water filtration plant installed by SM Group of Industries in New Shah Shams Colony. A large crowd of citizens warmly welcomed the commissioner, presenting him with garlands and bouquets. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Arqam, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the commissioner, marking the formal opening of the plant. A prayer was also offered for the success of the project.

Zain-ul-Abidin, the project in-charge of the RO plant, provided a detailed briefing on the plant's capacity and performance. He explained that the plant features self-cleaning and backwash systems, which automatically clean the filters, enhancing its efficiency. To minimize water wastage, it is equipped with an advanced reflux system. The plant also includes multi-stage filtration, automated sensors, and a digital control system that continuously monitor and regulate water quality. Citizens were informed that the water from this RO plant has a TDS 224, pH 7, and an arsenic level of 0.005ppm, making it of the highest quality. Additionally, the mineral remineralisation technology restores essential minerals in purified water, ensuring it remains healthy for consumption.

Following this, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum was invited to the stage, where he high-



lighted the plant's key features. He informed the commissioner and guests that water would be available for 15 hours a day, with plans to extend it to 24-hour availability based on demand. He emphasized the nozzle system, allowing elderly individuals, women, and children to fill their water containers directly from their vehicles without removing them.

In his speech, Chairman SM Group of Industries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, expressed gratitude to the Multan administration for their support, particularly recognizing the contributions of former Commissioner Maryam Khan, DG MDA, MD WASA Khalid Raza Khan, and senior WASA engineer Abdul Salam. He considered Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan's presence an honour, stating that his deep connection to Multan fueled his passion for public service. He emphasized that the



launch of this welfare project at the beginning of Ramazan was a moment of joy, as clean water is a fundamental necessity. He reaffirmed his commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Multan, ensuring a healthy environment for future generations. He urged citizens to care for the plant and maintain cleanliness, announcing that SM Food Group would cover all electricity costs, operator salaries, and chemical expenses to provide uninterrupted access to clean water.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum further elaborated on the plant's advanced technology, explaining that it effectively removes harmful bacteria, viruses, chemicals, and pollutants from the water. The nozzle filling system is especially beneficial for elderly individuals, women, and children, as it allows containers to be filled directly in vehicles without unloading them.

At the end of his speech, he individually thanked Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan, administrative officials, citizens, and the SM Group team, expressing hope that this project would provide long-term benefits to the community. He then invited Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan to address the audience.

Taking the stage, Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan expressed his appreciation for Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum's hospitality and highlighted his own past role as Deputy Commissioner of Multan before assuming his current position. He noted that Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum's name frequently arises in administrative meetings regarding public welfare projects, as he is a rare philanthropist who dedicates his wealth to the betterment of society.

The commissioner stressed that this RO filtration plant is no longer the property of the administration or an individual asset of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum—it is a public resource, belonging to the citizens of Multan. He urged residents to protect and maintain it so that future generations could also benefit from this facility. He also acknowledged that while Multan has many affluent individuals, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum's dedication to public welfare is truly exceptional. Addressing the attendees, he remarked that they were fortunate to have such a generous and community-focused individual among them.

Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan praised the modern design, cleanliness, and efficiency of the RO plant, calling it a milestone in public welfare. He reassured citizens that the Commissioner's Office would always be open for their welfare and support. After his speech, he personally tested the water dispensing system, filling a container and expressing satisfaction with its performance. He also closely examined the plant's machinery and spoke to the media about its significance.

As the event concluded, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum and a large number of citizens warmly bid farewell to the commissioner. Additionally, a public demand emerged for the restoration of the park in New Shah Shams Colony (Muhammadi Ground), including the planting of grass and trees. Citizens suggested that if the administration grants permission, philanthropists are willing to complete this noble project: No doubt, "True faith and devotion lie in serving humanity."

Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:13 am
Zohr12:20 pm
Asr4:25 pm
Maghrib6:05 pm
Isha7:28 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police
Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo..... 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-89203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-89266316
Wapda Islamabad.....9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint.....119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

Revenue
Public Service
Open Court
held in Toba
Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a Revenue Public Service Open Court was held in Toba Tek Singh under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Syed Jamil Haider Shah, Assistant Commissioners, Tehsildars and Land Record Center officials attended the session, addressing public grievances and issuing on the spot directives. DC Muhammad Naeem Sandhu emphasized the administration's commitment to swift and transparent issue resolution, ensuring that revenue matters are handled efficiently. Participants appreciated the initiative and called for regular open courts to continue facilitating citizens. DC Sandhu reaffirmed that this step aligns with CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of good governance and public service.

IIUI Organizes Seminar on Kashmir Solidarity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) organized a seminar on Kashmir Solidarity at its Faisal Masjid campus, where speakers urged the international community to play its role in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. The participants emphasized the significant contribution of academia in furthering the Kashmir cause through dedicated research and intellectual discourse.

The event was attended by prominent intellectuals, policymakers, and academicians, including former minister and seasoned analyst Mushahid Hussain Syed, Special Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Rector IIUI Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, President IIUI Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Shamim Shawl, Zahid Safi and Dr Nazir Hussain.

Addressing the seminar, renowned intellectual and former minister Mushahid Hussain Syed paid rich tribute

to the brave freedom fighters of Kashmir. He particularly highlighted the role of Kashmiri women in the resistance movement, stating that their resilience and sacrifices have set an exemplary precedent.

In his address, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Special Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, spoke passionately about his personal connection to the Kashmir issue, proudly stating that he is the son of a father from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Chairman HEC and Rector IIUI Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed elaborated on the pivotal role played by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in promoting the Kashmir cause through research and academic initiatives.

President IIUI, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, paid tribute to the courageous people of IIOJK, acknowledging their unwavering resolve despite facing lockdowns, curfews, and communication blackouts since August 2019.

The seminar was organized by the Dawah Centre for Women. In charge of



the Dawah Centre, Dr. Faryal Ambreen, provided an overview of the center's objectives and initiatives, particularly

in the context of Kashmir. She expressed her gratitude to the IIUI management for their support in organizing the event

and reaffirmed the center's commitment to raising awareness and educating people on the Kashmir cause.

Saata Bazar

RAWALPINDI: People are arriving to buy vegetables and fruits at Ramazan Sasta Bazaar during holy month of Ramazan outside Allama Iqbal Park, in the city.



Photo: Online

Minister meets Private School delegation, assures help in EOBI issues

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister and Vice President of Muslim League-N Punjab Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said that it is an honor to meet the federal ministry. I am thankful to Allah Almighty and my leaders Mian Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for giving me this honor. I will try to live up to the confidence the leadership has shown on me I have served the people of Rawalpindi before and will continue to serve.

He expressed these views yesterday at his residence on the occasion of a meeting with a 20-member repre-



sentative delegation led by the president of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association Punjab, Abrar Ahmad Khan. The delegation congratulated Hanif Abbasi on getting the federal ministry and

presented a bouquet. The delegation included Kamran Saif Qureshi, Adnan Nisar, Rehan Saeed, Raja Nauman Qamar, Raja Asif Mehmood Sheikh Nadeem, Shiraz Mughal, Mohammad Usman, Ifthikhar

Ahmed and others. On this occasion, Abrar Ahmed Khan drew attention to Muhammad Hanif Abbasi about the unnecessary harassment of the management of private schools by the officers of EOBI.

AIOU's exams to begin today across the country

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is conducting its final exams of Matric, FA, and I. Com programs (Semester Autumn 2024) from today (3rd March) simultaneously across all four provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The date sheet for these exams is available on the university's website (www.aiou.edu.pk), while roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS portals.

According to the released date sheet, exams will be held continuously from March 3 to March 28. There will be Eid-ul-Fitr holidays from March 29 to April 2. The first exam after Eid will take place on April 3, and the exams will continue until April 11.

Students are instructed to be punctual. No student will be allowed to sit for the exam without a roll number slip and an ID card.

London-Based Solicitor
Waheed-ur-Rehman Mian
Faces Serious Allegations

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has prohibited London-based solicitor Waheed-ur-Rehman Mian from practicing as a solicitor in England and Wales, referring his case to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) over allegations of professional misconduct.

Mian, a solicitor at M-R Solicitors LLP, is notably the legal representative of Ali Imran, the son-in-law of Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif.

Following an SRA investigation dated 23rd February 2024, publicly disclosed on 11th August 2024, several serious allegations have been made against Mian, including:

Failure to Disclose Connections Accused of not revealing relevant associations and interests to clients investing in development projects.

Conflict of Interest Allegedly acted despite a significant risk of conflict of interest.

Inadequate Client Advice Alleged failure to properly advise clients on investment risks and planning considerations.

