



FM lambasts world powers for 'turning a blind eye' to Indian atrocities in IIOJK

Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto has lambasted the international community for "turning a blind eye" to India's atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying it was "not wise to sacrifice timeless principles for short-term interests". (Details on Page 8)



Pakistan, China plan to mark 10th anniversary of BRI, CPEC development: Ambassador Haque

Pak Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque has said that Pakistan emphatically endorsed the spirit and philosophy of BRI, "which seeks to transcend national boundaries and lay bridges for win-win cooperation, common development, and closer economic integration for a shared future". (Details on Page 8)

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Salute

Army Chief General Asim Munir addressing the families of martyred and Ghazi soldiers at GHQ Rawalpindi.



Strong Military guarantees security, unity of state: COAS Asim Munir

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir said on Monday that a strong military guarantees the security and unity of the state. COAS General Asim Munir presided over a ceremony at the General Headquarters (GHQ) today in the honour of martyrs and ghazis in which he presented military awards to the families of martyred soldiers, as well as to the army officers and soldiers for

their outstanding services during the operations. Sitara-e-Imtiaz has been awarded to 51 army officers, 51 army officers to 22 officers and soldiers, whereas, the UN special medal was awarded to two soldiers. The award distribution ceremony was attended by a large number of Pakistan Army's senior officers and families of the martyrs. The army chief announced to observe Youm-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan

(Pakistan Martyrs Day) on May 25. COAS Asim Munir said that we are undoubtedly living in a free atmosphere due to the great sacrifices of the martyrs and services of the ghazis which are our valuable assets and the capital of pride. He said that as an institution, Pakistan Army always remembers each of its member and their families and our relationship as a family is a pride and matchless. The army chief said that every

soldier and officer of the armed forces of Pakistan is beyond the regional, linguistic, political biases and distinctions and they always prioritise responsibly performing their duties. COAS Munir said the recent attacks on the military installations and Yadgar-e-Shuhada were sorrowful and intolerable. A few days ago, COAS General Asim Munir asserted that the legal process of trial against planners and perpetrators involved in the May 9 violence, the day

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was arrested, has commenced. "The legal process of trial against planners, instigators, abettors and perpetrators involved in May 9 tragedy has commenced under the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act as per existing and established legal procedures derived from the Constitution of Pakistan," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) quoted the army chief as saying.

Country won't survive if any leniency shown to May 9 arsonists: PM



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the country would not survive if any leniency was shown to the perpetrators of the arsons on May 9 involving the desecration of the martyrs, monuments, and damaging the security installations. "The nation will not forget this heart-rending incident. We don't have any personal vendetta. But those who desecrated the martyrs, Ghazis, and their monuments, and burnt Jinnah House... they will have to be tried under the law. And if any leniency is shown to them, the country will not survive," he said addressing the National Assembly. He said the coalition parties had faced many ordeals but the May 9 incident was intolerable. "This is the nation's trust and I will return it to them," he remarked. The prime minister thanked the House for adopting a resolution against May 9 riots and explained that the cases

pertaining to the attack on civilian infrastructure would be tried under anti-terrorism law but those concerning the military installations would be heard by the military courts and that no special laws were being promulgated for the purpose. Responding to his tweet, the prime minister rubbished PTI chief Imran Khan's claim that he had made replaced a senior military officer after he informed him about his wife Bushra Bibi's involvement in corruption. "Imran Niazi once again told a blatant lie before the nation... I said so because I personally know it," he told the House. He said the arsons following the arrest of Imran Niazi in a NAB case involving Rs60 billion corruption was a heart-breaking incident the nation never went through. He said during his government, Imran Niazi pushed the whole opposition to the wall but they never resorted to damaging the public property.

SC office reacts to Ahsan Iqbal's Tweet

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that it had not provided conveyance for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's appearance before SC. It clarified that the Islamabad Police had arranged the vehicle for transporting Imran Khan in compliance with the Court's direction in the instant case. The court clarification further stated that "Reference tweet by Mr Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Government of Pakistan dated 20.05.2023 regarding the provision of an official Mercedes Staff Car allegedly by the Supreme Court of Pakistan to transport Mr Imran Khan,

Continued on Page 8

President Alvi for promoting clean, environment-friendly transportation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for promoting clean and environment-friendly transportation in the country to mitigate pollution and make Pakistan clean and green. The president, talking to a delegation of a local electric bike manufacturing company, said that the use of green transportation could help reduce carbon emissions, environmental pollution, and Pakistan's import bill for fossil fuels. The senior officials of the federal ministries of industries and production and climate change also attended the meeting, a President House press release said. Talking to the delegation, the president called for promoting efficient and climate-friendly transportation technology to reduce environmental pollution as well



as Pakistan's reliance on traditional fuels. He stated that new technologies were essential for the development of the country. He urged the business community to focus on industrial upgradation and modernization to remain competitive.

President Alvi highlighted that modern transport technologies could help promote new industries in Pakistan and create more job opportunities for youth, besides improving the overall socio-economic condition of the country.

NA Speaker meets Finance Minister, discusses economic, political situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Monday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar and discussed the overall economic and political situation of the country. The minister said that the current government had inherited economic woes adding that all possible steps would be taken to provide relief to the public in coming financial budget, said a press release.

The current economic team was working day and night to take the country's economy on the path of development, he added. He thanked the NA Speaker for his words of appreciation for the current economic team. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that political stability was essential for economic stability adding that the strength of the economy was indispensable for the country's development. Despite the economic difficulties facing by the current coalition government, reducing the prices of petroleum products was a good move, he added. He appreciated the efforts of the minister and his team for economic stability.

Audio Leaks Commission announces to make proceedings public

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Judicial Commission conducting investigations into Audio leaks has announced that the proceedings will be made public and instructed the Attorney General to provide mobile phones and SIMs today. According to details, the first meeting of the Judicial Inquiry Commission for audio leaks investigations was chaired by Justice Qazi Faiz Isa. The commission's meeting

took place in the Supreme Court's Chamber Court No. 7. Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and Chief Justice Naem Akhtar and Attorney General also participated in the meeting. The Judicial Commission established its secretariat in the Supreme Court, while the Attorney General presented TORs and powers in the commission's first meeting. The Attorney General was also requested to provide a mobile phone and SIM card for the commission's proceedings.

Justice Qazi Faiz Isa said that due to being the senior-most judge, he also has some constitutional responsibilities. Justice Qazi Faiz Isa asked which law the commission was formed under, to which the Attorney General informed that the commission was formed under the Judicial Inquiry Commission Act 2016. The audio leak Judicial Commission has announced the proceedings will be made public and stated that if any sensitive matter arises, they will consider the

request for on-camera proceedings. The commission's proceedings will take place in the Islamabad Building of the SC. Justice Qazi Faiz Isa said that there are also two elderly women among those related to the inquiry, and if required, the commission can also go to Lahore for the proceedings. While instructing the Attorney General to provide a mobile phone and SIM card for the commission, Justice Qazi Faiz Isa also established the scope of the inquiry commission and further

postponed the proceedings until May 27. It should be noted here that last week, the federal government formed the Judicial Commission on the matter of the alleged audio leaks. Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Naeem Akhtar and Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court Aamer Farooq are also part of the commission. The commission will investigate the authenticity of the audio leaks and their impact on justice and judicial freedom.

Imran challenges Audio Leaks Commission in SC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday challenged audio leaks judicial commission in the Supreme Court. Last week, the federal government formed the judicial commission to probe the matter of the alleged audio leaks. The notification states that investigations will also be conducted into the alleged audio leaks related to former Chief Ministers and the current Supreme Court judge,

and potential audio leaks related to the former Chief Justice. Imran Khan filed a constitutional plea in the Supreme Court through his lawyer and party leader Dr Babar Awan against the audio leaks commission. Imran Khan in his plea asked the Supreme Court to strike down the audio leaks commission, citing no judge can be nominated for the commission without the consent of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). The only forum to launch a probe against a judge is Supreme Judicial Council, the plea stated.

Pak-Russia Relations

Senator Waleed Iqbal and Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar are chairing international conference on establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia at Institute of Oriental Studies Moscow, Russia.



Photo: PID

Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari calls on President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari met with the President of Pakistan and Red Crescent Dr. Arif Alvi at the President's House here on Monday. Chairman PRCS briefed the President on measures taken by Red Crescent to mitigate the sufferings of vulnerable communities. President Dr. Arif Alvi appreciated the services rendered by PRCS to the flood victims after the recent flood disaster.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari briefed the President on rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts by PRCS in the flood affected areas of Punjab,



Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir

during the last 6 months. He said that PRCS has provided humanitarian assistance

to millions of flood-affected families through provision of rations, family tents, house-

hold aid items, first aid, clean drinking water, water treatment plants, ensuring medical facilities at the doorstep of the victims through Mobile Health Units, and cash assistance.

President Dr. Arif Alvi said that PRCS is the leading humanitarian organization of the country that has done historic work for the flood-affected families. Red Crescent has set a new example of humanitarianism by continuing to help millions of victims in Ramadan. He appreciated the humanitarian service activities of Red Crescent under the leadership of Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari and assured all possible support from the government.

FM lambasts world powers for 'turning a blind eye' to Indian atrocities in IIOJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto has lambasted the international community for "turning a blind eye" to India's atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying it was "not wise to sacrifice timeless principles for short-term interests".

"I asked those who champion the rules-based international order and place a premium on protecting and promoting human rights. How can they turn a blind eye to this savagery?" the foreign minister said while addressing a special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly.

FM Bilawal said it is indeed, not wise to sacrifice these timeless principles for short term

interests. "One cannot wax lyrical about international law and the United Nations Security Council resolutions in Europe in the European context, and then turn a blind eye to the violation of the same international law in the Kashmiri context," he added.

The minister recalled that India's unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019 opened a new chapter of oppression. "India's ultimate aim was to convert Kashmiris into a dispossessed and disempowered minority in their own land, the fresh delimitations, domicile certificates to millions of outsiders, and addition of millions of temporary residents to the voters list were part of a well thought-out strategy to change Kashmir's demography and its political landscape".



He made it clear that Pakistan outrightly rejected the unilateral and illegal steps. "How can the world be a silent bystander when a large country usurps the rights guaranteed by the Security Council, and instead use brute force to suppress those rights? Isn't it the same world that is upholding these principles elsewhere, while remaining complete-

ly oblivious to them in Kashmir?" he asked.

Bilawal mentioned that India was hosting the meeting of a Tourism Working Group in Srinagar, meetings of a consultative Forum on Youth Affairs, while a G20 had already been held in Jammu, Leh and Srinagar in the past few weeks.

"This is yet another display

of India's arrogance on the world stage, Indian occupation of a territory that is recognized as disputed under international law," he added.

The minister said India was misusing its position as the chair of the G-20 – a forum created to address global financial and economic issues with utter disregard for the Security Council resolution, the UN Charter and its principle.

