



Islamabad POST

Friday, February 10, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Ukraine's Zelensky urges faster arms supplies at Brussels

Detailed News On Page-08

Bilawal welcomes Amb. Nong Rong's appointment

Detailed News On Page-08



Indonesia keen to invest in Pakistan: Envoy

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

ISPR says COAS in UK, not US

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG-ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has clarified that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir is paying an official visit to UK but not US, media reported on Thursday. In a clarification message on Twitter, the DG ISPR wrote, "There have been baseless speculations on social media that COAS is visiting the USA. It is categorically stated that COAS is on an official visit to the UK from 5th to 10th February in connection with the 5th Pakistan-UK Stabilisation Conference."

Parliament incomplete at will: CJP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Thursday remarked that all public issues could only be resolved in the parliament but the incumbent parliament was kept incomplete at will. The five-member bench headed by the CJP heard PTI chief Imran Khan's plea against amendments to the NAB law. Makhdoom Ali Khan represented the federal government in court. He argued that the PTI moved the courts after NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf accepted the resignations of the PTI MNAs and now matter was being debated in the court instead of parliament.

Court rejects Rashid's bail plea

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad has rejected a bail application of AML leader and former federal minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmad. Pronouncing the verdict reserved earlier on Thursday, Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra rejected the plea for post-arrest bail. It may be mentioned that Sheikh Rashid, 72, was detained last week from his residence on a complaint filed by the PPP Rawalpindi Division vice-president. He is being tried under several sections related to criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity between different groups, and statements conducting to public mischief.

Not obligated to give polls date: Baligh

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman Thursday told the Lahore High Court (LHC) that he was not responsible for announcing the election date in the province after the dissolution of the assembly. "It is emphatically denied that I was in any manner obligated to appoint the date of elections when he has never dissolved the assembly while acting on the so-called advice of the chief minister," the governor said in his reply to the LHC.

Talks with IMF

Staff-level agreement in limbo

The prime minister had approved the agreement but IMF says it needs more time for signing the agreement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are yet to sign a staff-level agreement after 10 days of "tough" parleys. The IMF says in principles it has agreed to the staff level agreement but it needs some time for formal signing. The agreement if signed would unlock over \$1 billion loan tranche under Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that had been suspended for the last five months, sources said Thursday. The sources, familiar with the development, said that a meeting took place between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the IMF delegation, where the mission informed the premier about the agreement. The prime minister, who interacted with the Fund officials in Islamabad via video link from Lahore, approved the agreement, the sources added. The development comes hours after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had announced that talks with the IMF were "on track" and the government would share "good news" on the matter. The IMF's loan is critical for the nation of 220 million people as the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)-held foreign exchange reserves have fallen to \$2.91 billion — enough to provide an import cover of 0.58 months.

Forex reserves fall below \$3 billion

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)-held foreign exchange reserves fell below \$3 billion to a nine-year low as the cash-strapped nation faces hurdles in shoring up its economy amid a stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. The coalition government is desperately trying to unlock the IMF deal, with the lender's mission in Islamabad to negotiate the terms for resuming the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), which will pave for Pakistan to get more than \$1 billion from the institution. In a statement, the central bank said,

Continued on Page 06

Imran Khan says Judiciary's role vital in holding snap polls

PTI Chairman admits meeting Gen Bajwa after ouster as PM

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Thursday he felt the role of judiciary important in bid to hold snap elections. He admitted he met with former Army Chief at the President House. Mr Khan acknowledged the legal community when speaking to a delegation of journalists, saying, "Only the judiciary knew the way of constitutional supremacy." Talking about his party's participation in the All Parties Conference (APC), Mr Khan said, "I will first wait on the government's call on holding the APC on the matter of terrorism. Then I will decide whether to attend the meeting or not." Speaking about the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr Khan stated, "Agreement with the IMF will invite a new wave of inflation in the country." He underscored the importance of the role of the overseas Pakistanis (OVPs), saying, "They could save the country from economic hardships."

Continued on Page 06

GHQ excuses from providing security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan army's General Headquarters (GHQ) has excused itself from providing troops for security of elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by-polls and some National Assembly seats, citing ongoing wave of terrorism in the country. The situation about unavailability of troops for the election duties has been conveyed by the Ministry of Interior in a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The top electoral body has announced by-elections on NA seats in March while a schedule for polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is expected to be announced in the coming days as the ECP is bound to hold

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan-Turkiye military drills conclude successfully



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Closing ceremony of Pak-Turkiye joint military exercise "ATATURKXII 2023" was held at Tarbela today. Troops from Turkish Special Forces and Pakistan's Special Service Group (SSG) participated in the exercise. The two weeks long exercise was aimed at sharing mutual experiences in counter terrorism domain, rehearsing / adopting best practices and enhancing cooperation between the two armies. Drills / techniques regarding Com-

pound & Cave Clearance, Sniper Training, Improvised Explosives Devices (IED) handling and Combat Medic training were special focus areas of the joint exercise. This is 12th joint exercise of the Ataturk series as part of bilateral military cooperation between both friendly countries. Major General Asad Nawaz Khan, Director General Military Training witnessed the closing ceremony as chief guest. Turkish military delegation was headed by Centre Commander for Counter Terrorism Training and Exercise, Colonel Mustafa Kahraman, who also attended the closing ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review Pakistan's contributions in rescue and relief activities in the post-earthquake situation in Turkiye and Syria. DNA

Imran 'filled his pockets' in 10 years: Maryam

Accuses PTI chief of sabotaging IMF accord



ABBOTTABAD: Taking a jibe over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf announcement of launching a "courting arrest" drive (Jail Bhroo Tehreek), Chief Organizer and Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Maryam Nawaz on Thursday said her political opponents had instead filled their pockets (referring to alleged corruption) for last 10 years. "Imran Khan is responsible for the difficult situation and problems prevalent in the country," said Maryam while addressing the PML-N workers' convention, here, in Abbottabad. Maryam Nawaz alleged the PTI chief for endangering the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement by taking measures for political gains. "Farah Gogi was sent (facilitated) by a charter plane," she accused the then PTI government also blaming her party's nemesis for shutting the door of accountability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The PML(N) vice president took exception to the comparison made between the coalition government's rule since April 2022 till this day, adding the comparison should be made by analyzing the PTI's 10-year-rule in KP and the respective years of PML(N) in Punjab.

Continued on Page 06

Imran's statements help terrorists

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that Imran Khan was helping terrorists with his baseless statements against national institutions. In a tweet, sharing a video clip of Imran, she said that with every new plaster on his leg, PTI Chairman has been telling the nation a new lie, a new accusation against the opponents. Marriyum said Imran Khan was not ready to sit with the national leadership to evolve a joint strategy on terrorism, the Kashmir issue, and national security. The minister said how could Imran unite the nation when he during his government had run a dirty campaign against the martyrs and stated he would not be blackmailed by the funerals of the martyrs of the Hazara community. The person who introduced hate-mongering, misbehavior, and division in the nation was spewing poison against the institutions, she maintained.

Continued on Page 06

Turkiye-Syria Earthquake PM for launching countrywide fund-raising campaign

PM directs to achieve Rs 30 billion youth loan target by June

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday directed to launch a countrywide fundraising campaign for the affectees of earthquake in Turkiye in line with the brotherly country's appeal. He appealed to the people to wholeheartedly donate for the quake-hit brothers and sisters of Turkiye. The prime minister said, "Along with the donations, we have to give this message to the people of Turkiye that we are with them." He directed the ministers for Education, Religious Affairs, Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, and the provincial governments to wholeheartedly participate in the fund-raising campaign. All segments of society, including the chambers of commerce and industry, business community, philanthropists, religious scholars, and educational institutions should be made part of the campaign, he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz directed Minister for Education Rana Tanvir Hussain to start the fund-raising campaign in the educational institutions. The minister would visit various

Continued on Page 06

'23 Pakistanis evacuated from quake-hit Turkiye'

Pakistan would continue to extend political, diplomatic, and moral support to Kashmiris

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday confirmed that 23 Pakistani nationals were evacuated from the quake-hit Turkiye, while no casualties were reported so far. "So far, we have no news of casualty of any Pakistani in Turkiye or Syria," the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing. Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the Pakistanis were evacuated from Gaziantep University and accommodated in Adana city.

