



"Things in Pakistan will turn around, I have firm belief as the people have huge potential"

President of Pakistan
DR ARIF ALVI

President Alvi says no country could aspire to attain progress & prosperity without the participation of its people

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Saturday said that no country could aspire to attain progress and prosperity without the participation of its people and Pakistan being the fifth populous country in the world, possessed immense potential to excel in every field of life. Addressing an awards distribution ceremony of the annual Invitational Golf Tournament held at Margalla Greens Golf Club, President Dr. Arif Alvi said that the people were a vital driving force for making contributions to the overall progress of a country. "About 250 million people of Pakistan with their collective efforts can make a difference; they can transform and rebuild Pakistan by utilizing their potential and intellect," he observed. Under the 'Sports Diplomacy' initiative, Serena Hotels hosted the tournament in collaboration with the Margalla Greens Golf Club. A number of golfers, diplomats and sports buffs attended the event. In his address, President Dr. Arif Alvi further underscored the significance of promoting active lifestyles and outdoor pursuits, emphasizing the positive impact on national well-being and the betterment of communities. Congratulating the organizers, he said that the event was enjoyable amidst the natural verdant atmosphere. He observed that due to the modern lifestyle, people were accustomed to the latest facilities and moving away from hectic physical activities which were not beneficial for health. The human body responds to different exercises daily and they continue to decline with the passage of age, if no proper physical activity was adopted, he added. The president further said that during Covid 19, Pakistan emerged as the third most successful performing country in the world due to the collective efforts by all the institutions and compilation of data. He said that precedent could be taken as a guiding event that could help overcome different issues being faced by the country, adding that about 26 million children were out of school besides, the numerous issues of malnutrition and stunting being faced in the health sector. The president stressed that Pakistan should also learn from the experiences of different developed countries that wade through diverse challenges. "Things in Pakistan will turn around, I have firm belief as the people have huge potential," he opined. Speaking on the occasion, CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani said that they would continue to utilize sports as a platform to connect with people from different segments of society to foster stronger relationships and cultivate a spirit of teamwork. In the closing ceremony, the president gave away prizes to the winners and runners-up across all four categories. Golfers from a diverse range of categories, including diplomatic, government, and armed forces officials, corporations, and women participated in the event. With approximately 110 golfers in attendance, including a notable contingent of women players, the competition showcased an impressive display of skill and technique across the course. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners of the Invitational Golf Tournament organized by Serena Hotels. APP

PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar terms elections step towards promoting democracy

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has termed the recently conducted General Elections in the country as a step towards promoting democracy. In a statement issued here on Saturday, he said that the significant turnout from all segments of society, including both genders, has been acknowledged internationally. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said, "Post elections, it is imperative that all stakeholders realise that victory and defeat are inherent aspects of democratic processes." He said that parties and individuals who harboured any concerns regarding electoral irregularities were encouraged to pursue legal recourse through the available channels. "Pakistan's legislative, judicial, and executive branches are resilient and stand ready to deliver impartial justice to all." PM Kakar said, "While peaceful protest and assembly are fundamental rights, any form of agitation, violence, or incitement for vigilantism will not be condoned and law would take its course without any hesitation." "Anarchy and disorder will not be tolerated at this crucial time. This only serves to advance the agenda for hostile forces, both



"While peaceful protest and assembly are fundamental rights, any form of agitation, violence, or incitement for vigilantism will not be condoned and law would take its course without any hesitation"

domestic and foreign, to exploit and create grave law and order challenges."

"The caretaker government implores patience, as political parties engage in consultations to form governments at both the

federal and provincial levels, in accordance with democratic traditions and norms. We hope that this process concludes as early as possible with mutual understanding and respect," he added.

You can level allegations all you want, it is your right but present evidence to back it: CJP Qazi Faez Isa

Demands evidence after Rawalpindi Commissioner Chatha's rigging allegations

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Saturday demanded evidence of his involvement in the rigging of the February 8 elections after Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatha leveled serious allegations against the top judge and other authorities. "You level baseless allegations. There is no truth to it nor is evidence presented. You can level allegations all you want, it is your right but present evidence to back it. Whether good or bad, it will be determined later," the top judge said in reaction to Saturday's dramatic development. While talking to media persons during his visit to the memorial of Human Rights being established at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa went on to say that his role was only restricted to the facilitation of the conduct of elections. "If someone did not want elections, that's another story," he said. The CJP questioned his and apex court's connection to the polls, saying that the court only receive and decide upon petitions linked to elections. The CJP said that the apex court did not order the elections; instead, it asked both constitutional authorities — the president of Pakistan and the election commission of Pakistan — to stage the elections after arriving at a consensus on the date. Responding to the allegations, CJP Isa asserted that the allegations of electoral fraud against him were baseless and lacked evidence. Meanwhile the Supreme Court of Pakistan has decided not to take suo motu notice on the allegations of election rigging leveled by Rawalpindi Commissioner against Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. According to a private TV channel sources, this decision was reached after a consultation among the judges, including Chief Justice Isa, himself. The allegations, which involve Chief Justice Isa's purported involvement in poll rigging, were expected to be deliberated upon during a scheduled hearing in an election-related case on February 19. Sources suggested that there is a possibility of the Rawalpindi Commissioner's case being considered within the framework of this pre-arranged case. A consultation meeting chaired by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa was reportedly convened to address the accusations made by the Rawalpindi Commissioner. Justices Muneeb Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Ayesha Malik, and Athar Manullah were also present during the deliberations. Following a careful examination of the allegations, the participants decided against taking suo motu notice on the matter. SABAH

