

Geo TV drama 'Tere Bin' trends on YouTube

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Pakistan to extend every possible support to quake-hit Turkiye: PM

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said Pakistan would extend every possible support to Turkiye in the wake of the catastrophic earthquake that killed and injured thousands and urged the people to donate to the Prime Minister's relief fund.

Talking to media here at the Lahore airport, the prime minister handed over 100 tonnes relief goods including food, medicines and winterized tents for the people of Turkiye.

Shehbaz Sharif said the people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their brethren in distress and would do everything to help them rebuild their lives.

He recalled that how Turkiye had established an air bridge with

Pakistan after the horrific 2005 earthquake that killed around 80,000 people in Azad Kashmir.

The prime minister was earlier briefed about the collection and dispatch of the relief goods from Pakistan to Turkiye and Syria. He was informed that the NDMA was coordinating and rushing relief goods from various cities of Pakistan to the quake affected areas.

"We would leave no stone unturned to help the Turkish brethren... we have never seen such catastrophe in a century and can feel the pain and loss of the people of Turkiye," the prime minister said and likened the people of Turkiye and Pakistan as "two hearts and one soul".

He recalled that the wife of President Erdogan even had donated

her precious necklace to help the people of Pakistan who lost their homes and livelihood after the 2005 earthquake.

He said his government had decided to turn the ongoing rescue and relief efforts for Turkiye into a nationwide support campaign.

In this regard, he said, the support of the business community, religious scholars and educational institutions would also be sought.

The prime minister said an air bridge has already been set up to transport relief good to Turkiye and the trucks of National Logistic Cell will carry 100 tonnes relief goods to Turkey via Iran.

A PIA 777 aircraft earlier in the day carried relief goods to Turkiye from Lahore. With 30 tonnes would be airlifted from Islamabad today.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif talking to media on the occasion of seeing off a plane carrying relief goods for the earthquake victims of Turkiye; Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chief Minister of the Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Turkish Consul General H.E Emir Ozbay are also present at the occasion.

NAB law tweaks: SC raises questions on Imran's conduct

IRFAN SADOZAI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday raised important questions on the conduct of Imran Khan and his party during the hearing of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's petition against the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments.

During the hearing in the apex court, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah inquired whether the former premier and his party avoided voting on the NAB Amendment Bill, asking "Does a abstainer have a claim in court?" Further expressing displeasure, Justice Shah stated that "can a member of the assembly leave the parliament empty?"

Justice Shah added that when the resignations of PTI's members of the National Assembly (NA) were not accepted, it meant that membership of the law-making body was not terminated. He further noted that the "member of the assembly is the representative of the people of the constituency and the trustees of their trust", and then asked if it "right for the trustee of public trust to boycott the parliament?"

Two Army officers martyred in Kohlu



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Two Army officers were martyred during an operation against terrorists in Balochistan's Kohlu area on Friday.

According to a statement issued by the ISPR, a sanitisation operation, based on credible intelligence information, was launched on 10 February (Friday) in Kohlu area of Balochistan to deny terrorists any liberty to operate.

During the ensuing sanitisation of the area, an IED exploded close to the leading party consisting of Army personnel. Resultantly, two officers, Major Jawad and Captain Sagheer, embraced Shaheed (martyrdom) and laid their lives in defence of the motherland against an externally perpetrated threat.

Govt determined to make engineering universities global brands: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that government is determined to upgrade engineering universities to make them global brands. Ahsan Iqbal was speaking at the inauguration of new buildings of the Department of Computer & Information Systems Engineering, Fire Laboratory and Academic Block here on Friday at NED University of Engineer & Technology. He said that entire paradigm of progress and development had globally been changed into industrialization adding that government could provide infrastructure, however, it was faculty and students who



bring revolution through their innovation. He said that now the tool of measuring the nations' power had been changed from war-ammunition to technological innovation. The federal minister said that UET Lahore, UET Taxila, UET Peshawar, BUET Khuzdar and NED Karachi were being upgraded so that graduates from the universities could better serve the nation after learning advance skills. He said when the PMLN government came into power in

2013, there were several economic challenges besides the poor law and order situation adding that the government tackled the financial crisis and put the country on the right track. He said it was the time when money was the financially strong economic powers were keen to invest in the PML-N government initiated China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, the situation was changed due to the misconstrued policies of the later governments. He added that after mutual consultation with the stake holders, government had released necessary funds for operation 'Zarb-e-Azad' which proved to be fruitful for the law and order situation in the country with the sacrifices rendered by the forces and citizens.

Pakistan will have to enter another IMF programme immediately after this one: Miftah

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Miftah Ismail has said that Pakistan would have to enter another International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme after the current one ends in June due to declining foreign exchange reserves. "When this [programme] ends in June, we will probably not have much more than \$10 billion in reserves if that," he said while speaking to a private news channel here.