Continued on Page 06



Experience
Hospitality, Culture and Luxury
in the heart of
Peshawar

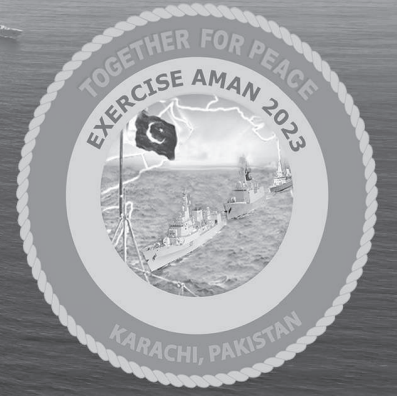
For reservations, please call +92 (91) 588 9000
or email at reservation.psh@serena.com.pk

PESHAWAR SERENA HOTEL

Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-2023



TOGETHER
FOR
PEACE



MESSAGES

Dr. Arif Alvi
President of Pakistan

It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride for me to welcome officers and men onboard participating naval ships, aircraft, Special Operations Forces, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams, Marines and Observers for Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 2023. I congratulate Pakistan Navy on organizing this mega event, wherein navies from across the globe are joining hands with Pakistan in the cause of promoting peace and order at sea.

The oceans, while serving as the great highways to carry the lifeblood of global economic system, are also marred by illegal activities like maritime terrorism, piracy, human smuggling, arms and drugs trafficking. Therefore, it is imperative that navies build strong working relationship to ensure that oceans remain safe and secure for unhindered global maritime activities. In this regard, AMAN-23 will afford a unique opportunity to the participating navies to integrate and cooperate effectively to counter prevailing and emerging challenges in the maritime domain.

It is pleasing to note healthy participation of regional and extra-regional navies in Exercise AMAN-23. Pakistan will continue to consolidate its position in the regional maritime realm, co-opting greater participation and reinforcing collaborative maritime security to pursue peace and stability in the region.

Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan

It is my pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all the participants and guests who have travelled from across the globe to participate in Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN 23. Over the years, AMAN exercises have emerged as a reflection of Pakistan's resolve to combat crimes and terrorism in the maritime domain. They represent our commitment to promote multilateral cooperation in the shared mission of promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the wider South Asian region and beyond.

I am glad that through AMAN Series of exercises, Pakistan Navy has led the way to bridge distances in the maritime domain by bringing together the navies of the East and the West, on a common platform.

Maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean are multifaceted; wherein, threats like maritime terrorism, arms & drugs trafficking and piracy have drawn increasing attention. Cooperation between international navies is, therefore, imperative to counter these threats and challenges.

Pakistan, being a major stakeholder in maritime security of vital maritime highways, is fully committed to ensuring freedom of navigation and maintenance of maritime order. In this regard, hosting of AMAN-23 by Pakistan Navy is a remarkable step in that direction. These exercises also showcase the professional excellence of the Pakistan Navy, which is committed to protecting Pakistan's sea frontiers and maritime interests.

I extend my profound felicitations to all the participants for joining us at AMAN-23 in such large numbers. This unifying commitment of the world navies towards safe and secure maritime environment is praiseworthy. I thank all participants for joining us in this endeavor for advancing peace and stability.

I wish you all a rewarding and pleasant stay in Pakistan.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif
Defense Minister of Pakistan

I extend my deepest appreciation to Pakistan Navy for conducting Exercise AMAN-23 in which participants from across the seas have gathered to join hands in support of maintaining peace and stability in the region. AMAN Series of exercises are aimed at blending navies at different levels of technological prowess to operate together in fulfillment of their shared objective of secure maritime arena. It is a vivid example of contemporary maritime order which premises on formation of 'collaborative maritime security' constructs.

While the road to regional and global economic prosperity is linked through the maritime highways of Indian Ocean, a multitude of challenges afflict the region. This makes mutual cooperation between navies all the more important to counter these challenges. Pakistan Navy has consistently pursued policy of cooperation and Exercise AMAN is an effort in bringing peace loving nations on a common platform to pursue the singular objective of unimpaird maritime security.

Since its inception in 2007, each Exercise AMAN has steadily brought together more and more navies from around the world under the emblem of 'Together for Peace'. The Exercise is a manifestation of Pakistan Navy's commitment along with the international community, to share responsibility for the exacting task of combating maritime threats.

I thank all the participating navies for their presence here and reinforcing collaborative approach to deal with asymmetric maritime challenges. I am confident that the interaction and interoperability developed during AMAN-23 will strengthen our resolve in ensuring safe, secure and stable order at sea.

Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee

I extend my warm and sincere welcome to participants from friendly navies who have arrived in Pakistan for Exercise AMAN-2023. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Pakistan Navy for organizing an exercise of this magnitude which aims to promote maritime security and project our united resolve against unlawful uses of the sea.

Armed Forces of Pakistan are engaged in maintaining and coalescing efforts to improve security and stability in our region. The global, maritime environment remains fraught with dangers of violent extremists and a glut of criminal activities. Formulating strategies to secure sea routes, ensure stability and preserve a lawful maritime order is indeed an onerous and demanding task. I am convinced that curbing the multifarious maritime security challenges require collaborative approach at regional as well as international level.

Pakistan Navy is conscious of the emerging maritime challenges and remains committed to engage with global community for maintaining peace in the region. Exercise AMAN, is an endeavour to depict our national efforts towards this noble cause. Pakistan would continue to promote regional cooperation, enhance interoperability between participating Naval Forces and demonstrate collective response against organized crimes in the maritime domain.

I am sure the Exercise will provide an excellent forum to synergize efforts of participating navies and build understanding and interoperability. I hope the goodwill generated therein will be cherished by personnel who are part of this activity. I thank the participants for giving us the opportunity to extend traditional Pakistani hospitality. I wish AMAN-23, all the success in achieving its set and stated objectives.

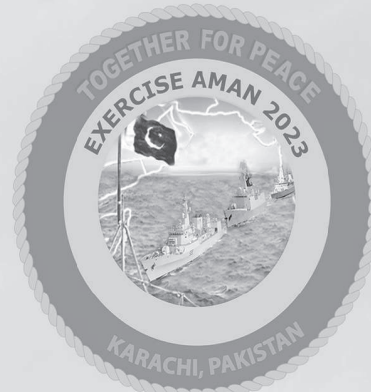
Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi
Chief of the Naval Staff

It is my profound privilege to welcome the participants of Exercise AMAN-23, the 8th edition of AMAN Initiative being held from 10-14 February 2023. This Exercise has become a regular feature involving regional and extra-regional navies to create a secure and favourable maritime environment for smooth and unhindered maritime activities in the region.

Today, threats to maritime security emanate from contemporary asymmetric challenges and adverse effects of climate change that are casting a deep impact on the maritime environment. There is a strong realization that given the vast expanse of oceans and an array of maritime threats and challenges, preserving maritime order in the global commons, necessitates collaborative efforts as a matter of compulsion rather than choice.

Pakistan Navy has been a forerunner in its quest for promoting collaborative maritime security in the region which is evident from AMAN series of exercises. It is a matter of pride to see Flags and Ensigns of Nations representing all major regions of the world, fluttering together as an embodiment of Exercise motto, 'Together for Peace'. I am certain that camaraderie generated herein will continue to grow and bring us even closer to the cherished goal of realizing regional peace and shared prosperity.

I am confident that AMAN-23 would prove to be a key and constructive effort in this regard. I look forward to a rewarding and mutually beneficial outcome of the Exercise. I thank all participants who have travelled long distances to congregate for AMAN-23, in pursuit of peace, harmony and stability at sea. May you have Fair Winds and Following Seas.



