



Uzbekistan holds free & fair referendum to introduce amendments to the constitution

A nationwide referendum on the draft law on a new constitution was held in Uzbekistan on April 30, 2023. All polling stations opened at 8:00 local time in the morning and closed at 20:00 in the evening. (Details on Page 5)



Parliament will 'summon' judges who sentenced Nawaz, says Khawaja Asif

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Sunday that the judges who sentenced Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif will be called to the dock of parliament. Speaking to the media, Mr Asif said there was a dire need for all institutions to work within their limits to get the country out of crisis. (Details on Page 8)

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Matters of mutual interest

Islamabad: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS met Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister H.E. Qin Gang at his office. Matters of mutual interest including regional security and defence cooperation came under discussion.



Photo: Online

COAS, Chinese Foreign Minister discuss regional security, defence cooperation

COAS and Afghan Acting FM discussed issues of mutual interest including aspects related to regional security

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Sunday met with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and discussed matters of mutual interest including regional security and defence cooperation.

During the meeting, the COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to China-Pakistan Strategic relationship, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS also pledged full support for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which was a vital component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

He also appreciated China's unwavering support for Pakistan on regional and international issues.

Foreign Minister Qin Gang

underscored the importance of the longstanding strategic relationship between the brotherly nations and expressed his satisfaction over the progress made on the CPEC while reiterating China's commitment to its timely completion.

He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and stability, especially the support of the Pakistan Armed Forces for the provision of security to Chinese Nationals and projects in Pakistan.

The two dignitaries also discussed the evolving security situation in the region. COAS acknowledged China's role in promoting peace and stability in the region, and both sides agreed to enhance their existing cooperation in defence and security domains to effectively counter common security challenges.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides



reiterating their resolve to further strengthen the time-tested, all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China.

Rawalpindi, 6 May 2023: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS, met Acting Afghan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi, at his office.

Earlier, COAS and Afghan

neighbours to effectively tackle the common challenges of terrorism and extremism. He reiterated the need for full support and commitment from the Afghan Interim Government in matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Muttaqi appreciated Pakistan's traditional support for the people of Afghanistan and acknowledged the important role that Pakistan continues to play in facilitating peace and development in Afghanistan. He also expressed his desire to work closely with Pakistan to promote regional stability and prosperity.

Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining regular contacts to strengthen bilateral ties and address issues of common concern.

The COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

Pakistan, China to work for peaceful, stable Afghanistan: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said the 5th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue held in Islamabad on Saturday underscored the unwavering consensus of Pakistan and China to work for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan in the interest of Afghan people.

In a tweet on the social media platform Twitter, he said, "Unlocking economic potential of the region remains contingent on resto-



ration of regional peace and stability. Investing in peace & stability through a collective & sustained focus will ensure win-win outcomes, including the success of initiatives aimed at greater regional connectivity & socio-economic progress."

CJP Bandial vows to safeguard constitution in election date case

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Sunday asserted that if the Constitution stipulated election within 90 days of an assembly's dissolution, it was the duty of Supreme Court's (SC) judges to implement it.

Addressing a conference on minority rights in Lahore, the chief justice the judges of the Supreme Court (SC) cannot "blink" their eyes when it comes to enforcement of Constitution.

"If the Constitution says 90 days for holding elections, it is our duty to implement it and not our choice," CJP Bandial said, adding that the matter was being called a "controversy".

Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Sunday said that the judges of the Supreme Court could not "blink" their eyes if the Constitution mandated polls within 90 days of an assembly's dissolution, adding that it was their duty to say that.

The chief justice further said that the Supreme Court and its judges had no existence individually but "as a unit and as a constitutional organ and that is how we function".



"If a review is filed then it will be heard because no judgement is binding unless it becomes final. But if a judgement is not challenged then it becomes final so let's see what happens now," the chief justice added.

The CJP also said that every citizen of Pakistan has equal rights, and that courts cannot pass executive orders. "Pakistan has been bearing the brunt of terrorism for decades, and has lost over 80,000 lives because of it," he added.

Referring to the negotiations between the government and the PTI, he said the apex court was informed that they had not concluded yet. "We have nothing to do with that but at least they are conscious that they have a duty to comply [with] the Constitution," he added.

Last month, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold general elections to the Punjab Assembly on May 14. However, the government had rejected the apex court's orders.

PM Shehbaz, Asif Zardari lambast Imran Khan for 'maligning institutions'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for 'maligning and threatening' Pakistan Army.

Taking to Twitter, PM Shehbaz said that Imran Khan's act of 'routinely maligning and threatening Pakistan Army and Intelligence Agency' for the sake of petty political gains was highly condemnable.

"Imran's leveling of allegations without any proof against Gen Faisal Naseer and officers of our Intelligence Agency cannot be allowed and will not be tolerated," he noted.

Meanwhile, Asif Ali Zardari - in a separate statement - a politician has crossed all limits of 'defaming institutions', adding that such actions will not be tolerated. "After the recent statement, no Pakistani can even think

of following the foreign agent," he added.

The former president said that they will not allow anyone to 'destroy our country', adding that allegations against 'Pakistan Army officers were tantamount to launching attack on entire institutions'.

Earlier in the day, former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan castigated the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government for 'not implementing Supreme Court's (SC) verdict'.

PTI chairman Imran Khan said that yesterday people came out in solidarity with the Supreme Court and Chief Justice of Pakistan from 4200 different places. He said that the constitution of Pakistan defines the role of every institution.

The former prime minister maintained that the constitution of Pakistan stipulates that elections should be held within 90 days of dissolution of assembly, adding that all the 15 judges agree that elections should be held in 90 days.

Sanaullah alleges Imran Khan brought to power via conspiracy

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan had been brought to power via a conspiracy.

Rana Sanaullah said in a statement, "When terrorism and loadshedding were eliminated, then why an experiment was conducted in the country? Imran Khan was brought to power via a conspiracy."

The interior minister said that former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa had also admitted his mistake to bring Imran Khan to power.

Solution of Pakistan's problems lies in Imran's arrest, punishment: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that the solution of the problems being faced by Pakistan lied in Imran Khan's arrest and punishment for conspiracy against the country and for his corruption.

In her reaction to Imran Khan's statement, she said it appeared that "the foreign agent has seen the video of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with the British King Charles III."

The minister opined that Imran Khan's "dirty mentality" was creating intolerance and violence in society.

"The country needs food, employment and business, not fraud, mischief, disorder and distraction being promoted Imran."

The minister held Imran responsible for the extremist attitudes in the country, due to which people were being killed by mobs.

She said Imran has been doing



dirty politics on India and Kashmir and even using Islam for his ulterior motives.

Marriyum recalled that it was Imran Khan who prayed for the victory of Modi in 2019 Indian elections.

Terming him as a foreign agent, she said Imran has called for agitation and creation of chaos the time the foreign minister of China was on a Pakistan visit.

The minister said that Imran had called for riots and anarchy after watching the video of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with King Charles III.

She said when work on CPEC accelerated, the PTI chairman suffered "a bout of insanity".

After Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's successful visit to India in connection with the SCO meeting and his response to the Indian Foreign Minister, Imran Khan has completely lost his cool, she maintained.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has held meetings with world leaders including the King of Great Britain.

Taking a jibe, she said Imran could not see what Shehbaz Sharif was doing because he was wearing a "black bucket" on his head.

She said mobs in Pakistan have become violent because Imran had spread intolerance in the country.

She said since 2013, Imran had been protesting and would continue to cry and weep on the streets in the future too.

The election will definitely be held on time but Imran could not get selected as there neither Faiz nor Khosa, Saqib Nisar or Bajwa were available to facilitate him.

Only polls can take country out of quagmire, reiterates Imran Khan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Sunday that only elections could take the country out of the quagmire.

The deposed premier, while addressing the nation through a video link, said that the constitution had made it clear that elections should be held within 90 days.

Taking a dig at the incumbent government, he said, "These people [the rulers] are ready to violate the constitution and stand against the Supreme Court".

Pak-Uzbek Relations

UZBEKISTAN: Engr Amir Muqam, Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture met his Uzbek counterpart, Minister for Culture and Tourism H.E Ozdobeck Nazarbekov at the sideline at III Bakhshi International Festival, being convened in city of Gulistan, Uzbekistan on May 7, 2023.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz, First Minister of Scotland agree to strengthen bilateral ties in diverse areas

News Desk

LONDON: First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Sunday.

Felicitating the First Minister on his election to this important position, the Prime Minister observed that Mr. Yousaf's election underscored the important and positive contribution of the British Pakistani community to the progress and development of Scotland and across the UK.

He wished him success in the discharge of his responsibilities.



The two leaders agreed to further strengthen historic ties between Pakistan and Scotland.

land, including in the domains of trade, investment, education, water management, wind & solar technology and people to people links.

The two sides agreed to work collaboratively to promote joint ventures in education, skills development and renewables.

They also explored ways to leverage the Scottish Pakistani entrepreneurs to promote investment in Pakistan.

They also agreed to work collaboratively to address the challenge of climate change.

In this regard Pakistan suggested holding an Investment Conference in Scotland

and separately arranges a road show to showcase Pakistan's renewable energy potential in Scotland.

The Prime Minister further thanked the Scottish government for its generous contribution to flood relief last year.

The Prime Minister extended a cordial invitation to Mr. Yousaf to visit Pakistan, which he happily accepted.

Mr. Yousaf leads the Scottish National Party, and was elected in March by the Scottish Parliament to head the Scottish government.