Consequently, the country would have to approach the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for loans, which would require it to enter another IMF programme. "Because of the debt repayment we have to do now — about \$20 billion for the foreseeable future — I am pretty sure

we will have to have back-to-back IMF programmes." Terming the IMF a lender of last resort, Ismail said it was similar to being admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). "You want to avoid going to the ICU, you have to start living a healthy life. Once we start living within our means, once we start pursuing rational and intelligent economic policies, then we can avoid going to the IMF. "But if we continue living as we are, going from one boom-bust cycle to another, IMF is the lender of last resort and we have to keep going to it," the former finance minister added.

Political stability is vital for ending economic crisis: Fawad stresses

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Friday said ongoing economic crisis was an outcome of the political instability in the country. Taking to Twitter, the former information minister said Pakistan could not reach a final agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to revive the loan programme stalled since September



last. He said the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had slipped under \$3 billion. He said attempts were being made to create a Constitutional crisis in

the country by delaying elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the PTI dissolved assemblies last month to put pressured on the coalition government. He warned that the move of delaying elections would serve blows to the state. Mr Chaudhry also pinned hopes on judiciary as a case regarding polls in Punjab is being heard by the Lahore High Court (LHC).

LHC 'upholds' NA speaker decision regarding PTI resignations

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday upheld the decision of National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf regarding the resignations of 43 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers.

The detailed decision of the LHC was received by the National Assembly today. The statement released by the speaker's office said that "PTI's propaganda of restoring seats proved false."

It maintained that by "simply suspending the notification of the Election Commission regarding the 35 resignations, the Election Commission has been prohibited from conducting re-election in these constituencies until the hearing is completed."

"Speaker's decision to accept resignation not tampered with," added the office.

The office furthered that Ashraf's "stance proved correct", adding that the NA speaker not only considered the issue of resignations with great restraint, but had also repeatedly summoned the PTI MNAs.

"Despite repeated summons, PTI members did not come and demanded acceptance of resignation," added the NA speaker's office.

Govt to ensure maximum relief to people after final agreement with IMF: Marriyum

PEAK POINT

ABBOTTABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday assured that the federal government would ensure maximum relief to people after finalizing an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Addressing a news conference at Abbottabad Press Club, Marriyum Aurangzeb, who was flanked by Federal Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi, said the first phase of negotiation with IMF team had been completed and shortly there



would be a final agreement in this regard. She said previous Imran Khan regime had approached IMF for an agreement and the present government had no option except to negotiate for the revival of suspended programme. The Minister said PML-N supreme leader, Nawaz

Sharif had successfully concluded the agreement with IMF in 2014 and not a single rupee increase was witnessed in the prices of daily-use commodities at that time. To a question, she said that PTI lawmakers had tendered resignations on their own initiative, after casting aspersions on the parliament and asked "How PTI's lawmakers would now sit in the same House after defaming the parliament." She said that policy decisions would be taken in accordance with the law and Constitution and surely not on the whims of Imran Khan, the PTI leader.

IMF staff-level talks conclude positively, discussion on MEFP from Monday: Dar

IQRA ZAHOOR ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Ishaq Dar said on Friday that after positive conclusion of staff-level talks on the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would start virtual discussion on the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) from Monday. "Good news is [that] as per their commitment, the team has gone

according to their plan. As per their commitment, we have received MEFP. The draft is with us, we will study it and from Monday we will engage in virtual discussion with the fund," Dar said while addressing a press conference on the completion of IMF staff-level visit to Pakistan. Once completed and approved by the IMF Executive Board, Pakistan would receive the next tranche of SDR 894 million (\$1.2 billion), the finance minister

said. The minister said, the ten-day dialogue with IMF concluded positively and there was no ambiguity on anything. The final round was held on Thursday during which "we mutually agreed and finalized all the things". He said there was mutual understanding to complete the programme, for the second time in the country's history, adding the government was committed to fulfill its sovereign commitments.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar addressing a press conference in Federal Capital. An IMF team left Pakistan on February 10 after crisis talks with the government failed to deliver a deal on financial aid that would help the South Asian country avert economic collapse.



Moin Khan previews HBL Pakistan Super League 8 for Quetta Gladiators

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

LAHORE: Quetta Gladiators lifted the HBL Pakistan Super League trophy in 2019 following an eight-wicket win over Peshawar Zalmi at the National Bank Cricket Arena. Before that, they had played the finals of the first two editions in 2016 and 2017.

The Gladiators from Quetta established themselves as one of the stronger units in the tournament before their form nosedived in the 2020 edition that saw them crash out of the tournament in the league stage for the first time ever and since they are yet to finish in the top four.

Quetta Gladiators open their HBL PSL 8 campaign on Wednesday (15 February) when they

play the hosts Multan Sultans at the Multan Cricket Stadium and hope to regain the pre-2020 form. Ahead of the tournament, PCB Digital spoke to their head coach, Moin Khan, about the impact of the HBL PSL on Balochistan, Sarfaraz Ahmed, who is the only captain to lead his side in all seven editions, as a leader of Quetta Gladiators, and how the HBL PSL has uplifted Pakistan cricket. Below are the excerpts from the interview and the full interview is available at the HBL PSL's YouTube channel.