Pakistani doctors in UK proved their mettle by hardwork, dedication: Envoy



LONDON: High Commissioner of Pakistan to London Dr Mohammad Faisal has said that the Pakistani doctors and medical professionals had proven their mettle by sheer hard work, dedication and excellence in their respective fields. The high commissioner said this in a

meeting with a group of British-Pakistani doctors and medical practitioners at the high commission, said a press release on Saturday. The envoy applauded their dedication to their profession and recognised their services and the philanthropic contribution to the communities in Pakistan and the UK. "The Pakistani professionals in UK are the real ambassadors. Proud of their excellent performance and services," the high commissioner remarked. He said that the Pakistani doctors had been serving the community during COVID-19 pandemic beyond their call of duty. APP

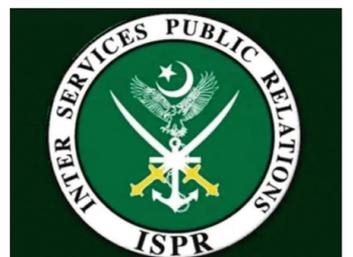
Election Commission rejects Rawalpindi commissioner's rigging claims

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has flatly rejected the rigging allegations put forth by Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta against the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner. The spokesperson said in a statement that neither the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) nor any of its officials instructed the Rawalpindi commissioner to change election results under his jurisdiction. He stated that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would soon conduct a comprehensive inquiry to confirm the facts. Commissioners of any division do not have a direct role in conducting elections; they are neither District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), nor Presiding Officers (POs). APP

Nine terrorists killed in two separate operations conducted in KP

RAWALPINDI: Nine terrorists were gunned down by the security forces during two separate intelligence-based operations conducted on February 16 and 17 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Saturday, two terrorists including a high-value target identified as Rehmat Ullah alias Badar Mansur and Anjad alias Babri were killed in an intelligence-based operation conducted by the security forces in Tank District.

In another operation conducted in the South Waziristan District, after an intense fire exchange, seven terrorists were sent to hell. Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against the security forces as well as extortion and target killing of innocent civilians. However, during the operation, a brave son of



the soil, Sepoy Shahzeb Aslam (age 29 years; resident of district Haripur), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat (martyrdom). "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said. PR

Pakistan one of the countries at the greatest risk from climate change, Riina Kionka

Euro Village a Celebration of EU-Pakistan Dosti – Stronger Together, Sustainable Forever

By Sohail Majeed Butt

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka said "EuroVillage is a special event for us; we cherish the people-to-people connections it offers. This year, we want you to experience our journey of co-creating a sustainable future. Europe has the ambition to be the first climate neutral continent, but also wants to support its partners towards the green transition. Pakistan is one of the countries at the greatest risk from

climate change. The EU is working with Pakistan to help address challenges and create a sustainable future for all." Thousands of people, gathered at the Jinnah Convention Center to participate in "EuroVillage," a family-focused festival organized by the European Union and its Member States. This year's celebration centered on the theme of co-creating a sustainable future, entitled "Stronger Together – Sustainable Forever." The event showcased the 60+ years strong connection between the EU and Pakistan, high-

lighting the collaborative partnership in development, trade and investment, culture, education, environment and a wide array of other areas. The fifth edition of EuroVillage hosted the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to experience European sustainability and enjoy an afternoon of culture, music, and food. The festival featured interactive information displays by the EU and Member States, offering games, quizzes, food and various activities, providing visitors with an afternoon of learning, interaction, and entertainment. The

event featured live performances by Pakistani artists including Farhan Saeed and Quratulain Balouch. As a symbol of this partnership, an EU-Pakistan Dosti truck was displayed at the event blending the well-known Pakistani truck art with European symbols and designs. Euro Village was co-organised by the diplomatic missions of the European Union and of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Spain.



Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
Editor: Muhammad Hasam
Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Privatization plans

DR MUHAMMAD SHAHID

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) persistently prescribe privatization as a panacea for developing countries including Pakistan. But economic reforms and privatization are scary terms in Pakistan. It is worth noting that, while privatization in Pakistan has faced challenges and setbacks, there have also been instances where it has been successful, particularly in sectors like telecommunications and banking. The success of privatization depends on various factors including the government's commitment to reform and the state's ability to manage political and social resistance to privatization effectively. Many state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have been established in Pakistan over the decades. These SOEs include corporations, autonomous bodies, companies, authorities, funds and trusts. These entities are of several types; they are registered as companies with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), established through special enactments, and registered as trusts, funds and foundations to undertake functions that were not deemed to be the routine business of the federal government to be executed through its ministries and attached departments. Several subsidiaries were incorporated, thereby further expanding the size of the SOE portfolio in the country.

According to the report 'State-Owned Enterprises Triage: Reforms & Way Forwards' published by the finance division back in 2021, there are around 212 SOEs incorporated by the federal government including subsidiaries, trusts, and funds. Another consolidated report titled 'Federal Footprint, State Owned Enterprises' published by the finance division back in December 2023 reveals that out of 88 commercially operated SOEs, 71 are registered under the Companies Act 2017.

The report further indicates that 44 non-commercial SOEs (not-for-profit entities as well as trusts, universities, training institutions and welfare funds), and 83 subsidiaries of the commercial SOEs are mainly not-for-profit social-sector development entities.

The 88 commercial SOEs have a total asset base of Rs30.5 trillion and generated a sum of Rs10.4 trillion in FY2022. These 88 SOEs employed 349,573 people. These SOEs collectively incurred a net loss of Rs162 billion. The federal government provided them with financial aid worth Rs179 billion in FY2022 to keep them afloat. The top 10 loss-making entities caused a total depletion of Rs650 billion in 2022.

SOEs in Pakistan have a significant market presence, particularly in key service sectors like power generation and distribution, energy, aviation, and railways sectors. The 85 commercial SOEs mainly operate in seven sectors including power, oil and gas, infrastructure transport and communication, manufacturing, mining and engineering, finance, industrial estate development and management, and wholesale, retail and marketing.

The financial position of various SOEs deteriorated over time resulting in a significant fiscal burden for the federal government in addition to poor service delivery to end users. There are multiple reasons including a number of administrative, management and policy issues which led to the poor performance of SOEs.