Supervisory Failures Accused of failing to provide sufficient oversight to junior staff handling client matters.

The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal has determined that Mian has a case to answer, and a formal hearing will be held to examine the evidence. It is important to note that these allegations remain unproven until the Tribunal reaches a final decision.

At the time of the alleged misconduct, Mian was practicing at M-R Solicitors LLP in South Woodford, London. The forthcoming tribunal hearing will provide him an opportunity to present his defence, with the Tribunal carefully assessing the evidence submitted by both the SRA and the respondent.

This case underscores the SRA's commitment to upholding ethical standards in the legal profession and ensuring transparency and accountability in client representation. The legal community and the public will closely follow the outcome of the SDT proceedings.

It should be noted that Mian Waheedur Rehman is a senior leader of PTI and a former president of PTI London. In addition to serving as the general secretary of the UK-based Pakistani business organization UKPCCI, he has also been a director of various companies.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Launches Minority Card Scheme

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, a special ceremony was organized at Iqbal Auditorium, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, to distribute minority cards to the minority community.

Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan and Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora specially attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Rana Sanaullah Khan said that the federal government and the Punjab government under the leadership of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif are fully committed to protecting the rights of the minority community. We believe

that development is not possible without the welfare and well-being of the minority community.

According to the vision of PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, numerous steps have been taken for minorities, including various schemes to help them in health, education, employment and other important sectors.

He added that minority cards are an important step towards providing identity to the members of the minority community. Rana Sanaullah Khan further said that inflation has decreased due to the steps taken by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora, in his address, said that these minority cards are an important

step towards providing identity to the members of the minority community and protecting their rights. This initiative of the Punjab government is another exemplary step for the minority community, through which they will not only get recognition of their rights but will also get the facility to participate in various schemes and programs of the government.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has taken numerous exemplary steps for the minority community in the last one year. Minority cards are one of the most important steps, which will not only provide legal protection to the identity of minority people but will also enable them to access government facilities.

He further said that the measures taken by the Punjab government for the minority community during its one-year tenure

are a testament to the fact that the Punjab government has further strengthened its commitment to protecting the rights of the minority community and their welfare.

An e-learning program is also being launched for minority children very soon.

The members of the Provincial Assembly participating in the ceremony appreciated this initiative and pledged that all possible cooperation would be provided to the ongoing steps of the Punjab government for the minority community. Deputy Commissioner Captain (retd) Nadeem Nasir said that after verification, minority cards are being given to about 8,000 minority people in Faisalabad district.

At the end of the ceremony, Rana Sanaullah Khan and Ramesh Singh Arora distributed the cards. On this occasion,



members of the Provincial Assembly Arif Mahmood Gul, Uzma Jabeen Raja and Qudsia Batool, Vice Chancellor

of the University of Agriculture Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan, PML-N leaders Irfan Manan, Azad Ali Tabassum, Jafar Ali

Hocha, Faqir Hussain Dogar, Raja Daniyal, Malik Razaq Khalid, Rana Abbas and others were also present.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Pakistan Urges UN Security Council to Reform and Reflect New Realities

The UN Security Council must be more transparent and inclusive in conducting its business to meet the challenges posed by current global, regional conflicts and crises, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram has said.

Delivering Pakistan's statement at a debate on Working Methods under the long-running Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reforms, he said that while everyone was agreed on early restructuring of the 15-member body, the 'Pact for the Future', which the world leaders adopted last September, calls for strengthening the entire UN system, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peace-building Commission.

Ambassador Akram therefore proposed focusing on moving on all fronts to reform the UN bodies.

Responding to a suggestion during the debate for reflecting on "new realities", he said doing that would again freeze the Council at a particular time

in its 1945 framework — when the world body was established.

"Any expansion of permanent members would freeze the Council at that moment; It is only through the process of elections that the new realities that constantly change can be reflected in the composition of the Security Council, not by adding new permanent members," the Pakistani envoy said.

He was obviously referring to the intensive campaign by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan — known as the Group of Four — for permanent seats as they seek expansion of the Council by 10 seats, with six additional permanent and four non-permanent members.

On the other hand, the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, which firmly opposes additional permanent members, has proposed a new category of members — not permanent members — with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected, raising the number of elected seats to 21.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members elected to serve for two years.

The discussions over the years have revealed convergences as well as divergences on various elements of reform — convergence on priority for Africa, expanding the membership of developing countries and on the need for representation of regional and cross-regional groups, the Pakistani envoy said.

"But these discussions and the presentation of models have also revealed the divergences and these are considerable divergences on the size of the Council, on the issue of the categories of membership, on regional representations, on the veto, and even on working methods where there is a large convergence."

On working methods, Ambassador Akram called for transparency — open meetings, more interactive open meetings, not set piece statements that, he said, are made without any thought to interaction and action by the Council.

Responsibilities of Parliamentary Committees

If seen in a democratic spirit, Parliament plays the role of the mother of democracy. Parliament and its standing committees or parliamentary committees have the task of monitoring the performance of the government. In the parliamentary system, monitoring the performance of the government, there is a work for institutional supervision, audit and supervision of legislation by the standing committees. The chairman and secretaries have an important position in parliamentary committees, while the members are an important part of them. Therefore, it is necessary for them to play a role for the public welfare, the state and the improvement of government institutions. Below are the details of the responsibilities of some of the standing committees of the Sindh Assembly.

The names and respective portfolios of the chairmen of the standing committees of the Sindh Assembly are given below. Works: Imtiaz Sheikh, Industries: Abdul Razaq Raja, Special Education: Tanzila Umme Habiba, Mineral Resources: Syed Saleh Shah Jilani, School Education: Jam Shabbir, Culture and Tourism: Muhammad Aamir Siddiqui, Higher Technical Education: Sikandar Shoro, Excise: Najma Mirza, Women Development: Farah Sohail, Minority Affairs: Dr. Khato Mal Jeevan, Sports: Muhammad Daniyal, Information: Imdad Pitafi, Primary and Secondary Health: Dr. Sohrab Sarki, Irrigation: Sarfaraz Shah, Labour: Sajid Jokio, Energy:

Rehan Bindu Khan, Social Welfare: Abdul Basit, Planning: Zia Abbas Shah, Katchi Abadis: Muhammad Usman, Services and General Administration: Syed Ijaz Shah, Information Technology: Taha Ahmed Khan, Agriculture: Nisar Qureshi, Livestock and Fisheries: Muhammad Owais, Revenue: Ismail Rahu, Zakat: Noor Ahmed Bhurgri, Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights: Pir Mujib-ul-Haq. It should be noted that the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Nisar Khuhro, and the Chairperson of the Home Affairs Committee, Faryal Talpur, have already been elected unopposed.

While there are several standing committees in the Sindh Assembly that play an important role in its work. These committees are responsible for examining and reporting on various matters related to governance, legislation, and public interest.

Functions of Standing Committees.

Legislative Oversight: Standing committees scrutinize bills, laws, and regulations to ensure that they are in line with provincial interests and the constitution.

Financial Oversight: Committees review the provincial budget, finances, and government expenditures to ensure transparency and accountability.

Investigations and Inquiries. Standing committees investigate and inquire into matters of public concern, such as corruption, maladministration, or human rights violations.

Functions and Leadership of the Chairman: The Chairman leads the committee, sets the agenda, and ensures that the committee functions effectively.

Coordination, the Chairman coordinates with other committees, government departments and stakeholders to gather information and expertise. Reporting, the Chairman is responsible for presenting the committee's reports and recommendations to the Sindh Assembly. Examples of Standing Committees in the Sindh Assembly are: The Public Accounts Committee reviews the finances, audit and government expenditure of the provincial government. The Law and Justice Committee deals with matters related to law, justice and human rights. The Health Committee focuses on healthcare, medical education and related matters. These Standing Committees and their Chairmen play a key role in ensuring that the Sindh Assembly functions effectively and efficiently, and that the interests of the people of Sindh are represented and protected.

Yes, there are some constitutional,

legal and parliamentary powers through which the Chairmen, Parliamentary Secretaries, or other relevant officials can be questioned for inaction of the Standing Committees of the National and Provincial Assemblies.

1. Constitutional and legal framework: The Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, clearly states that it is essential for parliamentary committees to be active. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, and the Rules of Sindh Assembly are clear about the functioning of parliament, the composition of committees, and their responsibilities. Under these, it is possible to inquire about the non-regular meetings of committees or their performance.

2. Inquiries through parliamentary forums. Some important ways through which inquiries can be made:

(a) Question Hour. During the session of the Assembly or the Senate, members can ask questions to the Speaker or the Chairman of the Senate about the functioning of the Standing Committees.