He is the first British national of Pakistani heritage to hold the coveted position.

China, Afghanistan, Pakistan pledge to enhance cooperation on security, counter-terrorism

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: China, Afghanistan and Pakistan have pledged to further strengthen trilateral cooperation on security and counter-terrorism.

When attending the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in the Pakistani capital on Saturday with Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Acting Foreign Minister of the Afghan interim government Amir Khan Muttaqi, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said that as traditional friendly neighbors, China is ready to make joint efforts with Afghanistan and Pakistan to implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative.

China is willing to share development opportunities and meet security challenges with the two countries to set an example of cooperation on neighbors, mini-multilateralism and hotspot issues through bilateral and trilateral mechanisms, he said.

The Chinese side promised to strengthen trilateral cooperation with Afghanistan and Pakistan on security and counter-terrorism, uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, and firmly oppose any form of terrorism and "double standards" on fighting terrorism, Qin said.

He called for enhanced trilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism through such mechanisms as the coordination and cooperation mechanism among neighbors of Afghanistan within the regional multilateral framework. The Chinese foreign



minister expected Afghanistan and Pakistan to take further measures to ensure the security and safety of Chinese nationals, institutions and projects.

China is willing to strengthen strategic communication

and policy coordination with Afghanistan and Pakistan through the trilateral cooperation mechanism, so as to boost good-neighborliness and strategic mutual trust, Qin added.

Muttaqi and Bilawal said the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan cooperation is of great significance to regional peace and prosperity.

They said Afghanistan and Pakistan are willing to actively promote trilateral cooperation, formulate a roadmap for cooperation in such fields as politics, security and economy, safeguard the common interests of the three countries, achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, and bring benefits to the people of the three neighbors and other countries in the region.

Pak peacekeepers helping flood-hit people in D.R. Congo: report

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistani peacekeepers serving MONUSCO, the United Nations stabilization mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in coordination with other UN agencies, are providing relief to the flood-affected people in the country's Kalemie territory, according to a report received in New York. Landslides, triggered by flash floods in the region, have caused significant human losses and infrastructure damages, creating an acute situation for the people.

The UK's Pakistan Network celebrates the coronation in style

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The UK's Pakistan Network, supported by the British Council and the GREAT campaign, has marked the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla in style this weekend with a series of events.

On Saturday, the British High Commission in Islamabad hosted a black-tie ball, whilst the Deputy High Commission in Karachi held a traditional garden party. To reflect King Charles's passion for youth development, both events were themed around the

Commonwealth's 'Year of Youth' campaign and aimed to shine a spotlight on the many opportunities on offer to young Pakistanis via the 'Commonwealth Youth Programme'.

Acting British High Commissioner, Andrew Dalgleish, noted in his speech that: "Over 60% of the Commonwealth's population are under 30, some 1.5bn people. In Pakistan around 63% of the population are between 15 and 33 years old. For future stability and sustainable growth we need to ensure that these young people are properly engaged with decision making processes that will affect their

futures, and are equipped with the skills and the opportunities to make a difference".

With a focus on young people and Commonwealth initiatives, guests at both events included: Commonwealth Athletes, Commonwealth Correspondents, Commonwealth Youth Council Members, individuals from the Queen's Commonwealth Trust Pakistan Chapter and young entrepreneurs from the Prince's Trust, amongst others.

The weekend also saw members of staff from the British High Commission and British Council in Islamabad as well

as the Deputy High Commission in Karachi, take part in the 'Big Help Out'. A UK initiative designed to mark the Coronation by encouraging people to get together and volunteer to bring benefit to their local communities.

In Islamabad, UK staff, supported by Chevening Alumni and members of the City Development Authority, volunteered to beautify a section of the Rose and Jasmin Garden, now named 'Commonwealth Corner', by installing two new park benches and planting 56 trees - one for each Commonwealth Nation.

Parliament will 'summon' judges who sentenced Nawaz, says Khawaja Asif

News Desk

LONDON: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Sunday that the judges who sentenced Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif will be called to the dock of parliament.

Speaking to the media, Mr Asif said there was a dire need for all institutions to work within their limits to get the country out of crisis.

"In the midst of parliamentary and judicial crises, we will defend the parliament," maintained Mr Asif.

On Wednesday, Mr Asif said a resolution must be passed to form a full-house committee to investigate constitutional violations [committed by the judiciary] from Justice Munir till date.

Addressing the National Assembly session, he said it was unfortunate that two constitutional institutions



were at daggers drawn to each other adding that they are interpreting the constitution differently.

The minister went on to say that they were against the territorial trespassing. "Whenever the constitution was violated, the judiciary inked it", he added.

Mr Asif said 180,000 cases were pending before the senior judiciary including 51,000 in the apex court. "I know the pain what a prisoner, pleading for bail, goes through," he added. Their basic responsibility was, he said, deciding on the cases and not entangling in political wrangling.

Associating FM's remarks on G-20 Meeting with threat of violence 'highly irresponsible': FO



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) on Sunday termed the reports associating Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's remarks on the G20 meeting in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) with threat to India "highly irresponsible and mischievous".

The FO's statement comes as a clip of FM Bhutto-Zardari from his recent visit to Goa, India, to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Foreign Ministers (SCO-CFM) went viral on social media.

"Any insinuation, associating foreign minister's remarks with a threat of violence, is not only mischievous but highly irresponsible. It is an attempt to shift focus from the foreign minister's key message of conflict resolution through dialogue and in accordance with international

law and UN security council resolutions," the statement read.

FO furthered that, "In a number of public pronouncements during his recent visit to India, the foreign minister emphasized the critical importance of relevant UN Security Council resolutions for a peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Clearly, he based his case on international law."

The spokesperson further stressed that journalistic norms must be respected while reporting on sensitive inter-state matters. "A number of Indian media outlets had distorted the statement of the foreign minister during his recent visit to India to attend SCO-CFM," she added.

The ministry of foreign affairs, the spokesperson said, had already articulated Pakistan's position on the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in IIOJK in its press release on April 11.

"Pakistan had already expressed its strong indignation over India's decision to hold the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar on 22-24 May," the press release said.

FM Bilawal went to Goa on Thursday to attend the SCO-CFM. He addressed the gathering of the top diplomats from the eight-nation bloc on Friday.

PTI announces public gatherings in Punjab next week

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced on Sunday the schedule of public gatherings in Punjab, which will start next week.

The PTI will hold public meetings in five major cities from Wednesday to Sunday. The first public gathering will start in Muridke. The second meeting will be held in Gakhar Mandi.

The sources divulged the third gathering will be held in Lalamusa, while the fourth gathering will be held in Gujjar Khan. The fifth and final gathering will be held in Attock. PTI Chairman Imran Khan will

address the participants in all the gatherings.

Earlier today, Mr Khan urged the ticket holders from Lahore to speed up the election campaign.

The ticket holders from Lahore participated in the meeting presided over by the deposed prime minister, in which issues related to the election campaign for the Punjab Assembly elections were discussed.

Mr Khan directed the ticket holders to intensify the election campaign through rallies and door-to-door campaigns in their respective constituencies. He urged the ticket holders to spread PTI's narrative to as many people as possible.

Earthquake of 4.2 magnitude jolts Khuzdar, surroundings

News Desk

QUETTA: Khuzdar and the surrounding areas were jolted by an earthquake on Sunday, but fortunately, no casualties or property damage have been reported so far.

The seismological center reported that the earthquake measured 4.2 on the Richter scale and was recorded at a depth of 20 km. The epicenter was located 117 km west of Khuzdar.

The earthquake caused panic among the residents of Khuzdar,

who rushed out of their homes in fear. However, no casualties have been reported as a result of the quake.

The authorities have instructed aid agencies to remain vigilant and ready to respond to any emergency situation that may arise as a result of the earthquake.

The earthquake has once again highlighted the need for people to be prepared for such natural disasters and to take necessary precautions to minimise the risk of loss of life and property damage.

Mushaal urges G20 to boycott Srinagar moot to foil Modi's nefarious designs

Says occupation authorities renovating Srinagar to mislead world, whitewash excesses against Kashmiris

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick urged G20 countries to boycott their meeting holding in the UN-designated disputed area of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to send a clear and unequivocal message to blood-thirsty-Hindutva regime that they can't tolerate and accept their butcher policy anymore to keep millions of Kashmiris under cage for decades for seeking right to self-determination.

In a statement on Sunday, Mushaal, who is the wife of incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said that it was high time the world powers and UN bodies should show solidarity with innocent Kashmiri people and not only exposed the brutality of not-



rious Narendra Modi's government but pressed him to let Kashmiris their birth right of right to self-determination.

Mushaal stated that G20 states must remember that they would be seen as siding with the oppressor if they accepted Modi's invitation to participate in the event in IIOJK, which was turned into a

killing field by the supremacist RSS-inspired regime.

The Hurriyat leader called upon the G20 nations that they should not forget that India was crossing all limits of barbarism and terrorism and was committing worst crimes against humanity in the occupied territory.

The Chairperson recalled that India's ulterior motives behind holding the bloc's meeting in Srinagar was to create false impression of normalcy in the region and try to legitimize its unlawful and illegal occupation of the area.

She stated that G20 members should not allow Modi government to use the meeting as an opportunity to project its so-called normalcy narrative in IIOJK, which was converted into a garrison city.

Therefore, she suggested that the world powerful countries should boycott

the meeting in Srinagar to foil the Indian government nefarious designs.

