



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا ہے
اللہ عیاش بن ابی ریحہ کو نجات دے،
اسے اللہ! سلم بن ہشام کو نجات دے،
اسے اللہ! ولید بن ولید کو نجات دے،
اللہ تمہیں ضعیف اور کمزور مسلمانوں کو نجات
دے۔ اسے اللہ! قبیلہ مضر کو نجات دے
میں چلے۔ اسے اللہ! یوسف کے زمانے
کی سی تھک سالیان (کالموں) پر تامل فرمے
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3386)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Modern technology to be utilized at airports: Saad

Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafiq says modern technology will be utilized at airports to ensure protection of passengers and planes. No compromise can be made regarding protection of passengers and planes. The Minister also stressed upon the need to run public awareness drive in this regard.



PTI's call for protest flops: Senator Rubina Khalid

PPP Senator Rubina Khalid says Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call for protest against inflation has failed. Imran Khan's government is responsible for the current energy crisis in the country and the rise in prices of petroleum products. The former government had mortgaged the country to the IMF, the consequences of which people face today in the form of inflation.

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Party support

Usama Ashfaq Sarwar & Abdullah Ashfaq Sarwar called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM announces nationwide CPR training programme

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed the launch of a national initiative of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training throughout the country. In this connection, the prime minister has issued direction to PM's Strategic Reforms to immediately launch the initiative, head of PM's Strategic Reforms Salman Sufi said in a press statement on Sunday.

He further informed that a comprehensive strategy would be announced next week.

He said that CPR had saved countless lives around the world at places where immediate medical assistance was limited. He further said that Prime Minister would announce a reform programme in the health sector in the coming days and CPR training is the first step to this direction. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a lifesaving technique helpful in different emergencies, such as in case of a heart attack or near drowning, leading to choking of someone's breathing or heartbeat.

PP-167 by-poll

CEC orders probe into firing incident



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikan-dar Sultan Raja has directed Inspector General Police Punjab to conduct an impartial inquiry of firing incident in PP-167 by-election (Lahore), and to take strict action against all those responsible for the violence and submit a report to the Election Commission. Taking notice about the firing and violence incident in Lahore, following a clash between candidates of two major political parties, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) directed the IGP to ensure the arrest of culprits involved in firing incident without giving any due thought about culprits' political affiliation.

The CEC directed the IG Punjab to sternly check the gun culture, violence and subversive elements, especially during the electioneering. CEC directed IGP to ensure a zero tolerance policy in this regard, while showing no leniency against perpetrators of violence. CEC directed Secretary ECP Omar Hameed Khan to contact IG Punjab and ensure implementation of his orders. Reportedly, a brawl broke out between supporters of two main political parties at Allah Ho Chowk, Johar Town, Lahore. According to reports, the activists of both the parties became livid and opened fire against each other. Some even reportedly manhandled members of rival group with clubs.

As a result, two activists got hurt.

Constitutional crisis???

President returns Elections (Amendment) bill 2022 unsigned

Says "very painful" for him "to not sign a bill passed by Parliament"

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has returned the Elections (Amendment) EVM/OP bill 2022 unsigned after citing certain reasons and recording his observations. The president said that he had been pursuing the issue of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Overseas Pakistanis Voting (OP) with all the governments, in the parliament, as well as at the Supreme Court of Pakistan since more than a decade. The president observed that he had not signed the bill despite the fact, that the constitution that he upheld, would make it into law, a press release of President Secretariat Press Wing on Sunday said.

In this regard, he referred to Article 75 (2) of Constitution of Pakistan which said "When the President has returned a Bill to the Majlis-e Shoora (Parliament), it shall be reconsidered by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in joint sitting and, if it is

again passed, with or without amendment, by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), by the votes of the majority of the members of both Houses present and voting, it shall be deemed for the purposes of the Consti-

Technology can also improve transparency; make elections inclusive with the vote of our overseas Pakistanis: Dr Alvi

tion to have been passed by both Houses and shall be presented to the President, and the President shall give his assent within ten days, failing which such assent shall be deemed to have been given."

He further noted that it has been very painful to him as 'President of Pakistan'

to not sign a bill passed by the Majlis-e-Shoora. Therefore, he must record his reasons for posterity. While enlisting the reasons, the president said that besides, the proposed laws' regressive nature that he pointed out in detail when he referred the bill back to Parliament, he strongly believed that today's technology especially with EVMs when used judiciously contained many solutions that reduced the impact of confusion, discord and accusations in the 'ever-marred' and challenged election processes.

Technology could also improve transparency, make elections inclusive with the vote of the overseas Pakistanis, build confidence and reduce polarization to finally achieve the elusive dream of free and fair elections, he added. More than that, President Alvi said, he wanted Pakistan to leapfrog into the world of tomorrow, not to solve today's problems only through the lens and experiences of yesterday but through newer and better scientific

approaches that were available, or even 'birthing' today.

He did understand that this could not happen without confidence building measures across the aisles, and broad stakeholder involvement, the president said, posing a question why was this not done and why the obvious was not visible to the opinion and decision makers would remain an enigma to him.

He observed that the present and future governments and parliaments would be facing two choices, whether to allow the past to drag Pakistan down or allow the lessons from the past and technologies of today to boost them into the bright progressive and dynamic future of Pakistan that had been their dream. President Alvi further opined that such decisions would continue to challenge them and history showed that those who made the right decisions 'rise', and those who didn't, squandered opportunities that obstructed their path to glory.

People have rejected narrative of Imran Khan: Marriyum

Says national interests were compromised in last four years

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says the government is focused to put national economy on right path and nobody will be allowed to create disruption in the country. In a series of tweets Sunday, she said people have rejected the narrative of Imran Khan and they will not come out for those who are responsible for economic disaster and record inflation in the country. Marriyum Aurangzeb said during the last four years, national interest was sacrificed for the sake of some diamonds and historic loans taken.

Taking a jibe on Imran, she said that those who ran away on the night of May 25 now wanted to spread chaos and anarchy in the country over inflation caused by their own inefficient regime as the PTI's narrative of "foreign conspiracy" had been buried. Why should the people take to streets for those who sold national interest for a few



diamonds, she asked. She said why should the people come to protest on the call of a hypocrite who plundered national wealth when in power. Why should the people come out for a person who deprived the working class of employment and their livelihood, she said, adding, why should the people respond to the call of those who were responsible for inflation, economic catastrophe and unemployment in the country.

She said that the people would not respond to the call of those who created the "storm of inflation" and

signed agreements with the IMF on weak grounds. Why should the people come out on the call of those who increased flour price from Rs 35 per kg to Rs 90, and sugar price from Rs 52 to Rs 120. The minister maintained that the people would not pay any heed to the protest call of those who had launched a "bloody march" last month and shot dead policemen performing their duty.

"Why should the people go out to protest for those who wanted the country divided into three parts and who sold national interest in exchange of diamond rings for four years. The people would not take part in protest demonstrations for those who borrowed record money during their four-year tenure and sold Kashmir and created division in the country. The minister said that the government was correcting the economic direction of the country and at this critical juncture, no violent protests would be allowed.

6,00,000 tonnes

Govt retracts decision to import sugar

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to retract its decision to import 6,00,000 tons of sugar, claiming it will be more expensive than the domestically produced sugar. According to Ministry of Trade sources, the government has decided to not import sugar from other countries and fulfill requirements from locally produced sugar. The decision has been made to lessen the trade deficit of the country. Trade ministry sources said that imported sugar would coast around Rs110 per kg while locally produced sugar costs Rs90 per kg. The country has surplus reserves of sugar, the sources say.

There are sufficient reserves of sugar, oil and flour in the country, the trade ministry said. The import bill for food items has gone up to Rs29 billion. Earlier on April 15, the federal government has announced to ban the export of sugar, saying the ban would drop sugar prices and provide relief to the people.

Regime change

Conspiracy or interference should be probed: Imran Khan

PTI protests against rising inflation in different cities across Pakistan

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday said that the joint opposition filed the no-trust motion against him based on a false narrative of inflation to hide the foreign agenda, conspiracy or interference it should be investigated.

Addressing the social media influencers, Imran Khan said that the PTI chairman said if the rulers had no strategy to run the country then why did they become a part of the conspiracy.

"Was it a conspiracy or should it be investigated," Imran said. "The people involved in the conspiracy want to press the cyber issue," he said. Turning his aim at the PPP chairman, Imran Khan said that Bilawal marched in the name of inflation but now they all are silent over the historical inflation. Imran Khan has said that the present government was part of a 'regime change conspiracy', and the matter should be investigated.

Addressing the social media influencers, the former prime minister said that tonight PTI workers and its supporters will protest against inflation across the country. Imran Khan asked the social media influencer to reach out to the common people, the people are full of anger at the moment due to



inflation. Imran Khan said that these people [incumbent government] are now throwing inflation bombs on the people themselves. A false statement of inflation was made behind the no-confidence motion, he asserted.

"If you could not handle the government then why did you conspire," the PTI chairman asked.

Whether there was a conspiracy or interference against the PTI government, no investigation has come to my notice so far. The matter should be investigated, he added. The ousted prime minister said that in his own government the National Security Committee accepted their position on the 'threatening cipher', but, unfortu-

nately, the big and famous dacoits of Pakistan were imposed on the country.

Imran Khan said that the real problem for Pakistan is the shortage of dollars, at present the country is facing 30 per cent inflation. He said that there was no precedent for the manner in which the police used violence on May 25, as the shelling carried out here was like the whole scenario of Occupied Kashmir. The PTI is holding protests against rising inflation in different cities across the country on the call of their party chairman. PTI Chairman Imran Khan is expected to address the crowds in the different cities via video link at 10pm and announce his party's future course of action.

The protests are being held at Islamabad's F-9 Park, Karachi's Shahrah-e-Quaideen, Lahore's Liberty chowk, Faisalabad's Ghanta Ghar chowk, Rawalpindi's Commercial Market, Multan's Sahah Abdullah chowk and Peshawar's Hasht Nagari Gate. The demonstrations are also being held in other cities of the country. On Thursday, PTI Chairman Imran Khan had called on the masses to hold demonstrations across the country against the "imported" government today, as he hopes to launch a fresh round of protests after halting them last month.

Energy deal??

Tehran: Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan met with Mohammad Ali Farahnakian, Deputy Minister of Energy for International Affairs during his 4-day visit to Tehran to discuss the import of electricity from Iran.



PHOTO: PID

Pakistan committed to reform financial sector: FM

Says concerted national efforts behind FATF's decision

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister has reiterated Pakistan's high level commitment to continue aligning Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism regime with global standards. In a statement on Sunday, he said the announcement by the Financial Action Task Force plenary of granting an on-site visit to Pakistan is a welcome development.

The Foreign Minister said we look forward to the on-site visit and a successful and early culmination of the process leading to Pakistan's exit from the grey list. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also commended the hard work and dedicated efforts of Pakistan's FATF team that have led to the successful completion of all technical requirements of both FATF Action Plans.