AMAN
2023
Multinational Naval Exercise



AMAN is a biennial Multinational exercise conducted under the slogan of **"Together for Peace"**. The exercise demonstrates Pakistan Navy's commitment to peacefully contribute towards regional maritime security and enhance interoperability between regional and extra regional navies, particularly against asymmetric threats. **AMAN** exercise is a major international event meant to promote regional cooperation, stability and to display a united resolve against terrorism and crimes in the maritime domain.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

FEBRUARY

- Feb 04 / Sri Lanka National Day
- Feb 06 / New Zealand National Day
- Feb 06 / Uganda Defec Forces Day
- Feb 11 / DPR Korea National Day
- Feb 16 / Lithuania National Day
- Feb 18 / Gambia National Day
- Feb 19 / Nepal National Democracy Day
- Feb 23 / Brunei National Day
- Feb 23 / Guyana National Day
- Feb 23 / Russian Federation National Army Day
- Feb 23 / Tajikistan Armed Forces Day
- Feb 25 / Kuwait National Day
- Feb 27 / Dominican Republic Independence Day



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway In-quiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ICCI, PIDE to work jointly to prepare charter of economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Nadeem ul Haq, Vice Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) along with Durre-Nayab, Pro-Vice Chancellor and his team of researchers visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and discussed areas of collaboration with ICCI to take joint research initiatives and develop various policy papers on economy. He briefed the participants about research works of PIDE and shared some research-based publications with ICCI. He agreed that PIDE would collaborate with ICCI in various projects including development of budget proposals for the upcoming budget and policy paper on tax reforms, charter of economy and state of the commerce report. He stressed that the



business community should work for transforming SMEs into multinational companies as Pakistan needs MNCs to improve its economy. He emphasized that open discussions should be held on economy between stake-

holders that would help in making better business and economic policies. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlighted the barriers being faced by the

entrepreneurs in starting and expanding businesses. He said that businesses have to face around 122 regulatory agencies and added that the burdensome trade and commerce regulations are distorting the markets and raising

the cost of doing business. He stressed that the government should minimize the regulatory burden and speed up the completion of the Pakistan Single Window project to provide all regulatory services at one place

that would help the businesses to flourish and play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. He lauded the willingness of PIDE to work with ICCI on various projects of mutual interest and hoped that joint efforts of ICCI and PIDE would produce beneficial outcomes for the businesses and the economy.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the government should give due respect to the business community and make key policies in consultation with the private sector. Durr-e-Nayab, Pro-Vice Chancellor PIDE, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Rizwan Chheena, Akhtar Hussain, Ashfaq Chatha and others also spoke at the occasion and offered useful proposals to improve the regulatory framework for the private sector in Pakistan.

3rd Int'l conference on AI to be held on Feb 22

ISLAMABAD: The third "International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Lab2Market Expo 2023" will be held from February 22-23 to showcase innovative and impactful ideas in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). According to an official source, the two-day conference will be held at the premises of the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) bringing together an international community of practitioners and researchers to meet and share cutting-edge developments in the field. The conference is being arranged by the NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Comput-

er Science (IBEE) in collaboration with National Center for Artificial Intelligence (NCAD). The faculty members, researchers, and students have already submitted their research papers for this conference. The conference will cover innovation and scientific research in the area of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Fusion, Data Mining and Information Retrieval, Decision Support Systems, Artificial Neural Networks, Deep Learning and Big Data Analytics, Deep Learning and Cybersecurity, Robotics, Autonomous Systems, Assistive Robotics, Intelligent Sys-

tems, biologically inspired neural networks, Data Sciences and 4.0, etc. with a focus on the emerging needs of humankind in the rapidly developing science and technology frontier. The conference will be a rewarding experience of networking and exchanging the knowledge of Artificial Intelligence with industry, academia, and intellectuals of the field, and accepted papers will be published in IEEE Explore. The themes of the conference included Artificial Intelligence Applications, Autonomous Systems, Assistive Robotics, Intelligent Systems, Convolutional Neural Networks, Cybersecurity and

AI, Data Fusion, Data Mining and Information Retrieval, Decision Support Systems, Artificial Neural Networks, Deep learning, Big data Analytics, Forensics, Real-Time Systems, Social Networks, Biologically Inspired Neural Network, Natural Language Processing, AI in Health Care, Speech Understanding, AI Chip and Neurocomputation, Smart City and Intelligent Robotics. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers society and the business world novel and radically different approaches to knowledge discovery, learning, problem-solving, and decision-making. —APP

Govt revises up Naya Pakistan Certificates' rates

ISLAMABAD: The government has revised up the rates of return for various currencies denominated Naya Pakistan Certificates over different maturities for the resident Pakistanis who have a foreign currency Roshan Digital Account (RDA). According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, the rate of return for US dollar-denominated Naya Pakistan Certificates (NPCs) with a maturity of three months has been revised up from the previous 5.5% to 7.00%, while those with a maturity period of six months has been raised from 6.00% to 7.20%. The rate of return for a period of one year has been revised up from 6.5% to 7.5% while that for a period of three years and five years has been increased to 8%, whereas the previous rate of return was 6.75% and 7.00% respectively. The government has made no or very minor changes in the rates of return for PKR-denominated NPCs. Similarly, the new rates for GBP-denominated NPCs have been revised up to 5.5% for a maturity period of three months, 6.00% for six months, 7.00% for one year, and 7.5% each for a period of three years and five years. For Euro-denominated NPCs, the government has revised up the rates of returns to 4.00% for a maturity period of three months, 4.5% for six months, 5.00% for one year, and 6.5% each for a period of three years and five years. Minimum investment for a foreign currency account is 1,000 in numbers and for PKR the minimum investment condition is Rs 10,000, the notification added. Since the launch of NPCs in 2020, total inflows stands at US\$ 1.77 billion under conventional and US\$ 1.72 billion under Islamic banking. Whereas, the inflow of remittances under RDA rose to US\$ 7.576 billion by the end of December 2022 as compared to US\$ 5.436 billion by November end, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during the month of December were recorded at US\$ 140 million as compared to US\$ 141 million in November and US\$ 146 million in October 2022. The RDA was launched by the State Bank of Pakistan in collaboration with commercial banks operating in the country.—DNA

SC directions on certificates of PIA pilots

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) has directed Higher Education Commission (HEC) to verify certificates of PIA pilots soon. A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Thursday. The counsel for PIA told the court the certificates of all the pilots of PIA were sent to HEC in 2020 for verification. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan inquired from the counsel for HEC where the process of verification of certificates of pilots PIA has reached. The counsel for HEC Nazir Jawad told the court the process for verification of certificates of PIA pilots is underway. The court while giving the order to HEC for completing the process of verification of certificates of PIT pilots soon adjourned the hearing of the case till next month.—Online

Education ministry finalizes names of VCs QAU, IIUI, AIU

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has finalized the names of the Vice Chancellors of Federal Universities. According to the sources, the vice-chancellors include Allama Iqbal Open University, Quaid-e-Azam University and International Islamic University are to be appointed. The list and summary regarding the appointment of Vice Chancellors was sent to the President for finalisation of names, the sources informed. The summary has been sent with the names of Dr. Fazal Khalig, Dr. Raheel Qamar and Professor Dr. Niaz for appointment as Vice-Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam University. Names of Dr. Ziauddin, Dr. Nasir Mehmood and Dr. Mudassar have been sent to President for appointment as Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University. The list summarizing the names of Dr. Tahir Khalili, Dr. Amina Moazzam and Dr. Khalil for appointment as Rector of International Islamic University Islamabad. It is to mention here that the tenure of the previous Vice-Chancellors of these major three universities of Islamabad had been completed.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PEMRA, Muhammad Saleem Baig, awarding first ever Cable TV Distribution Service Licence in B-9 category for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to M/S Nayatel, Muhammad Tahir, DG, Operations-Broadcast Media and Media PR, Regional Director, PEMRA Regional Office, Islamabad Saeed Ahmed Soomro, Tamseel Hayder, Director and PSO to Chairman PEMRA and other officials were also present at Licensing Awarding Ceremony.—DNA

Improving production of fruits, vegetables in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: JICA/API/NARC conducted two days seminar on Capacity Development of Agriculture extension services in Balochistan. The 4-years project is jointly executed by JICA/API/NARC and Department of Agriculture Extension Balochistan. Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Dr. Ghulam

Muhammad Ali was the chief guest. DG, National Agricultural Research Center, Dr. Shehzad Asad, Chief Advisor API/JICA, Mr. Kosuke Sawada, DG, (ARI) Balochistan, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Kakar, Representative DG, Agriculture Extension Balochistan Mr. Abdul Karim Jafar, besides a large number of Provin-

cial Agriculture Officers and Field Assistants also participated in the program at the National Agricultural Research Center Islamabad. Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali said that we are producing high quality crops in Balochistan province so training and research are very impor-

tant to support the development of agriculture in the province. Dr. Ali said that capacity building of agriculturists and farmers is crucial in elevating agriculture development in the province. Chairman PARC has expressed special thanks to Japanese Government for launching capacity building program in Pakistan. Dr. Ali said that the program to facilitate growers will ultimately contribute in improving the country's economy.—APP