But India's facade of normalcy in Kashmir was met by the harsh reality that occupied Kashmir remained one of the most militarized zones on the planet, he added.

The foreign minister noted that holding a meeting of the Tourism Working Group of G-20 countries in Srinagar was an utter violation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir.

SC office reacts

Continued from Page 1
Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, for his appearance at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday, 11th May 2023.

By order dated 11th May 2023 passed at 0330 pm, the Supreme Court had directed for the said person to be produced in Court at 0430 pm. However, as reported by the Islamabad Police, the appearance was delayed to around 0615 pm for arranging his safe transportation to the Court.

It is hereby clarified that the Supreme Court does not provide conveyance for the appearance of any person before the Court. In the instant case, the Islamabad Police had arranged the vehicle for transporting Mr Imran Khan in compliance with the Court's direction."

Earlier, Ahsan Iqbal launched criticism against the CJP Umar Ata Bandial in a Twitter message.

Pakistan, China plan to mark 10th anniversary of BRI, CPEC development: Ambassador Haque

Spokesman Report

BELJING :Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque has said that Pakistan emphatically endorsed the spirit and philosophy of China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), "which seeks to transcend national boundaries and lay bridges for win-win cooperation, common development, and closer economic integration for a shared future".

Ambassador Haque, in an exclusive interview with the Global Times, said, "This year marks the 10th anniversary of BRI. Pakistan is one of the earliest supporters of and participants in the BRI. One flagship project of the cooperation between China and Pakistan is the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). While fully aligning with the national development agenda of Pakistan, CPEC has been the key to Pakistan's socio-economic development. He said in its first phase, CPEC had



helped Pakistan develop major transport infrastructure and address its essential energy needs. "CPEC investment and its resultant effects have generated thousands of jobs. The once-arid fishing village of Gwadar has been transformed into a fully functional and operational port."

In the next phase, he added, CPEC was set to focus more on socio-economic development, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization. The ambassador elaborated that

China-Pakistan leadership in conjunction with cooperation among relevant institutions from the two sides would fuel the momentum of high-quality development of CPEC.

"The two sides also plan to organize a number of activities this year to mark the 10th anniversary of BRI and CPEC development," he added. "On this occasion, I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful role and valuable contributions of the Chinese companies and workers from both countries who worked tirelessly even during the COVID-19 pandemic toward the smooth and timely implementation of key CPEC projects," he said.

In May, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang made his inaugural visit to Pakistan, as part of recent important, and close interactions between the high levels of government in both China and Pakistan.

SSG commando Martyred During Operation Near Quetta

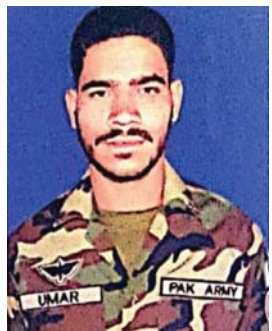
Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: SSG commando martyred during operation SSG Commando Umar Hayat belongs to Khanewal Area 11 Chak Khaterwala

At a distance of about 650 kilometers from Quetta, there is Zarghoon area, where he was martyred during the operation

Mother is survived by three brothers and three sisters Shaheed

SSG Commando Umar Hayat was unmarried



Funeral Namaz of Shaheed SSG SSG Commando Umar Hayat Paid in native village

The martyr was buried with full military honours

Senior officers placed floral wreaths on the martyr's grave

A large number of political and social personalities and citizens including army officers participated in the funeral prayer of the martyr

Punjab Interim govt opposes immediate elections

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab interim government on Monday opposed immediate elections in the province owing to the current law and order situation, especially after May 9 violence.

On April 5, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct Punjab polls on May 14. The SC further directed the caretaker government in Punjab to assist the commission.

In a response submitted to the Supreme Court through the provincial chief secretary, the Punjab interim government has opposed the immediate holding of the polls.

Supreme Court cannot announce the election date as this is the right of other state institutions, the response read.

As per Article 2018 of the Constitu-

tion of Pakistan, it is the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold transparent elections. "Right to change the election schedule also lies with the ECP."

The Punjab interim govt in its reply further said that the law and order situation of Punjab has changed after May 9 mayhem, when the military installations and other public properties were attacked, vandalism and arson in the province.

As many as 97 vehicles of police were torched and 162 cops were injured during the violent protests, the reply added.

Citing the demand of 5,54,000 personnel for security during the polls, the Punjab chief secretary in the response submitted to the Supreme Court stated that there will be only 77,000 personnel available for security if polls were held.

Those who failed to handle pressure jumping ship, claims Shafqat Mahmood



Speaking to media, the former federal minister said that he was not aware of Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain's separation from the party.

Referring to the situation in the country, Mr Mahmood said that the country was facing severe economic difficulties. He reiterated that only elections could take the country out of the quagmire, adding that there was a dire need to discuss the date of elections.

Mr Mahmood said, "The PTI is ready to negotiate with the opposition regarding the elections".

City Desk

LAHORE :Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Shafqat Mahmood claimed on Monday that those who failed to handle pressure and not awarded tickets were jumping ship.

G20 summit in IIOJK, futile exercise on India's part: Kaira



News Desk

BAGH :Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Monday said India could not hide worst human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by holding G-20 summit in the valley.

"By holding G-20 summit in IIOJK, India wants to convey a message to the world that all is good in the valley, but it will prove a futile exercise on New Delhi's part," he said in an exclusive talk with APP during his visit here.

He lashed out India for its ulterior motives behind the summit which was meant to deceive and mislead the world.

Modi government's intention was to dampen the morale of the people of Occupied Kashmir by creating a smokescreen before the world, he

added. He emphasized that the unwavering spirit of freedom among the Kashmiri people remained steadfast, and the entire Pakistani nation stood united in solidarity with Kashmiri brethren.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he said the entire Pakistani nation condemned holding of the summit in G-20.

Kaira said Pakistan's outreach to friendly countries and member states of G-20 had been bearing fruits as several countries had decided not to participate in the moot.

He categorically stated that Pakistan was against India's decision to hold G-20 summit in the disputed territory.

The situation in IIOJK would have been different if the international community had played its due role in the past, he added.

G-20 summit in Srinagar failed after China's refusal to participate: Barrister Sultan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry and British MP Mirza Khalid Mehmood have said that the G-20 Working Group meeting being held by India in Srinagar has failed because key members of the group, including China had categorically refused to attend the conference.

Addressing a press conference at his office in Islamabad on Sunday, they claimed that, along with China, many other members of the Group would skip the meeting. Referring to the Indian government's nefarious designs to use the high profile event to achieve its strategic objectives, they said that the G-20 nations' decision to skip the conference being held in the restive region was a clear indication that they have refused



to become brand ambassadors of India's so-called normalcy narrative on Kashmir.

Highlighting the delicate situation in the region, they said that the political and human rights situation in the held territory had further worsened since the Modi government stripped the region of its special status on August 5, 2019.

They said that on one hand, India had intensified human rights violations, while on the other, a massive onslaught to change the region's demography and its political landscape was launched to

convert the Muslim majority of the state into a minority.

Citing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights report, they said that the commission had released a detailed report on the human rights situation in the IIOJK in 2018 and called for the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the ongoing human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces.

They said that it was imperative that the world community should influence the government of India to allow a fact finding mission to visit the occupied territory and implement the recommendations of the report the Commission had released in 2018.

President Chaudhry further said that on his call protest demonstrations were being held all across the globe, especially

in the influential world capitals including Washington, London, Brussels, Geneva, Paris and other places.

The main purpose of these protests was to register People's anguish and resentment against India's decision to hold a G-20 conference in Kashmir, which happens to be a disputed territory.

He said that India wanted to mislead the world about Kashmir by holding the G-20 conference and wanted to give the impression that Occupied Kashmir was a peaceful area.

On this occasion, British Member of Parliament Mirza Khalid Mehmood said, "We will continue our efforts to raise the issue of Kashmir at the international level".

They also appreciated the Chinese leadership for taking a principled stance on holding G-20 summit in the disputed territory.

Azad Kashmir PM call on President Muslim Conference



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq meeting at the residence of President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. In the meeting, the current political situation of Azad Kashmir and the G20 conference held in Srinagar were discussed. The Central Chief Organizer of Muslim Conference, Raja Saqib Majeed Chief, Sardar Wajid Bin Arif Advocate and Raja Abdul Jabbar Khan were also present on this occasion. Sardar Attique Khan appreciated the decision of the People's Republic of China not to participate in the Srinagar G-20 meeting due to the disputed nature of Kashmir, calling it a clear violation of the United Nations Charter.

He urged other members to boycott the meetings in Srinagar from 22 to 24 May 2023. Meanwhile, Kashmiris across the Line of Control and around the world are protesting against the planned G-20 meetings in Srinagar on 22 May 2023. It will be celebrated as a day of protest. Kashmir has been declared a disputed territory of the United Nations where no member of the United Nations can hold a unilateral meeting. India's bid to hold the G-20 meeting in Srinagar is to use the group as a shield to normalize the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir.

In an appeal to member states on Saturday, He urged them not to be part of India's nefarious designs to hide the reality of the Kashmir conflict. The presence of representatives of G-20 countries in Srinagar will adversely affect the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir. I remind them that the reality of this conflict is recognized within the United Nations system as a member of the United Nations Organization. Therefore, I appeal to all the participants not to compromise their international position because the occupying India of Kashmir wants them to use it for their nefarious purposes he added

CTD arrested two Alleged Terrorists from TTP

Asim Tanveer

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab has arrested two alleged terrorists of banned organization TTP during an operation.

According to a spokesman for CTD, CTD Dera Ghazi Khan team, on a tip off, conducted a raid and arrested two accused namely Mezan Ghazi and Mir Ahmad, who were planning to attack law enforcement agencies' offices and buildings.

The spokesman said that alleged terrorists belonged to banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, adding that the arrested terrorists had planned a terrorist attack in D.G Khan to sabotage peace.

He said that hand grenade, pistol with seven bullets and suicide jacket were recovered from the accused.

MEPCO completed upgradation project of 132KV Sahiwal: Mehrullah Yar Bharwana

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Grid System Construction Department of Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) has completed the upgradation project of 132KV Sahiwal third grid station to provide electricity with better voltage to the consumers. Chief Executive Officer Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana congratulated the Project Director GSC Mepeco Syed Jawad Mansoor Ahmed, GSO/GSC Department teams for completing the project in a short period of time.

And it has been said that along with the establishment of new grid stations for uninterrupted power supply to consumers in summer, the existing grid stations are being upgraded. One more power transformer of 20/26 MVA has been installed in 132KV Sahiwal three grid station, the cost of this project is more than 6 crores. After the installation of new power transformer, the number of power transformer installed in 132KV Sahiwal 3 grid station has increased to 3.