He said Pakistan is committed to continue this positive trajectory of reforming the financial sector as part of its larger strategic objective of strengthening national economy. He expressed the confidence that this good news from FATF will restore confi-

dence in Pakistan's economy and act as a catalyst for sustained growth and development.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while welcoming Financial Action Task Force's unanimous acknowledgment of completion of action plans, reaffirmed that the government of Pakistan

FM hails FATF's acknowledgement; reaffirms objective of strengthening economy

was committed to continue this positive trajectory of reforming the financial sector as part of its larger strategic objective of strengthening the economy. The foreign minister, in a statement issued by Foreign Office Spokesperson, said that announcement by the FATF plenary of granting an on-site

visit to Pakistan was a welcome development.

It also reflected the remarkable progress made by Pakistan to enhance the effectiveness of its anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime, he added. "I am certain that this good news from FATF will restore confidence in Pakistan's economy and act as a catalyst for sustained growth and development. Let me reiterate the Government of Pakistan's high level commitment to continue aligning our AML/CFT regime with global standards," the foreign minister said.

He said that they looked forward to the on-site visit and a successful and early culmination of the process leading to Pakistan's exit from the grey list. Foreign minister Bilawal also commended the hard work and dedicated efforts of Pakistan's FATF team that led to the successful completion of all technical requirements of both FATF Action Plans of 2018 and 2021. This was the result of concerted national efforts and complete harmony of interests by all stakeholders, he observed.

Energy-saving plan

Punjab notifies markets closure time

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab government has notified to implement an energy-saving plan with markets close by 9:00pm. The government has announced shutdown of shopping malls, markets and shops by 9:00 in the night. Pharmacies, Labs, petrol pumps, hospitals, tyre shops and milk shops will be exempted from timing restrictions, the government notified. Restaurants, clubs, cinemas and theatres will remain open in the province until 11:30 in night.

Punjab government and traders had agreed to enforce an energy-saving plan from June 20, ARY News earlier reported, citing sources. The decision was taken after a meeting of traders with Punjab CM Hamza Shahbaz Sharif in Lahore. In the first



phase, the energy-saving plan would be enforced in major cities of Punjab including Lahore and others.

According to sources, markets in Punjab will open 8 in the morning and close by 9:00pm. It is to be mentioned here that the Sindh government on Friday announced the closure of all markets including shopping malls by 9:00 pm across the province to conserve electricity amid a crippling power crisis faced by the country.

Unannounced

MQM-P concerned over power outages

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has expressed its concern over the unannounced power outages in Hyderabad. According to details, MQM-P has expressed its concern over the unannounced loadshedding in Hyderabad and urged the government to resolve the issue in interest of the citizens. In a statement, MQM-P Rabita Committee has pointed out that power outages due to technical faults and burning wires have become common in Hyderabad. MQM-P has also urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to take notice of the unannounced loadshedding.

"The prime minister should take notice of the incompetence and overbilling of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO)," the statement added. It is pertinent to mention here that the factory owners in Hyderabad threatened to shut down their units in protest against HESCO. In a video statement, Chairman Industrial Area has strongly criticised the 'incompetence' of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and threatened to shut down the factories in protest. Agencies

CM Hamza reviews Cholistan's solarization project

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz presided over a meeting in Lahore on Sunday to review progress on solarization project in Cholistan. The meeting was apprised that solar water plants are being installed to provide water to people in far flung areas of Cholistan. CM Hamza also directed to provide water to animals as well. He also ordered to formulate a pilot project to use modern technology to increase rains in the area. CM Hamza said that a programme has been made to install solar water plants in remote areas of Cholistan so that water need of people and animal could be fulfilled in remote areas. Regarding the set-up, he directs authorities to finalise the matter soon.

As per details, he asked management to install air coolers in the shades in Cholistan. He added that the option of water supply from the canal to the Cholistan should be considered as this initiative will not only alleviate water scarcity but will also promote agriculture. CM Hamza Shahbaz said that this task is a good deed, let's move forward fast keeping in mind the rules and regulations.

Parallel PA session 'unconstitutional': Elahi

Says Punjab Govt committed illegal act

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) leader and Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday the Deputy Speaker could not preside over the assembly session in the presence of the Speaker and the proceedings in Aivan-i-Iqbal were unconstitutional. During the meeting with former Punjab Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, Pervaiz Elahi said that Punjab Governor Balighur Rahman did sever constitutional violation by issuing the ordinance to convene the budget session outside the Punjab Assembly.

"Those who were chanting slogans to 'respect the vote' had damaged the democratic institution," Elahi said. The PA speaker further said that under Rule 3 and 4 of the

Rules of Procedure of the Punjab Assembly 1997, the Secretary Punjab Assembly has to issue orders to convene and adjourn the meeting while no other person has the right to adjourn the session. The budget session chaired by the Deputy Speaker was unconstitutional, he added.

Parvez Elahi said that the Punjab government has committed an illegal act after summoning a parallel session during the ongoing session of the assembly. Elahi said that only the speaker has the authority to prorogue a session which was summoned by him. "No one has the authority to prorogue the session summoned by the speaker," he said. He lamented that those who raised slogans of 'vote ko izzat do'

have hurt the supremacy of the Punjab Assembly as they tried to make it subservient to the orders of the governor Punjab.

"There is no legal and constitutional standing for summoning the Punjab Assembly at any other place and forcing the secretariat staff to attend it," Parvez Elahi said. He added that deputy speaker has no right to summon the session of the Punjab Assembly and secretary has the authority under rules to release orders regarding calling and proroguing the house. Speaking on the matter, the former governor said that the assembly has also nullified the orders from the governor to restrict powers of the speaker.

Balochistan to unveil FY 2022-23 budget today

QUETTA: Balochistan's budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 will be presented in the provincial assembly on June 20, 2022. According to details, the budget session of the Balochistan assembly has been summoned on June 20, 2022. The volume of the provincial budget is expected to be Rs600 billion. Provincial Finance Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Kehtran will present the budget in the assembly on Monday. A total of Rs350 billion has been allocated to complete ongoing projects and expenses.

Finance Ministry sources say that the amount of provincial PSDP has been set at Rs250 billion. A total of 5000 jobs and solarization of government hospital has been recommended in the budget.

Round the clock

Govt working to overcome energy crisis: Amir Muqam

Says PML-N came to power just to save Pakistan from bankruptcy

Bureau Report

SWAT: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam says the government is actively working to bring an end to the energy crisis in the country. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Rahat Kot Grid station in Swat on Sunday, he said the government took difficult decisions to stabilize the economic condition of the country. The Advisor said that process of development has been resumed with renewed spirit and devotion under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) came to power and formed government just to save the country from bankruptcy. He said that the poor economic and finan-

cial policies of Imran's government had put the country at the verge of bankruptcy. He said PTI government had pushed the country to an economic quagmire, resulting into devaluation of rupee and inflation.

Muqam said the previous government took record foreign loans in the country's history and had no idea how they will repay these loans.

The PM aide said that the current price hike and increase in petroleum products was due to wrong economic and fiscal policies of the PTI government. "Previous government had signed agreements with IMF and agreed to withdraw subsidies on the petroleum products but Imran Khan intentionally delayed withdrawal of subsidies on petroleum and electricity, knowing that his days in power was numbered and left economic landmines

for the present government."

Muqam said the PML-N led government was left with no other options but to abide by these agreements in order to prevent the country from bankruptcy. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had offered KP Govt to provide discounted wheat flour for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it was not reciprocated well. For the purpose, flour stock had been increased in utility stores across KP, he added. Muqam said that the new two feeders would help resolve the problems of low voltage and provide uninterrupted power supply to consumers of the area.

He said people of Madyan, Behrain, Fatehpour, Shahray and others areas of Swat would be largely benefited. Muqam said Pakistan has successfully implemented FATF action plan and on the verge of exiting the grey list.

India should be held accountable for crimes in IIOJ&K: Pakistan

FO says rape is employed as a tool of suppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has urged the international community to take cognizance of the sexual crimes against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and hold the perpetrators of these condemnable acts accountable through various mechanisms including sanctions against offenders of these grave crimes.

In a message on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict on Sunday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said rape is employed as a tool of suppression and means of collective punishment in IIOJK.

The women, girls and children of IIOJK have witnessed the most egregious forms of sexual violence of recent times. He said the Indian state machinery has perpetrated sexual violence with full impunity to silence, subjugate and stifle the people of IIOJK and stop them from demand-

ing their legitimate right to self-determination, pledged in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Foreign Office Spokesperson said the horrendous mass rape of Kashmiri women in Kunan Poshpura villages of IIOJK on 23 February 1991 continues to haunt the victims who still await justice.

He said, since 5 August 2019, sexual violence against all genders including children has drastically increased in IIOJK. He said the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its two Kashmir reports, the UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders (SPMHs) in their joint communications, the international civil society and media in their publications have expressed serious concerns on the widespread sexual violence being committed by the Indian occupation forces with full impunity in IIOJK and have inter alia demanded investigations by



a UN Commission of Inquiry.

He said all international calls for prosecution of perpetrators have been blatantly rejected by India and there remains a pervasive culture of impunity through connivance between the Indian state machinery, judiciary and the media.

He said India must be urged to respect its international obligations, especially those related to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, 4th Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocol 1. Asim Iftikhar said Pakistan will continue to raise its voice in favour of the oppressed and these victims of sexual violence.

Foreign Office Spokesperson said it is incumbent upon the international community to rise above geo-political and economic interests and show its commitment to the UN Charter and international law in providing protection to the victims and in holding the perpetrators of sexual violence accountable.

Senate, NA to resume budget debate today

ISLAMABAD: The Senate and the National Assembly will resume discussion on the budget for the next fiscal year today (Monday). Both the Houses will meet separately at the Parliament House in Islamabad at 4:00 pm. On the other hand, Balochistan government will present the next financial year budget in the provincial assembly in Quetta on Monday (June 20). This was stated by the provincial Finance Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrn while talking to newsmen in Quetta. He said it will be a people-friendly budget in which funds would be allocated to 65 constituencies of the province on the basis of equality, in order to ensure equal development of all areas.

Digitalization of zakat system must to ensure transparency: PM AJK

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan terms dowry fund of Rs12,000 for poor, orphan girls as a joke and ordered to increase it to Rs50,000

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Terming Zakat as an important pillar of Islam the Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that no-doubt Zakat is a means of purifying wealth but its transparent and fair distribution was a big challenge to fulfill.

The PM expressed these views while addressing departmental briefing arranged by Secretary Zakat and Ushr Sardar Javed Ayub on Sunday. Government Minister Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni, Principal Secretary Syed

Shahid Mohi-ud-Din, Chief Administrator Zakat Sardar Khalid Mehmood Khan were also present in the briefing.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the department should formulate workable proposals for digitalization of the Zakat distribution system to ensure transparency and accountability. The digitalization of the system, he said, would be instrumental in making it [department] free of political interference.