Islamabad POST

Now Available in



SERENA HOTELS

PESHAWER

NARC, JICA organize training seminar

ISLAMABAD: National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized a two-day seminar for the capacity development of the agriculture extension services in Balochistan to uplift the agriculture sector of the province. The event was part of a 4-years project, which is jointly executed by JICA, NARC and the Department of Agriculture Extension Balochistan for the capacity development of the field staff to provide solutions to the problems faced by the local farming communities for enhancing per-acre crop output.—APP

پاکستانی حکومت اور عوام اس مشکل کھڑی میں اپنے ترک بہن بھائیوں کے ساتھ ہے

وزیر اعظم ریلیف فنڈ برائے متاثرین زلزلہ ترکیہ

G-12166

Account Title:
Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Türkiye Earthquake Victims

IBAN: PK18NBPA0001004182864740
Bank: National Bank of Pakistan

وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے قائم کردہ ریلیف فنڈ برائے متاثرین زلزلہ ترکیہ میں دل کھول کر امداد کریں

بشکرہ آل پاکستان نیوز پیپر سوسائٹی

APNS

#PMReliefFundForTürkiye #PakStandsWithTürkiye

Briefs

Pakistani girl has dialogue with Chinese astronaut

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani girl has dialogue with Chinese astronaut on space science, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Aasiya Ismail, a 17-year-old girl from Islamabad Model School for Girls, had the chance to express her thoughts and questions to Chinese astronaut and got reply on the ceremony of the return Pakistan's seeds from the Chinese space station held here at COMSTECH. In her letter, Aasiya Ismail wrote, "I have been a student of science for almost ten years now. Science is a discipline that is a form of art for me". She also asked multiple scientific questions regarding the Pakistan-China space breeding project and life in space. "I'm so happy to receive your letter and get to know you are interested in science", Liu Boming, a veteran astronaut who has carried out manned mission twice and conducted China's first spacewalk, says in a video reply in which shares his space flight experience. In 2008, he, together with his colleagues Mr. Zhai Zhigang and Mr. Jing Haipeng, was sent to space. The shocking experience inspired him to improvise a line of poem, "overlooking the homeland, the same global village, looking across the Sun and the Moon, the same space city".

6 ACs of dist Attock reshuffled

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Six Assistant Commissioners of the district Attock have been reshuffled by the caretaker provincial government making changes in local bureaucracy ahead of upcoming general elections. According to notification issued by the provincial government, Mr. Asif Nawaz serving as Assistant Commissioner Attock was posted in Taxila while Ms. Shahgfta Jabeen as Assistant Commissioner Attock city, Ms. Zunaira Jaleel Assistant Commissioner Fatehjang, Ms. Sana Assistant Commissioner Hassanabdal and Mr. Kamran Ashraf was directed to take over the charge of the position of Assistant Commissioner, Tehsil Hazro, respectively.

Election to be held according to constitution

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Thursday said that the general election would be held according to the constitution and law. Talking to a private news channel, he said the conduct and holding of elections was the primary and essential duty of the ECP, particularly Article 218 (3) to ensure the holding of fair and free elections. He added that the Election Commission would announce the date of holding general election after taking the provincial governments on board, so that the provinces can play their role in the form of security and personnel.—APP

20 projects in Gwadar on way of completion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Twenty new projects are on the way of completion in 2023 and onward years as per their scheduled timeframes, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. These projects entail desalination potable water plant, Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase II), Gwadar Safe City Project, New Gwadar International Airport, three electricity projects, Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, Gwadar Tourism Project, New management model of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI), State of Art Shipyard Project, Oil Refinery project, Green Gwadar Project, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, fisher community projects, Gwadar Port dredging project, Export-oriented projects, Fishing industry, Warehouse industry, and Gwadar Huafu Exhibition and Trading Center. According to the report, over the last 10 years since CPEC set its foot



ISLAMABAD: Executive Director General Information Service Academy Mubashar Tauqeer in a group photo with participants of the training workshop on Mobile Journalism held at the ISA.—DNA

Pakistani herbal seeds' return from China station celebrated

During the ceremony, a Pakistani girl read out a letter sent to Chinese astronaut and a video reply from the astronaut was played on screen

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As sending seeds for short trips to space helps scientists develop new varieties that can thrive in the changing climate and help feed the world's growing population and also treat incurable diseases, China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) launched Pakistani herbal seeds into outer space in June 2022 and, after six months flying, returned them safely to the earth in December. According to Gwadar Pro, a ceremony titled "China-Pakistan Space Science and Technology Cooperation", Cao Zhouhua, Science Commissioner Chinese Embassy, handed over the seeds and the certification to Professor Iqbal Choudhary, Director International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences ICCBS, Professor Liu Xinmin, Professor Dr. Yu and Professor Dr. Atia-tul-Wahab.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister

for Planning, Development and Special Initiative (PD&SI), said "Space technology is one of those technologies which is most critical for human development and security of any nation", adding that "collaboration with China will open doors of development for us in future". Professor Dr. Liu Xinmin and Director Professor Iqbal Choudhary conceived the idea of sending Pakistani seeds into Chinese aerospace station and as the idea was shared with Chinese Embassy, it took prompt action to make it happen. On June 5, the herbal seeds were launched into outer space carried by the Shenzhou-14 manned spaceship, and were returned to the earth with the Shenzhou-14 astronaut crew on December 04, 2022. "Today is the beginning of astrobotany in Pakistan with the help of China; we will have very systematic research on those seeds and coming to work in this particular field in the future also," said Professor Iqbal Choudhary, adding "We

have collaboration in traditional Chinese medicines; western Chinese medicines are very close to Islamic medicine aka eastern medicines or Unani medicines". Professor Liu Xinmin while sharing his insights on "Chinese-Pakistan Cooperation on Medicinal Plants" said that China and Pakistan have a long history of traditional medicines: Traditional Chinese Medicines (TMC) in China and Traditional Unani Medicine (TUM) in Pakistan. "A large number of effective herbal medicines have made a significant contribution to maintaining the health of the people of both countries," said Mr. Liu. Earlier, Professor Shahid Baig, Chairman of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) in his welcome address said that the prospects of collaborations are immense, and "I believe that these synergies between Pakistan and China will open up new horizons of economic and technological development". Pang Chunxue, Chargé

d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that this is the first ever Pakistani seed to be sent to space; this experiment will be regarded in the history of China-Pakistan's bilateral cooperation and friendship. "It is a landmark of our science and technology cooperation; which is an important part of our bilateral cooperation and relations," she said. During the ceremony, a Pakistani girl read out a letter sent to Chinese astronaut and a video reply from the astronaut was played on screen. "Today, I am delighted to witness a Pakistani teenage interact with a Chinese astronaut via a letter and the astronaut responded via a video," said Ms. Pang, adding that she firmly believed that the communication would surely help to light up the teenage space base and inspire her thinking and wisdom and more importantly sow the seeds in their heart about friendship. Professor Dr. Atia-tul-Wahab

in her presentation titled "Sino-Pakistan Cooperation in Medicinal Plants and Traditional Medicine, a landmark development," discussed in detail the project of sending seeds to space. What is the difference between space travel being to the seeds? Dr. Atia said that on Earth, we are protected from high-energy rays by the Earth's magnetic field and thick atmosphere, but in orbit, spacecraft and satellites are constantly exposed to this radiation. Space radiation and microgravity and the condition of being weightless led to genetic mutations in the seeds that could generate random but potentially useful traits. The seven seeds including fenugreek, Hina seed, land-caltrops (puncture vine), drumstick tree, winter cherry, nicker bean and Levant cotton. The seeds were exposed to unique conditions that cannot be reproduced in a laboratory on Earth.