(b) Calling Attention Notice. Members of the Assembly can file a Calling Attention Notice regarding the inaction of any inactive Committee or its Chairman, which must be explained to the concerned Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

(c). Adjournment Motion. If the Standing Committee continues to be inactive or no important matter is

Continued on Page 7



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

Khan Seeks NRO

Unfortunately, the political actions of Imran Khan and his party have placed political interests ahead of the nation's welfare.

His speeches and actions have led many to perceive him as an adversary to the state, the Pakistan Army, and the country's institutions. On May 9, 2023, Pakistan experienced a tragic and unprecedented series of attacks on military installations, security forces, and national monuments. This day marked a significant turning point in the country's history, resulting in widespread destruction, loss of life, and further deepening the political and security crises that Pakistan was already facing.

The attacks also involved the deliberate destruction of critical military equipment. Tanks, armored vehicles, and trucks were set alight, and sensitive military hardware was looted or damaged. These acts of vandalism aimed not only to target the military's material resources but also to demoralize the armed forces and disrupt their ability to respond to future threats. Perhaps the most heart-wrenching part of the May 9 events was the attack on monuments dedicated to Pakistan's martyrs—those who sacrificed their lives for the nation. These memorials are vital symbols of the sacrifices made by the country's armed forces and civilians in wars, military operations, and the fight for sovereignty. On May 9, several of these monuments were targeted, either through vandalism or direct destruction. Some were defaced with graffiti, while others were physically destroyed. The attack on these symbols of national pride and sacrifice struck at the heart of Pakistan's collective memory, deepening the divide between the military and the protesters. In Islamabad, one of the most significant and symbolic attacks occurred at the Monument of Martyrs, dedicated to those who gave their lives in Pakistan's wars

and military operations. Protesters vandalized the Monument of Martyrs, spraying slogans and causing damage to its structure. The attack was viewed as a symbolic strike against the core values of patriotism and sacrifice embodied by the martyrs. This event deeply shocked Pakistanis, as the Monument of Martyrs has long been a symbol of national pride and unity. Defacing such an important site was a severe blow to the country's collective memory and national identity. Similarly, war memorials in Lahore and Peshawar, dedicated to soldiers who fought in the Indo-Pakistani Wars and other military operations, were also targeted. These memorials are not only dedicated to soldiers but also represent the resilience and sacrifices of the Pakistani people.

The May 9 attacks had significant consequences for national security. In their aftermath, the military and law enforcement agencies were compelled to respond forcefully, resulting in widespread arrests, crackdowns on protesters, and increased security measures. The violence of that day raised concerns about the state's ability to maintain law and order, putting Pakistan's national security at risk. It also weakened the country's governance, eroding public trust in the political system and prompting doubts about the nation's stability. These events underscored the fragile nature of Pakistan's democracy.

The Pakistani government decided to take a firm stance against those responsible for the May 9 violence, while the Pakistan Army chose to remain neutral. It was determined that anti-state elements would be dealt with according to the law, military courts, and military regulations. Imran Khan's politics have often been at odds with the country's best interests. He accused both the United States and the Pakistan Army of conspiring to remove his government, yet at the same time, he attempted to leverage these very

entities for support. His contradictory stance—accusing the military and the US while simultaneously seeking their aid—highlighted his inconsistency.

Imran Khan's call to the diaspora for civil disobedience and to withhold remittances from Pakistan further demonstrated his lack of regard for the country's welfare. Recently, it was reported that Imran Khan had written a letter to the Army Chief, but General Asim Munir, the Chief of Army Staff, publicly denied receiving any such communication. He stated that even if a letter had been received, he would forward it to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Speaking informally during a luncheon with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, General Munir emphasized that he would not read or entertain any such letter. This clear stance by the Army Chief, who affirmed the military's neutrality, reassured Pakistanis that the Army had decided to let the nation's legal system handle anti-state elements. Imran Khan has repeatedly stated that the Army should remain neutral, yet he is now contradicting himself by attempting to involve the Pakistan Army in his personal political and legal battles. These actions highlight the duality in Imran Khan's approach—on one hand, he assures his followers that he will not seek any NRO, but on the other, he is actively seeking every possible route to gain an NRO and secure relief. The nation sees this as a clear indication of Imran Khan's deep desire to obtain an NRO. Imran Khan and his party must have the moral fortitude to address their issues through political and legal means.

Imran Khan and others involved in the events of May 9 must face Pakistan's legal system for their actions, rather than attempting to bypass it. The nation remains shocked by the May 9 incidents and demands that those responsible for these heinous acts face strict legal consequences. The people urge the government not to yield to any pressure and to deal with these individuals firmly, setting an example to prevent such incidents in the future.

Upholding Justice: FIA Cyber Crime Wing Dismantles Major Forex Investment Scam

Yesterday, the FIA Cyber Crime Wing in Multan carried out a major operation against Forex Trading Investment in Venus Energy Private Ltd. I reached out to the young and talented Assistant Director of the Cyber Crime Wing to gather details about the operation and the accused individuals. My aim is to write a column to appreciate the efforts of this team and to warn fraudsters across the country.

The Assistant Director informed me that their team, which includes Additional Director FIA Cyber Crime Wing Abdul Ghaffar, Assistant Director Tariq Mehmood Sipra, Deputy Director Sajjad Iqbal, and Assistant Director Muhammad Ali Hashmi, conducted the operation with confidentiality and factual accuracy. As a result, three individuals—Zahid, Imtisal, and Iqbal—were arrested for their involvement in the fraud.

He told briefly, a complaint was received from Sajid Mehmood (CNIC 36302-8602708-3) S/O Tariq Mehmood R/O Near Mob Lite School U Block New Multan at FIA CCRC Multan. The complaint was converted into regular Enquiry No. 458/2024, dated 27-03-2024. The complainant stated in his complaint that his friends encouraged him to invest in Venus Group of Companies which is involved in various types of International Business and gives handsome profits in US dollars. Due to the persuasion, the complainant met the Chief Operating Officers: (1) Mateen Ud Din and (2) Muhammad Rashid who had their offices in T Chowk Alnoor Plaza Shah Rukn E Alam and Model Town Chowk Northern

Bypass Multan. Both the alleged persons persuaded the complainant to invest in their company by giving assurance of profit. The complainant, being deceived, transferred an amount of PKR. 3,500,000/- in Meezan Bank Account, No. 05810102748011, titled Rashid Zeeshan, amount of PKR. 1,500,000/- in MCB Account No 0643752061005018, titled Rashid Zeeshan, and amount of PKR. 1,608,000/- in Allied Bank Account No. 02490010015632430029, titled Mateen Ud Din. Hence a total amount of PKR. 6,608,000/- was transferred by the complainant in the bank accounts of the alleged persons. In addition to the transferred amount, the complainant also handed over an amount of PKR. 6,000,000/- in cash

in the office of Venus Product and Services Pvt Limited (SMC) and acquired receipts of the given amount. On 11-01-2023, the alleged person, Rashid Zeeshan, also provided a written agreement to the complainant. The agreement stated that the alleged persons would do online trading with the complainant's amount, and they would keep 3/4% of the trading profit, whereas the rest of the profit would be given to the complainant. Contrary to the fake promises and hefty profit, the alleged persons have not even returned the principal amount to the complainant, let alone profit—except an amount of PKR. 94,600/-The alleged persons used the link venusproductsandservices.com/asg-admin/user/detail/261 to commit fraud. Afterward, the complainant kept on visiting the offices of the alleged persons and they kept on taking time to return the principal amount and

Continued on Page 7

Maritime Minister Qaiser Sheikh holds meeting with PIAF delegation

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh has emphasized the importance of promoting regional trade for sustainable economic growth.

While talking to the delegation of Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF), he said that concrete measures are being taken to develop the maritime sector, which plays a crucial role in the country's economic progress.

The delegation of the Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front held a meeting with the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh. The delegation included Patron-in-Chief Mian Anjum Nisar and Chairman Fahim Rehman Saigol.

The minister said political stability and peace are necessary for achieving sustainable development. The Minister expressed government's commitment to create a conducive environment for trade and investment for long-term economic prosperity.

Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh has said that the maritime sector in Pakistan is of

key importance for economic development and the maritime policy will be announced soon after the approval of the cabinet.

He said that promoting maritime trade was indispensable for sustainable economic development. He said that last year the maritime sector had lost billions of rupees, but this year a profit target of Rs100 billion has been set. There is a plan to increase exports from \$32 billion to \$60 billion in four years. He pointed out that Pakistani ports were working 50 percent less than their capacity. "If the volume of imports and exports is 90 billion dollars, it is expected to double in the next four years," he added.