The Prime Minister termed the dowry fund of Rs. 12,000 for poor and orphan girls as a joke and ordered to increase it to Rs. 50,000. The PM also

took notice of the meagre amount being distributed amongst the needy annually through the local Zakat Committees. "The amount of Rs. 3000 given once in a year is very insufficient and it should be increased to Rs. 8 to 10 thousand", he said adding that the amount for widows should be increased to Rs. 15000.

The Prime Minister also directed the concerned authorities to double the stipends for the needy students and for those enrolled in religious seminaries (madrassas). He also announced that the government would provide direct assistance of Rs. 400 million per annum to the authorised seminaries

(madrassas).

The Prime Minister called for immediate improvement in the system of collection and distribution of Zakat and directed the concerned authorities to persuade the wealthy to give their alms (Zakat) to the government in order to improve the lives of poor and economically downtrodden strata of the society.

The Prime Minister said that the madrassas should teach science and arts subjects to the students in addition to the existing curriculum get them acquainted with modern skills to enhance their academic and professional abilities.

World is now in age of AI, says VC IUB

IUB holds first ICMPAI-2022



Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: The first International Conference on Machine Perception and Artificial Intelligence (ICMPAI-2022) was organized by the Department of Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Computing, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The two day conference was attended by experts from universities and IT institutes in Pakistan, UK, South Korea, Malaysia and Italy.

On this occasion, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur said in his address that the world is now in the age of artificial intelligence and e-computer technology is very easy and economical. Artificial intelligence has made difficult and complex tasks easier.

The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is also focusing on this modern technology. The University has more than 8000 students studying in the Faculty of Computing and it has become the largest faculty of the University. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is building links with the world's largest companies in the field of artificial intelligence so that our IT graduates can get jobs in higher institutions. Recently, an agreement has been signed with the Pakistan Academy of Engineering and Artificial Intelligence and in the first phase, 100 graduates of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur will be made part of the world's largest companies. He said that if the world's largest companies set up their centers in Pakistan, our graduates will be able to get more jobs. Islamia University Bahawalpur has more than 650 PhD faculty members out of which more than 250 are foreign qualified.

Khurram Dastgir, Sohail Anjum Malik discuss current power crisis



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Well-known columnist/editor Sohail Anjum Malik called on the Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan. During the meeting, amongst other issues, the current power crisis were discussed in detail. The Federal Minister criticized the PTI government's power policies and said

The government will soon overcome the Energy Crisis and the situation will be almost under control by mid July 2022. The duration of loadshedding in major and industrial cities has been significantly reduced up to 3 to 4 hours and in the next few weeks the current energy crisis across the country, including in rural areas, will be resolved 90 percent, he added.

He further said that our coalition government is facing critical economic challenges left by the previous PTI government. Government is now doing its best to resolve ongoing crisis in the true letter and spirit and is working day and night to provide relief packages to the common and poor people of Pakistan. Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khan ensured pre-monsoon raining spell will bring positive sign in coming days to reduce the shortfall significantly and people of Pakistan will be relaxed from loadshedding duration all over the country.

Adnan Siddiqui not to attend APPNA

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The iconic actor-producer Mr. Adnan Siddiqui will not be attending APPNA to be held in the US from July 14-16 given that Indian artistes too will be part of the program. As a self-respecting Muslim, Siddiqui strongly condemns the insolent and obscene remarks made by Hindu right-wing Indian politicians against the beloved Prophet (PBUH). "My conscience will never allow me to be in the same space as artists from the country that has insulted our Prophet. I have nothing against the artists personally but as a form of personal protest and as solidarity for my Muslim brethren worldwide, I have excused myself from the event," Siddiqui has said. The remarks by the two Indian leaders have received widespread criticism from Muslim nations across the world including Pakistan. "As a Pakistani too, I stand with my country that has strongly criticized the Indian government's enabling of such Islamophobia," asserts Siddiqui.



Recognition

ISLAMABAD: Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, was selected as the selective Ambassador of the year by the "Diplomatic Insight" on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the two neighboring countries. He was awarded the 2022 Global Ambassador Award for his efforts to promote Iran-Pakistan relations.



Spokesman photo by Ghulam Farid

MPCL Ambassadorship ceremony for Inclusive Education held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum Company Ltd organized an event to designate an Ambassador for its CSR project of Inclusive Education - "Noor E Sehar School" established and run by MPCL through "Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP)" in Tehsil Daharki, District Ghotki, Sindh. The event was held at MPCL's Head Office, in Islamabad. The event was attended by MPCL's Leadership and senior management. The event was attended by many officials from British Council, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, AAR Japan, Planning Commission, National Training Centre for Special Persons (NTCSP), Christian Blindness Mission (CBM), media personnel

MPCL CSR Team Lead Ms. Huma Zafar shared MPCL's concept of sustainability and its values which emphasize on running core business while taking care of all stakeholders' expectations to achieve sustainable development, inclusivity and environmental sustainability. It



was highlighted that: MPCL has aligned all social investments and interventions with UN SDGs 2030 and will establish partnerships with social enterprises sharing the common values. In line with Paris Agreement for climate change, MPCL shall endeavor to make green investments in the areas of its working interests, and MPCL is the only oil and gas company which has made significant investment in the field of inclusive education for disabled children by establishing "Noor E Sehar", a state of the art school for children with disabilities.

MPCL's Director CSR Brigadier Asad Raza (Retired) comprehensively briefed the audience about company's CSR commitments, invest-

ments and social impact it is creating on the society. He highlighted the fact that in line with its goal of community development, MPCL has contributed more than PKR 8.5 billion towards its CSR program. He shed light on various high impact CSR initiatives the company has undertaken and MPCL's commitment to continue to do so in all of its areas of operation.

Atif Sheikh, STEP's Executive Director shared his life experiences and challenges as a person with disability. He expressed his gratitude to MPCL's leadership in supporting STEP for establishing "NOOR E SEHAR", a school for children with disability at Daharki. The event continued with the signing

certificate of collaboration between STEP and MPCL by MD MPCL and Executive Director STEP, to designate Miss Abia Akram as MPCL's first CSR Ambassador for Inclusive Education. The ceremony ended with the closing remarks given by Managing Director MPCL, Faheem Haider who alluded to the significance of social responsibility in today's global landscape.

While speaking to the audience, he shared that being a B2B company and with limited exposure with the end users of the energy we produce, MPCL holds itself responsible towards the communities it operates in, towards our society, towards health of our planet and towards our shareholders to generate and maintain a sustainable business. He further said that sustainability at MPCL means that we are committed towards country to explore and develop energy resources responsibly while making positive contributions towards communities and environment while creating value for all of our stakeholders."

A delegation from Karachi visits TDC Islamabad



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Administration of Karachi including Abid Qamar Sheikh (Assistant Commissioner (G) to Commissioner Karachi), Bilal Zafar (District Deputy Commissioner Karachi East), Muhammad Aftab Ahmad, Project Manager, Ms. Sehrish Farooq (Liaison Officer for Smoke-Free Karachi Commissioner Office Karachi), Bilal Zafar (District Coordinator East Karachi), Tanveer Qaimkhani (District Coordinator South Karachi), Ikram Wani Senior District Coordinator for Tobacco Control Ministry of Health visited The Diabetes Centre in Islamabad.

They were led to see hospital's different departments and specialties including Education, Eye Care, Pedito Scan and Laboratory. The visitors expressed satisfaction over the treatment and facilities provided by TDC.

Ittehad Bain-ul-Muslimeen ceremony held in Wah Cantt

Raza Naqvi

WAH CANTT: An Ittehad Bain-ul-Muslimeen ceremony was held in Wah Cantt, Taxila on Sunday. Scholars from different school of thoughts participated in ceremony, Cultural Councilor Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad, Ehsan Khazai was the guest of honour on the occasion.

While addressing the ceremony speakers said that the defenders of honour and dignity of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are ready and active for any sacrifice.

"The way Imam Khomeini RA decreed a fatwa against Salman Rushdie, Supreme leader of Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatullah Syed Ali Khamenei strongly condemned the blasphemous remarks by the BJP spokesperson, Nopur Sharma" said JUP leader Allama Saeed Nakshbandi.

TEVTA Alumni can play vital role in promoting skills: Zaheer Abbas

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Alumni can play a vital role in promoting skills in the country. This was stated by TEVTA Chief Operating Officer Zaheer Abbas Malik while presiding over a meeting of TEVTA alumni from across the province. All senior officers and director generals, including Sr DG Akhtar Abbas Bharwana were present on the occasion. Several alumni also virtually participated in the meeting from other coun-



tries. Zaheer Abbas Malik said that TEVTA alumni would be made an active platform as they are the ambassadors of the Authority. The COO said that he would take all steps to empower the Tevta alumni, adding "they are our eyes and ears". He added that they have developed a bond with the alumni and it will further strengthen in future. Representing alumni, Syed Ali Hassan said that development of industries is important for any country's progress and alumni would continue playing their role in this regard.

FATF's satisfaction a great relief for Pakistan

Improved investor confidence, reduced business costs to boost economy, says Dr. Shahid Rasheed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday said the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has expressed its satisfaction over the implementation of the action plan by Pakistan to curb business laundering and financing of terrorist groups which is a great achievement.

The development has saved Pakistan from the threat of global economic isolation and will support the Pakistani economy and reduce business costs which may bring some relief to the people.

In a statement issued here, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that now the possibility of Pakistan being removed from the grey list is bright and the likelihood of blacklisting has been eliminated which friendly countries are rejoicing

while enemy countries are mourning.

He said that FATF's positive response will restore the confidence of Pakistani and foreign investors, reduce the cost of imports and exports, and allow banks around the world to transact with Pakistani banks without fear.

Now, Pakistan will be able to borrow from all available means to save its sinking economy. Most of the steps taken to get out of the FATF's grey list took place during the PTI era, but if suggestions of the then Prime Minister were accepted 2016, Pakistan would have not have been on the grey list for so long, it would not have lost billions of dollars and would have almost gone bankrupt.

He said the rupee was depreciating due to ambiguity in the agreement with the IMF, delay in getting the next tranche of the loan and dwindling foreign exchange reserves which needed to be addressed.

The pinnacle of Research & Innovation at Islamia University Bahawalpur

would benefit Pakistan over 100 billion rupees

IUB Scientists devised a meteorological system to increase rainfall in Cholistan Desert

By Amjad Mehmood

Eng. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), said that with the increase in rainfall in the Cholistan Desert, a special agro-economic zone could be established with a climate system. There will be a benefit of approximately Rs. 10 billion. He expressed these views while talking to media persons in Islamabad.

He said that scientists of the Islamia University Bahawalpur have devised a meteorological system for increasing rainfall which can lead to ionization by increasing the humidity in the air. The Cholistan region was actually a lush region centuries ago and turned into a desert due to the depletion of the river Haktra and the scarcity of water. The project could transform the country's agricultural economy and greatly improve the country's overall economic situation. The plan has been proposed to the federal and provincial governments and can be implemented in practice with the attention and support of the government which has the potential to increase the levels from 100 mm to 400 mm.