What has been the impact of Quetta Gladiators and HBL PSL on the development of cricket in Balochistan? Quetta Gladiators and the HBL PSL have



played an inspiring role for cricket in the region. Despite a lack of facilities in that part of the country and unfavourable weather

conditions in winters, there has been a spike in interest for cricket here with local talent emerging and due to the association with the Quetta

Gladiators brand. In the first season, we had Bismillah Khan, and recently we have had Abdul Wahid Bangalzi and Abdul

Nasir in the team, showing that Quetta Gladiators have created an impact. We have also been instructed by the management to have

representation from Quetta in the squad every season. For this purpose, we visit Quetta in the summers and conduct a local tournament to unearth young talent and induct them in the side.

What has been Sarfaraz Ahmed's impact on the Quetta Gladiators dressing room? Sarfaraz Ahmed has made an outstanding contribution to Quetta Gladiators. He has performed as an individual and captain of the team. He is a determined and hardworking cricketer and knows how to make a comeback. He is a street-smart cricketer and knows how to lead the side, which is reflected by Quetta Gladiators' impressive win percentage across all

seven seasons. We will see a more buoyant Sarfaraz in action as he would be looking to carry forward the momentum of his player of the series winning performance against New Zealand.

What goes into making a playing XI and what is your philosophy as a coach? We have a close look at the conditions and try to develop a consensus when we sit together to devise our playing XI. We even involve our owners as they are the most concerned because they are financing the whole franchise.

I want my team to play fearless cricket, because that is the demand of this format and you would stay under pressure if you don't play that way.

Sindh wins women's title in Inter Provincial Netball Championship



SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: Sindh won women's title in Inter Provincial Netball Championship while Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bagged 2nd

and 3rd position respectively, at Pakistan Sports Complex, here. Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed Khattak, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination was the chief guest at the

concluding ceremony and gave away trophies, medals and certificates to the players of the winning teams. Deputy Director, Pakistan Sports Board, Shahid Islam, President,

Netball Federation, Mudassar Arain, Vice President, Sameen Malik, Secretary General, Syed Gohar Raza, former Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce

and Industry and a large number of people were also present on the occasion. In the women's final played at the Hamid Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex, Sindh won the title by defeating Punjab

by 2-15 goals in the third place match before the final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Gilgit Baltistan by 2-13 goals. Seven teams from across the country participated in the inter-provin-

cial netball championship including Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. National Men

and Women Netball Championship will be played from Saturday (today). Twelve teams from all over the country will take part in the Championship.

Yuan, Cem move in ITF Pakistan Jrs Tennis C'ships boys' singles final

IQRA ZAHOOR ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Yuan Lu of China and Cem Atlamis of Turkey moved in the boys' singles final of ITF Pakistan Juniors Tennis Championships leg-1 here at PTT-SDA Tennis Complex on Friday.

A large number of foreign players (boys/girls) from Turkey, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, UK, Malaysia, Romania, Singapore, China, Poland, South Korea, Canada and Pakistan were participating in the event.

In the first boys' singles semifinal, Yuan Lu of China, who came through the qualifying rounds, played outstanding tennis to beat Bugra Ozkoc of



Turkey and reached the finals.

In Boys Singles semifinals, Yuan Lu (CHN) beat

Bugra Ozkoc (TUR) 6-2, 2-6, 6-1; Cem Atlamis (TUR) beat Mikhail Khodorchenko (RUS) 6-4, 6-6.

2. In Girls Singles semifinals, Zeynep Erbakan (TUR) beat Vlada Guryeva (RUS) 6-1, 6-1; Junshu Xia

(CHN) beat Liliya Piskun (RUS) 6-4, 6-1.

In Boys Doubles semifinals, Edward Kruppe (CAN), Huzaima Abdul Rehman (PAK) beat Nadir Mirza, Hamza Roman (PAK) 6-2, 1-6 (10-3).

; Bugra Ozkoc (TUR), Dogan Can Sipahioğlu (TUR) beat Danil Chizhuk (TUR), Sevastian Tasenkov (RUS) 5-7, 6-3 (10-2).

In Girls Doubles semifinals, Zeynep Erbakan (TUR), Defne Erbakan (TUR) beat Polina Zaytseva (RUS), Anastasiya Kim (KAZ) 6-2, 6-1; Taira Abildayeva (KAZ), Vlada Guryeva (RUS) beat Maia Visan (ROU), Jinshu Xia (CHN) 6-3, 6-1.

Century 99 Punjab Polo Cup: FC Polo, Newage/MP breeze into main final

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: FC Polo team and Newage Cables/Master Teams qualified for the main final of the Century 99 Punjab Cup Polo Tournament after winning their respective semifinals played here at the Lahore Polo Club on Friday.