Art show marks National Women's day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and Nomad Art gallery here Thursday displayed a collection of artworks to highlight issues and empowerment of women in connection with National Women's Day falling on February 12. Organized in collaboration with the National Commission on Status of Women, the events focused on highlighting women's voices on National Women's Day, through a group show "The Immersive: Untitled" - a select art collection reflective of women's issues and empowerment featuring 40 artists, 100 plus collectors artworks and installations. Speaking on the occasion, Director Nomad Gallery, Nageen Hyat spoke on the topic Women, Culture and Reclaiming our spaces to raise women empowerment issues.—APP

Experts highlight importance of mobile journalism

ISLAMABAD: The prominent journalists at a 2-day mobile journalism workshop have sensitized the media persons about the importance and technical aspects of mobile journalism. The workshop was held at the Information Service Academy (ISA) and organized by the Pakistan Information Center for the capacity building of journalists. On the first day of the workshop, eminent personalities with extensive experience in the field of journalism including Waseem Abbasi, Naseem Siddiqui and renowned Javed Chaudhry enlightened the participants about the importance and technical aspects of mobile journalism. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Secretary Information Shaha Shahid and Principal Information Officer Mubashar Hassan for organizing a fruitful workshop for the journalists in Islamabad.—APP



ISLAMABAD-Feb09: A view of motorists on their way during rain at Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital.—Online

ECP seeks applications from parties to allot symbols

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday sought applications from the political parties for the allotment of election symbols in accordance with the requirements of Section 216 of the Elections Act, 2017. A notification of ECP, the political parties have been

directed to submit the applications, duly signed by the respective party leader on or before February 21, 2023. The political parties, which have complied with the provisions of the Allocation of Election Symbols of the Election Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017 are invited for allocation one of

the symbols prescribed under Rule 162 of the Election Rules, 2017. The application should contain the required information including the list of symbols applied for in order of preference; symbol or symbols if any allocated to the political party during the previous general elections; address of

the head office of the political party; such other particulars or information from the party as may be prescribed. Eligibility of party to obtain election symbol.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, a political party enlisted under this Act shall be eligible to obtain an election symbol for contesting elections for Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), Provincial Assemblies or local government on submission of certificates and statements referred to in sections 202, 206, 209 and 210.—APP

Edible oil cultivation be promoted to reduce imports

ISLAMABAD: Mujahid Group of Industries (MGI), a leading industrial conglomerate with interests in edible oil, construction, steel, and other businesses has clinched the title of the country's largest importer of edible oil for the fifth year in a row.

Pakistan has become the third largest importer of cooking oil after China and India, and we feel proud as MGI is playing its positive role in fulfilling the food requirement of Pakistan, said Chairman of the Group Atif Ikram Sheikh while speaking at a function organized to

celebrate the continued success. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA, VP of FPCCI and President ICCI said that e have been achieving this milestone because of the efforts of our dedicated team which is honest, loyal, and hardworking.—DNA



Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

UK foreign policy: a post-Brexit void

FOREIGN policy/UK support for Ukraine is a noble stance that masks a strategic void. In an audit of Boris Johnson's time as prime minister, one good decision to be recorded for posterity – perhaps the only one – was unflinching support for Ukraine when it was invaded by Russia. The importance of that alliance, and Ukrainian gratitude for it, were powerfully expressed in an address to parliament on Wednesday by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on what is only his second foray abroad since the war began. The Russian military has so far performed below Vladimir Putin's expectations, but he compensates for lack of military prowess with volume of artillery and conscripted bodies to throw at the frontline. It is a bloody and inhumane method, but apparently sustainable for a dictator who cares as little about the lives of his own citizens as he does about Ukrainians. That is why western support for Mr Zelenskyy must stay firm. Rishi Sunak has rightly not wavered from the course set by Mr Johnson. It is his signature foreign policy, thanks to the salience of Ukraine as the single biggest security challenge facing Europe. Having a prominent stance on the war creates an illusion of direction and purpose in the world when, in reality, Britain is adrift. Some barriers to diplomacy were inevitable from the simple fact of leaving the EU: Brussels summits are where leaders of the continent's democracies routinely hobnob. But the detachment did not have to be wilfully stubborn and ill-tempered. The version of Brexit that Mr Johnson enacted was born of an ideological conviction that Europe is a drag on British economic performance, that severance from its markets has no cost and that more lucrative partners are waiting elsewhere around the globe. That was a delusion. It bred fear of any legal entanglement beyond the relatively unambitious trade and cooperation agreement that Mr Johnson negotiated. Brexit put mistrust and rivalry where previously there had been automatic partnership. The low point was surely the Conservative leadership contest of 2022, when Liz Truss was unable to say whether the French president, Emmanuel Macron, was a "friend or foe" of Britain. A prime minister's relationship with Europe – its leaders and its institutions – inevitably needs more maturity and care. Does Mr Sunak understand that? He has cultivated better relations with Mr Macron; there is an Anglo-French summit in early March, although the prime minister's agenda is circumscribed by the need to display quick progress in cutting cross-Channel illegal migration at the expense of discussions on a wider horizon. Meanwhile, there is no visible effort to build a rapport with the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz. That is not a sustainable foreign policy concept. Mr Sunak's military commitment to Ukraine is the right position, but it cannot be extrapolated into anything more than a tactical alliance while so many other questions about Britain's place in the world are unanswered.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 163

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Biden's State of the Union

FEW politicians manage, in Winston Churchill's phrase, to make the weather. Joe Biden was particularly poorly placed to do so when he took office, inheriting a pandemic that was raging unchecked, a struggling economy and a crisis of democracy itself. War in Ukraine and a cost of living crisis soon followed; relations with Beijing continue to deteriorate, as last week's row over the Chinese balloon demonstrated. The president's achievements, laid out in Tuesday's State of the Union address, are striking, despite disappointments along the way. He passed an enormous stimulus package within weeks of taking office; showed real leadership with his climate change deal; and pushed through bipartisan legislation on infrastructure. Unemployment is at a five-decade low. But while he may be reshaping the economic paradigm, he has not yet shifted the mood. Beaten down by rising prices, more than six in 10 Americans think he has achieved "not very much" or "little or nothing". There are more clouds on the horizon. The loss of the House of Representatives has brought renewed struggle over the debt ceiling. Major legislative wins are behind him; Republican investigations into his son Hunter, misplaced classified documents and other issues lie ahead. Mr Biden's appeal to bipartisanship was made not to persuade, but to remind voters that he stands for decency and reason – in contrast to the increasing extremity in the GOP – and to underline that the obstacles to come will not be of his making. State of the Union speeches don't change voters' minds overnight, though messages do filter through. But they can shift the mood within parties more quickly. Only 37% of Democrats want the president to run in 2024, not least because he is already 80. But his spry performance succeeded in cementing him as the assumed candidate for 2024, and sounded like a campaign preview, with its repeated calls to "finish the job". In the presence of the parents of Tyre Nichols, the 29-year-old beaten to death by Memphis police officers, he spoke of the need for police reform, to the approval of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and others, but touched only in passing on abortion rights (and was similarly brief on immigration and LGBTQ+ rights). That reflects his limited scope for action, and it made the Republican response from Sarah Huckabee Sanders – railing at a "leftwing culture war" – look arguably more out of touch as well as disturbing. But it was a conspicuous and disappointing omission in the first State of the Union since the overturning of Roe v Wade, especially given the role that abortion played in preventing a "red wave" in last year's midterms, and the ongoing threat to rights. The country's divisions remain as deep as when he took office. Polls show that most Americans would be dissatisfied or angry if either frontrunner – Mr Biden or Mr Trump – won the next election. The president inherited a troubled nation, and there are storms ahead.