By sharing the further information, he said Islamia University Bahawalpur's agricultural research, especially marketing of different varieties of cotton seeds, has resulted in the cultivation of university varieties on 50% of the area under cotton cultivation in the country. These types are effective against low water, high temperature, and various diseases. He added this progress would help in the revival of Pakistan's textile industry which will benefit significantly to the national exchequer. He proudly informed that the Government of Punjab and China have included Islamia University Bahawalpur's intercropping technology project in the CPEC projects. With the help of agricultural resettlement and livestock, the national GDP can be increased by 3%. He said that an eco-friendly method would also be introduced from IUB research initiatives. The Vice-Chancellor said that the Archeology Department of the University has recently been set up which is working on a special project for the discovery of 7000 years old archeological sites of the Haktra civilization in the Cholistan Desert.

Dr. Athar Mahboob said that number of students in Islamia University Bahawalpur is 57,000 which will reach close to 70,000 in current semester and it will become the first mega university in Pakistan where there are more than 2,000 faculty members out of which 1,000 are PhD qualified from national and international well reputed universities. He said that Islamia University Bahawalpur is among the top 350 universities in Asia according to Times Higher Education in the world ranking. While talking about the Development projects under progress at Islamia University Bahawalpur, he said IUB is working on various small to large scale projects worth of over Rs. 1200 billion. He said with the cooperation of Punjab government, 2.5 MW solar energy project has been completed which is providing electricity to a large campus of the university.

"Times Higher Education has ranked IUB in the top 350 universities in Asia"

Vice-Chancellor IUB informed that the Bahawalpur campus has four new academic blocks and four new hostels and plans are worked out to establish the University School of State Sciences. He further shared the information that the Punjab Government has started measures to provide land for two new sub-campuses in Hasilpur and Liaquatpur. He said that the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his tenure as Chief Minister Punjab had given scholarships worth many crores and laptops to Islamia University Bahawalpur. He expressed hope that the scholarship volume and award of laptops to the talented cum needy students would increase under his premiership for university students. He said this would not only help to fulfill the dreams of higher education for students but also would flourish the research culture at Pakistani



universities.

Talking about admissions at IUB, the Vice-Chancellor said that the admission of 17000 new students is expected this year in various levels of degree programs being offered at IUB. He said every year we receive thousands of applications for admission and the university remains unable to offer admission to everyone considering our transparent and merit-based processes. He appreciated the efforts made by the IT department of Islamia University Bahawalpur which has successfully started a testing service and established the learning management system (LMS) for online classes. He added that contemporary education is fairly dependent on technology and pedagogical techniques are paramount at IUB to remain synchronized with the modern world. He said considering IUB advanced ICT capacity, other public and private institutions, including MEPCO, conduct tests at Islamia University Bahawalpur for their new assignments.

Talking about the students' body growth at IUB he said the university is getting public acceptance and applause at a rapid pace and

resultantly during the last three years students' strength has increased significantly from 13,000 to 57,000. He said to main the quality of education at IUB, the number of teachers has also increased from 450 to 1200. He said, we at IUB offer best student-teacher ratio as per the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and accreditation bodies' guidelines. The University has increased the number of faculties from 7 to 15 and new departments have been set up to suit the needs of the market and the country. He further added that projects worth Rs. 12 billion are being implemented by the federal government, provincial government, public-private partnerships, and from the IUB indigenous resources. He said all these indicators witness the fact that IUB is considered the largest and fastest-growing university in the country.

"IUB is considered fastest-growing university in Pakistan"

The Punjab government has approved the setting up of chip design centers at a cost of Rs 41.75 million in eight universities of Punjab including the Islamia University of Baha-

walpur. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice-Chancellor, specially thanked the Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz for giving priority to the Islamia University of Bahawalpur for the establishment of the Chip Design Center.

He said with courtesy and special attention of the government, a chip design center would be established in the university this year. The project will launch undergraduate and graduate-level courses in chip design. With the help of these courses, students will receive training in Commercial Grade, IC & Design, and their verification tools. After the training, students will be fully prepared to work in the domestic and foreign IT market and will be able to find employment easily. Integrated circuit chip technology has revolutionized the world of computers and electronics. He added that with the establishment of these centers in these universities, Pakistan will also gain a prominent position in this technology at the global level, especially in electronics.

The Vice-Chancellor further said that this initiative of the Punjab Government would go a long way in achieving a better position in the electronics industry and nanotechnology globally and Pakistani engineers would be able to make a name for themselves not only in the domestic but also in the global market. The Vice-Chancellor has extended special congratulations to the Dean Faculty of Engineering Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amjad, faculty members and students on the achievement. He also expressed his satisfaction with the performance and growth of the engineering faculty at IUB.

The Vice-Chancellor in his address to the audience said that alumni are an asset of the University, with the help and cooperation of which the pace of development of the university can be accelerated. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is a 100-year-old University from which the graduates are spread all over the world including Pakistan. He said our graduates are placed in national and international organizations and with their professional esteem they are ultimately a source of pride for IUB and Pakistan. Their help and cooperation are very important in the development of the University. He said that alumni members can raise their voices in the capital for their motherland in their respective fields, especially in the press media. Alumni can be very effective for timely funding of these projects. Dr. Azhar Hussain, Director, Alumni, said that the Alumni Network has provided a platform to alumni around the world and so far 14,000 alumni have registered. He urged the IUB alumni within Pakistan and abroad to register with the university and play a vibrant role in the growth of the university.

"IUB alumni is an asset of the university and performing an active role in the glory of 100-year old institution"

During the session, President of Federal Union of Journalists Shahzada Zulfiqar, President National Press Club Islamabad Anwar Raza, Dr. Sadia Kamal, Saghir Chaudhry, Naveed Akbar Chaudhry, Rana Adnan, Farrukh Ejaz, Naveed Azhar, Fahad Ahmad Missan, Tariq Ali Virk, Muhammad Faraz Malik, Shehzad Ahmad Khalid, Director Press Media and Publications, Dr. Azhar Hussain, Director Alumni were also present on the occasion.

Rana Adnan, the focal person of the event, thanked the Vice Chancellor for attending the event and for his encouragement. Shields were also distributed among the alumni members on the occasion.

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CPEC: A Long Term Support to Pakistan

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners; the two countries have formed a rock-solid friendship. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark project of the co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" by China and Pakistan, and an important manifestation of the ever-growing "Iron Friendship" between the two countries. The CPEC is of over 3000 kilometers, it is a bond, connecting the Silk Road Economic Belt to the north and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to the south.

While building a bridge for economic and trade exchanges between China and Pakistan, the CPEC is also constantly enriching the connotation of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future. In 2013, the CPEC was formally proposed and positioned as a "Four-sphere Integrated" channel and a trade corridor covering roads, railways, oil and gas pipelines, and fiber-optic cables; in 2015, the "1+4" cooperation layout was formed with the construction of the corridor as the center, with emphasis on Gwadar port, energy, infrastructure, and industrial cooperation. In December 2017, the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Vision Plan (2017-2030)" was officially released, combining China's "The Belt and Road Initiative" and Pakistan's "Vision 2025".

In December 2017, the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Vision (2030)" was officially released, dovetailing China's "Belt and Road Initiative" and Pakistan's "Vision 2025", with focuses on development in areas including connectivity, energy, trade, and industrial parks.

CPEC construction bears fruitful results

Since its start of construction in 2013, the CPEC has created miracles one after another: China-Pakistan cross-border optical cable, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project, Karot Hydropower Station, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, second stage of dam cut-off achieved at the Sugejinaree Hydropower Project, etc.

As of September 2021, the 22 priority projects from the first phase of the CPEC is almost

complete, half of which are energy projects. For example, the Port Qasim coal-fired power station, since it entered commercial operation in April 2018, has generated about 10% of the power supply of Pakistan's national grid. It is reported that the coal-fired power station will exceed 4.6 billion kWh in 2021. While accelerating its construction as a power supply base, the CPEC also attaches great importance to the development of clean energy. In November 2021, the Karot Hydropower Station, the first hydropower investment project under the CPEC, has successfully completed the closure of its diversion tunnel and officially started storing water in the reservoir, laying a foundation for the commissioning of subsequent generators.

It is reported that the construction of the Karot Hydropower Station and the Sugjiniari Hydropower Station is progressing smoothly, and the construction of the Kohala Hydropower Station project will also begin after the signing of the franchise agreement in May 2021. During the first phase of construction, China and Pakistan are not only committed to improving energy shortage problems, but also focused on infrastructure constructions. There are many highlight projects, including Gwadar Port, Lahore Rail Transit Orange Line Project, Karakoram Highway upgrading and reconstruction project Phase II, China-Pakistan Cross-Border Optical Cable Project, etc. These mass transport infrastructure constructions are of great significance to Pakistan's economic development.

Thanks to highways and energy infrastructures, an increasing number of Chinese enterprises have come to invest in Pakistan, effectively promoting Pakistan's economic development and at the same time, laid down a solid foundation for industrial cooperation in the second phase of the corridor. Under the framework of the CPEC, China and Pakistan have greatly facilitated inter-regional connectivity through the construction of various infrastructure facilities. Taking Gwadar port in Balochistan as an example, it is not only one of the four key points of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, but

also a pilot project for the co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" between China and Pakistan.

In November 2016, Gwadar port was officially opened, and from this place, the first Chinese commercial ships set sail. From its humble beginnings as a small fishing village, over years of development, Gwadar port gradually turned into a regional logistics hub. Even during the epidemic period, the construction of Gwadar port continued to advance. It is worth mentioning that Gwadar Port has also created many "firsts" in 2020: for example, the launch of transit trade through Afghanistan, fully showing its transshipment potentials; for the first time, it is expected

other surrounding areas."

CPEC construction continues to benefit people's livelihoods

The changes brought about by the construction of the CPEC are noticeable. According to a 2012 study by Price Water House Coopers, the power shortage has resulted in an average annual loss of \$13.5 billion in Pakistan's GDP. The shortage of electricity has led to chronic power shortages in Pakistan, with rotating blackouts in all regions of the country, ranging from about 10 hours per day in major cities to 22 hours per day in rural areas, with an average national power shortage of 4,000 megawatts. Khalid Mansoor, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the CPEC, once said, "the construction of the CPEC has transformed Pakistan from a country suffering power shortage to a country with power surplus, meeting Pakistan's energy needs and reducing the cost of electricity production and overall electricity prices in Pakistan." Since the construction of the CPEC, Pakistan's domestic power shortage has been greatly alleviated. According to Pakistan's CPEC Affairs Bureau, as of January 2022, the total capacity of completed energy projects under the CPEC framework has reached 5.32 million kilowatts. Khalid Mansoor has said that these power capacities have provided a large amount of residential and industrial electricity, relieving Pakistan from long power outages.