Phenomenal performance of Raul Laplacette helped FC Polo beat BN Polo team by a narrow margin of 5-4¹ in the first semifinal of the historic tournament. Raul Laplacette displayed outstanding polo skills and techniques and thrashed in three tremendous goals while Saqib Khan



Khakwani also excelled with a contribution of a beautiful brace. For BN Polo, which had a half-goal handicap advantage, Juan Maria Ruiz Guinazu and Roberto turrioz Arias thrashed in two goals each. The first semifinal of the day went neck-and-

neck and the slight goal lead that FC Polo took in the first chukker, remained intact till the final one, as both the teams kept on launching attacks on each other's goal and also succeeded in converting goals but when the final bell was rung.

Sports 'top priority' of government: Shaza Fatima



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday said sports were top priority of the federal government and all-out efforts were being made for the promotion and encouragement of games at all levels.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of Women National Volleyball Championship here at the Pakistan Sports Complex, she lauded the women players who featured in the championship. "Women have been working hard in every field and proving their mettle," she stressed. "They (women) are no less

than men in any field. The government will support volleyball including all sports at all levels," Shaza said. Efforts were underway to encourage and promote women not only in sports but in every walk of life, she said, adding that support programs for sports persons would be launched so that

young girls can come forward from the grass-roots level. Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation Ch. Muhammad Yaqoob said that all-out efforts were afoot to promote women's volleyball. "Pakistan women's team would bag the top position in the South Asian Games," he said. "Pakistan will also try to qualify for the Olympics. We will emerge victorious in Asia in the next two years," he said. Yaqoob also asked for the cooperate sector to come forward and support the games. "There is a need for the cooperate sector to help in promoting sports, as it is difficult for the government to do it single-handedly," he urged.

Azhar Mahmood previews the HBL PSL 8 for Islamabad United

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Islamabad United are the only side to win the HBL Pakistan Super League title twice. They were the inaugural winners in 2016 and recorded their second title win in 2018 when they defeated Peshawar Zalmi by three wickets in Karachi.

When the eighth edition of the HBL PSL kicks off, Islamabad United would be hoping to add Supernova Trophy to their cabinet. They begin their journey on 16 February against Karachi Kings at the latter's home. PCB Digital spoke to



Azhar Mahmood, the head coach of Islamabad United, in the lead up to the tournament. He spoke about the depth in Islamabad United's squad and the role of the data in the team selection. Below are the excerpts from the interview, while the full interview is available at the HBL PSL YouTube channel. How excited are you

about the HBL PSL 8 being played in the four cities in Pakistan? This HBL PSL is going to be very exciting as the teams will get to play in front of their home crowds. When I was with Multan Sultans and we played in Multan, the atmosphere was surreal. To play in front of your home crowd is a huge morale booster for any team and you will see the fan following getting a further boost in the upcoming season. Whenever Islamabad [United] play in front of their home crowds [at the Pindi Cricket Stadium], we get an unbelievable response.

Kaira expresses deep sorrow and grief with Turkish people over earthquake losses

Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs



RAWALPINDI: Senator Taj Haider giving a First Media award to Ex President Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists Amir Sajjad in Punjab Arts Council.

PNCA remembers Sadequain on 36th death anniversary

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: In remembrance of legendary Sadequain's Visual Arts Division of Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) held an exhibition of Sadequain's work followed by a documentary screening here on Friday. The documentary, 'Raza-e-fun', was screened in collaboration with Sadequain Foundation USA to commemorate the 36th death anniversary of the legendary artist. The show, organised to pay tribute to the life and artworks of Sadequain, contained paintings on display that were from National Art Gallery's permanent collection. The artist during his lifetime had gifted more than 100 artworks to the PNCA. The renowned artist has also been the

subject of numerous documentaries in the past by institutions such as PTV's 13-episode serial titled 'Mojiza-e-Fun', PNCA, GEO TV, and others, but Raza-e-fun surpasses all its predecessors in its tone and tenor. The 30-minute film was written, narrated, and directed by acclaimed award-winning writer and director Waseem Amrohaqi. He takes the viewer on a blissful odyssey traversing Sadequain's initial forays into calligraphy and poetry at a young age, then later in life focusing on painting and his meteoric rise on the world stage. The film highlights the fact that even before the advent of social media, computers, or even television, 'Sadequain's talent was recognized on all five continents.'

PNCA has been a supporter of promoting exhibits and the very best modern and contemporary art on national and international scales. PNCA was set up to spearhead the development of arts in Pakistan. The council aims to build an environment conducive to the flourishing of the arts, where the arts are "accessible to everyone, and artists and art givers have the commensurate financial support and resources to excel at home, and on the world stage," said Director General PNCA, Ayub Jamali while talking to the media persons. Sadequain, who became a legend in his own lifetime created the illustrations of Ghalib in 1968, Faiz during the 1970s and 80s, and of Iqbal during the 1980s. He was deeply interest-

ed in the issues that have challenged the best minds of the human race, the mysteries of the universe, the meaning of life, role of human beings in the universe, freedom and self-determination, survival and progress, and the fine line. The display features 13 murals (illustrations/interpretations) on Iqbal's poetry, visual references from two of his monumental murals, 12 illustrations and oil on canvas on Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poetry. "The exhibition is an attempt to keep alive the legacy," celebrate the efforts of the legendary artist in a befitting manner and let the people know about the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the masters of the field for keeping alive our heritage.