The emergence of market-based solutions for efficient service delivery along with the evolution of institutional arrangements like regulatory frameworks necessitated the regular review of SOEs to ascertain their rationale or suitability for continued retention under government ownership and control. However, such a review process remained slow and driven by exigencies instead of taking a holistic and continuous course.

The report says that more than 98 per cent of the government's assets and almost 100 per cent of the losses in the SOE portfolio are related to commercial SOEs. The operational performance of commercial SOEs has a direct bearing on fiscal risks and fiscal deficits of the federal government. Non-commercial SOEs are either largely self-sustaining entities or established to achieve a social objective which falls within the social policy objectives of the government which otherwise the private sector is unable to perform.

The National Highway Authority has been the major loss-making entity for several years; it has been excluded from the triage examination due to its unique nature of operations. The NHA's losses mainly accrue due to its inability to generate revenues to service its loans. Furthermore, all regulatory bodies have been excluded from the triage examination like the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, etc mainly because the regulatory functions are different from commercial operations and are primarily meant for the efficient functioning of imperfect markets.

The consolidated report further reveals that 31 state-owned commercial companies caused colossal losses of Rs730 billion in FY2022. The National Highway Authority is the leading loss-making SOE, which caused a loss of Rs168.5 billion, followed by the Peshawar Electric Supply Company which suffered a loss of Rs102 billion. PIA was the third-biggest loss-making entity, causing a loss of Rs. 97.5 billion to the national exchequer in 2022.

Privatization in Pakistan has faced several hurdles, including political opposition. Privatization efforts have often faced resistance from political parties, labour unions, and other stakeholders who fear job losses, reduced benefits, or loss of control over SOEs. Complex legal frameworks, bureaucratic hurdles, and unclear regulations further slow down or even halt privatization processes in the country.

Corruption within the privatization process potentially undermines public trust and confidence. Lack of transparency in decision-making, bidding processes and asset valuation leads to allegations of favouritism hindering successful privatization outcomes in the country.

The writer has a PhD in Economics from PIDE and has 18 years of experience as an economic editor.



Dr Hafiz Muhammad Usman Rana

Pakistan's economic recovery outlook is not promising. The recent election in Pakistan reflects a recurring pattern seen in many elections, where financial considerations are often disregarded in pursuing political power.

The country's major political stakeholders are currently prioritizing the development of a hung parliament or PDM-2 instead of focusing on the economy. There is also a division among the nation's economic experts regarding the best approach to managing Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan's challenges have intensified following the elections. The aspiring parties are open to accepting conditions from elected members that may not align with the IMF's expectations. Concerns over a potential political stalemate in Pakistan have triggered a sell-off in its international bonds and raised fears of economic setbacks and a lack of foreign funding.

Pakistan is grappling with substantial financial challenges, including a decline in foreign currency reserves and an upcoming \$1 billion bond payment. The funding programme with the IMF is scheduled to end in April 2024. There is a risk of economic and ideological disagreements within a coalition government or a potential delay in negotiations with the IMF in the coming months. The question is: will the upcoming gov-

Economic stability?

ernment provide much-needed economic stability to the country or lead to potential disaster?

Let's examine Pakistan's major challenges and possible solutions. According to the most recent World Bank policy notes, 40 per cent of children in Pakistan under the age of five face the issue of stunted growth. More than 75 per cent of Pakistan's 10-year-old children face challenges when it comes to reading and understanding simple texts. Pakistan's tax revenue is signifi-

cant lower than other developing nations. A significant number of farmers are not subjected to taxation as their land holdings are below the exemption threshold of 12.5 acres. Pakistan is also grappling with a challenging situation regarding the management of mass migration, as a significant number of highly skilled professionals have chosen to leave the country in search of better opportunities.

All these issues impede Pakistan's potential for prosperity and efforts to reduce poverty. The poverty rate in Pakistan is a pressing issue, and it has risen significantly in just one year, from 34.2 per cent to 39.4 per cent, according to World Bank data for 2023.

Poverty is a complex issue that extends beyond economic factors and encompasses social, political, and cultural dimensions. Thus, addressing poverty necessitates a holistic approach beyond economic strategies and encompasses a well-coordinated array of measures. In addition, mere economic expansion is inadequate for addressing poverty. The impact of growth on poverty is significantly influenced by changes in distribution.

When progressive distributional changes accompany growth, it can have a much greater effect in reducing poverty than growth that does not alter the distribution. Therefore, the upcoming government poverty

reduction strategy must include policies that enhance the fair distribution of income and assets within society. This can be achieved through initiatives like comprehensive economic reforms to enhance the fiscal framework, increased public spending on programmes that benefit people with low incomes, and measures to improve their access to financial markets.

This also includes generating more revenue from non-filers and under-taxed sectors and improving public financial management. These measures will allow the government to allocate more funds towards social and development initiatives. The issue of inflation persists, impacting the most vulnerable individuals. The State Bank of Pakistan must adopt a proactive approach to ensure that inflation levels return to a more manageable state. Pakistan also requires a market-determined

exchange rate to cushion against external shocks, sustain the rebuilding of foreign reserves, and bolster competitiveness and growth.

The current account has recently displayed a surplus while the value of the rupee against the dollar has maintained its stability. However, this trend may change once imports start flowing again and there is a greater demand for dollars.

Another big challenge for the upcoming government is to tackle financial institutions with insufficient capital and maintain a watchful eye on the financial sector to uphold financial stability. Enhancing employment opportunities and promoting inclusive economic development in Pakistan necessitates ongoing support for the underprivileged through BISP and expediting necessary changes to improve the business climate and ensure fair competition for investors.

Establishing partnerships between the public and private sectors in Pakistan is crucial. These partnerships are essential for fostering innovation, building productive capacity for regional value chains, and facilitating joint activities across provinces. Finally, improving human capital can significantly impact Pakistan's economic fundamentals and reduce poverty.