The local impact of the CPEC on Pakistan is also largely reflected in the boosting of local employment. In September 2021, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Qureshi had highlighted that the energy projects of the CPEC had directly created 26,795 jobs and contributed significantly to the development of the local power sector. The infrastructure projects of the CPEC have created nearly 50,000 jobs. According to incomplete statistics from the Planning Commission of Pakistan, the early harvest projects of the first phase of the CPEC have created about 38,000 jobs, more than 75 percent of which are local employment, with energy projects creating the most employment, absorbing 16,000 Pakistani workers and engineers in total. In addition, the construction of transportation

infrastructure has created about 13,000 jobs.

Chinese companies are also actively fulfilling their social responsibility when carrying out project construction. In order to make it possible for Gwadar Faqeer Middle School to accept more students, the expansion project of the school was funded by China Peace Development Foundation and constructed by CCCC (China Communications Construction Company) Fourth Institute of Naval Survey and Design, which was completed and handed over in June 2020. "We are very grateful to the Chinese government and the Pakistani government for completing the second phase of this school in a very short period of time.

This school is urgently needed by the people of the region because they are in dire need of education and their education level is still backward. The CPEC projects will take more advantage and the advancement and development of these projects will benefit the people of Gwadar, giving them a bright change and future." Amjad, the principal of Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, told the reporters. Starting from 2021, the CPEC has smoothly entered its second phase of construction. The development priorities are also gradually shifting to the industrial sector and expanding agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan is an agricultural country with a population of 220 million and with a good location, so it is reasonable for the second phase of the CPEC's construction to focus on industrial cooperation, with a layout that focuses on sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and textiles. With the joint efforts of China and Pakistan, CPEC's constructions keep stepping up to new levels. China and Pakistan are willing to work together to build the CPEC with the goal of higher standards, sustainability and benefit for people's livelihood, and accelerate the construction of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

The writer is Executive Director Global Strategic Institute for Sustainable Development-GSISD



Analysis
Qaiser Nawab

that 10,000 tons of LPG will be shipped to Pakistan each month through Gwadar Port; and it is the first time where commercial operation was realized.

In July 2020, a medium-sized cargo ship loaded with 16,000 tons of chemical fertilizers docked at Gwadar port for the first time, and completed the unloading, warehousing, and storage of all goods, this marks the official launch of Afghanistan's re-export business. It also shows that the CPEC can be extended to Afghanistan and further to Central Asia. From this point on, Afghanistan and the landlocked countries of Central Asia have a connecting access channel. Relying on the location advantage and connectivity of Gwadar port, in July 2020, a series of industrial projects such as Gwadar Fertilizer Factory, Gwadar Exhibition Center, and Gwadar Lubricating Oil Factory also started construction in Gwadar port Free Trade Zone.

Bajwa, who once served as the chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Affairs Bureau, said: "The construction of Gwadar Port also has radiating benefits to the development and prosperity of Balochistan and



Drone strike: A new way of warfare

By February 2002 the CIA hadn't yet used a drone for a strike outside military support. On Nov 14, 2001, five weeks into America's war against al-Qaeda, a small, unmanned, remote-controlled aero plane called a Predator took off from a U.S. airbase in Uzbekistan, crossed the border into Afghanistan and with a video camera attached to its belly started tracking a convoy of vehicles believed to be carrying jihadi leaders along a road in Kabul.

A group of officers and spies, monitoring the streamed footage from inside a trailer in a parking lot at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, watched the convoy stop outside a building. With the push of a button, the Predator fired a Hellfire missile at the building, the back half of which exploded. Seven people, survivors of the blast, were seen fleeing to another nearby structure. A second Hellfire destroyed that shelter, too. Among the dead were Mohammed Atef, al-Qaeda's military chief and Osama Bin Laden's son-in-law. Five weeks earlier, on Oct 7 a drone strike had been launched against another caravan, this one carrying the Taliban leader Mullah Omar, but the missile missed doubts about this newfangled technology remained. The era of the armed drone the weapon that has since come to define American-style warfare in the 21st century had unambiguously begun.

First Drone attack in Pakistan was on 18 June 2004. The first known US drone strike killed 5-8 people including Nek Muhammad Wazir and two children,

in a strike near Wana, South Waziristan. Pakistan's Army initially claimed the attack as its own work. Some notable drone strikes in Pakistan are Damadola airstrike, Datta Khel airstrike, 2009 Makin airstrike and Miramshah airstrike. On 13 January 2006, the Central Intelligence Agency fired missiles into the Pakistani village of Damadola in the Bajaur tribal area, about seven kilometers (4.5 miles) from the Afghan border, killing at least 18 people. Originally the Bajaur tribal area government claimed that at least four foreign members of al-Qaeda were among the dead. The United States and Pakistani officials later admitted that no al-Qaeda leaders perished in the strike and that only local villagers were killed.

The Datta Khel airstrike was an American airstrike carried out on 17 March 2011 in Datta Khel, North Waziristan that killed 44 people and led to widespread condemnation in Pakistan. Sherab Khan Wazir, a top commander of Hafiz Gul Bahadur's Taliban faction, was killed in the strike, and in response, Bahadur threatened to end the peace deal struck with the Pakistani government almost four years earlier. 23 June 2009 Makin airstrike was an attack launched by United States drones on a funeral procession in the city of Makin in South Waziristan, Pakistan. The Miram-

shah airstrike took place on Friday 12 September 2008 in Miran Shah in North Waziristan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan.

Drones technology are not only used by the military but also used by militants or terrorist groups such as Small drones and quadcopters have been used for strikes by the Islamic State (ISIS). A group of twelve have been piloted by specially trained pilots to drop munitions onto the U.S backed ground forces. They have been able to evade ground defence forces. During the battle for Mosul, the Islamic State was able to kill or wound dozens of Iraqi soldiers by dropping light explosives or 40-millimetre grenades from numerous drones attacking at the same time. There are a number of vocal critics of the use of a drone to track and kill terrorists and militants.

A major criticism of drone strikes is that they result in excessive collateral damage. David Killeullen and Andrew Exum wrote in the New York Times that drone strikes "have killed about 14 terrorist leaders". It has also killed an unknown number of militants. But, according to Pakistani sources, they have also killed some 700 civilians. Grégoire Chimayo's analysis, of one three-hour-long surveillance and attack operation on a convoy of three of SUVs that killed civilians in

Afghanistan in February 2010, shows a typical if notorious, case. Throughout the operation, there is a sense of the drone controllers' desperation to destroy the people and destroy the vehicles whatever the evidence of their clearly civilian nature.

It is difficult to reconcile these figures because the drone strikes are often in areas that are inaccessible to independent observers and the data includes reports by local officials and local media, neither of whom are reliable sources. Critics also fear that by making killing seem clean and safe, so-called surgical drone strikes will allow the United States to remain in a perpetual state of war. However, others maintain that drones "allow for a much closer review and much more selective targeting process than do other instruments of warfare" and are subject to Congressional oversight.

Like any military technology, armed UAVs will kill people, combatants and innocents alike, thus the main turning point concerns the question of whether we should go to war at all. The New America Foundation stated in mid-2011 that from 2004 to 2011, 80% of the 2,551 people killed in the strikes were militants. The Foundation stated that 95% of those killed in 2010 were militants and that, as of 2012, 15% of the total people killed by drone strikes were either known civilians or unknown. The Foundation also states that in 2012 the rate of known civilian and unknown casualties was 2 per cent, whereas the Bureau of Investi-

gative Journalism said the rate of civilian casualties for 2012 is 9 per cent.

The Bureau, based on extensive research in mid-2011, claims that at least 385 civilians were among the dead, including more than 160 children. As this fact and figure shows that the rate of civilian death is also high in drone attacks so the drone technology can be used where militants are present not on the civilian or unknown person and also drone attacks are a crime against humanity, We Need Humanity, More than Cleverness, We need kindness, We need all of the Human qualities more than USA definition. USA and other countries Drone Program Needs to Be Accompanied by Hard Facts on Civilian Deaths. USA Added Black Pages to History of Humanity. It should be noted as dangerous for Human Kind, human rights, rights of life liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Drone technology is one of the most important parts of the future of warfare. It is also a threat to liberties around the world. As drone strike play an important role in new warfare so there should put some limitation as in every successful drone strike terrorist kill as well as innocent people also become victims. Drones have uncountable advantages as well as disadvantages. It is also a fact that drones become necessary for security as it can be used where fighting is difficult or too risky. It is a need of time.

The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He tweets @furqanraja1122.



Analysis
Raja Furqan Ahmed

NATO chief warns war could last 'years'

Russian missiles destroy fuel depot in east Ukraine

KYIV: Four months of brutal fighting in Ukraine appear to be straining the morale of troops on both sides, prompting desertions and rebellion against officers' orders, British defense officials said Sunday. NATO's chief warned the war could drag on for 'years.'



"Combat units from both sides are committed to intense combat in the Donbas and are likely experiencing variable morale," Britain's defense ministry said in its daily assessment of the war.

"Ukrainian forces have likely suffered desertions in recent weeks," the assessment said, but added that "Russian morale highly likely remains especially troubled."

It said "cases of whole Russian units refusing orders and armed stand-offs between officers and their troops continue to occur."

Separately, the Ukrainian Main Intelligence Directorate released what it said were intercepted phone calls in which Russian soldiers complained about frontline conditions, poor equipment, and overall lack of personnel, according to a report by the Institute for the Study of War.

He also urged allies "not to weaken support for Ukraine, even if the costs are high, not only in terms of military aid, but also because of the increase in energy and food goods prices."

In recent days, Gazprom, the Russian gas company, has reduced supplies to two major European clients — Germany and Italy. In Italy's case, energy officials are expected to huddle this week about the situation. The head of Italian energy giant ENI said on Saturday that with additional gas purchased from other sources, Italy

should make it through the coming winter, but he warned Italians that "restrictions" affecting gas use might be necessary.

Germany will limit the use of gas for electricity production amid concerns about possible shortages caused by a reduction in supplies from Russia, the country's economy minister said on Sunday. Germany has been trying to fill its gas storage facilities to capacity ahead of the cold winter months.

Economy Minister Robert Habeck said that Germany will try to compensate for the move by increasing the burning of coal, a more polluting fossil fuel. "That's bitter, but it's simply necessary in this situation to lower gas usage," he said.

Stoltenberg stressed, though, that "the costs of food and fuel are nothing compared with those paid daily by the Ukrainians on the front line."

Stoltenberg added: What's more, if Russian President Vladimir Putin should reach his objectives in Ukraine, like when he annexed Crimea in 2014, "we would have to pay an even greater price." Britain's defense ministry said

that both Russia and Ukraine have continued to conduct heavy artillery bombardments on axes to the north, east and south of the Sievierodonetsk pocket, but with little change in the front line.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said via Telegram on Sunday: "It is a very difficult situation in Sievierodonetsk, where the enemy in the middle of the city is conducting round-the-clock aerial reconnaissance with drones, adjusting fire, quickly adjusting to our changes."

Meanwhile, a fuel storage depot in the eastern Ukrainian town of Novomoskovsk exploded on Sunday, killing one and injuring two, after earlier being hit with three Russian missiles, the head of the regional administration said in an online message.