Bahaar Rung Women Gala starts today

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Lets' Grow Together - a community of entrepreneurs will hold a grand event of Bahaar Rung - Islamabad Women Gala 2023 here on February 11 to promote home based women workers and artisans at G Park. The two-day gala is being organized for the fourth time featuring over 150 stalls of made in Pakistan homemade products by women entrepreneurs including a variety of lifestyle exhibits like fashion products, interior decor products, furniture, resin art, paintings, garments and jewelry etc while some stalls are also given to children to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship among the young minds and engage them in healthy activities. A traditional puppet show will be part of activities for children to create awareness about various social issues as well as to allow the traditional performing arts. Food court will also be setup for women gala to offer a variety of foods for the families and visitors in a cultural environment while some stalls will be dedicated to imported products for income generation of women entrepreneurs, said Amreen Haider, Leader of Lets' Grow Together Community while talking to the media persons. Women Gala Islamabad is a fun filled event encouraging women entrepreneurs across the country and over 150 women entrepreneurs will participate in the event working for the welfare of local community of women entrepreneurs in Islamabad.

Senator Mushtaq grills new cabinet members for absence in Senate session

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan from Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) on Friday grilled the new cabinet members for remaining absent from the Senate proceedings and demanded the Chairman Senate to write to the Prime Minister to take notice of their negligence. While talking to the House, the JIP Senator in supplementary query during the question hour told the Upper House members and the Chairman that some five new ministers were included in the federal cabinet swelling it up to 88 members. Senator Mushtaq said, "It will take till March for the cabinet to score a century. The Prime Minister would appoint a special minister to keep count of his cabinet ministers. It's the biggest cabinet in the world." The Senator regretted that the newly appointed ministers were unfamiliar to him and other members of the House. "We don't even know them."

Irfan Cheema's solo show concludes

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: An exhibition of an eye-catching vibrant collection of still life by Irfan Cheema titled 'Floriilegium' concluded here on Friday at Zanzara art Gallery. Irfan's still life work has been favorably received by artists, collectors, and critics. He has regularly showcased his new paintings in solo shows and museum exhibitions in Pakistan, China and more recently in the United Kingdom. In his own words, his work is a celebration of nature, life and heritage of plants that he has studied, lived in, and loved. Though painting from an early age, oil painting became an important part of his daily routine. His paintings, which may all be described as beautiful, motifs and richness in their various guises and attributes such as nature and sensuality, the extravagance of colors, and the ever-prevailing sense of temporality characterizing his work.

Opinion Editorial

Crumbling down

As the stock of problems faced by the country crosses the danger mark, it is being met with pitifully diminishing resolve, making it abundantly clear that the incumbent conglomerate would much rather let the country sink than nurture the prospect of an Imran Khan comeback. Preposterous that it may seem, it is not difficult to comprehend. The current governmental edifice stands on all that is unnatural and unreal. It was pieced together artificially when a decision to remove Khan had been taken by forces, both internal and external, as a reaction to a possible change of course that would have asserted Pakistan's sovereign and independent stature as a country, the outreach to Russia being the last leg fitting the chain of events.

What is difficult to understand is not the inimical approach which some external forces and interests had taken to the changes contemplated in Pakistan's foreign policy. The shock was internally used as an alibi to uproot a democratic government and replace it with a bunch of crooks and criminals who, in line with the despotic tradition of plunder that they have been the authors of, have since ravaged the state further by their ultimate handlers. In less than a year, the country has been effectively pushed to the verge of administrative malfunction and financial default. The pressure which has increased with time has been met with diminishing resolve and even lesser urgency. What is that in Khan's political agenda and their ultimate handlers had against him that they were compelled to remove him from power and have since launched a viruperative and draconian drive to eliminate him from the political domain altogether? The reason is rooted in what he was trying to accomplish in the context of eradicating corruption and asserting Pakistan's sovereign independence to ensure provision of welfare to its people. The unbending resolve to extricate Pakistan from entanglement in unnecessary wars and becoming partners in peace with countries of the world was the other major benchmark

that distinguished his rule as compared to his predecessors, which included the military dictators. He did not only stand on his own feet as a dignified and self-respecting country that could manage its affairs without unsavory interference from others which was earlier necessitated because of culpability of its rulers and consequent bartering of its interests. The attainment of these objectives would have resulted in not just the elimination of corruption as also its numerous perpetrators who had indulged remorselessly in a spree of loot and plunder through their years in power to build their financial empires in foreign lands and their dynastic fiefdoms within the political domains of the country. This would have resulted in not just losing an election to bounce back in the next, it would have meant the end of their kind of political meandering and busting of the dynasties they had crafted with much labour to perpetuate their hold from generation to generation. With this kind of agenda, Khan not only antagonised Pakistan's so-called foreign 'benefactors', he also endangered the political future of the local corrupt dynasties. What, however, was alarming was the extent of support they were able to generate from domestic forces which not only became active sponsors of their corruption, but ensured to plant this coterie of convicts, under-trial criminals and absconders in power through a crass, foreign-dictated and locally collaborated conspiracy which ran counter to all democratic traditions and norms. The media was also bought over to vilify Imran Khan and his anti-corruption drive that aimed at the evolving of a genuinely sovereign, independent and self-reliant Pakistan. Since his ouster, the dream of putting Pakistan on an upward trajectory, as projected at that unfortunate hour, has been effectively busted and, today, the country is perched on the verge of economic default and institutional collapse. Notwithstanding that, under the direct tutelage of their patrons, the ruling conglomerate has moved with speed in getting themselves freed of being held to account for indulgence in corrupt practices and