To achieve these goals, it is crucial to focus on formulating and enforcing national economic development plans. If the upcoming government continues to make the same errors as before, it will be challenging to revive the economy.

The writer heads the Business Finance Programme at Birmingham City University, UK. He tweets @HafizUsmanRana

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

Pakistan

PAKISTAN MOVEMENT

The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War every section of the Muslim community.

MEN, WOMEN, STUDENT, ULEMA AND BUSINESSMEN

Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties. The All-India Muslim

League election campaign was based on the Pakistan demand. The Muslim community responded to this call in an unprecedented way. Numerous Muslim parties were formed making united parliamentary board at the behest of the Congress to oppose the Muslim League. But the All-India Muslim League swept all the thirty seats in the Central Legislature and in the provincial elections also, its victory was outstanding. After the elections, on April 8-9, 1946, the All-India Muslim League called a convention of the newly-elected League members in the Central and Provincial Legislatures at Delhi. This convention, which constituted virtually a representative assembly of the Muslims of South Asia, on a motion by the Chief Minister of Bengal, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, reiterated the Pakistan demand in clearer terms.

CABINET PLAN

In early 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to the subcontinent to resolve the constitutional deadlock. The Mission conducted negotiations with various political parties, but failed to evolve an agreed formula. Finally, the Cabinet Mission announced its own Plan, which among other provisions, envisaged three federal groupings, two of them comprising the Muslim majority provinces, linked at the Centre in a loose federation with three subjects. The Muslim League accepted the plan, as a strategic move, expecting to achieve its objective in not-too-distant a future. The All-India Congress also agreed to the Plan, but, soon realising its implications, the Congress leaders began to interpret it in a way not visualized by the authors of the Plan. This provided the All-India Muslim League an excuse to withdraw its acceptance of the Plan and the party observed August 16, as a 'Direct Action Day' to show Muslim

solidarity in support of the Pakistan demand.

PARTITION SCHEME

In October 1946, an Interim Government was formed. The Muslim League sent its representative under the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, with the aim to fight for the party objective from within the Interim Government. After a short time, the situation inside the Interim Government and outside convinced the Congress leadership to accept Pakistan as the only solution of the communal problem. The British Government, after its last attempt to save the Cabinet Mission Plan in December 1946, also moved towards a scheme for the partition of India. The last British Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, came with a clear mandate to draft a plan for the transfer of power.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Selena Gomez upcoming song 'Love On': A post-Valentine's Day gift for fans

Selena Gomez dropped a cover art post Valentine's Day, featuring title of her upcoming song 'Love On'

Selena Gomez took to her Instagram, giving a glimpse of her upcoming song, Love On on Thursday, February 15, shortly after posting PDA-filled pictures with beau Benny Blanco on Valentine's Day.

The former Disney star dropped an aesthetic cover art, which featured Gomez posing against a window in a bathrobe, with her hair wrapped around in a towel. The pop star captioned the post as: "Wait 'til I turn my love on," adding, "Presave my new song Love On out 2.22."

The track is all set to release on Thursday, February 22.

The Love You Like A Love Song star went an extra mile, spreading love on



Valentine's Day using red heart-shaped padlocks in different cities, including NYC and Los Angeles, displaying the release date of her upcoming song and its verses hanging through a red bow. This will mark the songstress' first release since Single Soon, which was released last year. She also marked Valentine's Day by showcasing her relationship with beau Benny Blanco. The pair stood with their hands wrapped around each other, striking poses in different angles. The 31-year-old American singer's love life has been a 'debatable' topic although her recent relationship with Blanco swipes her past relationships under the carpet.

Tech

X, formerly Twitter, faces countrywide outage in Pakistan

Social media site, X, formerly known as Twitter reportedly faced countrywide outage in Pakistan.

Real time internet and social media outage and monitoring service, Downtdetector.pk, reported the X outage across the country around 9pm.

Users on X were unable to view posts on the social media site as the message "this site can't be reached" appeared whenever they tried to load it.

According to Downtdetector, at least 185 reports of outage were received at 9:01pm, which by 9:24pm, soared to 239.

Meanwhile, cyber security watchdog, Net-Blocks, also confirmed the outages citing the "live metrics" which showed a new national-scale disruption to X Pakistan.

The country has been facing frequent internet and social media site outages recently, especially for a couple of months during the ongoing situation in the wake of general election 2024.



Last month, netizens complained about their inability to connect to social media sites including X, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and streaming giant YouTube, while Google services as well as internet service provider PTCL also faced disruptions. Individually, X was hit by global outages in May, 2023, after huge number of complaints were been submitted by the users across the world.

Health

Apple Vision Pro headset becomes literal 'headache' forcing mass returns

Consumers who paid \$3,500 for the Apple Vision Pro headset are already returning the devices because they say they give them migraines, motion sickness, and eye strain.

Before the innovative goggles were made available to the general public on February 2, more than 200,000 pairs were sold during the pre-order period, according to the New York Post. However, although some ardent supporters claim that the Vision Pro would completely transform the IT sector, some disgruntled buyers have already returned theirs to the Apple Store.

Some returned the gadgets because they were experiencing excruciating headaches.

"I returned mine today," one customer wrote on Reddit on Monday. "Extreme headaches (first in decades). I can't wear [them] more than 10 min-

utes without extreme discomfort. Feels like a torture session just trying to keep it on. I have no idea how all these streamers can play for hours. After 10 minutes I feel like I'm about to have a heart attack."

"I unfortunately am also having severe headaches when I wear this for more than 30-45 minutes," another responded. "This is so devastating as I love everything else about the AVP. I would like to think with continued use I would get used to this but it is too expensive to take that bet past the 14-day return period. I am returning mine today." Some, however, claimed that the Apple Vision Pro's eye strain was intolerable.