MEPCO received one billion 46 crore Rupees from permanent defaulters during financial year

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) has received one billion 46 crore rupees from permanent defaulters during the current financial year 2022-23. According to Director Commercial Mepeco Asad Hammad, during the first 10 months of the current financial year, money has been collected from 98 thousand 444 deed defaulters in the form of dues / arrears of electricity bills. Under the direction of Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana, an indiscriminate operation is underway against non-payment of electricity dues and regular consumers in 13 districts under the administration of South Punjab.

From July 2022 to April 2023, 36 crore 21 lakh rupees from 24885 permanent defaulters in Multan circle, 14 crore 28 lakh rupees from 11119 dead defaulters in Dera Ghazi Khan circle, 11 crore 17 lakh rupees from 6782 defaulters in Wahari circle, 19 crore rupees from 14473 defaulters in Bahawalpur circle, 3 lakh, 12 crore 88 lakh from 8672 defaulters in Sahiwal circle. Rs.18 crore 43 lakh from 8771 defaulters in Rahimyar Khan circle, Rs.17 crore 86 lakh from 12400 defaulters in Muzaffargarh circle, Rs.8 crore 39 lakh from 3649 defaulters in Bahawalnagar circle and Rs.7 crore 65 lakh from 7693 permanent defaulters in Khanewal circle and deposited in the treasury of the department.

3G/4G services suspended for the last 20 days

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: 3G/4G internet service has been suspended for the last 20 days in various tehsil of District Lower South Waziristan.

So due to which a wave of concern has spread among the people, business people and especially students are facing severe difficulties.

In which the internet services have been suspended for the last 20 days including Tehsil Shakai, Birmal and Tairza.

In this regard, ANP's former National Assembly candidate Ayaz Wazir told the media that it is the constitutional responsibility of the government to provide 3G/4G and internet facilities to the citizens of the country.

Therefore, the Federal Government and the Ministry of Interior should take measures on an emergency basis to restore the suspended services. He said that ANP will not sit idle until the restoration of the net, because the world is moving towards 5 GB and we do not have the necessary facilities like the net to the people.



Hamdard TVC Launching

KARACHI: Ms. Sadia Rashid, Chairperson, Hamdard Pakistan planting a rose flower plant in a pot on the occasion of TVC Launching Ceremony at Hamdard Corporate Head Office. Dr. Arshad Saleem Chief Operating Officer is also present on this occasion.



India cannot change the course of history by holding a G20 meeting in Srinagar: PMAJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while referring to the disputed legacy of Jammu and Kashmir, has said that India cannot change the course of history by holding a G20 meeting in Srinagar. While addressing a special session of the AJK Legislative Assembly here today, the PM said that India cannot hoodwink the world by displaying tricolor (Indian flags) on lamp-posts in Srinagar while shutting down businesses and crippling normal life in the Kashmir valley. India's tactics, he said, were bound to fail.

Terming the Kashmiris' ongoing liberation struggle as part of the completion

of the Pakistan movement, the PM said that India must bear in mind the fact that it cannot subdue Kashmiris by suppressing their sentiments and legitimate political aspirations. The PM expressed his profound gratitude to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto for attending the special session of the assembly.

The PM in his speech also mentioned the historical, cultural, religious linkages and unbreakable ties between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister, on the occasion, hailed FM BB Zardari for presenting the case of Kashmir in a vociferous manner on India's soil. "The world saw what happened during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting held in Goa recently", he said.



Referring to the Indian barbarism and brutalities in IoK, the PM said that the world should take effective cognizance of the worsening political and human rights in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that the Indian forces deployed in the region had martyred hundreds of thousands of innocent and unarmed civilians in the region. He said that molestation of thousands of women by the Indian forces and the presence of thousands of

unnamed graves of those who were killed by the occupying forces of India during fake encounters serve as an eye-opener for the world.

The Prime Minister also lauded the Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir for his unflinching support to Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for the right of self-determination of Kashmiris.

The session was attended and addressed by Foreign Minister and Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, former Prime Ministers Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi and others.

Modi fascist regime's dancing over Kashmiris graves intolerable: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick India made it clear that fascist Narendra Modi-led notorious government would not be allowed to dance anymore on the graves of Kashmiri people, vowing they would not rest until remove the yoke of Indian slavery.

Speaking at a huge rally here on Monday, Mushaal, wife of incarcerated senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said that it was encouraging that the conscious countries were skipping the G20 summit holding in disputed region.

The rally led by Mushaal was taken out from Zero point and culminated at National Press club Islamabad, which was attended by people from all walks



of life. She lauded China for boycotting the meeting in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal welcomed the reports that Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia were also likely to skip the G20 meeting India, adding that it was high

time the Pakistan's friends should show solidarity with the Kashmiri people to foil the notorious and sinister plot of RSS-inspired Narendra Modi, who was holding the event in Srinagar to portray normalcy in the IIOJK.

She urged that public all over the world especially Pakistanis and Kashmiris should protest against Modi's fascist policies illegally occupying Kashmir to denounce the G20 summit and exposed Indian regime notorious face globally.

Mushaal stated that all political parties and freedom fighter groups in IIOJK, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan along with various world capitals hold rallies highlighting the rising human rights violations and Indian war crimes on the occasion when the Indian government was hosting G20 summit in the disputed region.



Islamabad

15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:25 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 5:00 pm
Maghrib 7:06 pm
Isha 8:45 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
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666
CDA 9221334-43

Responsibility of doctors to treat every patient with dignity and respect: Baligur Rehman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The third convocation of Nishtar Medical University was held. Punjab Governor and Chancellor Muhammad Baligur Rahman presided over the convocation. Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligur Rahman awarded 29 gold medals to 12 male and female students. Degrees were awarded to 300 graduates in the convocation. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, Principal Nishtar Medical College Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Masood, Secretary Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Rana Muhammad Afzal Nasir Khan, Registrar Professor Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Vice Chancellor Bahauddin Zakaria University Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah,

MNA Ahmad Hasan Dehar, former members of the National Assembly Sheikh Tariq Rasheed, Javed Ali Shah, former MPA Shahid Mehmood Khan, former MNA Shaheen Shafiq, Malik Asif Rafiq Rajwana also participated. Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligur Rahman while addressing the convocation said that I congratulate all the medical students on completing their degrees.

I hope that the doctors will make full use of their abilities. The success of doctors is the success of the whole nation

We need to do more efforts and research to fight new diseases in the present era. It is the responsibility of doctors to treat every patient with dignity and respect. The learning process should always be ongoing. Governor Punjab further said that service to humanity should be the greatest for us. There is a need for more research and innovation in the medical field.

Success depends on your hard work and dedication. Always thank your parents who sacrificed their tomorrow for your today. All of your success is due to the training of teachers. He further said that always be loyal to your country and nation. Loyalty to country and nation is also a part of our religion Islam.

Each of us must hold ourselves accountable. He added that research should be done before believing anything. We should adopt a critical and analytical approach. Research should be part of our mindset. Islam said 14 hundred years ago that everything should be researched. Many things are misrepresented on social media.

We have to make the service of God's creation our motto. Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty. We have to bring



beauty in our environment, character and attitudes. We have to promote our highest values. We have to face difficulties with courage and courage. Today we have saved Pakistan from default. In the

convocation, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed spoke about the performance of Nishtar Medical University. Principal Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao presented the annual performance

report. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed administered the oath to the MBBS graduates regarding service to humanity and professional responsibilities.

Career grooming

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of students with the Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed who conducted a career grooming workshop, organized by the NUML Placement Centre here Monday.



Spokesman Photo by Raja Farid

Shireen Mazari re-arrested outside Adiala Jail, claims PTI

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Human Rights minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shireen Mazari has been arrested again, moments after she was released from Adiala Jail.

Sources told ARY News that the Punjab police arrested the PTI leader from outside Adiala Jail – the fourth time in the last 10 days.

Talking to Twitter, Barrister Ahsan J. Pirzada – the lawyer of Shireen Mazari – said that the former human rights minister has been arrested for the “fourth time” in the last 10 days.

PNDS call to increase taxes on sugary drinks

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The diet related Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) are skyrocketing in Pakistan. Unhealthy diet and sugary drinks are the major cause of obesity and many fetal diseases like diabetes, ischemic heart diseases and stroke. The PNDS demanded FBR and Ministry of Finance to increase federal excise tax in the 2023-24 finance bill, on all types of sweetened drinks to reduce the diseases burden. This was said during the seminar on “Public Health Law and Nutrition Outcomes: The Case of Sugar Sweetened Beverages” organized by PNDS in collaboration with Pakistan National Heart Association at local hotel in Karachi.

Ms. Fayza Khan, President PNDS addressing a Seminar said that favorable government action and policies can create an enabling environment for ensuring access of healthy diet to our population as unhealthy diets is one of the leading risk factors of non-communicable diseases. 41.3% of adults being overweight or obese, and 6 out of 10 deaths attributed to NCDs, there is an



urgent need for government interventions. As per WHO, 58% of total deaths were contributed by NCDs in Pakistan & the rise in obesity and NCDs in Pakistan has become a significant public health challenge primarily due to unhealthy diets and lifestyle.

This event was attended by nutritionists, public health specialists and other healthcare professionals. First speaker of the session Dr. Sumaira Nasim, Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi highlighted the causes of high consumption of SSB in Pakistan and its impact on physical and mental

health. She emphasized involving different stakeholders such as parents, school associations, nutritionists and other healthcare professionals, policymakers, celebrities, and media. Awareness using different media platforms, particularly Word-of-mouth (WOM) via social media can be an effective strategy to reduce consumption, particularly among youth.

Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant at Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), said that increasing taxes on sugary drinks is an evidence-based policy action to reduce their consumption,

obesity and related diseases. While referring to modelling study by world bank he said “If the FED on all sugary drinks is increased to 50 per cent, it would help generate the annual economic value of health impact of \$8.9 million and achieve the health gain of 8,500 Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).” He added “the average annual tax revenue would increase to \$810 million for the next 10 years.”

Secretary General of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), Mr. Sanaullah Ghumman said that PANA is thankful to all those voices which are raised to cut down the consumption of unhealthy diet to reduce the disease burden and hospital expenditure. He said that beverage industry is misleading policy makers at every step and creating barriers to the policy process aimed at reducing consumption of sweetened drinks.

Seminar was followed by a Panel discussion of the Nutrition & Public Health policy experts on

“How to combat the challenges to decrease consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

Punjab's immunisation rate highest in country: Dr Jamal Nasir

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday said that the Punjab children's immunization rate was the highest in the country due to the integrated health system and public awareness.

While addressing a media workshop on immunization at a local hotel, he said that the health department had created a system for the repair of damaged medical machinery under which any machine in a government hospital or primary health centre would be reported on the online system and would be addressed within 24 hours.