stuffing their personal coffers at the cost of the state exchequer. In the meanwhile, the ongoing talks with the IMF are unlikely to yield any results in the absence of political reconciliation which is considered an essential prerequisite for sustainability of the extended fund facility. That is why the idea of the All-Parties Conference (APC) was floated expecting that the PTI would walk into the trap amidst an environment when the party and its supporters were being routinely subjected to the worst state torture and repeated pronouncements regarding an indefinite postponement of the projected elections. Obviously, the PTI leadership has made its presence at the APC conditional on two things: a categorical announcement of firm dates for holding of the national and provincial elections, and immediate cessation of state torture and arrest of its supporters. There has, so far, been no progress in this direction and chances are that there will be none in the future either as that would be generally perceived as signing their political death warrants by the criminal cabal. With the induction of this conglomerate in power, the presence of a legal and constitutional government could never become a reality. But it is the state that is also crumbling now - both administratively and economically. These last nine months have been the worst possible in the history of a country an atomic power per se. In addition to begging the IMF to relent, the prime minister is out with his begging bowl asking the world to allow him to survive another day. The reserves are down to below \$3 billion which would cater to a few days of meeting the costs of imports. The country is practically on the verge of imminent default. If that is not averted, it will lead sequentially to a series of catastrophic developments of existing obligations. With few stakes in the country, the ruling cabal may just relinquish charge and decamp to their palatial sojourns away from Pakistan. Beyond the ambit of political obligations, and notwithstanding some egos which Khan may have brushed in the course of implementing his anti-corruption agenda. Courtesy: The News

Glorious victory of Islamic Revolution of Iran

The Statement of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad on the 44th Anniversary of the Victory of the Islamic Revolution
February 11th is the dawn of the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. This is a day of triumph and devotion for a great nation of self-determination. Today, the valiant nation of Iran is on the eve of celebrating the 44th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. So far, myriads of vicissitudes and obstacles have been triumphantly conquered by the resistance and endurance of the Iranian people. The nation that resolutely rose to demarcate the self-determination of its own, the destiny of the succeeding generations and the sublimation of the causes and values, is now standing at the accolade of its glory and progress. From the very beginning of the divine movement, the Iranian nation pursued numerous objectives in its uprising, which were translated into three significant demands of independence, freedom and brotherly countries with history. These were deep rooted in the basic principles of resistance and endurance. In spite of the conspiracies, perfidy and the hostile attempts to set forth various obstacles in front of the nation progress and to hold back Iran from achieving its destiny, the Islamic Republic of Iran was stronger than before and built back itself even better than the past. At the time being, 44 years after the reverberating triumph of the revolution, the Islamic Republic has proved its efficacy in various domains. This is despite the fact that the 8-year imposed war - all-out economic sanctions, maximum pressure campaign, political pressure, the media rhetoric and propaganda, hybrid war and the recent insurgency were finances and supported to target the integrity and solidarity of the country. The Islamic Republic of Iran was stronger than before and built back itself even better than the past. At the time being, 44 years after the reverberating triumph of the revolution, the Islamic Republic has proved its efficacy in various domains. 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President for joint efforts to treat mental health issues

SEHRISH NAZ

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Friday called for making joint efforts towards the prevention and treatment of mental health disorders in the country as it was one of the most neglected fields in Pakistan.

He expressed these views while chairing a virtual meeting on mental health, at President House.

He added that 24% of the population in Pakistan was under mental stress and anxiety according to a survey conducted by the National Commission for Human Rights in August 2022.

The President stated that 60-80% of the college students were under stress, which was a major concern that needed to be addressed by providing counselling

and guidance to college students. He further said that the government was developing a helpline to advise and educate the people about the issues related to mental health and well-being.

Chief Executive of the British Asian Trust (BAT), Richard Hawkes, and Chair of the British-Pakistani Psychiatrists Association (BPPA), Dr Shahid Latif, joined the meeting via video link.

The representatives of the Caretech Charitable Foundation, Global Institute of Human Development, and members of the British-Pakistani Psychiatrist Association and Pakistani diaspora in the UK also participated in the meeting virtually.

Addressing the participants, the President highlighted the need

for collaborative networking between mental health professionals working in and outside Pakistan as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to increase the accessibility and affordability of mental healthcare in Pakistan.