"They are terrible," one Redditor railed. "I used them for like 6 hours. I was even addicted to them and now I don't want to touch them at all

because of my eye fatigue. Feel like complete s-t."

"It gets really bad and might return it for this reason alone," a second responded.

Another customer, however, asserted that the device caused motion nausea in them and advised anyone susceptible to such condition to stay away from the Vision Pro.

"I tried my friend's Vision Pro and it made me pretty nauseous," they wrote. "I have moderate-severe motion sickness and used my friend's headset for less than 5 minutes before feeling sick. Literally just tried to search for a YouTube video and started feeling queasy. I would not recommend anyone with severe motion sickness try these. It's possible they get better over time but I'm definitely not putting one of these on again!"



اتوار 18 فروری 2024ء

ملک میں ہفتہ وار بنیادوں پر مہنگائی کی شرح میں معمولی کمی ریکارڈ

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) ملک میں رواں ماہ کی شرح میں کمی کارخانہ داروں اور سپلائیرز کی جانب سے...

غزہ میں اسرائیلی فوج کے حملے جاری مزید 112 فلسطینی شہید

غزہ ہوی بیگ (ٹائمز آف انڈیا) غزہ میں اسرائیلی فوج کے حملے جاری مزید 112 فلسطینی شہید...

غزہ ہوی بیگ (ٹائمز آف انڈیا) غزہ میں اسرائیلی فوج کے حملے جاری مزید 112 فلسطینی شہید...



راولپنڈی، کمشنر اور ایف آئی اے کے افسران کی میٹنگ



اسلام آباد، مگران وزیر اعظم اور ایف آئی اے کے افسران کی میٹنگ

مریم نواز کو زیر عملی پنجاب کی سیکورٹی فراہم کر دی گئی

لاہور (جیو نیوز) آئی بی پنجاب کے ایجنٹوں اور سیکورٹی فورسز نے مریم نواز کو زیر عملی پنجاب کی سیکورٹی فراہم کر دی گئی...

چٹیلز پارٹی نے ن لیگ سے پنجاب کی پیور وٹو کیس میں حصہ مانگ لیا

لاہور (آئی این بی) چٹیلز پارٹی نے پنجاب کی پیور وٹو کیس میں حصہ مانگ لیا...

آصف زرداری سمیت مزید 37 امیدواروں کی کا میابی کے نوٹیفکیشن جاری

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) الیکشن کمیشن نے آصف زرداری، بلال بھٹو زرداری سمیت مزید 37 امیدواروں کی کا میابی کے نوٹیفکیشن جاری...

ایکشن میں دھاندلی کا اعتراف کمشنر راولپنڈی مستعفی، خود کو پھانسی دینے کا مطالبہ

70، 70 ہزار کی لیڈ کو ہم نے شکست میں بدلا، میں نے جو اس ملک کے پیٹ میں چھرا گھونپا ہے وہ مجھے سونے نہیں دیتا، میں نے جو جرم کیا ہے اس پر مجھے راولپنڈی کے کمشنر اور ایف آئی اے کے افسران سے معافی مانگنی چاہیے...

ایف آئی اے کے افسران نے آصف زرداری کو پھانسی دینے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ ان کی لیڈ کو ہم نے شکست میں بدلا ہے...

اسلام آباد میں کیس کی ہنگامہ آفرینی کی اجازت نہیں دینگے پولیس

اسلام آباد (پبلک نیوز) اسلام آباد پولیس نے کہا ہے کہ شہر میں ہنگامہ آفرینی کی اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی...



اسلام آباد، چیف جسٹس قاضی فائز عیسیٰ میڈیا سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں

آصف زرداری سمیت مزید 37 امیدواروں کی کا میابی کے نوٹیفکیشن جاری

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) الیکشن کمیشن نے آصف زرداری، بلال بھٹو زرداری سمیت مزید 37 امیدواروں کی کا میابی کے نوٹیفکیشن جاری...

ملک نازک دور سے گزر رہا، سب ذمہ داری کا ثبوت دیں، ن لیگ

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) ن لیگ کی سیکرٹری جنرل نے کہا ہے کہ ملک نازک دور سے گزر رہا ہے اور سب کو ذمہ داری کا ثبوت دینا چاہیے...

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اسلام آباد، انتہائی بدحالی کی صورتحال پر غور و خوض کیلئے پی ٹی آئی کے سینئر قائدین کی زیر صدارت اجلاس جاری ہے

تجاویز خاتے کیلئے تاجر برادری کا کردار انتہائی اہم، جمال ناصر

راولپنڈی (خفاہ رپورٹ) صوبائی وزیر برائے پرائمری انڈسٹری، مینٹو و بھوجو آبادی پنجاب ڈائریکٹریٹل تاجر برادری کے لیے عملی اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں...

مرید کے، کار اور ٹرک کے درمیان خوفناک تصادم، 7 افراد جاں بحق

تیتر رقار کرا لاہور سے گوجرانوالہ جاتے ہوئے جی ٹی روڈ پر بریابان پورہ کے قریب مزدا ٹرک سے ٹکرانی، 2 خواتین زخمی...

لیاقت چھڑ ڈھنی دباؤ کا شکار، ہسپتال داخل کرنا چاہیے، رانا ثناء

لاہور (آئی این بی) رجنیا مسلم لیگ رانا ثناء اللہ نے کہا ہے کہ مستعفی ڈپٹی کمشنر راولپنڈی لیاقت چھڑ ڈھنی دباؤ کا شکار ہے...

کمشنر راولپنڈی کے الزامات کی انکار کی جاے، سیر میز کوہر

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) رجنیا تحریک انصاف سیر میز کوہر نے کہا ہے کہ کمشنر راولپنڈی کے الزامات کی فوری انکار کی جائے...