Earthquake strike Turkey and Syria

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



According to information, every village, town and city district has suffered of massive destruction. Thousands of civilians are believed to be trapped under the rubble many of whom can be heard screaming for help. Aid workers, anti-combatants and civilians are all desperately looking for help. Every major hospital or medical clinic is over capacity, patients are treated on the floor, in the hallways and outside in the freezing cold. About 100 bodies have been recovered in just one town and in the western countryside of Haleb

AT 4:17 a.m., an earthquake of 7.8 magnitudes is felt in southern Turkey and northern Syria. Twelve hours later, at least 2,400 people have died, with the rapid raising toll of death. This natural disaster could not have come at a worse time or affected a vulnerable region more than it has in southern Turkey and in northern Syria, which has been devastated by more than decades of war. When people were sleeping, suddenly the buildings collapsed and the thousands of people buried at least 3,450 people in Turkey and thousands in Syria. The disaster in Turkey is being described by the authorities as a war zone. At the same time, the effects of the earthquake and its equally powerful aftershocks on the Syrian side of the border are also devastating. For northwestern Syria, this earthquake is like an emergency within an emergency and a crisis within a crisis. The region was already home to one of the world's most acute humanitarian crises, with nearly three million internally displaced people (IDPs), almost all of whom depend entirely on foreign aid. After 12 years of brutal shelling by the Syrian government, at least 65 percent of the region's infrastructure had already been destroyed or severely damaged, and medical and aid workers and organizations have been fac-

ing government attacks for years. According to information, every village, town and city district has suffered of massive destruction. Thousands of civilians are believed to be trapped under the rubble many of whom can be heard screaming for help. Aid workers, anti-combatants and civilians are all desperately looking for help. Every major hospital or medical clinic is over capacity, patients are treated on the floor, in the hallways and outside in the freezing cold. About 100 bodies have been recovered in just one town and in the western countryside of Haleb. Before the earthquake, IDP camps in northwest Syria were already over capacity, but the scale of the overnight destruction will inevitably see them grow. This would require a substantial expansion of the UN's emergency humanitarian assistance mission, with an emphasis on shelter, food, and crisis health care. Amidst harsh winters, with Syria's severe economic collapse and severe fuel shortages, it is hard to imagine a region that would be even more vulnerable and less positioned to deal with such a natural disaster. While the international community is mobilizing to mitigate the impact of Turkey's disaster and provide basic humanitarian aid, the ability to do so for the most vulnerable areas of northern Syria is extremely limited

and complex. After years of Russian vetoes and military and diplomatic pressure, the UN aid mission in the region is limited to just one border crossing with Turkey. Moreover, this UN effort is designed for humanitarian aid not for the disaster relief and emergency rescue. Already, some activity along the border has been affected by the quake, with a long-standing arrangement between Turkish and Syrian opposition officials to transfer emergency medical cases to Turkish hospitals coming to an abrupt halt overnight. Syria's well-known White Helmets, staffed by 3,000 volunteers, have been fully deployed, but are reportedly running out of diesel to run their heavy equipment. The earthquake also damaged UN aid facilities on the Turkish border. It is unclear how well a major international disaster relief effort could take shape in northwestern Syria. However, only concrete and immediate action by the United States and its allies will make anything possible. There is a question that the using of the existing UN assistance mission and Turkey's facility platform would be able to develop and response on enormous scale that is required. The Syrian people have been abandoned and forgotten many times and for far too long. But now they cannot be left alone again.

For Palestine, justice is not a question of law

M Muhannad Ayyash

International law, which is supposed to be a neutral vehicle for justice, is, in fact, a form of violence in and of itself. When I say law is a form of violence, I am not referring to how the settler colonial state uses it to legitimise what its military has achieved through brute force. Rather, I am referring to how the law itself is an outcome and continuation of settler colonial and imperial violence. Violence perpetrated by the powerful validates the law – gives it purpose, legitimacy and potency. Thus the law is designed to stifle, not strengthen, Palestinian resistance

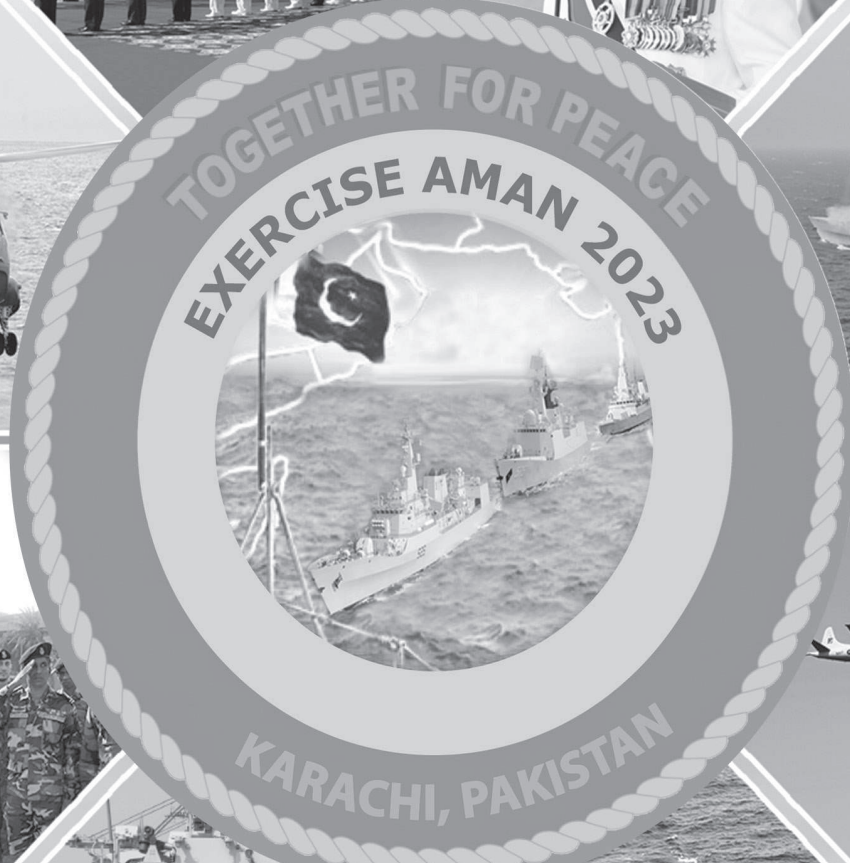
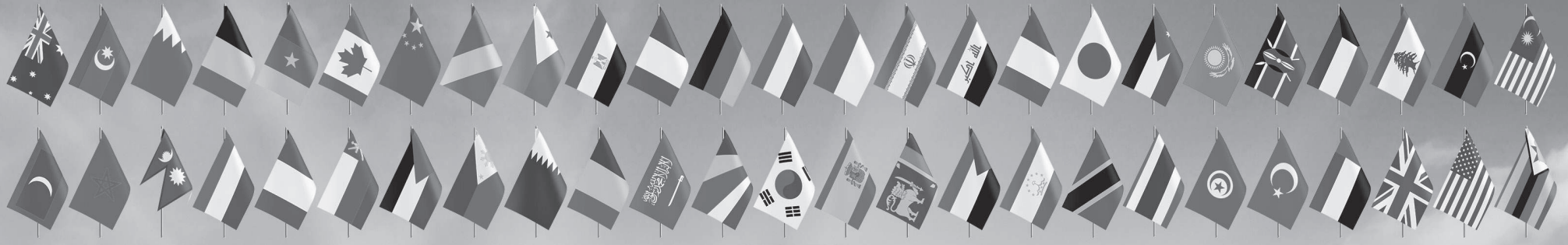
THESE days much of the efforts to dismantle Israel's apartheid and settler colonial systems of domination over the Palestinian people appear to be following a legal approach. Scholars, activists and even policymakers invested in the issue increasingly suggest the path towards Palestinian liberation is through securing a legal opinion officially defining Israel's violent expulsion of Palestinians as apartheid and colonialism. The recent United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories is the most recent example of this trend. I wholeheartedly support and encourage all such efforts, and I am pleased that the UNGA passed this important resolution. Though sceptical, I truly hope that the ICJ opinion will reflect the real conditions that Palestinians suffer, and help dispel Israeli propaganda. Yet I do not believe it is productive or wise to confine all efforts towards Palestinian liberation within the frames of human rights and international law. The Palestinian struggle for liberation must be multifaceted and multidimensional. We need to ensure that the legal approach does not become the predominant face of the Palestinian struggle. It is – and should remain – merely one of its facets. After all, the core of the Palestinian struggle has never been and will never be a legal one. It is a struggle of and for justice, not law. There is a critical difference between the two. The legal approach has several shortcomings which means that, if it is pursued on its own, or posited as the leading facet of the struggle, it will harm the Palestinian cause. First, the international legal system often fails to properly contextualise state violence as a political matter and treats it as a solely criminal one. As a result, it associates justice only with the punishment of individual perpetrators, leaving complex political structures, logic, and dynamics that are at the root of the problem unanalysed and unaltered. Second, international courts face significant push-back, including questions about the limits of their jurisdiction, whenever they attempt to legally define and issue a verdict on the violence perpetrated by