Qaiser Sheikh said that the trade opportunities in Central Asian countries were increasing rapidly, but they do not have their own ports, so they are depending on Pakistani ports. "Pakistan's fisheries exports are 400 million dollars while our neighboring countries are far ahead of us in this sector." The minister announced that the government of Pakistan had decided that 60pc of government imports and exports would be through the Gwadar port.

"The Gwadar port will be equipped with world class facilities so that it can be transformed into a modern and complete port," he maintained.

On this occasion, Mian Anjum Nisar emphasized that in order to achieve the target of 60 billion dollars in exports the government should formulate favorable policies and ensure that this year's budget is drafted according to the recommendations of stakeholders.

Fahimur Rehman Saigol, during the meeting, urged Minister Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh to address the issues of the business community at the earliest so that traders and industrialists can continue their contributions to the country's economic growth without any hindrance. He also provided proposals regarding the improvement of shipping companies' operations related to imports and exports for the upcoming budget and discussed significant national issues in detail.

Fahimur Rehman pointed out that the rising taxes and the increase in gas and electricity prices, compared to other regional countries, are continually raising production costs, which indirectly impacts the public.



Remembering Shahbaz Bhatti: A Life Dedicated to Minority Rights and Harmony

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Mar Under the auspices of the All Pakistan Minorities Movement, candles will be lit at the site of martyrdom of the leader of the movement, Shahbaz Bhatti, in I-8/3 on Sunday, March 2, at 4 PM, to pay tribute to his sacrifice.

All Pakistan Minorities Movement Chairman Nadeem Bhatti, Vice Chairman Sohail Romi, Central Secretary General Waris Dilip, Central Leader Press & Social Media Fayaz Bhatti, Dr. Yousaf Riaz, Chief Economist of the Pakistan Christian Institute of Economics & Politics, Catherine Chaman, Shireen Aslam (Central General Secretary and In-charge Women's Wing), Latif Ankam Chauhan (President District Islamabad), Saleem Bhatti (Member District Islamabad), Tariq Gul (Provincial President Sindh and Member



Central Committee), Noshua Emmanuel (Member District Executive Body Rawalpindi), Rashid Chauhan (Central Christian Leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party), and others stated

that martyr Shahbaz Bhatti wanted to see the religious minorities of Pakistan prosperous in economic, political, and social aspects and was committed to eradicating terrorism.

The leaders of the All Pakistan Minorities Movement, while paying tribute to the martyr on his death anniversary, further said that Shahbaz Bhatti was a great advocate for inter-faith harmony, minority rights, and the eradication of terrorism in Pakistan.

He strongly believed that all religious minorities in Pakistan should have equal rights, freedom, and opportunities for development.

He dedicated his life to the protection of minorities, the promotion of their social, economic, and political rights, and fostering religious harmony. As the Federal Minister for Minority Affairs, he worked tirelessly to promote tolerance, coexistence, and peace in the country.

His sacrifice stands as a shining symbol in the struggle for minority rights in Pakistan, and his mission continues to live on in the hearts of his followers.

President Azad Kashmir Calls for Unity and Charity in Ramadan Message

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah



LONDON: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has extended his heartfelt felicitations to Muslim Ummah particularly the people of Pakistan and Kashmir on the advent of Ramadan ul Mubarak.

In his congratulatory note, the President, while highlighting the blessings and mercy of Ramadan urged the people to especially pray for the betterment of the Muslim Ummah and the freedom of Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He appealed the well-off people to generously donate, help and support to uplift the lives of poor and economically less-privileged people during this blessed month.

Hy said that while seeking pleasure of Allah through righteous deeds, the believers must make service to humanity their motto.

While voicing his serious concern over the relentless repression of Kashmiris' political, human and religious rights, the president prayed to Allah the Almighty to enrich the people of occupied Kashmir with the wealth of freedom.

Austrian Ambassador visited the Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan, who is posted in Islamabad, visited the shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed and was welcomed by Sajjada Nashin Makhdoom Syed Abul Hassan Gilani. During her visit to Multan, the Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Andrea Wicke, visited the shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, where the Sajjada Nashin of the shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, Makhdoom Syed Abul Hassan Gilani, Makhdoomzada Syed Muhammad Irtza Gilani, welcomed her at the shrine and also dressed her in Ajrak and inspected the constructions of the shrine and offered special prayers for her. The Austrian Ambassador inspected the construction work and ancient constructions at the shrine and expressed special interest in them.

Multan. Group photo of the Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Andrea Wicke, at the shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, Makhdoom Syed Abul Hassan Gilani, Makhdoomzada Syed Muhammad Irtza Gilani and others.

UN chief urges 'maximum restraint' as first phase of Gaza ceasefire expires

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on Israel and Hamas to exercise "maximum restraint" as the first phase of their ceasefire agreement concludes.

"The past six weeks have provided a fragile but vital reprieve, offering a measure of relief to both Palestinians and Israelis," the UN chief said in a statement issued by his Spokesperson.

During the period of the truce, thousands of trucks carrying life-saving assistance entered Gaza, reaching nearly every person in the besieged Strip. According to media reports, the six-week long ceasefire between Israel and Hamas ended earlier on Saturday with further negotiations between the sides still pending.

The Secretary-General emphasized the importance of preventing a return to hostilities, which he described as potentially catastrophic. "It is imperative that all efforts be made to prevent a return to hostilities," the statement urged.

Guterres called on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to find a way forward on the next phase of the ceasefire. He highlighted the necessity of a permanent ceasefire and the release of all hostages to prevent further escalation and protect civilians.

"A permanent ceasefire and the release of all hostages are essential to preventing escalation and averting more devastating consequences for civilians," the UN chief said in the statement.

Kashmir Crisis: International Lawyers condemn India's move to revoke special status

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The International Lawyers Club UK organized a special conference titled "Legal Implications of Revocation of Articles 370 and 35A in Jammu & Kashmir" at the UK Parliament. The conference, aimed at discussing the legal and human rights consequences of India's revocation of Jammu & Kashmir's special status, brought together British parliamentarians, legal experts, and members of the British-Pakistani community.

Dr. Muhammad Faisal, Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK, participated as the Chief Guest, while Imran Hussain MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kashmir, co-chaired the session. The conference was attended by several British parliamentarians and ILCUK office bearers,

including: Hafiz Abdul Ghani Choudhary Chairman, Imran Pannawala, General Secretary, Ghulam Mustafa Khwaja Former Chairman, Moazzam Ali Sindhu, Adviser to the Chairman, Muhammad Mushtaq Choudhary, Head of Finance, Miss Romana Kausar, Head, Women's Wing, Mian Manzoor Hussain, CEC Member, Muhammad Zafar, CEC Member, Muhammad Usman Naeem CEC Member, Ijaz Ahmad Bosal, Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption, Muhammad Shakeel Akram, Deputy Mayor of Hounslow, Ejaz Ahmad, Member, Punjab Bar Council, Anjed Javed, Deputy Prosecutor General, Anti-Terrorism Courts, Punjab and A large number of British-Pakistani lawyers, members of the Pakistani diaspora were also in attendance. Speaking at the conference, Imran Hussain MP emphasized the need for international action, stating

"We must see renewed efforts to secure justice and self-determination for the Kashmiris. The revocation of Articles 370 and 35A is not just a constitutional change; it has severe



implications on human rights, governance, and the identity of the Kashmiri people. In his keynote address, Dr. Muhammad Faisal strongly condemned the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, calling it a violation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the Simla Agreement. He stated:

"These illegal actions are aimed at altering the demographics of Jammu & Kashmir and suppressing the fundamental rights of its people. Pakistan will continue to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support for the just cause of Kashmir."

ILCUK Chairman Hafiz Abdul Ghani Choudhary welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the legal and human rights consequences of the revocation. He explained that the decision, made on August 5, 2019, removed the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, leading to The full integration of IIOJK under the Indian Constitution, allowing non-residents to buy land and apply for government jobs. The implementation of over 800

Indian central laws, including strict anti-terror and anti-corruption laws, increasing government control over the region. The loss of local autonomy, raising concerns about identity, self-governance, and regional stability.