موجودہ انتخابات میں فارم 45 سے 47 جیت گیا، شاہد خاقان عباسی

کراچی (جیو نیوز) سابق وزیر اعظم شاہد خاقان عباسی نے کہا ہے کہ موجودہ انتخابات میں فارم 45 سے 47 جیت گیا...

سوداگم انتہائی اہم منصوبہ، متاثرین کے مطالبات بروقت حل کے جائیں، حاجی گلبرخان

پشاور (جیو نیوز) وزیر اعلیٰ گلبرخان بلتستان نے کہا ہے کہ سوداگم انتہائی اہم منصوبہ ہے اور متاثرین کے مطالبات بروقت حل کیے جائیں...

بلوچستان میں نیا وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی ہوگا، آصف زرداری

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) سابق صدر اور پی ٹی آئی کے سابق وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں نیا وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی ہوگا...

مودی سرکار کا سیکھ کسانوں پر بدترین تشدد پیلٹ استعمال

برہان پور (جیو نیوز) وزیر اعلیٰ گلبرخان بلتستان نے کہا ہے کہ مودی سرکار کا سیکھ کسانوں پر بدترین تشدد پیلٹ استعمال...

پنجاب سی ٹی ڈی کا ایٹیلی جنس میسڈ آپریشن، 7 دہشتگرد گرفتار

پنجاب (جیو نیوز) سی ٹی ڈی کے ایٹیلی جنس میسڈ آپریشن کے نتیجے میں 7 دہشتگرد گرفتار کیے گئے...

بہاولپور میں 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران نمونیا سے مزید 3 بچے دم توڑ گئے

بہاولپور (جیو نیوز) بہاولپور کے 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران نمونیا سے مزید 3 بچے دم توڑ گئے...

سوداگم انتہائی اہم منصوبہ، متاثرین کے مطالبات بروقت حل کے جائیں، حاجی گلبرخان

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بلوچستان میں نیا وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی ہوگا، آصف زرداری

اسلام آباد (خفاہ رپورٹ) سابق صدر اور پی ٹی آئی کے سابق وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی نے کہا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں نیا وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی ہوگا...

سراج الحق کا استعفیٰ نام منظور، دوبارہ جماعت کی ادارت سنبھالی

اسلام آباد (جیو نیوز) سراج الحق کے استعفیٰ نام منظور کیا گیا ہے اور دوبارہ جماعت کی ادارت سنبھالی...

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بلوچستان میں نیا وزیر اعلیٰ جیلائی ہوگا، آصف زرداری

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پنجاب سی ٹی ڈی کا ایٹیلی جنس میسڈ آپریشن، 7 دہشتگرد گرفتار

پنجاب (جیو نیوز) سی ٹی ڈی کے ایٹیلی جنس میسڈ آپریشن کے نتیجے میں 7 دہشتگرد گرفتار کیے گئے...

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CM Naqvi grieved over loss of lives of six family members in road mishap

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of precious lives of six family members in Muridke road mishap. In a condolence message on Saturday, the chief minister expressed his heartfelt sympathies with the heirs of the deceased.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed the administration to provide the best treatment facilities to the injured besides directing a legal action against the driver responsible for the accident. INP

Sirajul Haq to continue holding JI's reins

LAHORE: The central consultative council of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Saturday unanimously dismissed the resignation tendered by party Emir Sirajul Haq as its head. JI spokesperson Qaiser Sharif said the council rejected the resignation and expressed "full confidence" in Siraj. The JI chief would continue performing his duties as per the party constitution, he said. Qaiser said Siraj would shortly address the central consultative council's meeting and hold a press conference later in the day.

He said the JI failed to yield better results in the elections not because of Siraj but due to rigging, adding that the party rejected the February 8 poll results and demanded the chief election commissioner step down immediately.

After facing setbacks in the February 8 general elections as the JI failed to show any electoral progress, Siraj announced to step down from the party office on February 12. The chief of the politico-religious party had tendered his resignation citing "failures to get the targeted electoral results". The Siraj-led party has failed to win a single National Assembly seat, however, it grabbed five provincial seats. DNA

PTA intensifies crackdowns against illegal SIMs activation, unlicensed ISPs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Offices in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday conducted several raids against franchises involved in the illegal activation of SIMs and illegal Internet Service Provider (ISPs).

According to details, 56 suspicious SIMs were confiscated during a raid in the Sukkur and 26 active SIMs were confiscated in Kasur. The accused individuals have been apprehended by the FIA and First Investigation Reports (FIRs) have been lodged against them, said a news release.

In Chichawatni, two raids were conducted to target illegal ISP setups. During the raids, a significant amount of equipment was recovered at different locations in Chichawatni which included 12 Optical line terminals (OLT), 04 dish antennas, 01 UPS, 2 batteries, 350 meter OFC cable, 01 Optical Network Terminal, 01 OLT charger, and a manual billing book. INP



LAHORE: Women workers of Jamaat-e-Islami holding rally in front of the press club in support of Palestine. APP

Nature-based solutions help better adapt, protect more lives: Speakers

Panel discussion was organized at the World Social Forum in Kathmandu by Pak's leading think tank SDPI & Oxfam in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The speakers on Saturday called for integrating anticipatory disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) approaches with the climate science to make sure that more lives are protected from climatic disasters.

Speaking at a panel discussion organized at the World Social Forum in Kathmandu on Saturday by Pakistan's leading think tank Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Oxfam in Pakistan, the speakers said that the incidence of climatic hazards and disasters are increasing which plunge communities into vulnerability to disasters and are causing losses and damages.

Speaking on the occasion, globally acclaimed climate justice expert Harjeet Singh said that the temperatures are the determining factor of climate change which calls for analyzing science so that we can better adapt and prepare our communities against climatic hazards and disasters. He called upon the humanitarian sector to keep in mind the future warming levels and slow on-set disasters while designing humanitarian programmes. He said the communities know much about impacts of climate change such as glacier melting, changing cropping pattern, water availability, etc., but they do not know why this is happening. Science gives the 'why' answer.