Eleven people were injured in the strike itself, Valentyn Reznichenko had said on Saturday.

Firefighters were still trying to put out a fire from the missile strike, some 14 hours after the depot was hit, Reznichenko said early on Sunday.

Novomoskovsk lies just to the northeast of Dnipro, the regional capital.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian at West Bank barrier

RAMALLAH: Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian who tried to cross Israel's security barrier from the occupied West Bank, Palestinian officials said on Sunday.

Israel's military said soldiers identified near the city of Qalqilya a suspect damaging the security fence and trying to cross into Israel. The soldiers opened fire, it said, adding that the incident was still being looked into.

Israel constructed its barrier along the West Bank frontier at the height of a Palestinian uprising as a way to stop suicide bombers from penetrating the country. Palestinians call it a land grab.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said Sunday's shooting was a "field execution."

Every day around 165,000 Palestinians cross with permits into Israel for work, according to the Palestinian workers union, but each week thousands of others cross illegally, often avoiding checkpoints through gaps in the security fence.

Duterte's daughter takes oath as Philippine VP



MANILA: Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing populist president of the Philippines, took her oath Sunday as vice president following a landslide electoral victory she clinched despite her father's human rights record that saw thousands of drug suspects gunned down.

The inauguration in their southern hometown of Davao, where she's the outgoing mayor, comes two weeks before she assumes office on June 30 as specified in the Philippine Constitution. President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Duterte's running mate, will take his oath in Manila on June 30.

"I'm not the best or the most intelligent person in the Philippines and the world but nobody can beat the toughness of my heart as a Filipino," Duterte, who wore a green traditional gown, said in a speech after she took her oath before a Supreme Court associate justice, her hand resting on a Bible held by her mother.

"The voice of 32.2 million Filipinos was loud and clear—with the message to serve our motherland," Duterte said, referring to the votes she got, to an applause from thousands of supporters.

Russia-West tensions inflame UN debate on Mali peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS: Tensions between Russia and the West are aggravating talks about the future of one of the United Nations' biggest and most perilous peacekeeping operations, the force sent to help Mali resist a decade-long insurgency.

The U.N.'s mission in the West African nation is up for renewal this month, at a volatile time when extremist attacks are intensifying. Three U.N. peacekeepers have been killed this month alone. Mali's economy is choking on sanctions imposed by neighboring countries after its military rulers postponed a promised election. France and the European Union are ending their own military operations in Mali amid souring relations with the governing junta.

U.N. Security Council members widely agree the peacekeeping mission, known as MINUSMA, needs to continue. But a council debate this week was laced with friction over France's future role in Mali and the presence of Russian military contractors.

"The situation has become very complex for negotiations," said Rama Yade, senior director of the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank.

Indian troops martyr four more youth in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred four Kashmiri youth in two different areas of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. The troops martyred two youth during a cordon and search operation in Lolab area of Kupwara district. In another operation later, the troops martyred two more youth in D.H Pora area of Kulgam district. Meanwhile, Indian police on Sunday arrested three Kashmiri youth in Kupwara district.

The youth were arrested in Kralgund, Handwara area of the district. The police have claimed that the arrested youth, identified as Nazim Ahmad Butt, Sirajuddin Khan and Adil Gull, were over ground workers of a mujahid organization to justify their arrest.

President AJK holds meetings with British MPs on Kashmir issue

Abdul Majeed Tahir

LONDON: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry held a series of important meetings with British Parliamentarians Jeremy Corbyn, and James Daly and thanked them for their all-out support to Kashmiris' just struggle for right to self-determination.



On the occasion the AJK president praised the British parliamentarians' role in raising their voice against Indian barbarism and brutalities in the Indian occupied Kashmir. "We owe a debt of gratitude to Parliamentarians for their overwhelming support for the Kashmir cause," the president said.

During his meeting Labour Party leader and member British Parliament Jeremy Corbyn while voicing his concern over the abysmal situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir said, "We are

with the people of Kashmir, they have since long been witnessing barbarism and denied their promised right, the right to self-determination."

Appreciating the president's untiring efforts for highlighting the Kashmir cause, Corbyn assured him of his full support and said that he would raise his voice in the British Parliament against the violation of human rights in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by British MP Mirza Khalid Mahmood,

British MP Imran Hussain, British MP Naz Shah, Lord Qurban Hussain and others.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting James Daly, the Chairman Conservatives Friends of Kashmir and member parliament, reiterated his commitment to raise the issue of Kashmir in the British Parliament. Besides raising the issue of Kashmir in the parliament, Daly said, "We will also raise our voice in the British Parliament on the mistreatment of Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities in India," he said.

James Daily who is also a member of the recently formed Defense Committee formed for the release of Yasin Malik invited the AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry to visit his constituency Lancashire. Accepting the invitation, the president told Daly that he would visit Lancashire during his next visit to the UK. "I would also like to express my special thanks to you and British MPs for making the trade talk between the UK and India conditional on discussing the Kashmir issue", the president said.

Sri Lanka troops open fire to contain fuel riots

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's military opened fire to contain rioting at a fuel station, officials said Sunday as unprecedented queues for petrol and diesel were seen across the bankrupt country.

Troops fired in Visuamadu, 365 kilometres (228 miles) north of Colombo, on Saturday night as their guard point was pelted with stones, army spokesman Nilantha Premaratne said. "A group of 20 to 30 people pelted stones and damaged an army truck," Premaratne told AFP. Police said four civilians and three soldiers were wounded when the army opened fire for the first time to quell unrest linked to the worsening economic crisis. As the pump ran out of petrol, motorists began to protest and the situation escalated into a clash with troops, police said.

Sri Lanka is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence, with the country unable to find dollars to import essentials, including food, fuel and medicines. The nation's 22 million population has been enduring acute shortages and long queues for scarce supplies while President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has for months resisted calls to step down over mismanagement. Sri Lanka has deployed armed police and troops to guard fuel stations.

A motorist was shot dead by police in April at the central town of Rambukkana when a clash erupted over the distribution of rationed petrol and diesel. Police said clashes involving motorists erupted at three locations over the weekend. At least six constables were wounded in one clash while seven motorists were arrested.

The government declared a two-week shutdown of state institutions and schools in a bid to reduce commuting and conserve depleting fuel stocks in the impoverished nation. The country is also facing record high inflation and lengthy power blackouts, all of which have contributed to months of protests.

Four out of five people in Sri Lanka have started skipping meals as they cannot afford to eat, the UN has said, warning of a looming "dire humanitarian crisis" with millions in need of aid.

Zaheer A Janjua meets Canadian MP

OTTAWA: Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A Janjua held a meeting with Canadian Member of Parliament Ms Salma Zahid in the Canadian capital on Sunday.



During the meeting with MP Salma Zahid who is also the Chairperson of Canada Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, the High Commissioner discussed ways to enhance parliamentary cooperation, increase trade, visa issues and people to people contacts between Pakistan and Canada.

MP Salma Zahid called the meeting productive and expressed a desire to "work together to strengthen ties

between our peoples". She said that as the chair of the Canada-Pakistan

Parliamentary Friendship Group, she was looking forward to "an exchange

of visits very soon with colleagues in the Pakistan Parliament".

Macron faces tough battle for control of parliament

PARIS: Voting was underway in France on Sunday in a parliamentary election that could deprive centrist President Emmanuel Macron of the absolute majority he needs to govern with a free hand.



Pollsters predict Macron's camp will end up with the biggest number of seats, but say it is in no way guaranteed to reach the 289 threshold for an absolute majority. Opinion polls also see the far right likely to score its biggest parliamentary success in decades, while a broad left-green alliance could become the largest opposition group and the conservatives find themselves as kingmakers.

In Sevres, just outside Paris, where light rain provided some relief after a major heatwave hit France on Saturday, some voters said environmental concerns had motivated them to cast a ballot for the Nupes left-wing alliance. "During the past 5 years, the presidential majority wasn't able to meet

the challenges of climate change — the current heatwave makes you want to support environmental projects even more," Leonard Doco, a 21-year-old film student, told Reuters. Others said they didn't trust the leader of the left-wing bloc, firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon, who has campaigned under the slogan "Elect me prime minister" and promises to cut the retirement age to 60 from 62, freeze prices and ban companies from firing workers if they pay dividends. "Melenchon is a hypocrite. He makes promises that don't hold up. Retirement at age 60, that's impossible," Brigitte Desrez, 83,

a retired dance teacher, who voted for Macron's party. Overnight, results of France's overseas department brought bad news for Macron, with his minister for maritime affairs losing in her Caribbean constituency.

Some 15 ministers are running in this election and Macron has said they'll have to quit if they lose. If Macron's camp does fall short of an outright majority, that would open a period of uncertainty that could be solved by a degree of power-sharing among parties unheard of in France over the past decades—or result in protracted paralysis and repeat parliamentary elections down the line. Macron, who wants to push up the retirement age, pursue his pro-business agenda and further European Union integration, won a second term in April. After electing a president, French voters have traditionally used legislative polls that follow a few weeks later to hand him a comfortable

parliamentary majority—with Francois Mitterrand in 1988 a rare exception.

Macron and his allies could still achieve that. But the rejuvenated left is putting up a tough challenge, as rampant inflation that drives up the cost of living sends shockwaves through the French political landscape. If Macron and his allies miss an absolute majority by just a few seats, they may be tempted to poach MPs from the centre-right or conservatives, officials in those parties said. If they miss it by a wider margin, they could either seek an alliance with the conservatives or run a minority government that will have to negotiate laws on a case-by-case basis with other parties. Even if Macron's camp does win the 289 seats or more it needs to avoid sharing power, it is likely to be thanks to his former prime minister Edouard Philippe, who will be demanding more of a say on what the government does.

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Pakistan heading towards a cellular service crisis: Mirza

Says crisis will impact mobile phone industry badly

Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman opens up in an exclusive session with Daily The Spokesman

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Telecommunications revenue (% GDP) in Pakistan was reported at 2.72% in 2007, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources. Pakistan-Telecommunications revenue (% GDP)-actual values, historical data, forecasts and projections were sourced from the World Bank on June of 2022. Similar to other world economies, Pakistan's economy too passed through a difficult year in 2007-08. The economy registered 5.8% GDP growth in 2007-08 against the target of 7.2%.

The main reason for this slow growth is attributed partly to past domestic political uncertainties, few undesirable law & order situations, supply shocks, worsening international financial crisis, and an unprecedented spike in energy prices globally. Pakistan's economy has grown at an average rate of almost 6.6% per annum during the last five years. Interestingly despite the odds, the economy has shown great resilience against internal and external shocks of extraordinary nature during the outgoing fiscal year. Among sectoral performance, agriculture sector has shown dismal performance and grew by only 1.5% as against 3.5% of its previous year's growth.

In this background, 'Daily The Spokesman' held an exclusive session with Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office Mirza Abdul Rehman to get firsthand knowledge about the problems and challenges confronted by the cellular sector in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is marching towards a cellular service crisis which will badly hit the masses and the economy. He said that the government should immediately intervene to hammer out problems faced by the telecom industry.