He regretted that due to the acute shortage of mental health professionals and lack of resources and awareness about mental disorders in Pakistan, the majority of psychiatric patients either went untreated or consulted traditional faith and religious healers.

He said that there were almost 2000 mental health professionals in Pakistan who were unable to provide proper treatment and counselling to 24% of the population suffering from some form of mental issue.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a virtual meeting on mental health, at Alwan-e-Sadr.

Rescuers race to find Turkey-Syria quake survivors, toll tops 21,000

PEAK POINT

BAB ALHAWA BORDER CROSSING, SYRIA: Rescuers were scouring debris on Friday nearly 100 hours after a massive earthquake hit Turkey and Syria, killing at least 21,000 people in one of the region's worst disasters for a century.

The first UN aid deliveries arrived on Thursday in Syrian rebel-held zones, but chances of finding survivors have dimmed since the passing of the three-day mark that experts consider a critical period to save lives. Bitter cold hampered search efforts in both countries, but more than 80 hours after the disaster struck, 16-year-old Meida Adtas was found alive in the southern Turkish city of Antakya. Her overjoyed father was in tears and the grieving nation cheered an agonisingly rare piece of good news. "My dear, my dear" he called out as rescuers pulled the teen out of the rubble and the watching crowd broke into applause. The 7.8-magni-



tude quake struck early Monday as people slept, in a region where many had already suffered loss and displacement due to Syria's civil war.

Top aid officials were planning to visit affected areas with World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths both announcing trips. The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric, said she had arrived in Aleppo. —APP

Wednesday. "As this tragic event unfolds, people's desperate plight must be addressed." An aid convoy crossed the Turkish border into rebel-held northwestern Syria on Thursday, the first delivery into the area since the quake, an official at the Bab al-Hawa crossing told AFP. The crossing is the only way UN assistance can reach civilians without going through areas controlled by Syrian government forces. A decade of civil war and Syrian-Russian aerial bombardment had already destroyed hospitals, collapsed the economy and prompted shortages, fuel and water electricity, on Wednesday.

LHC reserves decision on PTI plea for Punjab polls

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday reserved its decision on a plea filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking direction to the Punjab governor for immediately announcing the date of elections in the province.

LHC Justice Jawad Hassan reserved the decision after hearing detailed arguments from each side. As the proceedings commenced, the chief secretary and inspector general of Police (IGP) Punjab Usman Anwar appeared before the court. Justice Jawad asked the IGP about his reply regarding the elections to which he replied that he was unaware of the case, and added that the police department had sent its proposals to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "We will comply with the ECP's directions and decisions regarding the elections," the IGP

ensured the court. The electoral watchdog's counsel raised objections over the maintainability of the petition and argued that neither the federal government nor the president were made respondents in the petition. He added that it was the federal government that granted funds for elections. He contended that concerned departments including the judiciary excused to provide the staff.

He questioned how it would be possible for the ECP to hold elections in such circumstances and argued that there was no law that could establish responsibility on ECP for giving the election date. He maintained that ECP should not be made respondent in such cases as its obligation was to hold fair and free elections rather than giving date of election dates.

The lawyer further argued that the ECP did not have sufficient funds for the election.

CJP asks govt to adopt measures to stop foreign currency smuggling

ARSHAD MALIK

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Friday asked the federal government to adopt measures to stop foreign currency smuggling.

The Chief Justice remarked this while heading a three-member bench comprising on Justice Ayesha A Malik and Justice Athar Minallah which heard the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) petition challenging the Lahore High Court (LHC) order regarding collection of Super Tax from large scale industries. The government had imposed a one-time ten percent tax on industries' profits to ease the impact of the rising inflation on the poor.



During the course of proceedings, the court consolidated all the Super Tax cases and fixed them for hearing next week.

The FBR counsel Faisal Siddiqui said that the LHC had suspended the implementation of its final decision in the case for 60 days. There were traditions in tax cases where the court orders companies to pay 50 percent of the tax, he added.

Barrister Farogh Naseem, counsel for the industries, said that all

petitions of the FBR against the LHC's interim order had become ineffective after the final decision of the Lahore High Court. The court could not order payment of 50 percent Super Tax after petitions become ineffective, he added. The Chief Justice said the case could be fixed for the hearing next week. He remarked that the FBR imposed the Super Tax in good faith. He said that it was also known that Shell Pakistan, one of the petitioners, paid taxes in the millions of rupees. Advocate Faisal Siddiqui said that he was representing the FBR. He said that he would also represent the federal government if the country went into default.

Ambassador Nadir assures to identify business opportunities for Pakistan in Ukraine

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Ukraine Major Gen. (Retd) Nadir Khan on Friday assured that he would work to identify new business opportunities for Pakistan in Ukraine and facilitate the business trade with Ukrainian counterparts.