Muhammad Mushtaq Choudhary, Head of Finance Said his speech "we are here to condemn the abrogation of Article 370 & 35A by the Indian Govt, which has abolished special status of the state of Jammu & Kashmir! I personally consider that it will boost violation of human right in the occupied jammu & Kashmir & it is obligatory on all of us to raise our voice in support of the right of self determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir"

Miss Romana Kausar, Head of ILCUK's Women's Wing, focused on the gendered consequences of the revocation, stating "Women's rights have been severely affected. Property rights, inheritance laws, and fundamental gender equality protections have been compromised under this new legal framework. She called for

international intervention to protect the rights of Kashmiri women, emphasizing that human rights are universal and must not be ignored. British parliamentarians and British-Pakistani legal experts at the conference unanimously condemned human rights violations in IIOJK. They urged the international community to pressure India into Respecting UNSC resolutions. Ending human rights abuses in the region, Allowing Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination The conference concluded with the presentation of awards and shields to distinguished guests and officials of the International Lawyers Club UK. Councilor Moazzam Ali Sindhu served as the stage secretary for the event.

Participants expressed their commitment to continuing legal and diplomatic efforts to support the Kashmiri cause. They emphasized that the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A is not just a regional issue but a global human rights concern, urging international organizations like the United Nations to take immediate action.

 **Bull & Bears**

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
113,251.66	113,784.30
Day's High	Day's Low
114,265.97	113,201.84
Index Value	Change
17,125,243,644	-532.64
Percentage	Time
-0.47%	28 Feb, 2025 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,809.74	+53.53
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	28 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
43,419.91	+180.41
Percentage	Time
+0.42%	28 Feb, 12:04 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,155.50	-1,100.67
Percentage	Time
-2.88%	28 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	176.50	178.75
Bahrain Dinar	737.85	745.85
Canadian Dollar	195.10	197.50
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.48	38.88
Euro	293.25	296.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.62	35.97
Indian Rupee	3.11	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.88	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.75	908.25
Malaysian Ringgit	62.54	63.14
NewZealand \$	158.9	160.90
Norwegians Krone	24.81	25.11
Omani Riyal	722.15	730.65
Qatari Riyal	75.3	76.00
Saudi Riyal	74.30	74.85
Singapore Dollar	209.25	211.25
Swedish Korona	25.35	25.65
Swiss Franc	303.71	306.51
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	76.00	76.65
UK Pound Sterling	353.50	357
US Dollar	280.10	281.6

Payoneer Reports Record Q4 & Full-Year 2024 Revenue, Surpasses \$80B in Volume



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Payoneer (NASDAQ: PAYO), a global fintech leader empowering small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) to expand globally, has reported record-breaking financial results for Q4 and full-year 2024. The company achieved 20% growth in revenue (excluding interest income) and delivered three consecutive quarters of positive adjusted EBITDA, further solidifying its position as a key player in the cross-border payments and commerce-enablement space.

Key Highlights from Q4 and Full-Year 2024 Results:

Record Revenue & Profitability: Payoneer delivered its highest-ever quarterly and annual revenue, achieving 20% growth in revenue excluding interest income.

Total Volume Growth: The company processed a record \$80 billion in total payment volume, representing a 21% increase year-over-year.

John Caplan, CEO of Payoneer, remarked, "2024 was a defining year for Payoneer. We achieved new records for annual volume, revenue and profitability, saw exceptional volume and revenue growth with B2B SMBs, drove increased adoption of our high value products and expanded our financial stack. These achievements are proof of our scalable, increasingly profitable business model, the size of our opportunity and the strength of our execution. Looking ahead to 2025, we will focus on expanding our regulatory moat, modernizing our technology infrastructure and further enhancing our financial stack, while seeking to deliver continued strong growth and profitability."

‘Pakistan, Oman eye enhanced economic cooperation’

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Ambassador to Oman, Naveed Safdar Bokhari Sunday disclosed that numerous opportunities await Pakistani businessmen for collaboration, joint ventures, investment, and boosting exports to Oman.

Speaking here today to Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq, he emphasized the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Oman, highlighting the potential for enhanced economic cooperation.

He said that Oman's strategic location and business-friendly environment make it an ideal partner for Pakistani entrepreneurs looking to expand their reach in the Gulf region and beyond.

He urged Pakistani businessmen to explore sectors of agriculture, information technology, construction, and energy, where both coun-



tries can benefit from mutual expertise and resources. He also stressed the importance of

leveraging Oman's ports and logistics infrastructure to increase Pakistan's exports to regional and international markets. The ambassador assured full support from the Pakistani embassy in facilitating business delegations, organizing trade fairs, and providing necessary guidance to investors.

Naveed Safdar Bokhari said this initiative aligns with Pakistan's broader goal of strengthening economic ties with Gulf countries and diversifying its export markets, underscore the untapped potential for collaboration between the two countries encouraging Pakistani businesses to seize the opportunities and contribute to the economic growth of both countries.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq appreciated the hectic efforts of ambassador for creating awareness among Pakistan's businessmen for capitalisation of market, strengthening trade relations and inviting them to Oman for exploring exports avenues.

Pakoriyan

LAHORE: A vendor displaying 'Pakoriyan' to be used for 'chaat' to attract customers during the holy fasting month of Ramazan.



Photo: APP

Pakistan's trade ties with Central Asia gain momentum

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said Pakistan's trade relations with Central Asian states have gained significant importance in the prevailing global scenario, marked by shifting geopolitical dynamics and economic challenges.

In a statement here today he said Central Asia, rich in natural resources and strategically located, offers immense opportunities for Pakistan to enhance its economic footprint. The recent visits of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the region underscore Pakistan's commitment to strengthening ties and unlocking mutual economic benefits.

He said Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, are key players in energy, agriculture, and mineral sectors. Pakistan, with its growing population and strategic location as a gateway to South Asia, can serve as a vital trade and transit hub for these landlocked nations. Enhanced connectivity through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Trans-Afghan



Railway project can facilitate trade and energy exports, benefiting both regions.

Iftikhar Ali Malik, an octogenarian popular trade leader of South Asia further stated Premier Shehbaz Sharif's visits aimed to bolster bilateral trade, investment, and regional connectivity. Discussions focused on energy cooperation, particu-

larly in oil, gas, and electricity, as well as joint ventures in agriculture, textiles, and infrastructure development. These dedicated sincere efforts will yield tangible outcomes, increased exports of Pakistani goods, improved access to Central Asian markets, and strengthened people-to-people ties, he concluded.

Pakistan can reach \$1 trillion economy in 6-7 Years: BMP Chairman

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has emphasized the need for curbing capital flight and brain drain, calling for measures to retain Pakistan's financial and human resources within the country.

BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar underscored the need for urgent reforms to restore investor confidence, address economic hurdles, and prevent further capital outflows.

Expressing concern over the growing number of Pakistani businesses relocating abroad, he pointed out that thousands of individuals have transferred their businesses overseas to secure citizenship through investment programs.

He expressed optimism that Pakistan could become a trillion-dollar economy



within the next six to seven years if the right economic policies were implemented. He also highlighted the progress in the agriculture sector, noting that rice exports had reached \$3.8 billion and total agricultural exports had climbed to \$9 billion, shifting Pakistan from an import-driven to an export-driven economy.

BMP Chairman urged the government to focus on enhancing economic competitiveness rather than relying on trade concessions such as the European Union's GSP+ scheme. He pointed to artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and software as key sectors for economic advancement.

CCP all set for groundbreaking of its head office building

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) is set to mark a historic milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony of its head office building. The event, scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday, March 4), will be officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The event will bring together key stakeholders, including policymakers, federal secretaries, representatives from the business community and regulatory authorities.

The new CCP headquarters will be a state-of-the-art, smart building with modern technology, energy-efficient systems, and green spaces. It will enhance operational efficiency, provide a better



working environment, and significantly cut rental costs, strengthening the Commission's financial position. The secure and sustainable facility will also accommodate a larger workforce.

Emphasizing the significance of this milestone, Chairman CCP, Dr. Kabir Sidhu, stated, "This building is more than just bricks and mortar; it symbolizes a financially stable CCP. After construction of the head office, we will expand our presence in major cities across the country."

In 2024, CCP imposed Rs. 275 million in penalties for cartelization, collusion, and deceptive marketing, recovered PKR 100 million, resolved 73 court cases, and issued 32 show-cause notices across fertilizer, real estate, education, public procurement, and pharmaceuticals.

Pakistani food delegation receives warm welcome in China

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistani food delegation from South Punjab currently on a 10-day visit to 10 cities of China, receiving an overwhelming response from their Chinese counterparts.

According to a message received here Sunday from China, leader of the delegation convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran said delegation, comprising food entrepreneurs, and exporters, aims to strengthen bilateral trade ties and explore new opportunities for Pakistani food products in the Chinese market. South Punjab, known for its rich agricultural produce including international stand-

ards snacks is showcasing a variety of traditional and organic food products.