Mushaal went on to say that the occupation authorities were busy in renovating Srinagar ahead of the G20 meeting aimed at misleading international delegations and whitewashing the excesses committed against the people of Kashmir.

She said that Indian occupation continued to make mass-arrest in the scenic valley ahead of G20 summit and Kashmiris were being locked up without cause to ensure holding of unruffled event.

Mushaal urged that these countries should take notice of India's continued denial of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination recognized by the UN Security Council and showed same unity as they demonstrated in case of Ukraine.

National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC) at Institute of Computer Science and IT at WUM

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: National Computing Education Accreditation Council has completed its visit to Women's University, Multan, and the facilities provided to the students have been declared satisfactory. The delegation included Dr. Abdul Jalil from Pak Austria Institute, Haripur, Dr. Manzoor Elahi Tamimi and Dr. Farhana Jabeen from COMSATS University Islamabad. The purpose of the visit was to review the infrastructure and computing facilities of the institute.

which were provided to students for various degrees in computing, including software engineering, computer science, information technology, telecommunications and networking, bioinformatics and information systems. On this occasion, Director, Institute Dr. Khadija Kanwal briefed them about the syllabus and facilities of the students. The team visited the computer labs, classrooms, library, and met the students and asked them questions. The vice chancellor of the meeting with Uzma Qureshi said that the women's university is progressing day by day and all possible facilities are being provided to the students of science subjects.

We have decorated the labs as per the SOPs set by the council. On this occasion, the team expressed positive views about the faculty and other staff of Kim Institute of Computer Science and Information Technology and said that the computing There are modern facilities, and labs that are well equipped to meet the computing needs of students. The faculty members are highly qualified and experienced, which is a positive aspect of the institute. Registrar Dr. Qamar Rabab was also present on this occasion, the team will submit its recommendations to the council soon.

India to host G20 summit to cover up its crimes: Women's Wing

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD : Chairperson Muslim Conference Women's Wing Ms. Samia Sajid Raja has said that Occupied Kashmir is a disputed region recognized by the United Nations where G. The move to hold the 20th meeting is a clear violation of the United Nations Charter and international law. India wants to hold the G20 meeting to prove its forced sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir and to cover up war crimes. After August 5, 2019, Narendra Modi has turned the entire state into a prison and now the Indian government is plotting to use the G20 meeting as a shield to consolidate its imperialist grip on the state against public opinion to hide its war crimes. Is. He said that Kashmiris living all over the world, including Azad Kashmir, Occupied Kashmir, are protesting against Indian actions. There is a deep conspiracy to mislead the international community. He expressed these views while talking to the media regarding the G20 conference yesterday. He said that India is trying to hide its crimes in the region from the eyes of the world by organizing such events in Kashmir. He said that the Modi government also wants to give an impression to the world through the said meeting that the situation in the occupied area is normal. The holding of the Group 20 meeting in the occupied valley is just an illusion through which the Modi government wants to reinforce its baseless narrative that the situation in the occupied territory is normal. It is under legal occupation, which is a disputed area according to the UN resolutions, so no, it should refuse to participate in this meeting. He said that India has deployed around one million forces in the occupied area and the The region has now become the world's largest military deployment region. Group of 20 countries should ask India why it has deployed half of its army in Kashmir.



Commissioner orders fast-track of public welfare in Faisalabad



Menahill Rashid

FAISALABAD: Important meeting of the Commissioner/Administrator Silwat Saeed with officers of Municipal Corporation in which the commissioner directed the Chief Officer Municipal Corporation to monitor the ongoing public welfare measures more quickly and strictly to smoothen the ways for the general public's interests comprehensively.

She further expressed that the comprehensive progress should be informed on weekly basis.

She directed to mobilize the contractors on development schemes to speed up work &

Prepare City Buildings Plan.

She focused on the emergency measures which are indispensable for the repair and rehabilitation of Sargodha road and Jhang road to facilitate the speed of transport services.

Ms. Silwat showed her great interest in public welfare measures that should be continued without and hurdle or delay.

Protest

KARACHI: Activists of Civil Society hold protest outside press club against the Incident of Parachinar.



Photo: Online

Wana: flour crisis intensified in Wana, cheap quota should be restored

The Punjab government should immediately end the districting, ANP leader Ayaz Wazir; Government is working to restore cheap flour. DFC Mehmood Ur Rehman's stance.

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In District Lower South Waziristan headquarter wana severe crisis has arisen due to the ban on the delivery of flour, 80 kg bags of flour reached 13 thousand.

In this regard, Awami National Party senior leader Ayaz Wazir told the media that the government has stopped the quota of cheap flour in Wana.

On the other hand, the Punjab government has imposed a ban on the delivery of flour in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, due to which in the district of Lower South Waziristan, the flour crisis has intensified.

He said that due to a shortage of flour, citizens in Wana have been forced to buy flour at high prices.

Ayaz Wazir further said that due to severe inflation and unemployment in the country, the people are already suffering from a painful situation.

While now the federal government is forcing people to buy things at expensive prices by creating artificial scarcity of other food items including flour, sugar, dal and ghee day by day. However, the poor people are facing severe difficulties due to lack of purchasing power for these items.

Ayaz Wazir said that the federal government should immediately eliminate the obstacles in the deliv-

ery of flour, sugar and other food items in the district of Lower South Waziristan and relieve the people of the difficulties.

He further said that imposing restrictions on the delivery of country goods in our Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and especially from one district to another district is not only sad but also condemnable, Punjab government should immediately announce the abolition of districting.

The Punjab government is obstructing the supply of wheat, flour, sugar, ghee and other commodities by resorting to so-called excuses.

He said that ANP will be forced to protest strongly if the Punjab

government does not end the districting.

On the other hand, District Food Controller of South Waziristan Mahmud Ur Rahman says that the cheap quota is closed due to the government's policy of closing all calculations by April 30 every year.

The rates may have increased due to cheap quota closure, but the provincial government is working on taking necessary steps for this.

There is a strong possibility of restoring the quota of cheap flour in a few days, to control rising prices. It is hoped that the temporary increased prices will be controlled in the coming days.

'Revitalizing Lahore's Connectivity Kalma Chowk Underpass Remodeling Project by CBD Punjab Marks a New Chapter'

Commissioner Lahore & CEO CBD Punjab made project functional for traffic after final inspection

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), is proud to announce the completion and opening of the Kalma Chowk Underpass remodeling CBD Punjab Boulevard project.

This project has been completed as per the directive of the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, within the given timeline.

Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa and CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin visited the site for final inspection and make it functional for traffic.

This project is a gift for the resi-

dents of Lahore, who can now enjoy a smoother and more efficient traffic flow.

The main underpass from Barkat Market to Liberty and Liberty to Barkat Market was already functional, and now the Ali Zaib Road is also fully operational for traffic. Commissioner Lahore and CEO CBD Punjab personally drove into the underpass and officially made it functional for traffic.

Commissioner Lahore, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, expressed his satisfaction with the completed project, saying, "The completion of the Kalma Chowk remodeling project is a significant achievement for CBD Punjab, and it is an essential step

towards enhancing the infrastructure of the city. It will greatly benefit the people of Lahore and will provide them with better connectivity and mobility."

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, also expressed his gratitude towards the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab for his unwavering support and guidance.

He stated, "The completion of the Kalma Chowk remodeling project is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team at CBD Punjab. We are committed to creating infrastructure that is not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing. We hope that this project will help to make Lahore a better place to live,

work, and visit."

Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain, Director Construction CBD Punjab, Asif Babar, Director Project Management CBD Punjab, Asif Iqbal, Director Marketing CBD Punjab, Waseem Siddiq and other officials of CBD Punjab were also present on the occasion.

CBD Punjab remains committed to enhancing the infrastructure of the city and providing the people of Lahore with better connectivity and mobility. The completion of the Kalma Chowk remodeling project is just the beginning, and we look forward to undertaking more such projects in the future.





Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:41 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 4:55 pm
Maghrib 6:55 pm
Isha 8:29 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
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People need to be protected from illegal scams and fraud: RECA

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that people need to be protected from illegal scams and fraud of big companies. And in return giving them consolations and promises. Overseas Pakistanis are the most victims of their fraud. Action should be taken against these institutions. In a statement, Secretary RECA said that the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Senator Saleem Mandvi Walla, has submitted suggestions regarding the revolutionary changes in the real estate sector. It will be implemented very soon. Secretary RECA Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that there is a need for clear and effective legal reforms for the real estate sector in Pakistan. Real estate sector can become the most important source of economic development of Pakistan. Protection of public capital should be ensured. RECA is ready to play her role in this regard. A coordinated action plan can be developed with the cooperation of the government and RECA.

Bilawal's performance in India commendable: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: President of Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the performance of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto during his visit to India is very commendable. After a long time, there are signs of positive progress on Pakistan's Kashmir policy. The uproar of the Indian media, which is strictly against the etiquette of hosting, also indicates their weak stance. Making the resumption of negotiations with India conditional on the restoration of the original status of Kashmir is the argument of Bilawal Bhutto's interpretation of the national position. Kashmiri people have been greatly encouraged by the foreign minister's statements. The successful visit of the Army Chief to China, the very purposeful and encouraging speech of the Army Chief in Kakul, the effective visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to India, the visit of the Chinese and Afghan Foreign Ministers to Pakistan and the tripartite talks of the Foreign Ministers in Pakistan.