The business leader said that the telecom industry is feeling the pinch of political uncertainty, taxes and load-shedding translating into losses worth billions of rupees. Mirza Abdul Rehman said that all the mobile service providers are considering keeping their services offline for a few hours to reduce losses, which will be a catastrophe for the limping economy.

The authorities should immediately take note of the situation, sit with the operators and resolve the issue lest it make the life of people and the business community a living hell, he said. Almost all the cell phone networks are not performing well for months, but shutting down a network for hours is something not acceptable, he said, adding that we have received many complaints regarding the quality of services. Cell phone networks are already almost crippled in some



areas resulting in problems and lost business opportunities for which technical issues and capacity constraints are to be blamed, he added. He said that nowadays networks are overloaded as cellular networks are designed to handle a certain amount of call volume, but if the network is oversubscribed and it isn't able to handle all the phone calls.

Mobile phones cannot be considered luxury items anymore. Phones with more advanced technology may be a necessity for certain jobs and taxing them further is akin to discouraging citizens from adopting more advanced technology that can aid their professional growth, he said.

Mirza Abdul Rehman said that people save for months and years to purchase a good quality mobile phone, but they seem to be the target population for revenue collection; not the billionaire agriculturalists and the wealthy real estate tycoons who live in extreme luxury.

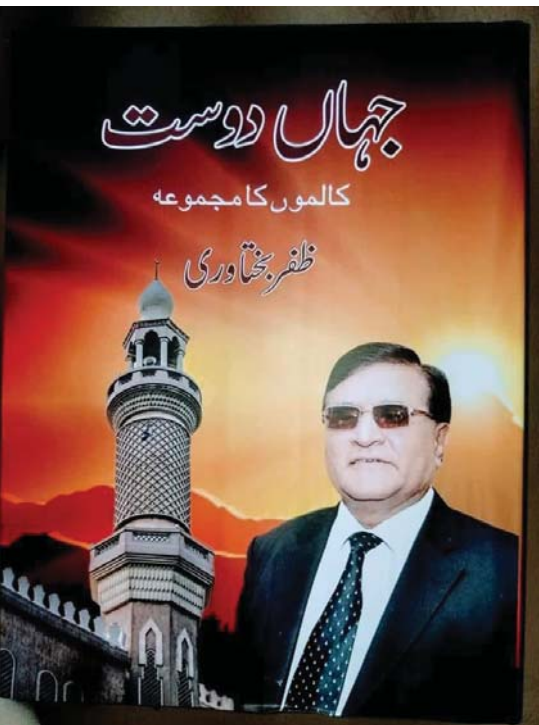
The importance of connectivity cannot be undermined for the millions of workers who rely on their phones to stay connected to their loved ones, or for those seeking access to entertainment that technology enables when mobility and access to entertainment venues are limited because of geography, curfews, lockdowns and poverty, he said. The government should reduce taxes on this industry and tax nobility instead, he said.



Book Review

Jahan Dost: An in-depth insight into national & international perspectives

Writer Zafar Bakhtawari narrates complex issues in simple tangible manner



Marium Rauf

Zafar Bakhtawari, a self-made businessman of Pakistan and one-man foreign office in his insightful book 'Jahan Dost' (a collection of various columns) details his life from his earliest memories to the present day. He wrote dynamically about the political and foreign policies of Pakistan. He highlighted some untouched ideas which include inclusion of businessmen in state policy for the prosperity of Pakistan. This book 'Jahan Dost' provides an in-depth view of writer's self-struggle vision and analysis of Pakistan affairs. This book says that Humanity's greatest advances are not in its discoveries, but in how those discoveries are applied to reduce inequity.

Moreover, many strategies and helpful ideas are presented in this book to cure the core issues of Pakistan. As 'Jahan Dost' emphasizes on quote written in this book which says you are born poor it's not your mistake but if you die poor it's your mistake. This book is divided into seven categories ranging from various personalities to diplomatic relations and perspective of Pakistan on different national, regional and international issues. Few columns in 'Jahan Dost' depict a goal and idea to make things happen by creating systems bigger than himself and inspiring people to join him on epic adventures to change the world. It is well researched



and referenced combinations of columns' book. The author presents his arguments in each chapter very clearly showing how actions taken in one part of the world have effects in other areas and how world political leaders and their example can be a source of encouragement for the people of Pakistan.

This book is a compilation of out of box 'thought provoking' exercise of thoughts. If we talk about writer 'Zafar Bakhtawari' then it is quite evident to say that his love for Pakistan is absolutely not hidden from people of Pakistan. He is a man of strong vision. He is a successful businessman, social activist, and columnist. He wears too many hats. He



hails from Rawalpindi and is the owner of D-Watson chain of stores. He has earned various awards from countries including Romania. He takes keen interest in industrial revival. Soft spoken Mr Zafar keeps cordial relations with media, digital media and political community.

He believes and trusts in the dynamic vision of the Business Community. His book 'Jahan Dost' is surely worth

PROFILE
ZAFAR BAKHTAWARI



Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman D. Watson Group of Pharmacies & super stores is very famous businessman especially in diplomatic community. He is qualified as Master in Urdu literature from the University of Punjab in 1975.

He held different high positions leading business community's representing bodies and organizations. He is Former Vice president of Federation of Pakistan chambers of commerce and industry (FPCCI), Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and Former Director Board of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO).

Zafar Bakhtawari is Secretary General United Business Group (FPCCI), Member Governing Body, ICT Employees Social Security Institution (IESSI), Islamabad, Member ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF National security workshop 6 National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad.

Zafar Bakhtawari has been regularly contributing articles in Urdu & English dailies National Press on different national and international issues. He is author of book 'Jahan Dost' which covers wide ranging of topics related to national and international affairs, economy, literature & culture, sociology, diplomatic affairs and many others.

reading to broaden the windows of thoughts especially in terms of the business community and their role in the establishment of a stable and developed Pakistan. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to develop their world view and wishes to look for new perspectives for Pakistan. It is not a dry academic reading, especially not for people of Pakistan alone.

World Test Championship

West Indies go 1-0 up against Bangladesh

Kemar Roach records his 10th Test five-wicket haul

ANTIGUA: Needing just 35 runs to win on the fourth day, West Indies wrapped up the game quickly to go 1-0 up against Bangladesh at North Sound.

The win helps West Indies solidify their sixth spot in the World Test Championship, with 12 points taking their point percentage to 43.75. The win helps them edge closer to Pakistan, who are fifth with 52.38%.

Bangladesh, who are currently at the bottom, sink further with their point percentage dipping to 14.81.

West Indies had an early scare in the fourth innings chasing 84, where they were reduced to 9/3. However, John Campbell and Jermaine Blackwood bailed the team out of trouble, leaving them needing just 35 runs at the start of day four.

Campbell smashed two boundaries in the second over of the day to remove the jitters, if there were any. Campbell went on to score his first fifty at home and finished the game off with a six.



The two teams will next clash on 24 June at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Saint Lucia.

West Indies' decision to bowl first after winning the toss reaped immediate dividends as they bowled out Bang-

ladesh on the first day of the Test. It was a nightmare for the hosts, who lost six of their batters to a duck. They managed to get only 103 and had their new captain Shakib Al Hasan to thank for scoring almost half their runs (51).

In response, West Indies almost wiped off the deficit by stumps on the first day. They were cruising along at 197/3 with skipper Kraigg Brathwaite closing in on a century. However, his wicket turned out to be a turning point. Mehidy Hasan Miraz later struck thrice in his consecutive overs as Windies eventually folded for 265.

Trailing West Indies by 162 runs at the start of their second innings, Bangladesh once again stuttered in their start and found themselves at 109/6 at one stage. Staring at an innings defeat, Shakib once again held the fort with Nurul Hasan keeping him company. They added 123 runs for the 7th wicket and forced West Indies to bat again.

Kemar Roach recorded his 10th Test five-wicket haul, running through the lower order en route.

Chasing 84, West Indies made a meal of it early on and were three down for just nine runs before John Campbell and Jermaine Blackwood steadied the ship.

Tost done with 'porpoising' complaints

MONTREAL: As Formula One wrestles with 'porpoising' problems that have left some drivers battered and bruised, AlphaTauri boss Franz Tost suggested on Saturday that if conditions are too tough in the cockpit there is always a comfortable couch at home.

Driver health has been put in the spotlight at the Canadian Grand Prix with teams told to put safety before performance and address the problem of cars bouncing dramatically at high speeds. Concern reached new levels last weekend at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix when seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton struggled to get out of his Mercedes at the end of a punishing race. Tost, whose drivers are Frenchman Pierre Gasly and Japan's Yuki Tsunoda, said



he understood cars were difficult to drive but offered little sympathy.

"These are Formula One cars, this is not a Rolls Royce and drivers should be aware about this," said the Austrian, before the cars took to a rainy Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Saturday for final practice and qualifying. "If the cars are too stiff, it's too difficult for them (the drivers) maybe they should stay at home, in the living room

sitting in a chair and they can do their races."

Porpoising has become the newest F1 flash point with the governing FIA wading in on Thursday with a technical directive of measures to reduce or eliminate the problem. It said it had done so in the interest of driver safety. Tost and Alpine team principle Otmar Szafnauer argued that it was not really a safety issue.

"It was clear from the very

beginning that these cars would not be easy to drive," said Tost. "This floor makes it necessary that cars are set up stiff, that the cars are quite close to surface. "The cars aren't anymore as comfortable to drive as they were in the past. Now the drivers complain about it. I can understand it is not so easy for them, on the other hand this is a Formula One car not a Rolls Royce."

Tost recalled a time when drivers would come to him after a race saying they needed to see a dentist because the ride was so jarring. The AlphaTauri boss suggested maybe a little more time in the gym and a bit less complaining might help. "Drivers must do more training for their neck muscles—this helps for sure," added Tost.

Fraser-Pryce storms to 100m win

PARIS: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce hammered home her status as world championship favourite on Saturday by equalling her world best time this year to win the 100m at the Paris Diamond League meeting.

The veteran Jamaican sprinter triumphed in 10.67sec, shrugging off the crushing 30-degree heat at the city's Charlety stadium. A two-time Olympic champion over 100m, the 35-year-old Fraser-Pryce equalled the 2022 best time she set in Nairobi in May. The nine-time world champion's win illustrated her threat to reigning Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah at next month's world championships in Eugene, Oregon.

Both will meet next week at the Jamaican trials. "I feel very good, technically it was very good. The goal is always to be on top technically, then the lap times follow," said Fraser-Pryce. "Physically I was good too. Running 10.6, only a few sprinters can achieve that," she added. Britain's Daryll Neita was second Saturday in 10.99sec with Marie-Josee Ta Lou of Ivory Coast third in 11.01sec. Fraser-Pryce has already qualified for the 100m in Eugene as she is the defending champion. However, she said she has "not decided yet"



on whether she will attempt the sprint double in Oregon. "We'll see if I'm ready to do it physically and mentally," she had said on Friday.