Shahid Imran leading the delegation are visiting 10 cities for fully exploring the export avenues and this tour is part of the broader efforts to capitalize and strengthen economic collaboration between the two countries. The delegation's visit is expected to open new avenues for South Punjab's food industry especially international standards snacks boosting exports and fostering long-term partnerships with Chinese businesses. The positive response underscores the growing demand for Pakistani snacks in China and highlights the potential for mutual growth in the agricultural and food sectors, he concluded.

Punjab govt provides relief in flour, sugar prices under Ramazan package

LAHORE: On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, significant relief is being provided in the prices of flour and sugar across the province as part of the Nigahban Ramazan Package 2025.

Punjab Food Department Director General (DG) Shoaib Jadoon informed APP that 4,871 bags of flour have been sold in the past 24 hours at special relief markets, established by the government. He added that a subsidy of Rs 20 to Rs 85 is being offered on 10-kg flour bags at these relief stalls.

In addition, over 41,000-kg sugar was sold at relief stalls in the same period, with the price fixed at Rs 130 per kg. The distribution of flour bags included

1,383 in Lahore division, 579 in Gujranwala and Gujarat, 1,198 in Rawalpindi districts, 213 in Faisalabad, 160 in Sargodha, and 301 in Sahiwal division. Similarly, 381 flour bags were sold in Multan division, 80 in Bahawalpur, and 576 in Dera Ghazi Khan districts.

The DG Food emphasised that all necessary measures were being taken to ensure availability of affordable food items for the public. The relief in flour prices is being provided directly on the instructions of the chief minister. In collaboration with the industry, various essential items are available at sahalat stalls at prices lower than the market rate, and the uninterrupted supply of sugar and flour would be ensured.

India beat New Zealand by 44 runs in the last Group B match to confirm their spot in the Semi-Final

Asim Tanveer

DUBAI: In the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai, India emerged victorious against New Zealand, defeating them by 44 runs in the last Group B match to confirm their spot in the semi-finals. In the first semi-final on March 4th, India will face Australia in Dubai, while New Zealand, after this defeat, will meet South Africa in the second semi-final on March 5th in Lahore. The Black Caps were at 133 runs for 3 wickets in 25 overs. They had 7 wickets in hand, needing 117 more runs with 150 balls remaining. However, New Zealand's batters struggled against Pakistan's bowling, managing only 155 balls in their 45.3 overs, indicating a slow run rate of 26 overs dot balls. India utilized 4 spinners to snatch the match from the Black Caps. On Sunday, both teams might



compete in a losing battle at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. India quickly dug out 3 wickets, then with Shreyas Iyer's fifty, they successfully reached 249 runs for 9 wickets.

Unlike other captains, New Zealand's skipper Mitchell Santner chose to bowl

first after winning the toss in Dubai, aiming either to challenge India or assess his team's performance. Initially, this decision seemed right, especially when Kiwi bowlers dismissed Shubman Gill (2), Rohit Sharma (15), and Virat Kohli (11) early. India was struggling at 30 for 3, but Axar Patel and Shreyas Iyer rescued their innings with a crucial 98-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Axar Patel scored 42 runs before getting out, while KL Rahul contributed 23 and Hardik Pandya added 45 runs. Shreyas Iyer was the top scorer with 79 runs

off 98 balls. India managed to post a total of 249 for 9 in the allotted 50 overs.

For New Zealand, Matt Henry was the standout bowler, taking 5 wickets for 42 runs in 8 overs. In response, New Zealand started reasonably well. Although Rachin Ravindra fell



early for 6 runs at 17, Will Young's dismissal at 22 left the team at 49. Daryl Mitchell departed



for 17, bringing the Black Caps to 93 for 3. Kane Williamson put up a fight, scoring a half-century, but none of the other batters could withstand India's spinners. Tom Latham (14), Glenn Phillips (12), and Williamson (81) all fell under pressure. Mitchell Santner showed some resistance with 28 runs off 31 balls but struggled against spin as well. Williamson took 120 balls for his 81 runs, hitting only seven fours. Eventually, New Zealand was bowled out for 205 in 45.3 overs, handing India a 44-run victory.

For India, Varun Chakravarthy led the bowling attack with 5 wickets for 42 runs in 10 overs. Kuldeep Yadav took 2 wickets, while Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, and Hardik Pandya picked up one each. Mohammad Shami went wicketless.

Peshawar Zalmi Announces “Newage Cables” as its Official Power Partner for PSL 10

Tahir Amin Malik

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Super League (PSL), is proud to announce a new partnership with Newage Cables ahead of PSL10. Under this collaboration, the Newage Cables logo will be placed prominently on the shirt of Peshawar Zalmi players' kits. This alliance reflects both organizations' dedication to promoting cricket in Pakistan and their shared vision of positively impacting communities nationwide.

COO Peshawar Zalmi, Mr. Abbas Layaq, and Director Newage Cables, Mr. Alman Jalil Azam, signed the contract in the presence of Zalmi star players Hussain Talat and Mehran Mumtaz, marking the beginning of a promising partnership.



Beyond cricket, this collaboration emphasizes impactful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, including youth development and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Javed Afridi, Chairman of Peshawar Zalmi, expressed his enthusiasm: “We are delighted to welcome Newage Cables into the

Zalmi family. Their commitment to excellence aligns perfectly with our values, and together, we aim to achieve remarkable success in PSL 10 and contribute meaningfully to our communities. With this partnership, we hope to create lasting opportunities for young talent and inspire future generations.”

Mr. Alman Jalil Azam, Director Sales and Marketing of Newage Cables, shared his excitement: “Partnering with Peshawar Zalmi for PSL 10 is a significant milestone for us. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration, both on the field and through our joint CSR efforts, aiming to bring the trophy home this season. This partnership reflects our dedication to innovation, sustainability, and making a meaningful impact in the sports industry.”

As PSL 10 approaches, this partnership promises exciting initiatives, exclusive fan engagement opportunities, and impactful CSR activities, further strengthening the bond between the beloved franchise and its loyal fans. Founded in 2015, Peshawar Zalmi is the

leading PSL franchise in terms of return on investment for partner brands, according to Nielsen and YouGov Sport. Beyond cricket, the franchise actively engages in philanthropic initiatives through the Zalmi Foundation, focusing on youth development, education, gender equality, health, and more.

Established in 1956, Newage Cables is Pakistan's largest cable manufacturer and the first in its category to receive ISO 9000 certification. Specializing in premium quality cables and conductors, Newage Cables emphasizes sustainability and innovation. Their collaboration with Peshawar Zalmi reflects a dedication to fostering a culture of excellence and community engagement.

Mohsin Naqvi opens PCB academies to domestic cricket stars

Sports Desk

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has decided to grant full access to all PCB academies for domestic cricket's star players, ensuring they receive top-class training.

During a meeting with high-performing domestic cricketers, Naqvi discussed cricket skills, performance, fitness, diet plans, and training sessions. Players shared their concerns about high-performance centers, fitness issues, and dietary needs.

In response, the PCB Chairman encouraged the players and issued immediate orders to resolve their problems.

He directed officials to develop a special diet plan for player fitness and ensure the availability of top trainers for their physical conditioning.

“You are the future stars of Pakistan. Investing in your development is an investment in Pakistan cricket's bright future,” Naqvi assured the players.

The PCB Chairman also took note of their suggestions and issued on-the-spot instructions for implementation.



Responsibilities of Parliamentary Committees

Continued from Page 4

raised, members can move an adjournment motion, through which a discussion will take place and the Speaker or the Chairman of the Senate can take notice of it.

Judicial Review. If questions are not possible in parliamentary forums, a Constitutional Petition can be filed in the High Court or the Supreme Court, especially under Article 199 and Article 184(3) of the Constitution. If it is proven that the public interest is being affected due to the inactivity of

the standing committees, the court can intervene.

A complaint can be made to the Speaker or Chairman of the Senate. If the parliamentary or standing committees are not active, members of the National Assembly, Senate or Sindh Assembly can submit a written complaint to the Speaker or Chairman of the Senate, on which the Speaker has the authority to seek an explanation from the concerned chairman or minister.

Media and public pressure.

Pressure can also be exerted on the

inactivity of parliamentary committees through media reporting, press conferences, and public opinion, which has been effective on many occasions.

If the standing committees of the Sindh Assembly, National Assembly or Senate are inactive, there are many constitutional, legal and parliamentary means to question their chairmen, parliamentary secretaries or the concerned ministers, which can be used effectively.