Former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan further said that the Shang-



hai Cooperation Organization consists of members of the United Nations who are responsible for global peace and security. Contrary to the UN Charter and in violation of the UN Kashmir Act, India is illegally occupying Kashmir, committing atrocities on Kashmiris, occupying Kashmiri lands, using its one million armed forces. These views were expressed by former Prime Minister to former political coordinator to AJK premier Sardar Iftikhar Rasheed Chaghtai in Mujahid Manzil along with Muslim Conference Finance Board Chair-

man Syed Nazar Abbasi, Youth Wing Chairman Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Syed Shah Hussain, Central Chairman Relief Cell. Talking to Syed Azhar Shah, Syed Imtiaz Shah, Iftikhar Shah, Raja Zaki Jabbar Advocate. They said that India wants to mislead the world about the blocker Kashmir in G20 meeting in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory on which India They have asked the heads of state of Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and China to boycott the G20 meeting in Srinagar.

Vesak Day celebrated

TEXLA: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, Tapas Adhikari and Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama cutting the cake along with others during "Visak Day" event to mark the birth, Enlightenment and passing of the Buddha, at Gandhara Art Village in City.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Kashmiris on both sides of LoC will observe a complete strike

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the line of control (LoC) will observe a complete strike on May 22 to express their anguish and resentment over New Delhi's contentious move to hold a G-20 working group meeting in Srinagar. The decision to this effect was taken during an extraordinary meeting held at Kashmir House here on Sunday. Besides President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, the meeting was attended by leaders of All

Parties Hurriyat Conference. It was also decided that public rallies would be held at important world capitals including London, Washington, Brussels and Geneva to seek the international community's urgent attention to the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian-held territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, the AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that the decision to observe the strike on May 22 was taken jointly with a view

to bringing the Kashmir issue into the global limelight. In order to change the ratio of the population, he said that Indian occupation authorities have issued fake domiciles to non-state subjects that has opened floodgates for non-Kashmiris to settle in the region. Barrister Chaudhry further said that an aggressive campaign from the base camp was launched with a view to promote the Kashmir cause both at national and international level. The president said that during his foreign visits he

had raised the issue of Kashmir voiceferously at important world forums including the UN, OIC, the UK and European parliament. Pertinently, the meeting was attended by The APHC AJK chapter convener Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Sheikh Abdul Majeed, Altaf Hussain Wani, Pervaiz Ahmed Advocate, Imtiaz Ahmed Wani, Ajaz Ahmad Shah and British member parliament Imran Hussain, Tahir Ali, Councilor Kamran, Taukeer Awan and others present in the meeting.



Chairperson BTM Global congratulated newly encrowned King Charles and said during his meeting she found Charles very positive towards Pakistani community and that indicates after this ceremony relationship between UK and Pakistan will grow more than before.

The number of Pakistanis facing hunger increasing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hanif Mughal, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said over eight million Pakistanis are facing hunger and awaiting relief for months but to no avail.

Last year, Pakistan faced a serious food crisis which has resulted in widespread devastation and left tens of millions food insecure, he said. Dr. Hanif Mughal said that so far nothing has been done to support the hungry and starving people as politics has taken centre-stage for months.

Pakistan is facing a significantly deteriorating situation in all provinces, especially in Sindh, where five areas that were previously classified as in crisis are now facing a serious emergency, he informed.

Pakistan has been defined by the UN as a country facing a major food crisis since 2017 when over 50pc of its analysed population was in phase three which is a crisis or above.

Even before Pakistan was hit by the monsoon, fertiliser shortages and lack of irrigation water had affected 'Rabi' wheat crop yields and lowered livestock production and later flooding and landslides brought widespread destruction, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of about 33 million people in Pakistan.

Around 4.4m acres of agricultural land were damaged, prompting the downward revision of 2022 production forecasts for rice, maize, sorghum, and millet. Around 0.8m livestock were estimated to have perished.

The total damage and loss in the agriculture sector was estimated at almost \$13bn, consisting mainly of crops (82pc) followed by livestock (17pc). It is estimated that the loss or damage of agricultural inputs, including seed stocks, fertilisers, machinery and irrigation infrastructure, may result in a contraction in the area planted with a negative impact on 2023 production.

Prices continued to increase until the end of the year and, by December 2022, the price of a basket of basic food items was 36pc higher year-on-year taking a toll on the masses with no respite in sight, he said.

Youth are our future - Maulana Bashir Farooqui



News Desk

KARACHI: Vanguard Houses of Schools organized the opening ceremony of Vanguard School in Karachi. The Chief Guest of the event was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GFS Builders & Developers, Irfan Wahid. The event was attended by Mushtaq Chapra, Dr. Bari, Dr. Zubair Ahmed Ali Muhammad Tabba including media persons, businessmen, social and political personalities, anchorpersons, and dignitaries from different walks of life.

Speaking on the auspicious occasion, CEO GFS Irfan Wahid said that the future of the country is in the hands of the youth and it is very important to groom them for future endeavors. The fact is beyond doubt that the growth of the country and nation-building depends on the performance of the new generation.

Addressing the ceremony, Maulana Bashir Farooqui, Chairman of Saylani Welfare Trust, said that the youth are our future. CEO GFS, Irfan Wahid is doing a great job. He is serving everyone in the country and providing help to the people who are weak and sick.

He pointed out that IT Cente is being established in Karachi in collaboration with GFS Builders, where free courses will be available for the youth. May Allah bless Irfan Wahid with courage and energy to do more for mankind.

Director Vanguard, Osama said that we have tried to provide all facilities to the students at school for better education. The school has a swimming pool, zoo, modern education system, etc.

Early marriage is a threat to the life of both the mother and the child: PODA

LAHORE: A workshop on reproductive health problems caused by early marriage was organised on Sunday by an Islamabad based NGO "Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy"(PODA) with the collaboration of Population welfare department, Health department, Social Welfare department and National Nutrition programme at Toba Tek Singh.

A press release issued here by PDA, said in his speech to the participants, PODA programme manager Dr Adnan Arshad said that parents and teachers should play a key role in preventing the practice of early marriage of girls because early marriage is a threat to the life of both the mother and the child. He said it is interesting to note that a 16-year-old girl is not eligible for voting, driving, maintaining a bank account or applying for a CNIC, however, she is considered eligible to take up the responsibilities of married life under the law in Punjab province but in Sindh minimum age limit for both male and female is 18.

District Population Welfare Officer Dr Mian Muhammad Naem praised the programmes organised by social organisations to create awareness against the early age marriages. A social activist Ms Rafia Ashfaq said that the PODA is working for the backward segments of the society, and is working to end unequal attitudes, violence and injustice based on gender in the society. Deputy Director Social Welfare Rai Abdul Shakoor Marth, a former District Council minority member Rashid Jalal and women lawyers Abida Parveen and Rubina Behzad also spoke.

SOFTEC annual technology event held

News Desk

LAHORE: SOFTEC is an annual technology event held in Lahore, Pakistan, that brings together technology enthusiasts from around the country to discuss the latest trends and advancements in the field of technology. The event has been held every year since 2000 and has grown to become one of the largest and most prestigious technology events in Pakistan.

The 2023 edition of SOFTEC going on from May 5th to 7th at the EAST NUCES LAHORE, with the theme "Strategize, Strive, Succeed". The aim of the event is to explore the latest technological innovations, and the second day of SOFTEC was jam-packed with activities and competitions.

After the opening ceremony, the Engineering Project Competition, Software Project Competition, UI/UX Competition, and Ideas Xtreme Competition began. The evaluations for SPC and EPC were held immediately after. Around the same time, gaming competitions and web development workshops were also taking place, providing participants with hands-on experience and practical skills that they could apply in their future careers.



The keynote speakers on the second day included Monis Rehman, the CEO of Dukan, Bilal Mehmood, Managing Director of Contour, Saad Hameed,

CEO of Game District, Talha Masood, Co-founder, Remotebase worker of the Forbes Technology Council, Umer Javed, CEO of TkXel, and Muhammad Kashif, the co-founder and MD of Soliton Group. The panelists were experts in their respective fields and provided valuable insights into the latest developments in these areas.

Overall, SOFTEC 2023 provided a valuable platform for technology enthusiasts to learn, network, and collaborate. It showcased the talent and potential of Pakistani tech enthusiasts and highlighted the latest technological innovations that are reshaping our world. The event is being attended by over 2,000 participants of varying backgrounds in the tech field, making it a truly inclusive and diverse event.