While climate change is creating new poor with more marginalities, there is need to opt for nature-based solutions for adaptation. He called for integrating humanitarian approaches with science.

The Deputy Executive Director of SDPI Dr. Shafiqat Munir said that climatic hazards are now putting cities and towns at risk urging the need for risk sensitive urban planning through applying both Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) strategies. He said preparedness and anticipatory DRR approaches can better equip vulnerable communities at local levels to cope with ensuing disasters/climatic hazards. The localization of DRR-CCA strategies and implementation plans can help save and protect more lives. He called for taking urgent collective action to achieve the Paris Agreement's objective on Global Goal on Adaptation and Sendai Framework for DRR.

Oxfam's regional humanitarian coordinator Mr. Jermaine, from the Philippines, said that effective climate action requires a balanced approach, considering both adaptation and mitigation efforts. Similarly, there is a need to ensure equity, right, and justice in line with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework that prioritize fairness and equitable adaptation strategies. Quot-

ing from Cyclone Hayan 2013, he said due to inappropriate early warning messaging, the communities could not prepare against the Tsunami. He said that there is a need to train communities on DRR and early warning messaging should be clear.

Programme Manager ARTS Foundation, Ms. Saira Falak, from Pakistan, narrated about the losses and damages occurred in Pakistan during the floods 2022. She specially, mentioned about the plight of women and girls. She said during the emergency, the women lost their livelihood and plunged into further poverty. She said that there is a need to build capacity of women on disaster risks and preparedness. She spoke about the non-traditional losses which impact people and economy badly. Civil society expert from Nepal, Ram Sharan Sedhai said disaster creates, perpetuates and aggravates poverty which renders people more vulnerable to disasters and weakens their coping strategies. Once hit by disaster, the community needs resources, time and patience to recover from the impacts. Quoting from the Nepal's 2015 earthquake, he said political will power and stability have far-reaching impacts on decisions regarding saving lives. He called for training the first responders, such as local youth, police, elected representatives, and government. SABAH

Transparent distribution of zakat among destitute to be ensured: Ashraf Abbasi

HYDERABAD: Patron of Bhai Khan Welfare Association, Haji Ashraf Abbasi has said that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure transparent distribution of zakat among the destitute people. He stated this during a meeting held regarding the Ramzan Relief package here on Saturday.

Haji Ashraf Abbasi emphasized that the organization needs to maintain its contact with philanthropists to maximize the number of destitute people who could get the benefit from zakat.

Speaking on the occasion, the founder of the association Haji Muhammad Iqbal Qureshi said that effective arrangements should be made to deliver ration and poor people should be facilitated at their doorsteps.

The meeting was attended by the founder, Haji Muhammad Iqbal Qureshi and Haji Muhammad Yasin Arain General Secretary, Senior Vice President Aftab Ahmed Khan, Vice President Shahid Rajput, Muhammad Ismail Sheikh, and other office bearers. INP

Mariyum Aurangzeb says Commissioner Rawalpindi's name should be placed on ECL immediately

Says it is our responsibility to ensure that anarchy and chaos does not ensue in the country

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Spokesperson Mariyum Aurangzeb has said the Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chhattah's name should be placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) immediately.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that anarchy and chaos does not ensue in the country," Mariyum Aurangzeb said while addressing a press conference, as she slammed the commissioner for his "baseless" allegations.

She noted that a commissioner is neither a returning officer nor a district returning officer — the two crucial office holders who are responsible for the consolidation of results. "The commissioner will not have any authority that would give him access to the preparation of election results," she said, calling for a strict punishment to be granted to Chhattah if his allegations were proven false.

She recalled that "no candidate won with a 50,000-vote lead" as per the claims of the commissioner. Mariyum Aurangzeb wondered where the top official was for the last eight days and whom he met to "grow a conscience".

"We demand that his activities during these eight days be probed," she said, claiming that there is an entire group that does not want stability in the country.

Mariyum Aurangzeb further stated that the commissioner, who claimed that fake leads were created in the Rawalpindi division to defeat PTI-backed independent candidates, should have approached the Election Commission of Pakistan when the results were delayed for three days. SABAH

Businessmen call for commercial activities at Ghulam Khan, Kharlachi border posts



PESHAWAR: Businessmen dealing in Pak-Afghan trade have demanded Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Ministry of Commerce to open Ghulam Khan and Kharlachi borders with Afghanistan for full-fledged commercial activities in the wake of the excessive transportation burden on the Torkhem border post.

In a joint press statement issued here on Saturday, Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi and former Senior Vice President (SVP) Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Engr Manzoor Elahi said due to closure of Chaman border for the last three months and limited operation at Ghulam Khan and Kharlachi border posts, all the workload of trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been shifted to Torkhem border.

"Excessive transportation of goods from Torkhem to Afghanistan and Central Asian Countries (CARs), ensued in prolonging travel

duration of goods laden trucks from ten days to around one and a half month and excessive increase in charges," they explained. Transportation charges for trucks nowadays has been hiked to an exorbitant level of Rs. 1.1 million (110,000) because of prolonged travel duration of around one and a half months which makes it almost impossible for businessmen to bear the expense, they went on to say. Zia said a truck carrying goods to Afghanistan returns to Pakistan after around 45 days and the owners are now preferring local transportation within the country, instead of sending their vehicles to Afghanistan which is creating an acute shortage of vehicles.