You readers will be surprised to know that many committees of the Sindh Assembly, National Assembly

and Senate cannot be formed for four or five years.!? Somewhere, due to the lack of unity between the government and the opposition, many parliamentary or standing committees are non-functional or inactive. Therefore, members of parliament, any citizen has the constitutional and legal authority to complain to the chairman of the Senate and the speaker. For this, the rules of procedure and rules of business of parliament are also given above, through which questions can be raised. Meanwhile, the common citizen can also file a judicial inquiry through the

Supreme Court or the High Court. Or he can also put pressure on parliament through the media and press conferences.

It is a well-known fact that due to the tension between the ruling party and the opposition in the current National Assembly, the election of the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee has been postponed for almost a year. These are public forums that are directly accountable to the people. Provincial Assemblies, National Assembly and Senate. Billions of rupees are spent on them over a

period of four and five years. The Prime Minister, Provincial Chief Minister, their cabinet members, Assembly members or Senate members receive salaries, medical allowances, traveling allowances and even allowances for attending meetings.

If the estimate is made for five years, it costs billions of rupees. In the next article, an attempt will be made to present to the readers the total expenditure on parliamentarians in the Sindh Assembly in terms of allowances of Assembly members and parliamentarians in the past five years.

Upholding Justice: FIA Cyber Crime Wing dismantles ...

Continued from Page 4

the profit. Afterward, the alleged persons disappeared and switched off their mobile numbers. The alleged persons defrauded the complainant through deception and fake promises of hefty profits in the online trading business. The alleged persons committed organized financial fraud and misappropriated an amount of PKR. 12,608,000/- The other alleged persons Ali Hasan, M Zahid, M Sabir, Sajjad Ahmad, and M Iqbal have different designations in the Venus Group of Companies and are part of this gang for committing this fraud. The complainant demanded recovery of his defrauded amount and a criminal proceeding against the racketeers. During the enquiry proceedings, the complainant was summoned and he joined the enquiry. His statement was recorded and other than the two main alleged persons who received the alleged amount in their bank accounts, the complainant nominated six other individuals as mentioned in FIR below: The complainant also provided screenshots of WhatsApp chat with the accused Mateen Ud Din, having WhatsApp number 03336138452. The said screenshots contained the details about the forex trading portal/application, “ZX Trading”, and the login details of the complainant. The bank account statements of the alleged accounts of the accused person(s) and the bank account statement of the complainant's MCB account number PK69MUCB0493942281002297 (used by the complainant for transferring the alleged amount) were acquired from the respective banks. The account statements corroborated the claim of the

complainant as the above-mentioned transactions were found in their statements. Moreover, the record of the Venus group of companies was acquired from the SECP. As per the SECP AJRM No: 837, dated 29.04.2024, six (06) companies were found to be registered with SECP: (1) Venus Energy Pvt Ltd, (2) Venus Products and Services (SMC) Pvt Ltd, (3) Venus Real Estate Services (SMC) Pvt Ltd, (4) Venus Software Solutions & Services Pvt Ltd, (5) Venus Livestock (SMC) Pvt Ltd, and (6) Venus Solar Technology (Pvt.) Ltd. The details of the first five (05) companies were received from SECP. As per the record, Muhammad Rashid Zeeshan was designated as chief executive of all the companies; whereas, Ch Muhammad Khuram Hayyan, Mst Gulzar Ch, Muhammad Iqbal, Imtisal Akram, Zahid Siddique, and Shabana Kousar were designated as directors of different companies of Venus group. The notices u/s 160 CrPC were issued to all of the alleged persons for attending the enquiry proceedings. However, only Imtisal Akram, Muhammad Iqbal and, Zahid Siddique attended the office, but they failed to give a justification. Their Mobile phones (01 from each) were seized and sent to the forensic lab for digital forensic analysis. It was established that it was an organized crime committed under the guise of Venus group of companies; however in reality, it was an online forex trading scam. More than 200 investors were defrauded on the name of investment with a total amount reaching approximately PKR. 12 billion. The names of the alleged persons were placed in passport control list (PCL) due to the apprehension of the alleged persons might flee the country

after scamming public at large. After the conclusion of enquiry CFR for the registration of Case against (1) Mateen Ud Din R/O House no 631-J Shah Rukn-e-Alam Colony Multan (2) Muhammad Rashid Zeeshan S/O Sardar Ali House no 271-A Shah Rukn e Alam Colony Multan (3) Mst. Gulzar Choudry D/O Choudry Sardar Ali R/o House no 1765 Block P Wapda Town Phase 2 District Multan (4) Ch Muhammad Khuram Hayyan S/O Ch Sardar Ali R/o House no 1765, Block P Wapda Town Phase 2 District Multan and others.

Approval for the registration of FIR was granted by the competent authority. In the meanwhile, the particulars of Zahid Siddique, holding Passport number AF5466434, got hit in IBMS black list at Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore. He was trying to flee the country and was going to Kenya. Since his name was in blacklist, he was offloaded by the FIA Immigration. FIA CCP \$20 Multan was intimated about the offloading of Zahid Siddique. After the offloading, Zahid Siddique was brought to Fi CCRC Multan. During personal search, 02 mobile devices (1) Infinix X6880, and (2) Oppo F11 were found in his possession. Moreover, 2900 USD, 66000 Kenya currency, 18600 PKR, and 480 AED were found in his possession. Upon his arrival in FIA CCRC Multan, his mobile phones were analyzed by the undersigned. Upon analysis of the mobile phones, it was discovered that he was in active contact with the accused Muhammad Rashid Zeeshan through WhatsApp. Moreover, agreement deed regarding the transfer of assets in the shape of cash and gold bars was found in the

chat. The said agreement clarifies that he was trying to move his assets abroad through money laundering and that is why he was visiting Kenya. Zahid Siddique disclosed that in addition to Muhammad Rashid Zeeshan, Muhammad Iqbal & Imtisal Akram have defrauded huge amount from people on the name of Forex trading, and evidences can be recovered from them if they are arrested without any delay. On the pointation of Zahid Siddique, the raid was conducted in Model town Multan and the accused Muhammad Iqbal & Imtisal akram were apprehended and 02 mobile devices (Redmi Note 13 pro) and 01 HP laptop (DESKTOP 2EOT1K8) were recovered from their possession. The said devices were seized through seizure memos, and during on spot analysis of the laptop several excel sheets related to the forex trading investment in Venus Energy Private Ltd were found in the “Downloads” folder of the laptop. One of the excel sheet titled “Venus profit AUGUST-FINAL-REV” is reproduced. According to FIR, Role of Saima Latif W/O M Rashid Zeeshan, Alishaba Mateen D/O Mateen Ud Din, Noshaba Bano W/O Mateen Ud Din, and others, if any, will be determined during investigation. Investigation of the case is entrusted to AD Tariq Mehmood Sipra by the order of competent authority.

The Multan FIA Cyber Crime Wing's operation is highly commendable and exemplary. They uncovered a major financial fraud using advanced investigative skills and confidential intelligence. The team worked in an organized and professional manner, successfully arresting the culprits, which is

a testament to the rule of law. This achievement not only provided justice to innocent citizens but also set a precedent for preventing such crimes in the future. The entire FIA Cyber Crime Wing team deserves appreciation for this outstanding operation.

Approval for the registration of FIR was granted by the competent authority. In the meanwhile, the particulars of Zahid Siddique, holding Passport number AF5466434, got hit in IBMS black list at Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore. He was trying to flee the country and was going to Kenya. Since his name was in blacklist, he was offloaded by the FIA Immigration. FIA CCP \$20 Multan was intimated about the offloading of Zahid Siddique. After the offloading, Zahid Siddique was brought to Fi CCRC Multan. During personal search, 02 mobile devices (1) Infinix X6880, and (2) Oppo F11 were found in his possession. Moreover, 2900 USD, 66000 Kenya currency, 18600 PKR, and 480 AED were found in his possession. Upon his arrival in FIA CCRC Multan, his mobile phones were analyzed by the undersigned. Upon analysis of the mobile phones, it was discovered that he was in active contact with the accused Muhammad Rashid Zeeshan through WhatsApp. Moreover, agreement deed regarding the transfer of assets in the shape of cash and gold bars was found in the chat. The said agreement clarifies that he was trying to move his assets abroad through money laundering and that is why he was visiting Kenya. Zahid Siddique disclosed that in addition to Muhammad Rashid Zeeshan, Muhammad Iqbal & Imtisal Akram

have defrauded huge amount from people on the name of Forex trading, and evidences can be recovered from them if they are arrested without any delay. On the pointation of Zahid Siddique, the raid was conducted in Model town Multan and the accused Muhammad Iqbal & Imtisal akram were apprehended and 02 mobile devices (Redmi Note 13 pro) and 01 HP laptop (DESKTOP 2EOT1K8) were recovered from their possession. The said devices were seized through seizure memos, and during on spot analysis of the laptop several excel sheets related to the forex trading investment in Venus Energy Private Ltd were found in the “Downloads” folder of the laptop. One of the excel sheet titled “Venus profit AUGUST-FINAL-REV” is reproduced.