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Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's visit to India

The foreign policy of Pakistan is organized by the coordination of the three major officials of the country, the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff, and the mutual consent of the three. Since the early days, the brave nation of Pakistan has strongly supported the freedom movements around the world. Against colonialism, Jihad in Afghanistan, Lebanese Muslims crushed by Western colonialism, Palestinians oppressed by Jews, or the black names of South Africa, Kashmiri Freedom Fighters, or the oppressed Muslims of the Philippines, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan not only raised their voices in their favor but also provided moral assistance in addition to full support. During the civil war and famine in Ethiopia, Pakistani soldiers joined the peacekeeping side of NATO forces. Whenever there is a problem of peace in the world, for the sake of the protection of humanity, our military men do not lag behind anyone in offering their lives while helping others. Pakistan played an active role in conveying the fundamental position of Kashmir's right to self-determination to the United Nations and drawing the attention of the world's leaders to this most important issue. As a result of this moral and diplomatic support, India imposed three wars with Pakistan and lost half of our country in 1971 war. Pakistan has always preferred non-aggression and dialogue with India, but the Indian leadership has always shown disbelief and coldness in response. In response to Pakistan's reconciliation efforts, India

responded with threats. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the world's youngest Pakistani foreign minister, Bilawal's grandson and B.B Shaheed's son, went to Goa, India yesterday to attend the SCO's Council of Foreign Ministers meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. His visit to India is being criticized in Pakistan but diplomatic experts and patriotic politicians are praising his visit. Bilawal Bhutto shook hands with Indian Foreign Minister Jay Shankar, but there was no warmth in it that would melt ice between the two countries. Bilawal Bhutto, like his grandfather Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, sat in India and talked about Kashmir and in a conversation with the Indian media, he gave a clear message that Pakistan's position on Kashmir has not changed and unless India returns to its position before August 5, 2019, mutual relations cannot return to normal. He said that the new atrocities on Kashmiri citizens of India are against the resolutions of the UN. If we go to the recent past, PM Benazir Bhutto and President Asif Ali Zardari made a lot of efforts to improve relations with India on their own, but after August 2019, the situation has completely reversed when India not only broke international laws but also violated UN Security Council resolutions. On this issue Bilawal Bhutto sat in Goa and reiterated Pakistan's stand that India has created such situations with its ir-

responsible actions that there is no other way left for us. With great patience and wisdom, he presented Pakistan's principled position before the Indian media. The host Indian foreign minister forgot even diplomatic etiquette and started blaming Pakistan for terrorism in anger, while the young foreign minister of Pakistan smiled and praised Indian hospitality instead of getting emotional. Before Bilawal Bhutto's participation in the conference, a group of Tehreek-e-Insaf in Pakistan strongly criticized the FM visit to India and the PTI started trending on social media. Unfortunately, the PTI leaders do not a bit care about the national interest. India's anger is understandable India's anger is understandable because last year Bilawal Bhutto called Indian Prime Minister Modi 'the butcher of Gujarat' and the current Indian foreign minister is an important member of the BJP. Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has declared this visit as correct and said that SCO is very important in the meeting of which Pakistan's participation was necessary. Qamar Zaman Kaira, adviser to the Prime Minister and the central leader of the PPP, told the press conference that Pakistan's position on Kashmir has changed, not the People's Party. Bilawal Bhutto did not go to make friendship with India, but to participate in the SCO conference. Pakistan is a core member of the SCO, this platform

belongs to China and Bilawal has participated in the conference with the mutual consent of all political parties. FM Bilawal Bhutto also had important meetings with the Russian Foreign Minister. When the Indian media asked Bilawal Bhutto what is Pakistan's position in the field of sports? So he replied bluntly that there was a blind cricket match in India and the Pakistani team wanted to come but India did not issue visas to Pakistan players. He said in a pleasant mood that India is also afraid of our blind team. After 12 years, the visit of a Pakistani foreign minister to India was very successful, which also shut the mouths of the critics who were jumping before the visit, while the Indian media, which was shouting unnecessarily, became a wet cat in front of Bilawal Bhutto. Bilawal proved that age does not matter but basic training plays an important role in your personality. Bilawal who was brought up in the arms of B.B, after her martyrdom Bilawal has learned a lot in politics from his father Asif Ali Zardari's unparalleled perseverance and tolerance. This is the reason that Bilawal Bhutto has shown the essence in foreign policy in just one year, due to which his political opponents, especially in Tehreek-e-Insaf, have mourned. They cannot compete with Bilawal politically, they criticize him day by day through character assassination and in response they get nothing but silence. Weldon Done Bilawal, Pakistan is proud of you!



Shahid Awan

Analysis

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Anjad Rasmi

'IPR' Asian Countries Success: Not Pakistan?

Shoab Aijaz / Amna Khan

IPR, or intellectual property rights, refer to the legal claims that people or organizations may make about their creations, innovations, designs, or other intangible assets. Patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and industrial designs are only a few examples of IPR. IPR laws and rules differ from one nation to the next and are enforced through legal means. By offering a legal framework that safeguards the rights of creators and inventors while enabling others to build on their work and develop breakthroughs, they are created to promote innovation and creativity. The extent of IPR protection varies greatly across Asia, with more industrialized nations like Japan, South Korea, and Singapore having stronger IPR protection regimes and better enforcement procedures than less developed nations. With a sound legal system and a vibrant innovation culture, Japan is recognized as one of the finest Asian nations for IPR protection. In the region, South Korea has led the way in the protection of intellectual property thanks to the efforts it has made to improve its IPR framework. The biggest economy in Asia, China, has improved its IPR protection framework significantly over the past two decades, yet piracy and counterfeiting are still major problems. Other Southeast Asian nations have improved in various ways. Other Southeast Asian nations have made some improvements to their IPR protection regimes, but they continue to have difficulties efficiently implementing their laws. Asia as a whole has a wide range of IPR protection and enforcement levels, with more developed nations often having better legal systems and enforcement methods. The amount of granted intellectual property rights varies greatly throughout Asian

nations. According to World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data, China had the highest number of patent applications worldwide in 2020, with over 68,000 applications. In 2020 Japan, there were more than 50,000 patent applications, 25,000 trademark applications, and more than 5,000 registrations for designs. In 2020 South Korea filed more than 23,000 patent applications, registered more than 240,000 trademarks, and registered more than 20,000 designs. In 2020 India submitted over 33,000 patent applications, registered over 200,000 trademarks, and registered over 10,000 designs. In 2020 Singapore filed over 3,000 patents, registered over 21,000 trademarks, and registered over 2,000 designs and Pakistan. Pakistan has struggled to establish a robust and effective system for protecting intellectual property rights. The country has been on the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) Special 301 Watch List since 2004, indicating that the U.S. government has identified significant concerns with Pakistan's IPR regime. One of the main challenges Pakistan faces is a lack of enforcement of IPR laws, as well as a lack of public awareness and education about IPR. Despite these challenges, the Pakistani government has taken steps to improve its IPR regime in recent years, such as introducing new legislation and establishing specialized courts to handle IPR cases. However, these efforts have not yet translated into significant improvements in IPR protection and enforcement. In comparison, other Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Singapore have established robust and effective systems for protecting and enforcing IPR, with strong legal frameworks, effective enforcement mechanisms, and a culture of innovation that supports IPR protection. Over the years, several Asian nations have experienced great success in the area of intellectual property rights. With a robust legal system

Who is superior? Man or woman?

Is man superior or woman? This is a wrong debate that everyone tries to engage in, even if unwillingly. This debate is not only prevalent in Pakistan but also in every field around the world, where everyone is ready to contribute their share, whether in the form of opinions, arguments, or speeches. A few days ago, an advertisement was released in India. In the advertisement, a woman made her husband work under her in an office. She gave him a lot of work and told him that he had to do it today. She prepared food at home and called her husband on the phone. This is the same man who is under her at the office and tries to complete all the tasks according to his wife's instructions. The wife shows her husband a video of the food on her mobile and tells him to say to the boss (wife) that his wife is waiting for him. The advertisement ends, but there is a debate in India about it. The question raised in this debate is how a wife can boss over her husband? Why wasn't the boss made a woman instead of a man? But a question could also have been raised here that the man could also cook the food, so why the woman? All these flaws and evils arise when we look at this whole debate from the perspective of an egotist. What is the right angle? And why do we call it correct? I will explain this later. First, let's hear a light incident. Riayatullah Farooqui is a columnist in Pakistan. "They told me that I went to the bank to pay a bill and had to wait in line like everyone else. In the meantime, two women arrived, went

inside the bank to pay their bill, and left with confidence. Riayatullah Farooqui says, "I was very angry after seeing this. I went inside the bank and caused a scene." I told the manager that I support gender equality passionately. The women just collected their bill and left comfortably, while I waited in line for two hours. They should have also waited in line. The manager cooled me down by collecting my bill for me. I came out and waved the bill, showing the sweaty people and said, "Whoever believes in gender equality can use my formula." A woman's life becomes very difficult if such a thing happens, even though it may seem like a common occurrence. Taking care of the house, having children, raising them, and then going out to work, etc. This is not fair in any way. Believe me; raising children is extremely difficult and challenging. Today, if the proportion of young people going astray is 80 percent, then mothers are the ones who are mostly held responsible for not raising their children properly. As for the argument of a competition between men and women, it is a very strange debate. Would you ask an engineer to fix a problem in a patient's lungs? Or would you ask a doctor to fix my car, which heats up quickly? If you say something like this, people will think you're crazy. If you're using your brain, you'll say that the job should be given to the one who is skilled in that field... just like men and women cannot be compared as experts in different fields. You tell me, who is better, men or women? Azam Tariq Kohistani senior writer and worked with different magazines reached at kazam_tariq@yahoo.com



Azam Tariq Kohistani

Analysis

Uzbekistan holds free & fair referendum to introduce amendments to the constitution

Govt ensured transparent arrangement with allied facilities for voters

✍ Naveed Ahmed Khan

TASHKENT: A nationwide referendum on the draft law on a new constitution was held in Uzbekistan on April 30, 2023. All polling stations opened at 8:00 local time in the morning and closed at 20:00 in the evening. It is worth mentioning that representatives of the Central Election Commission (CEC), international media, and independent observers were monitoring the referendum in Uzbekistan.