Dr Jamal said that revolutionary measures had been taken in the health sector during the last four months under which 52,000 prisoners had been tested for hepatitis A, B, and C, TB, AIDS, and other diseases in all the jails of Punjab and vaccinated against the diseases.

Dr Jamal Nasir said that special attention was being paid to cleanliness in the government treatment centres and three colours of bed sheets had been fixed in the emergency wards of all hospitals to ensure that the sheets were changed every day.

He said that special arrangements have been made to ensure the cleanliness of the bathrooms and surprise visits will also be made to check the cleanliness.

He advised the residents to contact toll-free numbers at 1166 and 1033 for any health-related issue.

Speaking on the occasion, Immunization Officer UNICEF Qaratul Ain urged the media to broadcast public service messages to create awareness among the public about immunization.

Divisional Officer WHO Dr Asif Sehgal, Director of Health Rawalpindi Dr Ansar Ishaq, CEO of Health Dr Ijaz, District Health Officer Dr Ehsan Ghani, UNICEF Punjab Health Specialist Dr Manzoor and others were also present.

The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Department of Primary and Secondary Healthcare Punjab and UNICEF.



Fly Emirates to Dubai and enjoy a complimentary night's stay in a luxury 4* or 5* hotel

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Emirates has today announced an exciting new offer for travellers planning to visit Dubai this summer. Starting from 22nd May 2023 to 11th June 2023, people who purchase an Emirates return ticket in First Class or Business Class to or stopping over in Dubai, will be able to enjoy a complimentary two night stay at 25hours Hotel Dubai One Central. While for those travelling in Premium Economy Class or Economy Class, can enjoy a complimentary one night stay at Novotel World Trade Centre, Dubai.

This special offer is valid for all return tickets to or stopping over in Dubai for more than 24 hours, for travel dates between 26th May 2023 and 31st August 2023. The offer is available on bookings made on emirates.com or Emirates call centre or ticket offices and via participating travel agents, made at least 96 hours in advance of passengers' arrival.

Protest against G-20 meeting in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: According to the instructions of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, a day of protest was observed across Azad Kashmir against India's violation of international laws in holding the G-20 meeting in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, protest meetings, demonstrations and rallies were organized in all small and big cities of Azad Kashmir. A large protest rally was held under the auspices of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission at Azadi Chowk in the capital, Muzaffarabad. In which the former Prime Minister of the Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Leader of the Opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Member of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Pir Mazhar Saeed, Pasban Hurriyat Chairman Uzair Ahmad Ghazali, Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Interna-

tional Forum for Justice and Human Rights. A large number of political and social leaders, government secretaries, heads of departments, heads of local bodies, civil society, lawyers, government employees, including Mushtaqul Islam, Naib Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sheikh Aqeel-ur-Rehman, Shaikat Javed Mir, and students participated. On this occasion, loud slogans were raised for the G20 meeting in Occupied Kashmir and against Indian atrocities, the right of Kashmiris to self-determination and expressing solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir. After the protest meeting, a big protest rally was also taken out from Burhan Wani Chowk, which was led by Raja Muhammad Farooq Hyder Khan, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed, Pir Mazhar Saeed, Hurriyat leaders Uzair Ghazali, Mushtaqul Islam, Shaikat Javed and others. Former Prime Minister Raja Mohammad Farooq Haider Khan, Opposition Leader Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Senior



Most Minister Colonel Waqar Ahmed Noor, Hurriyat Leader Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, Mushtaqul Islam and others also submitted a memorandum to the UN observer. Addressing the protest rally, former Prime Minister Raja Mohammad Farooq Haider Khan said that the G20 meeting in occupied

Jammu and Kashmir is a violation of the UN Security Council resolutions. If you participate in the meeting and violate these resolutions, then what is the justification of this institution? China and other countries that have boycotted this meeting, it has happened thanks to the success of Kashmiris and

their sacrifices.

We all have a responsibility not to allow disunity to arise among us. He said that he is grateful to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for accepting our position that the future of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be decided by Kashmiris. Addressing the

protest rally, Leader of Opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that India is committing the worst atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, Hurriyat leadership is locked in jails. India is trying to create its own narrative. Kashmiris are protesting today against the G20 meeting in Occupied Kashmir. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has come here today to show solidarity with Kashmiris. Former Minister Chaudhry Mohammad Rasheed said that our first priority is the freedom movement of Kashmir. The G20 countries demand a boycott of the meeting in Occupied Kashmir. India is committing the worst atrocities in human history in Occupied Kashmir. Kashmiris will not sit down with China until the entire Kashmir becomes independent and becomes a part of Pakistan. Member of Assembly Pir Mazhar Saeed said that the G20 countries are part of the United Nations, they should have demanded that India give the right to self-determination to Kashmiris.

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Financial crisis in Pakistan

According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the production of major industries has been declining for 7 consecutive months of the current financial year, especially the production process in the export textile industry is slow. A decline in exports indicates that the overall economic growth rate will fall in the coming months. A large number of people are expected to become unemployed due to the reduction in the production activities of major industries. It is estimated that the fourth quarter of FY 2022-23 will be the most affected.

This is due to the removal of energy subsidies for industries and higher raw material prices and higher energy costs due to the devaluation of the rupee. The IMF recently revised down Pakistan's economic growth forecast to 0.5 percent for fiscal 2023. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank have also expected the growth rate to be 0.4 percent and 0.6 percent respectively. Production of major industries fell 11.6 percent on an annual basis in February, 7.9 percent in January and 3.51 percent in December 2022. Similarly, the negative growth rate was 5.49 percent in November 2022,

7.7 percent in October 2022 and 2.27 percent in September 2022.

While a modest growth of 0.30 percent was recorded in August, the production of major industries declined by 1.67 percent in July, the first month of the current fiscal year. The production of the textile sector shrank by 30.74 percent compared to the previous year, negative growth in yarn, 30.10%. Petroleum products registered a negative growth of 16.06% in March, mainly due to decline in production of petrol and high diesel while production of all petroleum products except jet fuel, kerosene, jute and bleaching oil slowed down. 24.68% decline was observed in the auto sector in March

Production of almost all types of vehicles fell, except for diesel engines. Iron and steel production also fell by 5.07 percent in March. At this time, almost all the economic indicators of Pakistan have turned negative. But the government is neither interested in explaining the reasons for this nor does it seem to suggest solutions. This situation is

alarming.

Apart from this, the remittances in Pakistan's economy, i.e. the money sent by Pakistanis living abroad, have the status of oxygen in the life of the country and it helps in increasing the country's foreign exchange reserves and reducing the current account deficit. It can be estimated that in the last fiscal year, Pakistan, a country with a population of more than 22 million, exported a total of 30 billion dollars, while 9 million Pakistanis living abroad during this period. Remittances of around \$30 billion to Pakistan helped reduce Pakistan's current account deficit.

Due to which the deficit at the end of the last financial year was 17.4 billion dollars. However, the data so far in the current financial year shows that there has been a decrease in remittances from overseas Pakistanis. This is due to a Once again the gray market is born. Currently, there is a difference of around Rs 25 between interbank and gray market. Due to which Pakistanis abroad are sending money through

hundi instead of banking channels and unfortunately the government is silent on this issue.

Rather, it is promoting importers by allowing them to collect money from Hundi. Pakistan has to pay 3.77 billion dollars before June, if the remittances continue to decline, the repayment of the debt may become more difficult. As far as the budget is concerned, many stakeholders have complained that the government is going to present the budget on June 9, but unlike the past, no consultation has been done this time.

Which has increased the fear that this budget will be an IMF document. The question is that even after the conditions of the IMF have been met, the agreement has not been reached. Will presenting the budget according to them lead to an agreement? On one hand, the government wants to sign an agreement with IMF and on the other hand, relief is being given on petroleum products. The finance minister is holding meetings with the IMF and the energy minister is saying that if the IMF agreement is not reached, Pakistan's dependence on China will increase. But Wazir Sahab probably does not know that the decision to support Pakistan has to be made by China and not by Pakistan.



Analysis

Kiran Asim

Pakistan Tourism Website launched in China

To celebrate the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges, the launching ceremony of the Pakistan Tourism Website was successfully held in Beijing, China on Monday.

The Chinese-language website, namely Discover Batic (also known as Discover Iron-clad Friend Pakistan), was launched by the Pakistan embassy to popularize Pakistan's rich repertoire of culture and tourism resources across China.

Also recommended routes, visa processing instructions, and many other resources are provided on the website.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque pinpointed that Pakistan has rich potential for tourism due to its rich culture, geographical and biological diversity, and history and that Pakistan as China's friend has made a lot of preparation to welcome Chinese tourists.

"Pakistan welcomes Chinese tourists and has set up relevant tourism organizations and committees, introduced favourable policies to facilitate visas and promote the development and rejuvenation of tourism," he added.

According to United Nations World Tourism Organization, China was one of the world's major outbound tourism contributors before the outbreak of the pandemic. China has resumed outbound tourism after downgrading COVID-19 management measures from Class A to B earlier this year, China Economic Net reported on Monday.