According to FIR, Role of Saima Latif W/O M Rashid Zeeshan, Alishaba Mateen D/O Mateen Ud Din, Noshaba Bano W/O Mateen Ud Din, and others, if any, will be determined during investigation. Investigation of the case is entrusted to AD Tariq Mehmood Sipra by the order of competent authority.

The Multan FIA Cyber Crime Wing's operation is highly commendable and exemplary. They uncovered a major financial fraud using advanced investigative skills and confidential intelligence. The team worked in an organized and professional manner, successfully arresting the culprits, which is a testament to the rule of law. This achievement not only provided justice to innocent citizens but also set a precedent for preventing such crimes in the future. The entire FIA Cyber Crime Wing team deserves appreciation for this outstanding operation.

Humanitarian aids

A truck loaded with humanitarian aid drives through Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip after entering from the Kerem Shalom crossing



Photo: AFP

Israel blocks aid into Gaza as ceasefire standoff escalates

Agencies

JERUSALEM/CAIRO: Israel blocked the entry of aid trucks into Gaza on Sunday as a standoff over the truce that has halted fighting for the past six weeks escalated, with Hamas calling on Egyptian and Qatari mediators to intervene.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said earlier that it had adopted a proposal by US President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, for a temporary ceasefire in Gaza

for the Ramadan and Passover periods, hours after the first phase of the previously agreed ceasefire expired.

If agreed, the truce would halt fighting until the end of the Ramadan fasting period around March 31 and the Jewish Passover holiday around April 20.

The truce would be conditional on Hamas releasing half of the living and dead hostages on the first day, with the remainder released at the conclusion, if an agreement is reached on a permanent ceasefire.

Hamas says it is committed to the originally agreed ceasefire that had been scheduled to move into a second phase, with negotiations aimed at a permanent end to the war, and it has rejected the idea of a temporary extension to the 42-day truce.

Reflecting the fragility of the ceasefire deal, local health officials said Israeli gunfire had killed four Palestinians in separate attacks in the northern and southern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military said that "suspects" were iden-

tified close to its troops in northern Gaza and that they had planted a bomb. It added that an airstrike was carried out to "eliminate the threat."

Egyptian sources said on Friday that the Israeli delegation in Cairo had sought to extend the first phase by 42 days, while Hamas wanted to move to the second phase of the ceasefire deal. Spokesman Hazem Qassem said on Saturday that the group rejected Israel's "formulation" of extending the first phase.

In the first phase of the

ceasefire, Hamas handed over 33 Israeli hostages as well as five Thais returned in an unscheduled release, in exchange for around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Israeli jails and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from some of their positions in Gaza.

Under the original agreement, the second phase was intended to see the start of negotiations over the release of the remaining 59 hostages, the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, and a final end to the war.

‘International Community Demanded to Intervene in Gaza Humanitarian Crisis’

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Urges the International Community to Compel the Israeli Occupation to Allow Humanitarian Aid into Gaza

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates expresses strong condemnation over the Israeli government's decision to block the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. It warns of the grave risks and catastrophic consequences of this decision, particularly amid the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, exacerbated further during the holy month of Ramadan.

The ministry unequiv-



cally rejects the politicization of humanitarian aid and its exploitation as a tool of blackmail, a tactic that would only deepen the suffering of more than two million Palestinians, who are already enduring immense hardship due to a campaign of devastation and forced displacement.

The ministry calls upon the international community and all relevant parties to uphold their responsibilities and take decisive action to compel the Israeli government to allow the unconditional entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

It further demands an end to the exploitation of Palestinian suffering and the weaponization of starvation for political gain.

Ukraine condemns IAEA nuclear plant visit via Russian-occupied territory

Reuters

KYIV: Ukraine said on Sunday it condemned a "breach of territorial sovereignty" by employees of the UN nuclear watchdog who visited the Russia-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine via Russian-occupied territory.

In an emailed statement, Ukraine's foreign ministry blamed "Russian blackmail and systematic attempts to impose upon international organisations illegal and contradictory mechanisms of operating on the temporarily occupied territories."

A new monitoring mission from the IAEA arrived on Saturday at the Zaporizhzhia plant, which has been occupied



by Russia since 2022, for the first time through Russian territory, the Russia-installed head of the plant said.

Previously, monitoring missions entered the Russian-occupied area from territory controlled by Kyiv. The IAEA did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Sunday.

The IAEA rotation came after weeks of delay caused by military activity around the site with each side blaming the other for violating rules to ensure the team's safe passage to the plant.

Six dead in firing over personal enmity in Gujrat

Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid

GUJRAT: At least six people lost their lives in a firing incident over personal enmity in Gujrat, Punjab.

According to police, the victims were shot dead in a car near Dinga Khurd. The deceased have been identified as Zahid Nazim, Mubashir, Zamir, Javed, Rukhsar, and an unidentified individual.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the suspects opened fire on their opponents due to a long-standing personal feud whereas police personnel rushed to the scene following the incident.

Earlier, at least nine people were killed and five others were injured in a shoot out between two groups in Kandhkot.

According to police, nine people were killed as a result of firing between Jagirani and Chachar tribes in Kand-



hkot over long-standing enmity. The dead included Shah Murad Chachar, Hazroor Bakhsh, Abdul Khaliq, Shahzad, Hamid, Manzoor, Shaaban and Allah Wario Chachar.

In a separate incident, five people were killed over old enmity in Peshawar's Badh Bair.

As per details, unidentified attackers opened fire on a vehicle in Badh Bair area of Peshawar, resulting in death of five people.

The incident took place around 2:00 AM in the area. Initial investigations suggest that the attack was a result of personal enmity, police said.

PML-N, PPP rift: Bilawal to meet PM Shehbaz today



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday (today).

According to sources, Bilawal is set to arrive in Islamabad today for tomorrow's meeting scheduled at PM House.

Several important issues will come under discussion while heads of allied parties will also attend the high-level meeting.

The meeting will focus on the administrative issues of the govern-

ment and the PPP chairman will raise his party's reservations.

The lack of funds for the PPP's MNAs and MPAs in Punjab would also be discussed in the meeting.

Earlier, PPP's MPAs from Punjab showed their reservations in a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari in Lahore.

They said that PML-N is ignoring the MPAs and MNAs of PPP from Punjab.

President Zardari is also likely to hold important discussions with the PML-N leadership to remove the reservations of the PPP in Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs effective crackdown on inflation in Punjab



Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Launch a comprehensive and effective campaign against price hike in the province during Ramadan," directed Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while chairing a video link meeting of all commissioners and deputy commissioners on the subject, and said, "Get the official rate list displayed prominently in shops for the convenience of customers." She also directed them to strictly monitor supply and demand of essential food items, and to take strict action to stop their hoarding," Madam Chief Minister said, "-

Prices of goods are reduced during Ramadan all over the world, we should also voluntarily reduce our prices." She added, "Supply of quality goods at lower than market prices should be ensured in 'Sahilat Bazaars,' across the province."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "I am checking the prices of food items myself on dashboard every day." She added, "Indiscriminate action should be taken against overchargers and hoarders during Ramadan." She underscored, "No negligence in the campaign against price hike during Ramadan will be tolerated at any level."

Govt Committed to National Development, Says Rana Sana Ullah



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister and Advisor to Prime Minister (PM) on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sana Ullah Khan said that the government, under visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has put the country on the road to progress and prosperity after saving it from default and it would emerge as a strong economy after a couple of years if the pace of national development continued.

Addressing a Minority Cards distribution ceremony at Iqbal Auditorium University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Sunday, he said that in 1999 Pakistan was

making progress on a fast track under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif but the incident of October 12 occurred and the country plunged into unprecedented terrorism and loadshedding.

He said that in 2012, people again mandated Mian Nawaz Sharif and he overcame issues and put the country on the track to development again. "The dollar rate was about Rs.106, petrol Rs.65 and growth rate was 6.2% but in 2017 a deep-rooted conspiracy was hatched and a project was launched by ousting the PML-N government. The new experiment resulted in an unprecedented price hike and inflation in addition to pushing the country to the brink of bankruptcy," he added.