states that belong to the United States' imperial power bloc (of which Israel is a part). Thus, if a court, such as the ICJ or the International Criminal Court (ICC), dares to designate Israel an apartheid state, it will be attacked by Israel's powerful and influential allies. And, perhaps more importantly, the opinion will likely lead not to any meaningful punitive action against Israel by the leaders of the international community, but to a watering down of the meaning of the terms used to define Israel's violent actions. Beyond these limitations, there is also the fact that the international legal system has been created by imperial powers to protect their hegemony and serve their interests. Indeed, the legal structures that the oppressed and marginalised are told to rely on to deal with imperial and settler colonial violence are themselves a crucial part of the political system that birthed that violence. They actively legitimise, maintain and justify imperial and settler colonial violence, including Israel's against the Palestinians. International law, which is supposed to be a neutral vehicle for justice, is, in fact, a form of violence in and of itself. When I say law is a form of violence, I am not referring to how the settler colonial state uses it to legitimise what its military has achieved through brute force. Rather, I am referring to how the law itself is an outcome and continuation of settler colonial and imperial violence. Violence perpetrated by the powerful validates the law – gives it purpose, legitimacy and potency. Thus the law is designed to stifle, not strengthen, Palestinian resistance. All this does not mean the legal system cannot be utilised by the oppressed to inch towards liberation – it can, and it should. But the violent, colonial origins and nature of the legal structures currently in use mean that we Palestinians should not focus our efforts for liberation and justice solely on the law. We should remember that the validity of our cause does not depend on legal institutions defining Israel's violence against us as apartheid, settler colonialism, or anything else. The legal institutions tasked with making such determinations are part and parcel of the political order that paved the way for the establishment of the Israeli settler colony.

They are integral parts of the system that works to protect Israel and conceal its true nature and the brutality of its aggression and violence. It is unlikely that any court will accurately describe Israel's violence and recommend meaningful corrective and punitive action from the international community anytime soon. But even if we managed to manoeuvre through the difficult political terrain and secure a legal opinion recognising Israel as a settler colonial state practising apartheid, we would not necessarily achieve justice. Sure, such an outcome would lead to healing at a sociocultural level and add new fire to the Palestinian struggle. It would not, however, deliver the desired results on the political front and lead to systemic change. Instead, the designations of "apartheid" and "settler colony" would likely be co-opted and diluted to save Israel from scrutiny in the same way concepts like "decolonisation", "anti-racism" or "diversity" have been diluted and emptied out in recent years. We should never forget that what we are dealing with is not an inherently neutral legal system that is facing some pressures from powerful actors. What we are dealing with is a legal system that has been designed to legitimise and maintain the very violence that we are trying to define and end. For the international legal system to become a truly useful tool to further the Palestinian cause, it needs to go through a process of radical decolonisation. We can and should have a separate debate about what that process should look like, and what strategies we should pursue to get there. But as Palestinians, we should never lose sight of what international law really is and the limits of what it can do for us at the moment. As we seek liberation, we should focus not on the legality but on the justness of our cause, as defined and determined by our lived experiences of oppression and aspirations for a free decolonised life. What Israel and its powerful imperial allies fail to understand is that the very violence they inflict on Palestinians is a wellspring of resistance, from which the justness of our struggle is continuously revealed. *Courtesy: Al Jazeera*

8th
MULTINATIONAL
EXERCISE

Multinational Maritime Exercise
AMAN
2023



MULTI NATIONS

- SHIPS
- AIRCRAFT
- HELICOPTERS
- SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES
- MARINES
- EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TEAMS
- OBSERVERS

1 RESOLVE

TOGETHER FOR PEACE



PakNavy.gov.pk
@PakistanNavy

for more info scan QR code

Briefs

Election to be held according to constitution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Thursday said that the general election would be held according to the constitution and law. Talking to a private news channel, he said the conduct and holding of elections was the primary and essential duty of the ECP, particularly Article 218 (3) to ensure the holding of fair and free elections. He said that the Election Commission would announce the date of holding general election after taking the provincial governments on board, so that the provinces can play their role in the form of security and personnel. He further said that the holding of elections on separate days would not only increase the election expenditures twofold but also make the task for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) difficult for providing foolproof security.

Akhtar Hayat becomes KP IG

DNA

PESHAWAR: The federal government on Thursday appointed BS-21 officer Akhtar Hayat — who has been serving in the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) until now — as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General (IG) of Police, replacing Moazzam Ansari. An official statement, issued by the cabinet secretariat and signed by Deputy Secretary to the Government of Pakistan Majid Mohsin Panhwar, confirmed this development. The statement said, "With the approval of the federal government, Mr Akhtar Hayat, a BS-21 Officer of Police Service of Pakistan, presently serving in Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), under Interior Division is transferred and posted as Provincial Police Officer (PPO) Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, with immediate effect and until further orders." Hayat is set to replace Moazzam Ansari, who has been serving as the IG of the northern province since June 2021. The development came not long after a deadly blast on Police Lines mosque in Peshawar which led to the martyrdom of scores of people and injured more than 200 people — most of whom were policemen offering Zohr prayer at a mosque. With terrorism on the rise across the country, particularly in KP, threats of attacks amid polls are being touted as a possibility by even law enforcers themselves. Ansari, on February 6, warned that the threat of terrorism could not be ruled out during the upcoming election in the province where terrorism has been steadily on the rise once more. "It cannot be presumed that the next elections will be completely peaceful," Ansari said in a meeting on KP polls presided over by Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja.

Cold, hunger grip homeless as toll passes 19,000

ANTAKYA: Cold, hunger and despair gripped hundreds of thousands of people left homeless by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria on Thursday, while hopes faded of many more people being found alive amid the ruins of cities. The death toll from the quakes, which struck early on Monday morning, passed 19,000 on Thursday across both countries. That surpasses the more than 17,000 people killed in 1999 when a similarly powerful quake hit Turkey's more densely populated northwest.—Agencies

Indonesia keen to invest in Pakistan, says envoy

Pakistani businessmen to participate in "Pakistan-ASEAN Trade Exhibition" to be held in Jakarta on May by TDAP

DNA

KARACHI: Ambassador Adam M. Tugio met Chair of Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council Mr. Abid Nizar and the executives members of PIBC to discuss ways to deepening bilateral trade the two brotherly countries. While expressing his appreciation to PIBC for its contribution to strengthening bilateral trade, Ambassador Tugio encouraged PIBC to help identify areas where Pakistan manufacturers have strong comparative advantage in the market.

"We take note of the important to have more balanced trade for mutually beneficial relationships, and the Embassy will do our best to help finding potential business partners in Indonesia", added the Envoy. Ambassador Tugio said that the two countries manufactured good quality products that could complemented each other. Indonesia supplied vinyl and polyester and



Pakistan well-known for the best manufacture for textiles and garments. He also mentioned that Indonesia produced half of the world's spices, which are the primary components of "garam masala". He claimed that Indo-

nesian and Pakistani were fond of spices and that export of spices from Pakistan to Europe and the US is increasing due to increasing demand from overseas Pakistani. The envoy alluded to a study by one of the Chamber of Commerce

identifying this positive trajectory but simultaneously reminded that Pakistan still imported some spices. "Since Indonesia is the world biggest exporters of spices, we can team up to produce the best quality of garam masala for

Pakistani overseas in those continents", added the Envoy. Ambassador Tugio also mentioned the interest of some investors from Indonesia to invest in Pakistan and made reference to the geo-economics and geostrategic location of Pakistan as trade hub for Central Asia. "CPEC infrastructure will contribute to enhance trade connectivity in the region and to the Central Asia", the Envoy said. He further encouraged Pakistani businessmen to participate in "Pakistan-ASEAN Trade Exhibition" to be held in Jakarta on May by TDAP and explore more business opportunities with ASEAN trading partners. As part of FPCCI, PIBC was established to promote bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan. The chair of PIBC, Mr. Abid Nisar received the highest distinction award "The Primaduta Award" from the Indonesian government for his outstanding performance in trade between Pakistan and Indonesia.