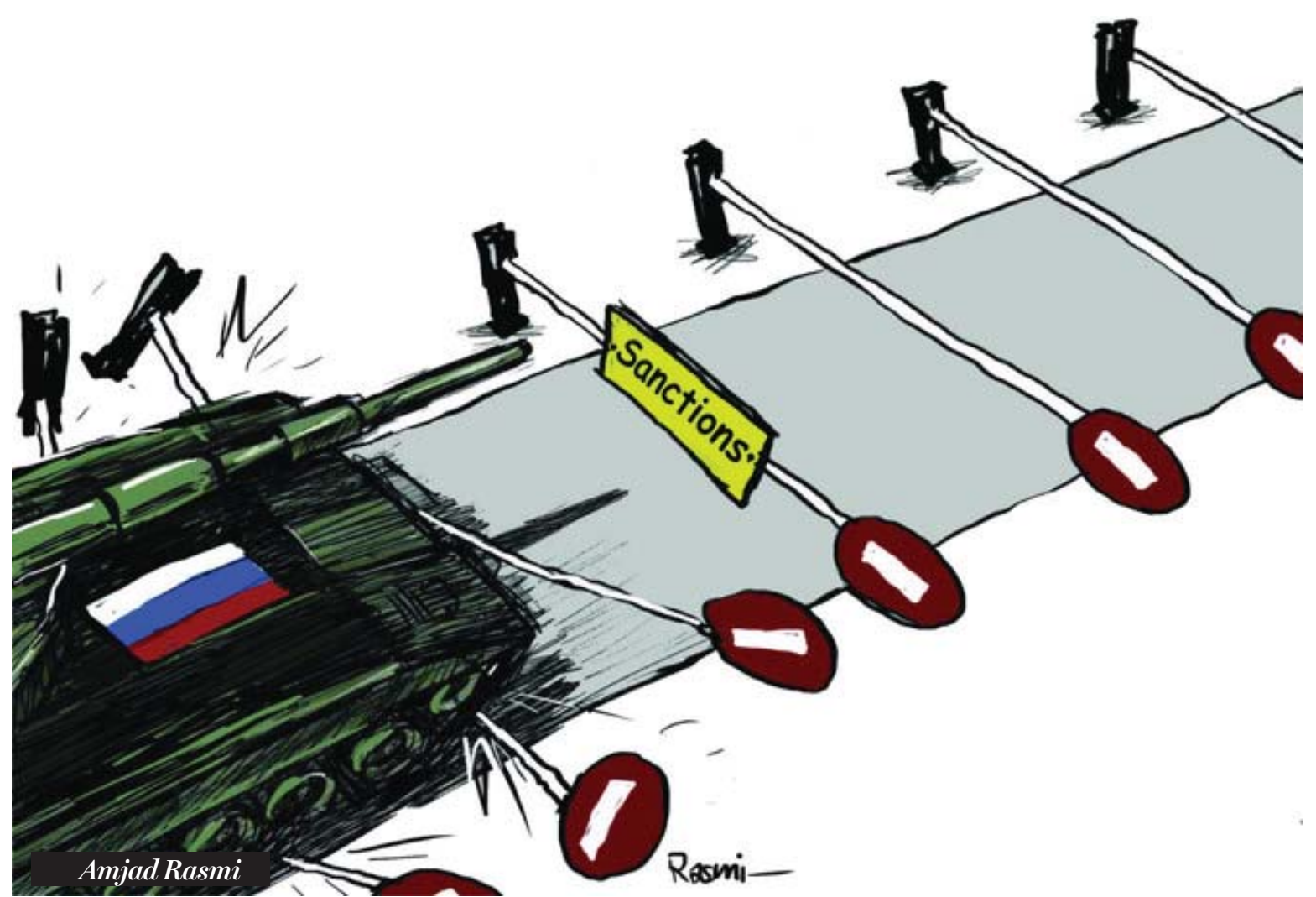
China recently concluded its five-day May Day holiday that ended on May 3. After experiencing a solid recovery in consumption in the 1st quarter of the year, the country's holiday spending mirrored the vitality and resilience of the world's second-largest economy. Chinese people made 274 million domestic trips during the five-day break, soaring 70.83 percent from the same holiday of last year and up about 19 percent from 2019 before the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said.

Border inspection agencies across China have seen an average of over 1.25 million inbound and outbound trips made per day during the 2023 May Day holiday, an increase of about 2.2 times compared with the same period last year, said the National Immigration Administration (NIA) on May 4. Inbound trips reached 3.12 million, while about 3.15 million outbound trips were made, said the NIA.

"The removal of quarantine requirements in January 2023 could usher in a renewed demand for trips abroad. [...] Chinese tourists have maintained a strong desire to travel internationally and are willing to pay for this experience," reads the recently released McKinsey report titled Outlook for China Tourism 2023: Light at the end of the tunnel.

Eying the great potential in this, the global tourism market has responded warmly to this change and actively welcomed Chinese tourists.

To hold the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 will greatly help improve people-to-people contacts and especially promote tourism cooperation between China and Pakistan.



Amjad Rasmi

Rasmi

Innocents Vs Culprits , whom to oblige in darkness? - I

All political parties & institutions have think tanks to resolve existing untoward situations taking us towards penseroso, but it dirly needs seriousness keeping apart all personalization.

Every offshore & onshore Pakistani feels curiosity to know about the anarchy season makers ?

Experienced judges, knowledgeable attorneys, aptitudes based national & international organizations should be the part and parcel here to look into the matters instead of non-standardized statements like rumours.

People have great sadness, loss of a significant amount of things but more significant is the programme planners & they must be inquired firstly.

It is acceptable that It takes a lot of hard work to find the facts from the harsh realities, but patriotism demands your honesty and impartially for integrity of Pakistan & and anyone who wants to interfere in it will surely be considered for his direct involvement in May 9, which is nominated as black day in the history of Pakistan.

In this inquiry phenomena save yourself from "Haste makes waste" so manage and organize national and international investigative experience, knowledge and aptitude based to come to the conclusion transparently with required speed.

We may conclude viewing the supreme court, a powerful institution while taking decisions & what happened in Islamabad capital Territory?

Can an inquiry official remain impartial, honest fearing of Allah Almighty throughout the inquiry ?

It might be a hard nut to crack in the atmosphere where certain past

incidents clarifies what happened with the inquiring and to be inquired persons naturally or artificially?

In view of the situation, some people who are related to PTI and also included such people who are not directly related to PTI. These unconcerned appearing to be shown unrelated to PTI? It is also a classical and wonderful round to show artificial declining for what purpose?

Can PTI be harmed by this?

It should be noted that Mr. Khan alone would have been elected from many constituencies and this was a philosophy of PTI which the people voted for with support.

Elastic force has been added due to undue stress.

A transparent inquiry can be conducted without any pressure and covering full observations.

At that time, such events are given favorable statements by the majority to make a huge majority for their own politics.

It is a matter of surprise that neither an inquiry nor a trial court has been held yet, and declaring someone guilty before this with full force and noise means that we are diverting our eyes from the real direction ?

Hatred of interference in affairs seems to be spreading further. Just start the inquiry from here: who is benefiting from May 9?

The statements of the political parties after May 9 should be seen as evidence in the record and it is very important to examine what evidence they have with their statements.

Let's " THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK"

Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan's analysis is

being heard time and again in which he pointed out the schema of conspiracy.

Recognition of Aitzaz Ahsan, a highly distinguished attorney and political leader

He is one of the most prominent and widely respected lawyers in Pakistan, his skill in the courtroom is a particular strength even 'Outstanding' founding partner Aitzaz Ahsan is 'a fantastic advocate' & A celebrated Lawyer, distinguished, articulate and a national hero & Law Blog Lawyer of the Day may be taken into account.

The gist of his analysis clarifies that, A deal without a loss or killing two birds with one stone

or EARTH'S JOYS AND HEAVEN'S COMBINED from any side needs in-depth analysis.

Iqbal's here dreams; O God, you are the one who created the tongue, O oblivious one who is overcome by doubt, you are

beyond the wheel of the blue face, the destination of the Muslims, around which are the stars, that caravan is

the place of death, the place of death, your eternity. You are eternal, the last message of God, You are eternal, Hanna is

the bride of Lala, the blood of your liver is your three-pointed brotherhood, the architect of where you are,

your nature is faith, the possibilities of life, where the hidden essence is like a test

from the world of water and water. For the sake of Alam-e-Javid,

the one who was taken with the prophethood is Armaghan.

This point is born from the history of the Baya nation that the nations of Asia are the guardians of the earth.

Then read the lesson of honesty, justice, and courage. You will be the leader of the world. Let's concentrate on, Surah Al-Mulk means "The Sovereignty"

Blessed is He in whose hand is dominion, and He is over all things competent.

[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving .

And We have certainly beautified the nearest heaven with stars and have made [from] them what is thrown at the devils and have prepared for them the punishment of the Blaze.

And for those who disbelieved in their Lord is the punishment of Hell, and wretched is the destination.

When they are thrown into it, they hear from it a [dreadful] inhaling while it boils up.

It almost bursts with rage. Every time a company is thrown into it, its keepers ask them, "Did they not come to you a warner?"

They will say, "Yes, a warner had come to us, but we denied and said, 'Allah has not sent down anything. You are not but in great error.'"

And they will say, "If only we had been listening or reasoning, we would not be among the companions of the Blaze."

And they will admit their sin, so [it is] alienation for the companions of the Blaze.

Indeed, those who fear their Lord unseen will have forgiveness and great reward.

To be continued

New Uzbekistan: Constitutional reforms approved in landmark referendum

The approval of constitutional amendments through a nationwide referendum in Uzbekistan is a momentous stride towards political and democratic reforms, exemplifying the nation's remarkable progress under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The resounding majority vote of 90.21% and the notable participation rate of 84.54% unequivocally establish the authority of the people and unequivocally endorse the new constitution.

These constitutional reforms not only reset President Mirziyoyev's term count, but also hold the promise of augmented social and legal protections for the citizens of Uzbekistan.

Mirziyoyev's resolute pursuit of economic liberalization, fostering improved relations with the West, and curtailing the powers of the security services have engendered positive changes, effectively dismantling the previously entrenched environment of a police state.

Since assuming power following the passing of his predecessor Islam Karimov in 2016, Mirziyoyev has spearheaded a series of reforms, notably including addressing the pervasive issue of forced labor in the cotton fields. The successful constitutional referendum further solidifies his unwavering commitment to progress and reform. The new constitution, superseding its 1992 predecessor, introduces a marked difference of 65% and encompasses a greater number of articles. Its primary aim is to establish a "New Uzbekistan" characterized by openness, fairness, and the safeguarding of citizens' rights.

The adoption of the new constitution stands as the cornerstone for ongoing political, economic, and social reforms. Eminent changes, such as the declaration of Uzbeki-

stan as a social state and the explicit protection of individual honor and dignity, underscore the government's emphasis on human rights and equality. The extension of the presidential term and the provision for two-term candidacy further signify the government's confidence in President Mirziyoyev's leadership and vision.

Enacting the "New Social Contract" through the new constitution is anticipated to yield far-reaching socio-economic and political benefits in the future. President Mirziyoyev's visionary leadership has propelled Uzbekistan onto a trajectory of its "Third Renaissance." The constitutional reforms pave the way for a "New Uzbekistan" wherein the

rule of law, human rights, and freedoms are irrevocably enshrined. The strategic priorities of social reform, social development, social justice, social diversity, and social harmony align harmoniously with the aspirations of the nation.

All in all, the constitutional referendum in Uzbekistan, coupled with the imminent early presidential elections, exemplifies the nation's steadfast dedication to progress, development, and the well-being of its citizens. The constitution reinforces the state's unwavering commitment to education, healthcare, and the holistic advancement of families, further underscoring the government's unwavering focus on the betterment of society as a whole. The constitutional reforms herald a new chapter in Uzbekistan's history, where political, economic, and social transformations converge to shape a brighter and more prosperous future.

(The writer is President of the Baburi Forum, Islamabad-Pakistan.)



Analysis

Mian Rashid Asghar



Analysis

M Ramzan Mughal

'Remembering Alastair Lamb: A tribute to an eminent scholar'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "We are gathered here to celebrate and honour Alastair Lamb, an eminent researcher and historian, whose name has become synonymous with intellectual vigour and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of truth." This was stated by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan at an event "Remembering Alastair Lamb: A Tribute to an Eminent Scholar" organised by India Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad today.

Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, who was the chief guest at the commemorative event, praised the life and unmatched scholarship of Alastair Lamb. He said Alastair Lamb's writings have helped raise awareness about the historical context, legal complexities and human rights implications of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and encouraged a more informed discourse on the subject. The Foreign Secretary emphasized that it was the right time to recognise the scholarly contributions by Alastair Lamb as India was using its position as a G20 Chair and convening a meeting in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

While delivering his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that Alastair Lamb was the first academic who examined British archives on Kashmir and, through



his meticulous research on the genesis of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, had definitively demolished the Indian case about the legitimacy of the State's "accession" to India. Alastair established beyond any doubt that the Maharaja could not have signed the so-called 'Instrument of Accession' on 26 October 1947, as he was on road to Jammu and that there was no evidence of any contact between him and Indian emissaries on that day. DG Sohail Mahmood put forth several recommendations that included conferment of high civil award (posthumously) upon Alastair Lamb; establishing an 'Alastair Lamb Chair for Kashmir Studies' in one of the leading Univer-

sities of Pakistan or AJK; and establishment of a Library/Resource Centre in the name of Alastair Lamb where his work and other related materials should be kept.

Dr. Arshad Ali, Director India Study Centre in his introductory remarks said that the demise of Alastair Lamb was a huge loss to the field of scholarly research, particularly related to the origin of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Alastair Lamb's lifelong commitment to academic research and his unwavering pursuit of knowledge have greatly enriched our understanding of the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, former convener APHC-AJK chapter,

paid rich tributes to Alastair Lamb as a historian of modern Kashmir. He said that Alastair Lamb was a great political historian and the people of Kashmir were indebted to him in many ways.

Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor at Quaid-e-Azam University, stated that the work of Alastair Lamb was widely acknowledged and, at the same time, segments in India had sought to make him a 'controversial figure.' This was because he spoke the truth and challenged the Indian narrative while debunking many of the myths advanced by India.

Mr. Iftikhar Gilani, a prominent Kashmiri Journalist, lamented that, despite having 5000 years of documented history of Jammu and Kashmir, the events of 1947 had been clouded in mystery.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors (BoG) ISSI, while concluding the event said that at the time of partition and emergence of Kashmir dispute, the basic principle was violated and India grabbed Hyderabad and Junagadh on one basis, and Jammu & Kashmir on another basis. India manipulated the 'accession' issue and weaved a web of deception and also told the world that the future of the State will be decided by the people of Kashmir, but latter it backtracked on its solemn pledges. He said it needed solid research work to counter India's claims and that void was filled by Alastair Lamb.

DPP authorities told to stop political maneuvering at WHO



Xinhua

BEIJING: Ma Xiaoguang, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, stressed on Monday that any attempt to challenge the one-China principle will find no support and is doomed to fail.

"We advise the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities to immediately stop their political maneuvering about Taiwan-related issues at the World Health Organization (WHO)," Ma said in response to a media query.

The World Health Assembly, the highest decision-making body of the WHO, on Monday decided not to include in its agenda a proposal on Taiwan's participation in the upcoming annual assembly as an observer.

The relevant decision demonstrates, once again, that adherence to the one-China principle is the universal consensus of the international community that is in line with the will of the people and the overriding trend, Ma said.

This principle should not be challenged, the spokesperson said, adding that the so-called "proposal" by the DPP authorities violated the international consensus and is doomed to encounter rejection.

Yasmin Dar elected as Lord Mayor of Manchester



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Yasmeen Dar belongs to the city of Jhelum in Pakistan. The struggle for the freedom of Kashmir was the motto of her life to raise her voice in favor of Kashmiris. Her efforts are commendable where Kashmiri women are rarely the voice of Kashmir. Daughters have always raised their heads with pride. Samira Farrukh expressed good wishes while congratulating. May God grant more success and progress. Amen

Beijing schools celebrate 72nd anniversary of establishment of Pak-China diplomatic relations

BEIJING: Students from Beijing Mentougou Yuyuan Primary School and Jingxi Affiliated Primary School of Beijing No.8 Middle School visited the Pakistan Embassy here to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The schools are organizing a series of cultural and educational activities as part of their "One Belt And One Road" International Understanding Education Project. May 2023 is being celebrated as "Pakistan Month" to mark the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The "One Belt And One Road" International Understanding Education Project is a joint initiative of the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project aims to promote mutual understanding and friendship between China and the countries of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During their visit, the students interacted with Pakistani students at the embassy and participated in various cultural performances celebrating the rich heritage of friendship between the two countries. The Chinese students enjoyed the national and folk songs of Pakistan and were shown videos of the cultural and natural landscape of Pakistan.

They also showed keen interest in the history, cuisine, languages, geography, and culture of Pakistan during a Q&A session with embassy officials.

The visit was a great opportunity for the students to learn more about Pakistan and its culture. The visit ended with an exchange of gifts between the children of both countries.

Climate change causes 2 mln deaths in 50 years; poor suffer most: UN

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Over two million deaths and \$4.3 trillion in economic losses; that's the impact of a half-century of extreme weather events turbo-charged by man-made global warming, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a Geneva-based UN agency, said Monday.

According to WMO, weather, climate and water-related hazards caused close to 12,000 disasters between 1970 and 2021. Developing countries were hit hardest, seeing nine in 10 deaths and 60 per cent of economic losses from climate shocks and extreme weather.

WMO said that Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States suffered a "disproportionately" high cost in relation to the size of their economies.

"The most vulnerable communities, unfortunately, bear the brunt of weather, climate and water-related hazards," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

In Least Developed Countries, WMO reported that several disasters over the past half-century had caused economic losses of up to 30 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

In Small Island Developing States, one in five disasters had an impact "equivalent to more than five per cent" of GDP, with some disasters wiping out countries' entire GDP.

Asia saw the highest death toll due to extreme weather, climate and water-related events over the past 50 years, with close to one million deaths - more than half in Bangladesh alone.

In Africa, WMO said that droughts accounted for 95 per cent of the reported 733,585 climate disaster deaths.

WMO stressed however that improved early warnings and coordinated disaster management have helped mitigate the deadly impact of disasters. "Early warnings save lives," Taalas insisted.

The UN agency also noted that recorded deaths for 2020 and 2021 were lower than the previous decade's average.

Innovation Challenge Future makers: Empowering Entrepreneurs with Disabilities

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: To empower persons with disabilities, Sightsavers in collaboration with DeafTawk is thrilled to announce the launch of its ground breaking program 'Innovation Challenge Futuremakers (ICF)'. This fast-track acceleration program is dedicated to breaking barriers and empowering entrepreneurs with disabilities to make a profound social and economic impact through their innovative ventures.

ICF is the result of a strategic partnership between Sightsavers, an international organization committed to preventing avoidable blindness and promoting disability inclusion and DeafTawk, a Pakistani startup dedicated to improving the lives of deaf individuals. The program is funded by Standard Chartered Foundation - the philanthropic arm of Standard Chartered Bank.

The six-month acceleration



program will include startups from across Pakistan and is thoughtfully crafted to cater to the needs of entrepreneurs with disabilities, offering a hybrid experience that combines virtu-

al engagement with valuable offline interactions.

Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sightsavers Pakistan Office commented, Sightsavers, a strong advocate for

disability inclusion, is proud to be part of this program. She further added "We believe in the power of entrepreneurship to drive social and economic change. Innovation Challenge Futuremakers will create opportunities for persons with disabilities, enabling them to contribute to the development of a more inclusive society."

Ali Shabbar, CEO of DeafTawk, expressed his excitement about the initiative, saying, "We are delighted to launch Innovation Challenge Futuremakers and provide a transformative platform that empowers entrepreneurs with disabilities to unleash their full potential. As a startup led by individuals with disabilities, we intimately understand the unique challenges faced by this community. By breaking down barriers, our aim is to foster an inclusive and equitable business landscape that embraces diversity and empowers aspiring entrepreneurs with disabilities."

Visit of Team for Self Institutional Performance Evaluation at Women University Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Self Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) Review Team visited the Women University Multan, Katchery campus. This Self assessment aims to evaluate the overall performance of Women University Multan on the basis of IPE standards which are mission, vision, goals, faculty students, academic programs, governance, quality assurance, transparency, institutional resources, public disclosure and circulars to help improve the state of quality in Women University Multan. The Program Review Team consisted of academicians and professionals led by Prof Dr Amir Ejaz (Vice Chancellor, Qarshi University Lahore), Mr. Eng Umer Yasir (Director QEC, Fati-



ma Jinnah Medical College, Lahore) and Prof. Dr Irfan Ahmed Baig (Dean Social Sciences, MNSAU, Multan). The Vice Chancellor, Women University Multan Prof. Dr. Uzma Quraishi welcomed the members and gave a brief presentation about the performance of the university. The meet-

ing was attended by Dr. Atia Iqbal (Director QEC), Dr. Raima Nazar and Dr. Malka Liaquat (Deputy Director QEC), Ms. Uzma Ishaq (Ast. Director QEC), Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha, Prof Dr. Qammar Rubab (Registrar), Dr. Saadia Irshad (Additional Registrar) Rehan Qadir

(Treasurer) Asad Ali Butta (Project Director) along with teaching heads of different departments were also present.

During two days visit there were different activities conducted by the team which include a review of program manuals, and policies along with rules & regulations of the university. In addition, interactive sessions were carried out with Directors / Chairpersons of Departments, Faculty, Students, Registrar, Controller Examinations, Treasurer. The Team also visited different departments of the university and inspected the facilities like the library, laboratories, classrooms, etc as per the plan and expressed great satisfaction with the facilities provided within the campus to the faculty, students, and staff.

Speakers emphasize importance of Pakistan-Russia relations for regional stability

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Speakers including Pakistani Senators, former Pakistani ambassador, think tanks representatives, current Russian ambassador to Pakistan and Russian scholars at a conference held in Moscow, while tracing the 75 years history of relations between Pakistan and Russia, Monday lauded the current positive trajectory of bilateral relations and emphasized their importance for regional stability.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of establishment of Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia, the Institute of Oriental Studies in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy organized the two day international conference (May 22-23) in Moscow, says a press release issued by Pakistan's



embassy in Moscow.

Pakistan's Senators Waleed Iqbal and Anwar ul Haq Kakar co-chaired first day of the conference.

The participants of the conference noted growth of bilateral relations in diplomatic and economic domains. Various ideas for further strengthen-

ing this important relationship were also discussed.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, former ambassador Qazi Khaliullah and representatives of a number of Pakistan based think tanks participated online. Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila V. Ganich, delivered his statement online.

Director of the Institute Prof. Alikber K. Alikberov, Prof Dr. Vyacheslav Y. Belokrenitsky and

Dr., Deputy Director Vasily A. Kuznetsov also presented their analysis of the relations between the two countries.

Russian experts on Pakistan also presented their views on the growing Pakistan-Russia relations.