After racing to 10.05 seconds over the 100m in Oslo on Thursday, Andre De Grasse returned to his favoured 200m in the French capital. But the Canadian Olympic gold medalist was only fourth on Saturday in a race won by Luxolo Adams of South Africa in 19.82sec. Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh, silver medalist at the 2019 world championships and bronze medal winner at the 2020 Olympics, won the high jump with a season-best 2.01m. Mahuchikh won on her second

attempt, improving on her previous season-leading 2.0m at the Eugene Diamond League meet. She tried and failed three times at 2.05m, a centimetre above her career best. Mahuchikh topped an all-Ukraine podium in the event ahead of Iryna Gerashchenko (1.98m) and Yuliya Levchenko (1.95m). There was also a season best in the 3,000m steeplechase for Bahrain's Winfred Mutile Yavi. The 22-year-old won in a time of 8min 56.55sec, making her the fourth best performer in the history of the discipline. Behind her, Ethiopia's Sembo Alemayehu, only 17 years old, ran in 9min 09.19sec.

Nketiah signs new Arsenal deal



LONDON: Young striker Eddie Nketiah will wear Arsenal's iconic number 14 shirt next season after signing a long-term contract, the Premier League club said on Saturday.

The 23-year-old joined Arsenal as a teenager and has made 92 first-team appearances, scoring 23 goals. It was only last season, however, that Nketiah began to make a place in Arsenal's attack his own, scoring five goals in his last eight Premier League appearances.

The contract is a reward for his form and handing him the 14 shirt, the number worn by club great Thierry Henry, shows the faith manager Mikel Arteta has in him.

Theo Walcott and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang also wore 14. "I'm delighted Eddie is staying with us. He represents what we are all about and all the values of the club," Arteta said.

"We are very happy that he has extended his contract and now we have to get to work and continue to develop the great talent and person that we have in him."

Nketiah, who has moved up the pecking order at Arsenal following the departures of experienced strikers Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette, will hope he can follow teammates Bukayo Saka and Emile Smith Rowe into the England side.

He has yet to earn a senior cap but is England's Under-21s all-time top scorer with 16 goals in 17 appearances.

Liverpool have signed defender Calvin Ramsay from Scottish Premiership side Aberdeen, the Premier League club said on Sunday.

British media reported that Liverpool paid Aberdeen 4.5 million pounds (\$5.50 million) plus add-ons for the 18-year-old right back.

Ramsay recorded nine assists in 33 appearances across all competitions for Aberdeen in the 2021-22 season as they narrowly avoided relegation from the Scottish top-flight and reached the final round of qualifying for the UEFA Europa Conference League.

"It was a dream come true to play for Aberdeen, and now to be at one of the biggest, if not the biggest club in the world, it's a massive achievement and I'm looking forward to trying to show the fans what I've got," Ramsay said.

More than 50% of players suffer online abuse: study

PARIS: More than half of footballers playing at the European Championship and African Cup of Nations suffered online abuse, a study published by FIFA revealed on Saturday.

Much of abuse came from fans of the players' home nations. "Homophobic (40%) and racist (38%) comments provided the majority of the abuse," said the independent report published to coincide with the United Nations International Day for Countering Hate Speech.

Using artificial intelligence to track over 400,000 posts on social media platforms during the semi-finals and finals of Euro 2020 and 2021 African Cup of Nations 2021 "over 50% of players received some form of discriminatory abuse".

FIFA said with the World Cup in Qatar just five months away, they will work with players union FIFPRO to implement a plan on how to protect players from abuse on social media.

This will involve scanning recognised hate speech terms published to identified social media accounts, and once detected, prevent that comment from being seen by the recipient and their followers. "Although the offending message remains visible to the person who originally made the comment, its visibility and reach will be significantly reduced," said FIFA. England's Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho were all targeted online following their penalty misses in the Euro 2020 final, leading to widespread calls for a clampdown on racist abuse on social media. One teenager was given a six-week jail sentence for racially abusing Rashford on Twitter after the loss to Italy.

"Our duty is to protect football, and that starts with the players who bring so much joy and happiness to all of us by their exploits on the field of play," said FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

"Unfortunately, there is a trend developing where a percentage of posts on social media channels directed towards players, coaches, match officials and the teams themselves is not acceptable, and this form of discrimination—like any form of discrimination—has no place in football."

China wins two golds at badminton's Indonesia Open

JAKARTA: China claimed two golds and two silvers as the 2022 Indonesia Open badminton tournament at the Istora Senayan stadium concluded here on Sunday evening.

China's top-seeded duo Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqing secured the mixed doubles title after a crushing 21-14, 21-16 defeat of Japan's Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino in 41 minutes.

Last Sunday, world No. 2 pair Zheng and Huang had taken gold at the Indonesian Masters tournament held at the same stadium. "The medals of today and last week proved that we are a good team," said Huang.

Their compatriots Liu Yuchen and Ou Xuanyi secured the men's doubles title by downing their South Korean opponents Choi Sol-gyu and Kim Won-ho of South Korea 21-17, 23-21.

Fellow Chinese Wang Zhiyi, 22, finished with a silver medal in the women's singles after losing to Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu-ying 21-23, 21-6, 21-15 in an hour-long contest.

Zhao Junpeng took the silver in the men's singles as the 26-year-old was knocked out by world No. 1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark 21-9, 21-10. In the all-Japanese women's doubles final, Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida beat Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota 18-21, 21-14, 21-17.

Uganda, Rwanda qualify for FIBA U18

KAMPALA: Uganda's women's and Rwanda's men's teams have qualified for the Federation of International Basketball Association (FIBA) Under 18 African Championship to take place in Madagascar. The two teams came top during the FIBA U18 Zone V qualifiers that ended at the Lugogo Indoor Stadium in Kampala late Saturday.

Uganda's U18 women's team, the Gazelles, defeated Tanzania 63-43 in the deciding match on Saturday. Sylvia Nantongo scored a game-high 17 points for Uganda, while Getrude Nyamutoro and Mariam Namukwaya each notched ten points.

"We are very happy that after four games we have managed to win three and qualify for the FIBA U18 African Championship," Uganda coach Mavita Ali told Xinhua after the match.

Uganda started their campaign with a 71-50 win against Rwanda and followed it with a 64-36 victory against Tanzania. In their second face-off with Rwanda on Friday, the Gazelles lost 52-43.

Katherine Brunt announces retirement from Test cricket

LONDON: Legendary England pacer Katherine Brunt has decided to hang up her boots from the longest format of the game.

The 36-year-old seamer will continue to play in the shorter formats of the game. Brunt is England's third leading wicket-taker in Women's Tests, scalping up 51 wickets in 14 matches at an average of 21.52 and a strike-rate of 51.1. She has three five-wicket hauls to her name. Brunt last played a Test match in the Women's Ashes against Australia at the start of the year in January.

Brunt who made her Test debut in 2004, claimed it was a 'smart' decision to retire from the game, in order to prolong her white-ball career. She said in a statement, "I feel like as an athlete there is never an obvious time to step away from doing the thing that you love."

"But over the past two years thoughts of retirement have surfaced more and more, so I've decided to make a smart decision rather than an emotional one. Test cricket is my absolute passion and to retire from this format was truly a heart-breaking choice to make, but it allows me to prioritise white-ball cricket."

Brunt also expressed her confidence in the young crop of pacers coming through in the English setup, adding, "I know that I leave it in a great place, the bowlers coming through are ready

Mountaineering Rapid Response Brief; a pack of lies?

ISLAMABAD: This is with reference to the story based on so called Mountaineering Rapid Response Brief by DevCom published in various newspapers on 19th June, 2022. It appears as an attempt of distorting image and damaging goodwill of Alpine Club of Pakistan.

In this report, it has been pointed out that the ACP management comprised unprofessional people. This view is not based on facts as most of the management members of ACP are well equipped with relevant knowledge, skills and experience.

The management includes people with wide experience of decades in climbing at High altitude as well as at lower peaks. About the views that ACP is a Cartel, it is stated that ACP

management is not a cartel. Its membership and executive committee is based on its Constitution and structure representing from provinces/regions, departments and professional technical officials as prescribed by the Pakistan Sports Board/Ministry of IPC, as well.

With reference to the concern raised regarding secrecy of mountaineers who were awarded by CoAS, it is stated that the details were not shared with the writer as in his earlier informal communication and threatening calls of blackmailing restrained him to share with him and avoid its misinterpretation. Now it is evident from the Brief how he has exploited views against ACP with taking opinion of the ACP management.

In response to the allegation of Askariut Pasundi of ACP or liking of ACP for Pak Army, definitely, we like as an institution, as we are proud of them. Besides, Pak Army have been supporting ACP since its inception through its formations. FWO provided office accommodation and storage facilities to ACP for many years. They also provided training base at Nilt near Passu for training of mountaineers where hundred of mountaineers, instructors and guides were trained.

The issue of NoC or permit for foreign mountaineers; primarily relates to Tour Operators business; not Pakistani mountaineers—the primary concern of ACP. The issue of foreign mountaineers relates to Gilgit-Baltistan Government. On its recommen-



Karrar Haideri Secretary, ACP

dations, Abdul Jabbar Bhatti was granted Rs.5.0 million cash award and decorated with civil award as well. Similarly, Hassan Sadpara was granted cash award

and civil award besides Pakistani mountaineers have been granted cash Awards by the CoAS and so on.

With reference to Hassan Jan's views about capturing of business and livelihood of local High Altitude Porters by Nepali Sherpas, it is stated this issues does not relate to ACP. The writer is not aware of the relevant Rules, therefore such expectation would not have been raised from ACP.

High Altitude Porters are hired under the Rules and Procedure (Mountaineering Rules for foreign Mountaineers) laid down by the Government. Presently, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan is responsible for these Rules.

The writer would not have given an impression that ACP

is responsible for it. ACP has played an effective role to build the capacity of mountaineering related stakeholders including High Altitude Crew, trekking guides, clean up mountains and plantation in mountain areas.

About issue of nepotism in the story, it is stated that ACP always, selected athletes for domestic mountaineering expeditions in Pakistan and abroad for trainings, competitions abroad on merit who enjoy top positions in national climbing events. However, elite athletes with high rankings at national level are provided foreign exposure for learning through participation in competitions on self-finance as well.

In short, the story published on the basis of Brief is primarily meant to damage the image and

goodwill of ACP to provide some space for DevCom to compete. ACP management, with financial constraints, is striving hard to promote climbing and its associated activities as enshrined in its Constitution.

Most of the mountaineers have expressed their satisfaction over its performance from time to time and other stakeholders like Pakistan Sports Board etc. also appreciated its efforts on different occasions. Therefore, the Brief under discussion is based on false information, lack of knowledge, malafide and seems to be a pack of lies. This Brief is required to be reviewed by DevCom, in the light of above observations, otherwise ACP has right to take appropriate action, under the law of the land.