IHC accepts Imran's plea for filing more documents

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has accepted PTI chairman Imran Khan plea for filing more documents in case pertaining to his alleged daughter Tyrrian White. A larger bench of IHC presided over by Chief Justice IHC Amir Farooq and comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir took up for hearing the petition filed against Imran Khan for not showing his alleged daughter Tyrrian White in nomination papers. Sule-

man Akram Raja counsel for Imran Khan and Suleman Aslam Raja counsel for petitioner appeared in the court. The counsel for petitioner told the court that we have filed miscellaneous petition for submitting additional documents. We have filed notification regarding success of Imran Khan on new seats. The court while accepting the plea of the petitioner ordered to place new documents on record. The counsel for Imran Khan told "I too want to file

some documents. Court should give some time so that I could file documents. Then on next hearing I will give arguments on the maintainability of the petition. The counsel for the petitioner told the court the case is maintainable even if Imran Khan is not member of assembly. Imran Khan is head of a party. Case against him is maintainable. Imran Khan should file written reply on the merit of the case. He should give reply on merit along with initial reply. The court remarked Butt Sahb you know why that reply is not coming. The reply in Faisal Wadda case came when he did not remain member of assembly. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani inquired do you want to give arguments only on maintainability of the case. The counsel for Imran Khan said "yes I will give arguments only on the maintainability of the case now. I am not available till February 27. Adjourning the case till the first week of March.—Online

Bilawal welcomes Nong Rong's appointment as Assistant Minister

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has welcomed the appointment of former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong as the Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. Speaking to Gwadar Pro, the FM said Ambassador Nong Rong played a great role in bringing Pakistan and China even closer during his tenure as the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan. "I am sure Ambassador Nong Rong will perform exceptionally as the Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is a really competent man," the FM mentioned. Bilawal Bhutto said his interactions with Nong Rong were positive and productive in the recent months. The



FM underlined that Pakistan and China were Iron Brothers and will continue to boost cooperation in all fields. He highlighted the present government's commitment towards the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and completion of the CPEC projects on time. Earlier, the State Council of China announced that Nong Rong, former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, had been appointed Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. Nong Rong was previously appointed Chinese ambassador to Pakistan in 2020. He held a farewell reception on January 16 in Islamabad announcing his departure. Born in September, 1967, Nong Rong holds a master's degree in business administration, senior management and international trade.—DNA

Zelensky takes fighter jet bid to EU leaders

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: Ukraine's leader has called on EU leaders to provide fighter jets and arms for the war against Russia, on his second trip abroad since the war began. "We have to enhance the dynamics of our co-operation, we have to do it faster than the aggressor," said Volodymyr Zelensky. He was earlier given a standing ovation at the European Parliament in Brussels. Several EU leaders have already stressed that a decision on warplanes would be a collective move. Some are keen to avoid having the debate being played out in public, while there is also concern about escalation

and playing into Russian narratives. The Kremlin warned on Thursday that the line between direct and indirect Western involvement in the conflict was disappearing. The chief of Mr Zelensky's presidential staff, Andriy Yermak, said cryptically that the question of long-range weaponry and fighter jets had been resolved. Mr Zelensky said only that certain agreements had been made that were positive but not yet public. The UK said no decision on providing jets in the long term had yet been made but it would provide training for Ukrainian pilots on the aircraft it already had. Poland's prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, said his country could only act "within the entire formation of Nato", while Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the issue had to

be discussed behind closed doors. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola called on EU states to consider Kyiv's request for jets quickly. In his speech to the Parliament in Brussels, Mr Zelensky repeatedly linked Ukraine to a European way of life. Ukraine has applied to join the EU and is urging the bloc's leaders to throw its weight behind a swift course to accession, which usually takes many years. "Ukraine is going to be a member of the European Union," he told MEPs. Together with Europe, he said Ukrainians were defending themselves against the "biggest anti-European force of the modern world". That theme was repeated at the later summit with EU leaders, where he stressed that Europe could not be free without a free Ukraine.

PMD refutes misleading information about earthquake occurrence

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Thursday refuted the misinformation created through social media predicting the occurrence of any major earthquake in Pakistan in the coming days, saying "there is no relation between Turkish earthquake and Pakistan scientifically". The devastating earthquake with magnitude 7.8 which occurred in southern Turkey created panic in Pakistan by some social media stating that "the earthquake with the same magnitude may occur in Pakistan in few days". However, the PMD clarified that there is no connection between the Turkish earthquake and Pakistan scientifically. There

is no direct fault link between Turkey and Pakistan that could trigger faults in Pakistan/Iran or Afghanistan. PMD is running its seismic monitoring network comprising thirty remote monitoring stations and is recording earthquakes occurring within and surrounding areas every day which are of small to medium range magnitudes. It is worth mentioning that earthquake is purely a natural phenomenon. Pakistan and neighbouring countries like Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan have experienced many major damaging earthquakes in past. These countries are earthquake-prone countries and PMD seismic monitoring network is recording more than 100 quakes every

day. The possibility of occurrence of major earthquakes in Pakistan and surrounding countries is always there but when and where or the timeline of happening is beyond the reach of existing technology. The prevailing method is to find the seismic hazard of the areas by using previous seismic data which explores the potential of earthquake fault. Seismic hazard assessment is an effort by earth scientists to quantify seismic hazard and its associated uncertainty in time and space and to provide seismic hazard estimates for seismic risk assessment and other applications but nothing concerned with the prediction of earthquakes.—APP

China, Pakistan strongly committed to reviving CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said that China and Pakistan are strongly committed to reviving the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in letters and spirit. He said this while chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress of the ongoing CPEC projects, said a press release issued here. Project Director CPEC Dr Nadeem Javed, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, line ministries, Board of In-

vestment, Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, National Highway Authority, provincial governments of Sindh and Punjab, LESCO, CPPAG, and KPZDC, Peshawar attended the meeting. The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing briefed the participants on the status of ML-1 and KCR projects. It was decided that the concerned authorities and departments from China and Pakistan would actively pursue their part furnishing all needful to ensure there is no further delay to cause a slowdown. The meeting was also

briefed about the current status of Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rashakai, Bostan, and Dhabaji SEZs and Gwadar Port Authority, and Gwadar Free Zone. Meanwhile, the representatives of the Balochistan government apprised the participants of the water supply schemes, precision training complex, and situation of electricity supply, Gwadar University, maintenance, dredging, and 3000 solar system installation in Gwadar. Ahsan Iqbal said that the cooperation would be further expanded to more sectors.—APP

Rupee bulldozes US dollar in interbank market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee continued to make positive strides against the US dollar as the local currency went up by a massive margin of Rs4.83 in the interbank market on Thursday morning. According to the information made available by the forex dealers, the Pakistani rupee went up by 33 paisas against the greenback in the first go but later took its lead to Rs4.83 and was currently being traded at Rs268.50. The greenback's decline was also visible in the open market where the US dollar went down heavily by Rs5 and was currently being traded at Rs274, down from Rs279. On Wednesday also, the local currency appreciated 1.08% in the inter-bank market, closing the day at Rs273.33 against the US dollar, an increase of Rs2.95. The Pakistani currency has depreciated by 24.74% during the ongoing fiscal year against the greenback. The latest upward march of the rupee came as the traders were optimistic about the IMF programme's resumption. Experts said exporters were also selling their dollars in the market, as they believed that the rupee was fairly valued. They were of the view that amid the free-float of the exchange rate, the inflows from illegal markets are diverting towards formal channels.

Questions raised by presence of Kim's daughter

PYONGYANG: On Wednesday night lines of monster missiles rolled through the North Korean capital Pyongyang. But it was not just his weapons that Kim Jong-Un was parading. On show too, was his daughter. As the North Korean leader took up his usual parade position, at the centre of the balcony, he was joined, unusually, by the young girl dressed in black. She is thought to be his second oldest child, called Kim Ju-ae, aged around 10 years of age. This is the fifth public appearance she has made, and all in less than three months. During this short time she has undergone a remarkable transformation, making it increasingly likely.—APP

MURREE SPARKLETT'S
Bottled Drinking Water
ISO/IEC 17025 | ISO 9001, 22000, 14001, 45001 Certified Company

We Only Offer

Excellence in Quality & Innovation

A Reasonable Price

Efficient Services

A Genuine Pakistani Brand

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE BY MURREE SPARKLETT'S
LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE!

Others call it "Marketing Support", "Trade Promotion", "Exclusivity Rights", "Shelf placement"- we call it **UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES**. Millions of rupees are exchanging hands above and below the table in the garb of product promotion. Trade institutions i.e Restaurants, Marts & other outlets are being bribed & forced to keep/sell only specific products. We at Murree Sparkletts (a division of Murree Brewery Company) believe all such practices are unethical. We say **LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE** which product to consume. By dishing out millions of rupees, beverage companies are depriving the public at large their right of choice.

SAY NO TO INVISIBLE CORRUPTION.