The conference is scheduled to conclude on Tuesday.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,195.06	41,599.18
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,690.27	41,155.47
Index Value	Change
2,338,518,811	-404.12
Percentage	Time
-0.97%	22 May, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,770.99	+14.12
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	22 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,328.43	-98.20
Percentage	Time
-0.29%	22 May, 1:13 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,086.82	+278.47
Percentage	Time
+0.90%	22 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	192.5	194.5
Bahrain Dinar	759.25	767.25
Canadian Dollar	214	216.2
China Yuan	42.47	42.87
Danish Krone	41.42	41.82
Euro	318	321
Hong Kong Dollar	37.31	37.66
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Kuwaiti Dinar	926.27	935.27
Malaysian Ringgit	62.92	63.52
NewZealand \$	179.45	181.45
Norwegians Krone	26.58	26.88
Omani Riyal	741.31	749.31
Qatari Riyal	78.28	78.98
Saudi Riyal	79.2	80
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.91	27.21
Swiss Franc	317.28	319.78
Thai Bhat	8.37	8.52
U.A.E Dirham	81.3	90.4
UK Pound Sterling	372	376
US Dollar	302	305

Managing country without IMF, debt repayments will be a difficult: Mian Zahid

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said it will be very difficult to run the country without the IMF program because it will be impossible to get more loans without the IMF.

Old debts will have to be repaid at the rate of 25 billion dollars annually, which will be a nightmare for Pakistan, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government should present an alternative economic model to the public in view of the delay in the IMF program.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the country's difficulties should not be increased by making irresponsible statements about the economic situation and instead of political sloganeer-



ing decisions should be taken according to the ground realities.

He said that a strategy should be formulated according to the facts, he said, adding that the current account surplus is welcome, but

the reason for the improvement in the current account situation is not economic reforms, but the reduction of imports from 80 billion dollars to 55 or 60 billion dollars per year.

Restricting imports is a temporary measure to avoid a default that cannot be sustained for long as Pakistan's GDP has reached record lows, thousands of factories have closed and millions of people have lost their jobs.

In any case, the current account surplus cannot increase to the extent that Pakistan can repay its debts of 25 billion dollars every year. Almost every sector of the economy has been affected by the measures taken to deal with the current account deficit, inflation, unemployment and economic instability have increased, the output of major industries has fallen by twenty-five percent, and foreign direct investment has declined by 98 percent, he informed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that millions of people are forced to work for low wages while many industries are operating far below their

capacity. The market is in a state of uncertainty due to the risk of default and continued depreciation of the rupee, which is also increasing inflation, but on the other hand, the depreciation of the rupee may increase exports and remittances from overseas Pakistanis.

Thirty billion dollars or nine thousand billion rupees are used by Pakistanis annually from remittances, which confronts inflation and poverty.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the public and the business community had to pay a heavy price for current account management, which temporarily averted the risk of default, but it was shrinking the economy and tax and non-tax revenue of the government.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that to deal with this situation immediate reforms in the economy, agriculture and energy sectors are necessary which can help save almost 20 billion dollars annually, which not only can provide relief to the people but also avert the risk of default.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Haji Ghulam Ali, Governor KPK and Iftikhar Ali Malik President Saarc Chamber of Commerce are inaugurating the building of Saarc Chamber in Islamabad. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Zubair Ahmed Malik Executive Saarc Chamber, Hina Mansab, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari and Zulfiqar Butt are also in picture.



Askari Bank attains PCI DSS Certificate



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank (AKBL), a leading commercial bank of Pakistan, attained the "Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS v3.2.1)" compliance and certification, which is a leading payment card data security standard by Payment Card Industry Security Council (PCI SSC) via PCI QSA Firm Risk Associates, a premier global information technology company.

This prestigious certification is another milestone for AKBL and signifies its unwavering dedication to safeguarding sensitive customer information and upholding the highest standards of data security within the financial industry. With this certification, the Bank remains fully adherent to data security and control requirements that ensure customer security, sensitive card data protection and fraud risk prevention.

As a result of this certification, AKBL has implemented robust security measures throughout its operations, ensuring the protection of sensitive cardholder data. This accomplishment further enhances the bank's reputation as a trusted financial institution, dedicated to safeguarding customer information and maintaining the utmost integrity in all its practices.

The ceremony was held at

Askari Bank's Head Office in Islamabad. Dr. Aftab Rizvi, CEO Risk Associates presented the certificate to Rana Fasih Ul Hassan, Chief Risk Officer (CRO) AKBL and Mr. Jawad Khalid Mirza, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) AKBL. Other executives and team members from both organizations were also present at the event.

Mr. Jawad Khalid Mirza, CISO AKBL, said, "Achieving PCI-DSS Compliance is another step by Askari Bank towards its continuous effort to further elevate its security posture, to enhance the safety of its cardholders and the payments ecosystem. Maintaining such an exhaustive international benchmark is not a one-time activity but an ongoing process and the bank has now laid an excellent foundation to be vigilant and protect client data and electronic payments."

While speaking at the occasion, Dr. Aftab Rizvi stated, "It has been a pleasure working with Askari Bank throughout the certification process and witnessing the commitment to data security displayed by the Bank's team and the security infrastructure in place." He further added that, "Risk Associates offers felicitations to the Askari Bank team for achieving this compliance milestone and we wish them success in their endeavour to enhance data security."

Zong 4G joins hands with Resource Linked to empower Pakistan's corporate sector

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication company, has announced its partnership with Resource Linked, a well-renowned name in Resource Management. Under this agreement, Zong 4G will provide Corporate Voice, Data & customized Enterprise solutions products to Resource Linked, as well as its new start-up, Snapp I/O, enabling them to perform daily operations with more digital exposure.

Zong 4G's business solutions provide sophisticated services to help companies digitalize and upgrade their performance and monitoring. The partnership with Resource Linked is a testament to Zong 4G's commitment to supporting digitalization and automation in Pakistan's corporate sector.

Mr. Farooq Raza Khan, Director GCSS, ZONG 4G, said, "We have a vision of Lead The Digital Innovation and have always been focused on supporting digitalization and automation. Going digital is crucial in the current industry situation, and Zong 4G is making significant investments to expand its infrastructure to provide a wide range of coverage and give digital exposure to corpo-



rate entities in Pakistan."

Mr. Adeel Rasheed, CEO of Resource Linked, acknowledged the importance of digitalization and shared his plan for future business expansion. He also highlighted the impact that basic technological changes could bring to the process and how Zong 4G's support would facilitate seamless business continuity for Resource Linked and its partner platform, Snapp I/O Pvt Ltd.

The Official Spokesperson of Zong 4G said, "We are delighted to partner with Resource Linked and support their commu-

nication and connectivity needs. Zong 4G is committed to providing the best-in-class services to its customers, and this partnership is a testament to our commitment. We look forward to working with Resource Linked and delivering exceptional customer experiences."

Zong 4G remains committed to being at the forefront of digital innovation in Pakistan. This partnership with Resource Linked is a testament to Zong 4G's dedication to supporting and enabling digital transformation in the corporate sector.

Etihad Garden organized Family Property Gala

News Desk

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The Etihad Group organized a thrilling two-day Family Property Gala in Rahim Yar Khan over the weekend for Etihad Garden's new phase. Held on the 20th and 21st of May, the event was the perfect opportunity for members of the public, interested buyers, and investors to explore the exciting new property project.

During the Family Property Gala, attendees had special access to the project's inventory, allowing them to discover the wide range of available options to suit their preferences and requirements. They were further offered exclusive event-only discounts on the occasion.

In addition, winners were announced for the Umrah Package, the lucky draw was carried out during the holy month of Rama-



dan. The event also offered a fun-filled day of entertainment and activities for the entire family. The Family Gala featured a Kids' Corner, while guests also had the option to indulge in a variety of delicious cuisines.

Group Directors and Chief Operating Officer Sheikh Shuja Ullah Khan of Etihad Group expressed their well wishes to the management for organizing this event, they reiterated that Etihad Garden is a defini-

tion of modern living, as it offers a range of thoughtfully designed residential units and an array of world-class amenities.

On the occasion, Project Head, Syed Adnan Khalil stated that he was thrilled to welcome families and interested buyers and investors to the Family Property Gala. He opined that the event provided a unique opportunity to explore the exceptional new property project.

Mobilink Bank and Hashoo Foundation drive Financial Inclusion Initiatives for MSMEs



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank and Hashoo Foundation (HF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly enhance financial inclusion for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This collaboration strives to empower MSMEs supported and trained by Hashoo Foundation, fostering their entrepreneurial journey. Mobilink Bank, through this partnership, is committed to enabling the growth and success of small businesses amidst a rapidly evolving economic landscape.

Ms. Ayesha Khan shared how Hashoo Foundation has positively impacted the lives of three million people through its signature programs like Entrepreneurship Training Hub and Incubation Center (ETHIC) and received multiple awards including the International Forum (IF) Social Impact Prize, BBC Global Challenge Award, and the Clinton Global Initiatives Award, for empowering women through various value chain approaches.

Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO of Mobilink Bank, and Ms. Ayesha Khan, CEO of HF and Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) at Hashoo Group signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from both organizations. With a specific focus on fostering an inclusive banking ecosystem, this partnership harnesses the potential of digital onboarding processes and grants entrepreneurs' access to a diverse range of essential financial products and solutions. As part of the agreement, female beneficiaries of HF will also gain access to the Bank's Bint-e-Hawwa product.

Pesticide imports to be facilitated through Pakistan single window

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window has launched a new service to facilitate the import and clearance of pesticides in Pakistan. As part of the service PSW has also deployed the unified registration system enabling electronic registration of pesticide products and premises with the Department for Plant Protection. The URS enables real-time validation of pesticide products and premises at the time of customs clearance.

Under Pakistan's trade regulations, all imports of pesticides are subject to mandatory Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) by independent third parties, to ensure that imported pesticides conform to international and national requirements. With a view to facilitate regulatory compliance, the module also allows PSI companies to electronically communicate

inspection certificates with the PSW system, which are then made available to traders and relevant regulatory departments for verification.

In a statement released from his office, Syed Aftab Haider CEO Pakistan Single Window stated, "The new services simplifies the inspection process and ensures consistent application of laws while at the same time reducing the time and cost involved in submission of paper based documents to multiple authorities. Electronic receipt of the PSI certificates further enhances the transparency and integrity of the process."

The new service is an important milestone in PSW's mission to transform and digitize the cross-border trade landscape of Pakistan by enabling electronic validation and processing of trade consignments, thereby significantly reducing trade compliance costs and time.

PM assures complete support to promotion of sports, healthy activities for youth

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured that the federal government was committed to provide all possible resources for the promotion of sports and to create conducive opportunities for the youth of the country to excel in all genres of games.

Addressing an inaugural ceremony of the 34th National Games, the prime minister said that the nation was proud of its players and athletes who had not only earned fame in the country, but also brought laurels from abroad.

The prime minister said that the national games were being held in the province after a lapse of 19 years.

"Holding of the national games in this historic city, manifests the national unity and strength and patriotism

for the motherland," he added.