He said that lots of business and investment opportunities would be available in Ukraine during its reconstruction phase and stressed that the entrepreneurs and investors of Pakistan

should be ready to capture them. He stated this while addressing the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Nadir Khan said that Pakistan-Ukraine bilateral trade was less than US\$ 1 billion and the trade balance was highly in favour of Ukraine as Pakistan's imports were over US\$ 700 million and exports were around US\$ 70-80 million. He stressed that the business community of Pakistan should cooperate in promoting business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.

to improve the trade balance, and assured of taking all possible measures to facilitate them in that regard. ICCI President Ahsan Fazl Baktiwar said that Pakistan could export many products to Ukraine, including pharmaceuticals, surgical and medical equipment, textiles, cutlery, construction material, IT products, sports goods, leather products, fruits, and emphasised that the embassy of Pakistan in Ukraine were important in promoting business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.

tries to explore new avenues of trade promotion. He said that Pakistan needed to boost exports to improve its foreign exchange reserves, which had tumbled down to below US\$ 3 billion and urged the Commercial Sections of Pakistan in foreign countries to identify the demand of Pakistani products in their respective markets to improve exports. He said that direct air links between Pakistan and Ukraine were important to promote B2B and P2P relations between the two countries.

Court extends Imran Khan's bail till Feb 27

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Friday extended the pre-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) head Imran Khan till February 27 and sought a written statement in an FIR regarding the protest after the decision of ECP in Toshkhana case. The court also granted an attack on PML-N's leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha.

Additional District and Session Judge ZaFar Iqbal heard the case against Imran Khan. Dr. Baber Awan submitted the medical report of Imran Khan and requested the judge to grant him a one-time exemption from attendance.

The court noted that the applicant had stated that still he would take 20 to 25 days to recover from injuries. He said that Imran Khan was not allowed by the doctors to travel. Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said that PTI's leader used to talk about justice but on the other hand, he was not willing to appear before the police. If this was the situation then the court should form a medical board of PIMS as he was not sure if the plaster would be opened in the next six months. He said the judge then granted him a one-time exemption from attendance.

He said that this plaster was only for the court as the other jobs were being done openly. He said that the doctor of PIMS hospital would examine the health of the PTI chief at his home. The court also witnessed heated remarks between Dr. Baber Awan and Mr. Ranjha.

KKAWF Commemorates International Overdose Awareness Day

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Karim Khan Atridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF) organized "Save Tomorrow" event every year to commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day under its programme "SPORTS IS THE ANSWER". KKAWF promotes one team sport every year and bring the best of the national level teams to play show matches, for creating interest of sports and physical activities among our youth. This year, it's the 10th year of commemoration of the International Overdose Awareness Day and KKAWF will arrange volleyball matches of the National Team (both Men and Women). "SAVE TOMORROW 6" will be

organized on Saturday, 11th February 2023 at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Sports Complex Islamabad from 9pm to 6:30pm. Please find below the details of the event. Liaquat Gymnasium - Sports Complex Islamabad SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023 - PROGRAMME 2:00 pm Arrival of Guests and dignitaries: 2:35 pm Opening Ceremony and National Anthem: 2:45 pm Welcome remarks by Mrs. Cristina von Sperling Atridi (Chairperson KKAWF): 3:00 pm Start of Volleyball Game (Male National Teams): 4:30 pm Break: 4:45 pm Volleyball Game (Female National Teams): 6:00 pm Prize Distribution Ceremony: Closing remarks by the Guest of Honour, Federal Minister of IPC Sardar Ehsan ur Rehman Mazarri: 6:15 pm Performances and closing ceremony - Refreshments: 6:30 pm The Students of various educational institutions are participating, not only to witness the Volleyball games, but also to volunteer for the event as organizers and to setup entrepreneurship corner/stalls. The Students to register on the following links to attend the event: www.kkawf.org/st6 or <https://forms.gle/gC4z3K> or <https://www.facebook.com/kkawf> and KKAWF will manage the participants by checking their registrations at the gate. Sardar Ehsan ur Rehman Mazarri, Federal Minister of IPC will grace the occasion as Guest of Honour.

KP Health Care Commission conducted a grand operation against beauty parlors

SYED HARIS

SWAB: Provision of illegal medical services in beauty parlors banned. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission conducted a grand operation against beauty parlors, beauty salons, hair salons, hair transplant centers, cosmetic clinics etc. in Peshawar district last week. 60 inspection teams consisting of field officers of all zones of the province were formed in the grand operation. A total of 200 beauty centers (Beauty Parlors, Beauty Salons, Hair Salons, Hair Transplant Centers, Cosmetic Clinics etc.) were inspected in Peshawar District. Sealed due to non-registration with/Show-cause notices



were issued to various beauty centers and necessary instructions were issued by inspection teams. According to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission, some beauty parlors are providing services that can only be provided under the medical department. Rather, a specialist doctor is needed for these services. Therefore, the Health Care Commission has banned beauty parlors from providing any such services.



KARACHI: Febo: Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurating the Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC 2023) at Expo Center Karachi. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M Amdad Khan Niazi, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah & Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faisal Sabzwari also present on this occasion.