More than 611,000 citizens voted early in the referendum on amendments to the Constitution. Over 452,000 of them voted in the country, and more than 159,000 people from abroad. A total of 10,758 polling stations were established for voting, 55 of which were located in 39 different foreign countries. About 20 million citizens were expected to participate in the referendum.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has insisted that the overhaul of the constitution will improve governance and quality of life in Uzbekistan. Neighboring Kazakhstan was the first to congratulate the Uzbek leader, with the country's president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, saying the result was evidence of trust in his rule and "firm support from the Uzbek nation".

A vast majority of Uzbekistan's voters voted "Yes" to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's bid to rewrite the country's Constitution in referendum that promised more freedoms to the people of the republic.

"90.21% of voters said 'Yes' to amendments to the constitution through referendum"

According to the preliminary results announced by the Election Commission on the following Monday, 90.21% of voters supported the changes, while 9.35% voted 'No'. The turnout was 84.54%. As per the country's referendum law, at least 50% of the voters should cast their ballots for a referendum to be considered valid. At 1 p.m. on voting day, the Central Election Commission declared that the referendum was valid as voters turned out in large numbers across the country to "choose their future".

At polling station 517 in the Tashkent Financial Institute, voters of different age groups were seen in small queues at 3 p.m. to exercise their voting right. The booth had over 2,000 registered voters, whose names were published on a notice board. The facilities made available for voters were outstanding including easy access, medical support, sanitation, filtered water, and friendly staff to welcome the voters. The observers have noticed the professionalism of CEC and their resolve to complete the free and fair voting process.

While explaining the process, Mr. Uktam Norboyev, the chief of the polling station, said all arrangements were made to make the voting transparent and free. "The votes of this booth will be counted here by the officials and then sent to the Central



Commission, which will do the final count". On the day of the referen-

office in Tashkent, detailing the steps taken to ensure a free and fair vote. The results were in line with anticipations as there was no campaign against the proposals made by the President. Uzbekistan has five political parties. All of them were in favor of reforms.

The majority of International election observers declared the transparent and peaceful referendum process. President Mirziyoyev's narrative was that the new constitution would give special

emphasis on human rights, freedoms, gender equality, economic growth, and social prosperity.

"What I like about this referendum is that it's giving more rights to women," said Dilfuza Olimova, who teaches translation studies at Bukhara State University. "This is a big move. This is the first time there's so much talk about women's rights. This will eventually strengthen democracy in Uzbekistan," she added.

The new constitution also promises more media freedom

in the country. President Mirziyoyev has relaxed the control of Media. "I have seen what censorship is and how it works. The scene is changing in Uzbekistan. And the new constitution is promising more freedoms. Overall, I am positive about the development. Now, a better code is being promised" said Beruniy Alimov, Director, New Media Education Center, a Tashkent-based NGO.

President Mirziyoyev spearheaded a series of changes in Uzbekistan, including a clampdown on forced labour in cotton fields. Uzbekistan now wants to join the World Trade Organization. The constitutional changes also include a ban on capital punishment and the protection of human rights for what President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has called a "New Uzbekistan".

The majority of observers were satisfied with the referendum process and hopeful for positive change in the coming days in the society where the Uzbek nation can enjoy more socio-economic freedom and access to justice. People voted by anticipating a positive change through the new constitution in the country. In the last few years, there were many vital and positive developments were introduced in Uzbekistan, and President Mirziyoyev was aiming to continue the momentum at a broader scale

by amending the constitution. His government extended every possible support to reshape the progressing society with a unique global outlook.

Daily Spokesman congratulates Uzbekistan on the smooth referendum on its new Constitution and believes that under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the people of Uzbekistan will achieve even greater progress on all fronts in the nation's reform and development efforts.

Jubilee Life Insurance and Sehat Kahani celebrate 100,000+ online OPD consultations

Commerce Desk

KARACHI : Jubilee Life Insurance, one of the country's largest private sector life insurance company in collaboration with Sehat Kahani, a leading one-stop tele-medicine solution recently surpassed 100,000+ consultations for policyholders with world class doctors. A celebratory event was held at Jubilee Life's Head Office attended by Mr. Javed Ahmed, Managing Director and CEO, Jubilee Life Insurance, Mr. Farhan Akhtar Faridi, Group Head-Retail Operations, Marketing and Administration, Jubilee Life Insurance, Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram, Co-Founder and CEO, Sehat Kahani along with other representatives from both companies.

With both general physicians and specialists on the roster the joint initiative of Sehat Kahani and Jubilee Life Insurance is providing a free and unlimited OPD consultations 24/7 to policyholders nationwide.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Faridi, stated: "Healthcare and wellbeing are the most essential necessities, and providing access to timely medical care to our policyholders is of paramount importance to us at Jubilee Life. Through this partnership with Sehat Kahani, we are utilizing digital technology to bring quality healthcare solutions in the form of OPD consultations to our policyholders at their fingertips. We are thankful to our corporate clients, banking partners and colleagues for making this initiative a resounding success."

Jubilee Life and Sehat Kahani continue to support the objective of bringing the best and most affordable healthcare to policyholders no matter where they are in the country.

ADB advises Pakistan to provide targeted subsidies, enhance tax-to-GDP ratio

News Desk

INCHEON SOUTH KOREA:: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has suggested Pakistan to provide targeted subsidies to mitigate inflationary pressure on people; bring about necessary structural reforms and enhance tax to GDP ratio to come out of existing uncertain economic situations and steer the economy towards a sustainable growth trajectory.

In a joint interview with APP after the ADB's 56th Board of Governors meeting at Incheon South Korea, Director General, Central and West Asia Department Yevgeniy Zhukov and Country Director Pakistan Resident Mission Yong Ye, with one-voice, highlighted the importance of targeted subsidies to assist downturned segments of the society and effective mobilization of domestic resources to help improve the national economy which ADB predicted would grow at just 0.6 percent this year, coming down from last year's 6 percent growth.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also been advocating for the provision of targeted subsidies, which are very crucial, Yong Ye said stressing to strengthen the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), improve its verification system and make this package more affordable for the country by reaching to only those people who needed assistance.

Responding to the same query, Director General of, the Central and West Asia Department Yevgeniy Zhukov said the Asian Development Bank had been extending financial assistance to the government to strengthen social security through the BISP programme.

ICCI calls for community policing to make Capital crime-free city

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry emphasized the need to promote community policing, which would improve relations between police and citizens and help make Capital a crime free city. He said this while addressing a ceremony organized by ICCI in honor of retired SP Farhat Abbas Kazmi to pay tribute to his service in Islamabad Police. ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik, current and former police officers and a large number of the business community attended the event.

Ahsan Bakhtawari highlighted the importance of imparting latest training to the new SHOs to improve their attitude towards the citizens and enable them to control crimes more effectively. He highlighted the key role of the police in the society as its better performance was important to establish peace in the city, promote business & investment and bring prosper-



ity. He said that Farhat Abbas Kazmi played an exemplary role in the last 40 years to control terrorism and crime which is commendable. He recommended the nomination of Farhat Abbas Kazmi for National Award as he is a role model in Islamabad Police. Retired SP Farhat Abbas Kazmi in his address said that ICCI and Islamabad Police have always worked together to make Islamabad a crime-free city. He said that Islamabad Police

is now facing many new challenges and the biggest challenge is to control crimes. He welcomed the Chamber's offer to provide its auditorium for the training of police officers and said that he would talk to the IGP Islamabad in this regard so that the retired police officers can train the young police officers which will further improve their performance. He thanked Chamber President Ahsan Bakhtawari and his team for hosting a ceremony

in his honor and said that it would encourage the young police officers to perform well and gain more respect of the society.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said that the Pakistani society has been divided for many years and in this chaotic era, the police is being promoted as a villain. However, Farhat Abbas Kazmi and many officers of Islamabad Police are heroes as

they have rendered valuable services with commitment and dedication to prevent crimes and terrorism while thousands of policemen across the country have sacrificed their lives against terrorism. He said that ICCI will promote such honest police officers as the heroes of Islamabad and today's ceremony is a right step in that direction.

Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi former President ICCI said that there has always been a close relationship between the business community and the police in Islamabad, in which the role of the police officers who were recruited into the police in 1983 is prominent.

SSP Gulfam Nasir, SP Saddar Naushirwan Ali Chandio, retired SPs Jameel Hashmi, Safer Bhatti and Zubair Sheikh as well as Ajmal Baloch, Asad Aziz, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rahman Khan, Zahir Abbasi, Ashfaq Chatta and others also spoke on the occasion and paid tribute to the service of Farhat Abbas Kazmi in the police department.

Do not delay IMF's call to increase interest rates: Atif Ikram

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said the demand of the IMF to hike interest rates should not be delayed as it will annoy the lender.

IMF believes the interest rate hike is necessary for containing inflation however it will also significantly increase the debt burden, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that IMF has asked Pakistan and some other countries to further increase interest rates to stabilise inflation.

For the current fiscal year, the World Economic Outlook has projected 27.1 percent average inflation rate while the forecast is 21.9 percent for the next fiscal year, he added.

He said that SBP has already increased



the interest rates to the highest ever level of 21 percent which has failed to contain inflation but it caused a significant surge in the government's debt servicing cost, which is now estimated at around Rs5.3 trillion as against the budgeted figure of Rs3.95 trillion.

Since the start of the IMF programme in July 2019, Pakistan has doubled the policy rates but it has done little to improve the situation.

IMF has projected our foreign exchange reserves at \$11.7 billion while the growth rate is expected to slow materially from 6 percent in 2022 to 0.5 percent this year. Growth in the region will accelerate to 4.4 percent in 2024 but it will hover around 3.5 percent in Pakistan.