The prime minister further observed that the young people of Pakistan possessed huge potential which could be utilized in different categories of games, so that they could further bring successes to the country.

Assuring government's complete support, he said in the past, they had distributed laptops, established Danish schools and promoted games, besides, awarding the high achievers.

He said in the field of sports, they were committed to provide all available resources to the youth because a nation became healthy if its youth was healthy and could achieve progress if its young segment was properly educated.

The prime minister said that specter of terrorism in the past had affected different parts of

the country with the terrorists mounting attacks on GHQ and Army Public School.

The armed forces and law enforcement agencies had decided to eradicate the menace with the support the nation, he said, adding in that fight, officers and personnel of the armed forces and law enforcing agencies and people from all segments of society offered huge sacrifices, so that the curse of terrorism could be crushed forever.

The prime minister said the whole nation saluted all those who faced terrorism bravely and offered sacrifices.

They foiled the nefarious designs of the enemies who wanted destruction of the country, he added.

Referring to May 9 incidents, the prime minister said a Pakistani could not harbour such a destructive thinking,



He said on that day, miscre-

ants torched Quaid's (Corps Commander) House in Lahore like the terrorists had set Quaid's Residency in Ziarat on fire.

The prime minister stressed that they should take steps within the confines of laws and constitution so that these incidents could not be repeated.

He said May 9 would always be remembered as the blackest day in the country's history and the incidents that took place on that day were highly condemnable. He regretted that the miscreants also disrespected the monuments of the shuhada.

The prime minister reiterated that with the support of nation, they would rebuild Pakistan in all sectors and fields.

He also congratulated the governor, the chief minister and the management committee for making excellent arrangements to host the national games.

34th National Games: Army's men and women steal the show in Taekwondo Khyrougi event

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Keeping its overall supremacy in the 34th National Games, the Army team also excelled in the Taekwondo event of the Games in Quetta by securing various gold and silver medals in various categories of the Khyrougi event.

In the Men's Khyrougi event of -54 kg, Shahbaz of Airforce won the Gold medal to secure first place (2-0) while Army's Abu Bakar won the silver medal to secure second place and HEC Hassan secured the bronze to win third place in the contest. Samra won fourth place.

In the -58 kg Men's Khyrougi contest, Army's Haroon Khan won the Gold medal (2-0) while Air Force's Ali Hassan got the Gold medal, and Baluchistan's Nisar Ahmed secured the bronze medal. Noorullah of Railway got fourth place.

In the Men's -87kg category, Army's Hamza Omar secured the Gold medal to win first place (2-0) while Wapda's



Waqar Ali Shah secured the silver medal, and the third position was won by Sindh's Badshah Khan, who secured a bronze medal in this contest. KPK's Tariq Khan won fourth place.

In the Men's -63kg category, Army's Arbaz won a Gold medal to secure first position (2-1) while PAF's Fareed won a Silver medal to be placed at No. 2 and HEC's Shiraz won a bronze medal.

Army was also impressed in the women's categories contest and Arms

Eesha Safdar won the gold medal (2-0) to secure first place in the Women's Khyrougi's -46 kg contest. HEC's Rovina got silver medal to secure second place while Balochistan's Asif Ali secured bronze to win third place in this category. Wapda's Samra gold fourth place in the contest.

In the Women's -57 kg category, Army's Noor Rehman's got Gold Medal (2-0) to win first place while Kinza of Punjab secured the Silver medal and

Wapda's Yumna secured the bronze to win third place in the contest. Amina of KPK secured fourth place.

Chief guest CEO of Pakistan Taekwondo Federation Omar Saeed, President PTF Col, Waseem Janjua, Farah Saeed, and Tehmina Asif distribute the medals and paid accolades to the participating athletes for their hard work and commitment during the entire matches of the event.

PTF CEO Omar Saeed said that the National Games are the most significant sports at the national level, it provides an opportunity to sports persons to come closer to fellow country athletes and gain experience to polish their games for world-level contests.

PTF President Col Waseem Janjua said that the Games are held after nineteen long here in Quetta and hence one is impressed by the excellent arrangements and good participation by the athletes from across the country, which shows our nation's love for sports, which is a uniting force for us at both national and international level.

Real Madrid lodge formal legal complaint after Vinicius racially abused

A Sports

MADRID: Real Madrid filed a criminal complaint Monday with Spanish prosecutors over the racist abuse its Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior received during a weekend La Liga match, calling it a "hate crime".

The 22-year-old Brazilian international forward was targeted by a home supporter during the 1-0 defeat at Valencia on Sunday and was later sent off.

"Real Madrid strongly condemns the events that took place yesterday against our player Vinicius Junior," the Spanish giants said in a statement.

The club said it believes the abuse "constitutes a hate crime" and had filed a complaint with the prosecutors' office "in order for the facts to be investigated and for those responsible to be held accountable."

Vinicius has frequently been singled out for racial abuse in La Liga and the latest incident came at Valencia's Mest-



al stadium.

He stood in front of fans behind the goal and pointed to the apparent culprit. Play was delayed for several minutes in the second half.

Referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea spoke to stadium officials, who made an announcement calling for racist

insults to stop before play resumed 10 minutes later.

The referee wrote in his post-match report that a fan shouted "monkey, monkey" at the player.

Vinicius was sent off in added time at the end of the game for hitting Valencia player Hugo Duro during a brawl.

Vinicius Jr. faces racist abuse during Real Madrid's defeat at Valencia

A Sports

VALENCIA: Valencia beat Real Madrid 1-0 in a La Liga game on Sunday marred by an ugly racism episode targeting Vinicius Junior.

The Brazilian forward was subjected to racist chanting from the crowd at the Mestalla stadium and was sent off in the final minutes of the game following an altercation with Valencia player Hugo Duro.

"The championship that once belonged to Ronaldo, Ronaldo, Cristiano and Messi today belongs to racists," Vinicius wrote on Instagram. The incident happened in the second half and the game was paused for a few minutes when the 22-year-old pointed out fans in the stand for the alleged racial abuse.

He was ushered away by teammates and Valencia players and brought the incident to referee Ricardo de Burgos's attention and spoke to his manager Carlo Ancelotti.

The referee's official report said, "In the 73rd minute, a spectator from the southern 'Mario Kempes' tribune directed himself towards player No. 20 of Real Madrid CF Mr. Vinicius José De Oliveira Do Nascimento, screaming at him: 'Monkey, monkey' which led to the activation of the racism protocol."

Wishes pour in from cricket fraternity as Sarfaraz Ahmed turns 36

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: As former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed turned 36 on Monday, the cricket fraternity rallied to shower their heartfelt wishes on one of the most successful captains of the national cricket team.

Sarfaraz captained Pakistan in 100 matches across all formats between 2017 and 2019, winning a record 11 series on the trot during the period.

However, the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy triumph, where he led the then 8th-ranked team to victory, tops the list of his achievements as Pakistan skipper.

On his special day, several fellow cricketers took to social media, including Pakistan's current captain Babar Azam and vice-captain Shadab Khan, and sent birthday wishes to the veteran wicket-keeper batter. "Happy Birthday @sarfaraz54,"



wrote Babar on his Instagram story while sharing a photo with Sarfaraz from

Pakistan's home Test series against New Zealand held earlier this year in Karachi.

Shadab Khan, on the other hand, took to Twitter and wrote, "There are some people in our life who inspire u, who teach u, who guide u. @SarfarazA_54bhai is one of them for me. He is a mentor to so many of us. A very happy birthday to u. May u get the best in everything."

Sarfaraz's teammate at Quetta Gladiators Mohammad Nawaz also spoke highly of the ex-Pakistan captain and thanked him for the role he has played in the left-arm spinner's career.

"Happy Birthday @SarfarazA_54 Bhai, Shukriya Kaptan for being there for me from my PSL debut to my Pakistan debut. May you have many more," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, Shaheen Afridi Imam-ul-Haq, Usman Qadir, former wicket-keeper Rashid Latif and a few other retired and serving Pakistan cricketers also extended their best wishes for Sarfaraz.

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in Women Baseball Asia Cup



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continued their winning streak in the 3rd Asian Women's Baseball Championship (Women Baseball Asia Cup), thumping Sri Lanka 21-3 in their second outing on Monday, according to information available here from Pakistan Federation Baseball (PFB).

In their opening match on Sunday, Pakistan edged passed hosts Hong Kong 16-1 in a one-sided affair.

Trials kick off to select street child football team ahead of Norway Cup



Sports Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: As Norway Cup — the largest international football tournament for players between 10 and 19 years old — draws closer, the process to pick the best street talent from Pakistan has kicked off on Monday.

Muslim Hands, a charity organization based in Islamabad, began the trials from Muzaffarabad to select a 16-player squad of Pakistan street child football team.

In the first phase, trials will be conducted in different areas of Azad Kashmir, including Rawalakot, Bagh, Bhimber and Kotli.

In the second phase, camps will be set up across three different cities in Punjab which include Bhera, Wazirabad and Lahore.

Meanwhile, players from Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta will get their turn in the third phase.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan's street football team will participate in the Norway Cup, scheduled from July 29 to August 5 in Oslo.

Last year, Pakistan finished second in the Street Child World Cup in Doha, Qatar after impressive performances. They remained unbeaten throughout the tournament but lost the final against Egypt on penalties (4-3).

Pakistan's forward Tufail Shinwari, who scored 13 goals, was adjudged the best player of the tournament. The 16-year-old hit back-to-back hat-tricks against Bosnia and Qatar before his side entered the knock-out stage.

Historic win: Police win maiden National Games football title

KARACHI: Police created history as they won their maiden National Games men's football title after a 3-0 win against Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in the tournament final at the Ayub Stadium Quetta.

In a jam-packed venue, on Sunday, Police did a fantastic job as they trumped the resourceful PAF being coached by Pakistan's head coach Shehzad Anwar.

Mohammad Hanif provided Police with a lead in the 14th minute, while Mohammad Wasay doubled this advantage in the 20th minute before landing his second and third goals for his side in the 75th minute to seal a superb win.

Earlier, Police had lost to PAF in their group game 0-1. Following the victory, Police's coach-cum-manager Sardar Rahim shared that he was delighted with his team's maiden crown in the Games. "I am very happy today. It's a well-deserved victory," Rahim told The News.

"You know, I build the team by myself. For this event, we had taken six players from Peshawar, four from Punjab while the rest were from Balochistan," he shared.

"We had lost to PAF 1-0 in our league show and today we came against them with a certain plan which paid dividends. We marked their top players throughout and struck three goals in the process," he said.

PAF coach Shehzad Anwar said his side squandered chances. "It was a good game but I will credit Police who played really well and converted their chances. We squandered our chances in the start as well as towards the end," he said.

"It's my experience that when you beat a team in the league group it will beat you in the knock-out stage," said Shehzad, also an Asian Football Confederation (AFC) licensed coach.