He said the Chaman border has been closed for the last three months, Kharlachi is confined to only import and export operations which does not allow the transportation of transit goods, while the Ghulam Khan border is operational only for a few hours till 5:00 p.m. APP

ANF recovers 363 kg drugs in nine operations; arrests 13 accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 363 kg drugs and arrested 13 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday. He informed that 5 kg Ice and 3 kg ketamine drug were recovered from a parcel at a cargo office at Jinnah Airport while an accused was also arrested. 504 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of a passenger going to Bahrain at Peshawar Airport. In the third operation, 84 kg opium and 120 kg hashish were recovered from two suspects arrested at Ravi Motorway Toll Plaza Lahore. 54 kg opium and 48 kg hashish were recovered from 3 suspects netted on Kot Abdul Malik Motorway Lahore. In the fifth operation, 17 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of 2 suspects arrested near Sangjani Toll Plaza Islamabad while 5.5 kg heroin, 9 kg hashish and 1.5 kg suspicious material were recovered from Zakhakhel Khyber area.

In two different operations conducted near M-1 Islamabad, 14 kg hashish was recovered from three drug smugglers. APP

Trader bodies urge govt to reconsider recent hike in gas tariff

ISLAMABAD: Trader bodies on Saturday urged the federal government to reconsider its decision to hike in gas tariff to address concerns of the business community.

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Iftekhar Ahmed Sheikh made the demand during a meeting held here, said a news release. They have shown concerns over the federal cabinet's approval of a 67 percent increase in gas tariffs as it would increase production costs, reduce industrial activities, and badly hurt exports. During a meeting, they urged the government to take solid measures and ensure competitive energy tariffs for the industry to boost industrialization and exports.

President ICCI said that the economy of Pakistan is in deep trouble as the manufacturing sector is still struggling to recover, textile sector exports declined by around 3 percent during

July-January 2023-24, and foreign exchange reserves of US\$ 8 billion are insufficient to cover only 6 weeks of imports. He said Pakistan needs US\$ 22 billion in external financing during 2024-25 to meet its financing needs. To cope with these challenges, Pakistan urgently needs to boost industrialization and exports. However, the repeated hikes in electricity and gas tariffs have made the cost of doing business very high which is hurting production activities and making exports uncompetitive in the international market. President KCCI said that the industry of Karachi was demanding a reduction in gas tariffs to improve industrial activities and the increased gas tariffs would create more problems for the industry that would slow down the economic growth of the country. He urged that the new government in consultation with the private sector should fix the utility tariffs for the next 10 years to enable better growth of business activities and revive the economy. PR

Nature-based solutions help better adapt, protect more lives: Speakers

ISLAMABAD: The speakers Saturday called for integrating anticipatory disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) approaches with climate science to make sure that more lives are protected from climatic disasters.

Speaking at a panel discussion organized at the World Social Forum in Kathmandu on Saturday by Pakistan's leading think tank Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Oxfam in Pakistan, the speakers said that the incidence of climatic hazards and disasters are increasing which plunged communities into vulnerability to disasters and are causing losses and damages, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, globally acclaimed climate justice expert Harjeet Singh said that the temperatures are the determining factor of climate change which calls for analyzing science for better adaptation and preparing communities against climatic hazards and disasters. He called upon the humanitarian sector to keep in mind the future warming levels and slow on-set disasters while designing humanitarian programmes. He said the communities know much



about the impacts of climate change such as glacier melting, changing cropping patterns, and water availability but they do not know why this is happening. He said that science gives the 'why' answer. He said while climate change is creating new poor with more marginalities, there is a need to opt for nature-based solutions for adaptation. He called for integrating humanitarian approaches with science.

The Deputy Executive Director of SDPI Dr. Shafiqat Munir said that climatic hazards are now putting cities and towns at risk urging the need for risk-sensitive urban planning through

applying both Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) strategies. He said preparedness and anticipatory DRR approaches can better equip vulnerable communities at local levels to cope with ensuing disasters/climatic hazards. The localization of DRR-CCA strategies and implementation plans can help to save and protect more lives. He called for taking urgent collective action to achieve the Paris Agreement's objective on the Global Goal on Adaptation and Sendai Framework for DRR. Oxfam's regional humanitarian coor-

inator Mr. Jermaine, from the Philippines, said that effective climate action requires a balanced approach, considering both adaptation and mitigation efforts. Similarly, there is a need to ensure equity, right, and justice in line with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework that prioritize fairness and equitable adaptation strategies, he added.

Quoting from Cyclone Hayan 2013, he said due to inappropriate early warning messaging, the communities could not prepare against the Tsunami. He said that there is a need to train communities on DRR and early warning messaging should be clear. Programme Manager ARTS Foundation, Saira Falak narrated the losses and damages that occurred in Pakistan during the floods in 2022. She mentioned about the plight of women and girls saying that during the emergency, the women lost their livelihood and plunged into further poverty. She said that there is a need to build the capacity of women on disaster risks and preparedness. She spoke about the non-traditional losses that impact people and the economy badly. APP

Pakistan urges UN's top rights body to avoid 'double standards', address Kashmir situation

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to shift its attention to economic, social and cultural rights instead of "disproportionately" focusing on human rights situations in developing countries. "The Council and human rights mechanisms should also address historical and current phenomena such as racial discrimination, xenophobia, social inequalities, Islamophobia, and hate crimes," Ambassador Munir Akram said in a discussion on the future of the Geneva-based Council.

"While some situations are prominently projected and amplified at the HRC; other, more serious situations — Jammu & Kashmir — are ignored," he said, underscoring the need for avoiding double standards in addressing rights "situations" at the U.N. The 47-member Council,

armed with more powers, was created in 2006 following the failures of its predecessor — the 1946 Human Rights Commission. "Today," the Pakistani envoy said, "the HRC is also the target of serious criticism and suffers from many of the same deficits as the Commission; in particular due to the Council's political biases, selective and partial approach, and structural issues — which seriously jeopardize its credibility." "There is a greater emphasis on civil and political rights, while economic, social and cultural rights — as well as the right to development — get short shrift," Ambassador Akram told participants. The Council's agenda, he noted, has been overloaded with some subjects that should be dealt with by the UN's specialized agencies. APP