The business leader said that the IMF hoped that Pakistan is expected to start meaningful fiscal consolidation, including subsidy reforms which will compromise growth.

The global lender thinks that Pakistan will miss the fiscal and debt reduction targets of this fiscal year and the situation will become worse in the next fiscal year with a budget deficit peaking at 8.3 percent, he said.

Int'l Divine Economics Conference concludes



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 3rd International Divine Economics Conference has concluded after a thorough discussion on the role of economy, religion, spirituality, ethics, and values. Speakers urged the promotion of Divine Economics as an alternative to the traditional economic system and a solution to social problems. The conference was organized by the Islamic Social Sciences Forum of Hadi Foundation in collaboration with the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), AJK Medical College, and other institutions. Experts from various countries, including the United States, Britain, Chile, Iran, and Malaysia, attended the conference along with researchers, economists, philosophers, MPhil and PhDs, faculty members, scholars, and post-graduate students from over two dozen universities of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

During the conference, the Islamic Social Sciences Digital Library was inaugurated, which includes a large number of e-books on topics such as the Quran, Hadith, ethics, divine economics, research journals on Islamic history, biography, logic, philosophy, law, literature, and social sciences. This library is available online for free. Furthermore, the book "Philosophical Thinking and Rational Thinking" by philosopher Dr. Kausar Ali was launched, providing guidance on basic philosophical concepts and issues. Dr. Ali described the book as a rational attempt to answer metaphysical questions that arise in life and a strong foundation for building an intellectual personality.

On the last day of the conference, Professor Dr. Faheem Khan, Chairman Rafah University Center for Islamic Business, was the chief guest, while Dr. Fozia Aitzaz, Professor of Physiology, Coordinator, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College, and Chairman, Hadi Foundation, Islamic Social Sciences Forum, Dr. Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani welcomed the participants. Prominent speakers included Ms. Farzana Raja, former Federal Minister of the Benazir Income Support Program, Welfare Scientist, and Author, who discussed Corporate Social Responsibility in the context of Divine Economics through video link. Other speakers included Dr. Nooraliana (Online) from Malaysia, Dr. Salman Ahmed Sheikh (Karachi), Dr. Ziaur Rehman (National Defense University Islamabad), MA Saleem Hashmi, Chief Executive Officer Spark Karachi, Dr. Amber Fatima Abidi, Dr. Jameel Kazmi Karachi University, Dr. Shamaaila Manzoor (Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College), Mohsen Bin Iqbal (Germany), Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Qamar (Lahore), and others. The conference organizing team consisted of Dr. Madiha Riaz (Conference Secretary), Chief Organizer Ali Abdi, Abdul Qadir, Sana Javed, Shujaat Ali Kazmi, Mehrooz Ali Naqvi, Farqan Naqvi, Rafa, Iqra Shaheen, Syed Nabil Kazmi, Alfata Abbas, Samaviya Javed, and Houria Fatima, and was supported by Dr. Asharawan and Rafia Ahsan. The researchers and scholars who participated in the conference were awarded certificates.

Hardworking

ISLAMABAD: A vendor holds umbrella while selling fruits alongside a road during rain in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Organisations urged to improve risk culture following unique global research

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As corporate collapses make headlines this year the need for strong risk management is clear. This is why the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), The Association of Insurance and Risk Managers (Airmic), and the Professional Risk Managers' International Association (PRMIA) have collaborated on a new study that gauges how risk and financial leaders are dealing with risk culture and to what extent they understand its effect on the organisation's broader strategy.

The research is based on an online global survey complemented by a mix of interactive engagements with the three professional bodies' respective members, gathering views from thousands of risk and financial

professionals around the world. The findings are published in a new report, Risk Culture: Building Resilience and Seizing Opportunities. Read the full report and its supplements here.

This first of its kind study found that while 'box ticking' is prevalent there is growing interest in risk culture to cope with disconnected organisational cultures and hard-to-detect breadth of risks.

Key risk priorities for risk and finance professionals across all regions were 'regulatory, compliance and risk' followed by 'technology, data, cybersecurity' and 'economic inflation and recession'.

Sector-specific results showed respondents in financial services were more likely to raise 'technology, data and cybersecurity' and 'regulatory, compliance and legal'

as their two highest risk priorities, whereas those in the corporate sector ranked 'logistics and supply chain' issues as one of their top three risk concerns. Interestingly, despite a rise in corporate fraud cases, the corporate sector ranked 'misconduct, fraud and reputational damage' lower than any other sector.

Recent corporate collapses remind us of how inadequate and siloed risk governance can be, regardless of what is said in their financial statements,' said Rachael Johnson, head of risk management and corporate governance at ACCA and author of the report.

'As our research shows, it is not only the regulators who are asking questions. In today's highly interconnected, digital world, even a weak risk culture is better

than none.'

'In an increasingly high velocity, complex and connected world, tensions can be created between managing performance, innovation, controls, and assurance.'

Julia Graham, CEO of Airmic, a partner said: 'This report addresses how risk culture can contribute towards managing these tensions as part of good governance and concludes that managing risk dynamically and building resilience collaboratively are changing risk culture for the better.'

'Recent events, such as FTX and Silicon Valley Bank, show us that risk culture, more than ever, needs to be front and center for risk and accounting professionals,' said Justin McCarthy, CEO of PRMIA. 'This report shows how we need to help our respective members work and learn together more.'



The State Bank & Islamia University organized an awareness session on financing for SMEs

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR : The State Bank of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Pakistan organized an awareness session on financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at Abbasia Campus. The purpose of the seminar was to provide knowledge to skillful female entrepreneurs regarding various loan schemes offered by commercial banks. Representatives from various banks, including HBL, UBL, Women Bank, and Bank of Punjab, shared information about their respective loan schemes for female entrepreneurs. Prof. Dr. Asif Naveed Ranjha, Chairman Department of Social Work praised the efforts of the State Bank of Paki-



stan and stated that this seminar would enable female entrepreneurs to learn about different loan schemes, allowing them to improve their financial affairs further. Prof. Dr. Rubina Bhatti, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and the chief guest of the seminar, expressed in her views said that female entrepreneurs play a vital role in society, and the government's responsibility is to support them. Meanwhile, Engr.

Prof Dr Athar Mahboob Vice Chancellor has appreciated the initiative taken by the State Bank of Pakistan and said that it would help female entrepreneurs utilize their finances better and gain a better understanding of financial affairs, he also praised the efforts of social work department, in this regard. Members of Social Work Students Club handled the event management of the program.

New Zealand defeat Pakistan by 47 runs in 5th ODI

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Babar Azam had a forgettable 100th ODI when New Zealand defeated Pakistan by 47 runs in the fifth and final ODI to push the series hosts from first to third on the ICC ODI Team Rankings.

Babar lasted five balls for one that resulted in the holiday crowd leaving the National Bank Stadium before Iftikhar Ahmed's career-best 94 not out and Salman Ali Agha's third career half-century helped Pakistan to recover from 66 for four to 252 in 46.1 overs in reply to New Zealand's 299 all-out in 49.3 overs.

Although Pakistan won the series comprehensively by a 4-1 margin, Sunday's defeat meant their rein at the top of the ICC ODI Team Rankings lasted just 48 hours. Pakistan had needed to win on Sunday to consolidate their position at the top of the table before an annual update of the ICC ODI Team Rankings was carried out post Ireland versus Bangladesh series.

After Pakistan had lost Shan Masood



(7), Babar Azam (1), Mohamamd Rizwan (9) and Fakhar Zaman (33), Iftikhar Ahmed and Salman Ali Agha answered the calls with gutsy and fighting knocks. The two batters added 97 runs for the fifth wicket in 95 balls before Salman became Henry Shipley's third victim at

the score of 163.

Salman's run-a-ball 57 ball innings was laced with six fours and a six. It was his second successive half-century.

Following Salman's departure, Iftikhar continued to keep Pakistan's slim chances in the match alive with a 26-ball 30-run

sixth wicket partnership with Shadab Khan (14) and 18-ball 23-run seventh wicket partnership with Usama Mir (20), but he was always fighting a losing battle as the required run-rate headed in the wrong direction.

Iftikhar returned unbeaten after last-man Haris Rauf was declared run-out despite television replays suggesting Henry may have dislodged the bails with his hand instead of the ball.

Scores in brief

New Zealand 299 all-out, 49.3 overs (Will Young 87, Tom Latham 59, Mark Chapman 43, Rachin Ravindra 28, Cole McConchie 26, Henry Nicholls 23; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-46, Usama Mir 2-53, Shadab Khan 2-67)

Pakistan 252 all-out 46.1 overs (Iftikhar Ahmed 94 not out, Salman Ali Agha 57, Fakhar Zaman 33, Usama Mir 20, Shadab Khan 14; Henry Shipley 3-34, Rachin Ravindra 3-65)

Player of the match was Henry Shipley (New Zealand)

Player of the series was Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan)

PAK vs NZ: Iftikhar blitz in vain as New Zealand down Pakistan in fifth ODI



A Sports

KARACHI: Determined New Zealand came out roaring in the fifth PAK vs NZ ODI of the five-match series to thrash Pakistan and avoided the clean sweep.

The fifth PAK vs NZ ODI of the five-match series was played here at the National Bank Cricket Arena here on Sunday.

New Zealand captain Tom Latham opted to bowl first for the first time after the coin flipped in his favour in the ongoing series.

His men justified his decision as they piled up a massive total on the scoreboard on the back of brilliant half-centuries by their captain Tom Latham and Will Young.

Will Young smashed eight boundaries and two sixes on his way to top score for New Zealand with a 91-ball 87.

Latham, on the other hand, played a brisk 59-run knock in just 58 deliveries with the help of five boundaries.

The target set by the Kiwis turned out to be too much for Pakistan as they succumbed to their first defeat in the ongoing five-match series despite a brilliant half-century by Iftikhar Ahmed.

A defeat in the fifth PAK vs NZ ODI also deprived Pakistan of the top spot in the ODI team rankings as they slipped back to the third position.

Iqtar Afridi selected in Pakistan U-19.

Aman Ali Shinwari

LINDI KOTAL: Mohammad Iqtar Afridi son of Irshad Zakhakhel was selected from Peshawar in Pakistan U-19.

He has been given a position in squad number 6 on the basis of performance, which is a matter of honor for Lindi Kotal. Talking to the media, he said that God willing, he will go ahead with his hard work and dedication and make the nation proud and he will use all his abilities to become a part of the national team.



Dilshodbek Baratov is vice world champion in judo



News Desk

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN : On the very first day of the World Judo Championship in Qatar, the Uzbek team won a medal. Our compatriot Dilshodbek Baratov won the silver medal in the weight category up to 60 kg.

In an exciting final match, Spaniard Francisco Garrigos takes home the gold. This is Baratov's first medal at the world championships. This result will allow the Uzbek wrestler to score 1,400 points in the world rankings and on the way to the Paris 2024 Olympics.

PAK vs NZ 5th ODI: Kiwis wear black armbands to mourn Crocker's death



Sports Desk

KARACHI: New Zealand cricket team is wearing black armbands in today's PAK vs NZ final ODI of the five-game series to mourn the death of the former first-class player, team manager & NZC Head of Operations Lyndsey Crocker.

Crocker, who served as Black Caps manager between 2003 and 2008, died on Sunday morning aged 64.

He had nearly 20 years of involvement in top-level cricket administration.

He scored 2663 runs at 27.45 in his 54-match first-class career for Northern District as an opening batsman.

He remained New Zealand Cricket's Head of Operations from 2012 to 2016.

It is pertinent to mention here that New Zealand are 4-0 behind in the series as they take on Pakistan in the final ODI at Karachi's National Bank Cricket Arena.

In the fourth ODI on Friday, Pakistan thrashed the visitors by 102 runs to extend their lead in the series and became the No.1 side in the ODI ranking.

PAK vs NZ: New Zealand avoid clean sweep as Pakistan lose top ODI spot

A Sports

KARACHI: Henry Shipley starred with the ball after brilliant half-centuries from Tom Latham and Will Young as New Zealand came back roaring to deny Pakistan a clean sweep in the fifth PAK vs NZ ODI here at National Bank Cricket Arena.

Watch PAK vs NZ Live Match in HD Streaming

Set to chase a mammoth 300, Pakistan's strong batting lineup stuttered and could raise 252 before bundling out in the 47th over despite a fighting 94-run knock by Iftikhar Ahmed.

The home side got off to a dismal start to the pursuit as their opener Shan Masood (7 off 20) perished cheaply in the eighth over with just 29 runs on the scoreboard.

Pakistan endured a huge blow in the next over when skipper Babar Azam fell for just one run in his 100th ODI after looking to drive off Henry Shipley.

Promoted to bat at No.4, Mohammad Rizwan failed to make an impact in a clutch situation for his side as he



perished for just nine runs and faced 15 deliveries.

The hosts then slipped to 66/4 in the 19th over after set batter Fakhar Zaman miscued one in an attempt to go big off Rachin Ravindra. He could score 33 off 64 deliveries, laced with five boundaries.

Following the slump, Salman Ali Agha and Iftikhar Ahmed attempted to anchor the run chase with a fighting 97-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

The duo appeared to have settled down to take the game away from the touring side until Shipley struck again.

The right-arm pacer bamboozled Agha with extra bounce, who fell for a well-crafted 57 off as many deliveries which featured six boundaries and a six.

Iftikhar, on the other hand, stood his ground firm and put on a brief partnership with Shadab Khan, who could score a run-a-ball 14 before

Adam Milne dismissed him in the 39th over.

Usama Mir then walked out into the middle and joined hands with Iftikhar for another brief partnership for Pakistan that lasted for three overs.

New Zealand captain Tom Latham's quick bowling changes worked for him as Ravindra struck twice in the same over; removing Usama (20) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (0) to enhance the touring side's grip on the game.

Murray wins first title since 2019 to boost Wimbledon seeding bid



Sports Desk

MARSEILLE : Former world number one Andy Murray won his first title since 2019 on Sunday with victory at the Aix-en-Provence Challenger in France.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray had gone without a title since he triumphed in Antwerp in October 2019.

Murray, now ranked 52, defeated top seed Tommy Paul, the world number 17 from the United States, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the clay court event.

The 35-year-old Briton, who is hoping to boost his ranking to ensure a seeded spot in the Wimbledon draw in July, last won on the second-tier Challenger tour at American events in Aptos and Binghamton in 2005.

"This last year, 18 months has been a bit of struggle with my game. But my team have been there supporting me and working with me to try and get better," said Murray at the trophy presentation.

"We keep going from here." Both Murray and Paul were looking for crucial time on clay before the French Open starts in three weeks' time. Murray will also return to the top 50 at 42 when the new rankings are released on Monday.

Celtic beat Hearts to retain Scottish Premiership title

Sports Desk

GLASGOW : Celtic clinched the Scottish Premiership title on Sunday as Kyogo Furuhashi and Oh Hyeon-gyu netted in a 2-0 win at 10-man Hearts.

The victory secured the title with four games to spare for Ange Postecoglou's men, who are on course for a domestic treble of trophies.

The Hoops have now won 11 titles in 12 years and could yet end the season by surpassing their record points tally of 106.

"I'm just really proud of this group of players and staff. They've maintained an absolutely ridiculous standard this year. They are relentless in their approach," said Postecoglou.

"Having success last year, you always worry as a manager—are they going to be as hungry?"

"From the first day, they haven't let up and it's a credit to every single one of them."

Celtic were not at their sparkling best at Tynecastle, but Hearts were left with a mountain to climb when Alex Cochrane was

sent off just before half-time.

Cochrane clipped Daizen Maeda as the Japanese international bore down on goal, but it took a VAR review for referee Nick Walsh to show the red card for denying a clear goalscoring opportunity.

The visitors took their time to make the man advantage count, but it was fitting that Kyogo should score the decisive goal in winning Celtic a 53rd Scottish title.

The Japanese striker prodded home his 30th goal of the season

and 50th for the club from Reo Hatate's cross 23 minutes from time.

Kyogo injured himself in the act of scoring but his replacement Oh came on to make sure of the points.

The South Korean international cushioned Aaron Mooy's cross into the far corner for his fourth goal since arriving in January.

Celtic could also surpass a club record of 116 goals in a league season after reaching 105 with four games to spare.

"I think we can get there," said

Celtic captain Callum McGregor, who has now won 18 major honours.

"We are certainly on the right track but we need to keep going. Oh get over the line, you get more experience, you want to do it again and in more style. I feel like we've done that this season."

Hearts' hopes of finishing third behind the Old Firm were at least aided by Rangers' 1-0 win over Aberdeen.

Todd Cantwell scored the only goal at Ibrox to cut Celtic's lead at the top to 13 points.

Rodrygo and Vinicius inspire Madrid Copa del Rey triumph over Osasuna

Sports Desk

SEVILLE: Rodrygo Goes fired Real Madrid to Copa del Rey glory with a clinical double in a 2-1 victory over Osasuna in Seville on Saturday, with Brazilian compatriot Vinicius Junior playing a part in both goals.

Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid earned their 20th Spanish Cup at La Cartuja in their 40th final, ending a nine-year wait to lift the trophy again.

Osasuna, who have never won a major trophy, fought well but ultimately fell short against the reigning Spanish and European champions, who face Manchester City on Tuesday in the Champions League semi-finals.

Madrid have now won all

six of the trophies available to them during Ancelotti's second reign at the club, after the Italian returned in 2021.

Rodrygo fired Madrid ahead inside two minutes after Vinicius' run down the left, and Ancelotti's team had the better chances in the first half.

However, Lucas Torro levelled for Osasuna in the 58th minute to give them hope of an upset in their first cup final since 2005, and second ever.

Rodrygo whisked it away, firing home after a rebound fell his way following another Vinicius charge, ensuring Madrid would take the trophy back to the capital.

"They made the difference, Vini unbalanced them and



Rodrygo scored the two goals," said Ancelotti of his Brazilian wingers.

Madrid beat both Atletico Madrid and then rivals Barcelona to reach the final and Ance-

lotti said it was time to celebrate, but not too heavily ahead of the clash with City.

"This Copa arrived at an important moment, we came through very tricky ties, it's a

deserved prize against strong opponents," added the coach.

"This night we will celebrate, a little bit, not too much, and then we will get back to work for Tuesday."

Osasuna coach Jagoba Arrasate deployed midfielder Jon Moncayola at right-back to try and stop Madrid winger Vinicius.

It didn't work. Vinicius broke in down the left in the second minute and his dangerous cut-back was missed by Fede Valverde but slammed home by Rodrygo.

The Brazilian, in sparkling form, scored the earliest Copa del Rey final goal since 2006 — a year after Osasuna finished runners-up to Real Betis.