

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے عبد اللہ بن جاد نے بیان کیا، کہا ہم سے اسرا ئیل نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے ان سے اسحاق نے، کہا ہم سے برائین عازب رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ میں رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے ساتھ پندرہ غزوں میں شریک رہا ہوں۔

(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4472)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Nawaz's decision of atomic explosion made country's defence stronger: Maryam

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that the unwavering commitment and dedication of Nawaz Sharif towards the nation made the country's defence more stronger by making atomic explosions on May 28, 1998. (Details on Page 8)



Sherry pays tribute to Shaheed ZAB, Shaheed BB on Youm-e-Takbeer

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday paid tribute to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer for making the country's defence impregnable. In a series of tweets, the federal minister felicitated the entire nation on Youm-e-Takbeer. She said Youm-e-Takbeer was one of the most important days in the history of Pakistan.

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Youm-e-Takbeer

MUZZAFFERABAD: Students holding Pakistan and Kashmiri flags are shouting slogans during rally to mark the "Youm-e-Takbeer" in the Capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online

President praises scientists, political, military leadership for achievement of nuclear capability



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday said that the achievement of nuclear capability was indeed a remarkable feat for which country's scientists, engineers, political and military leadership of the time deserved high commendation.

In a message on the occasion of 25th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer, the president felicitated the Pakistani nation.

He said on this day 25 years ago, in response to India's nuclear tests, Pakistan conducted nuclear tests that was essential for maintaining the balance

of power in the region.

"We must highly appreciate our political and military leadership that took wise decision at that time to achieve nuclear capability making defense of the country unassailable," President Secretariat Press Wing in a press release quoted the president as saying.

On this day, he said, the whole nation payed tribute to the contributions of their eminent engineers and scientists who made Pakistan a nuclear power within a short period of time.

For this, our whole nation was indebted to all those who played their part in making Pakistan the 1st Islamic nuclear power, he added.

The president further said "On this day, let us pledge to make Pakistan a stronger country by investing in the intellectual development of our people and strengthening our cyber-security to ensure our defense."

Youm-e-Takbeer, a day of nation's remarkable journey towards credible minimum deterrence: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that Youm-e-Takbeer was not just a day but a story of nation's challenging and remarkable journey towards establishing credible minimum deterrence.

The prime minister on his Twitter handle that on that day, Pakistan set a redline for its defence and laid down rules of the game for peace and stability in the region.

"On the Silver Jubilee of Youm-e-Takbeer, I pay rich tributes to the political &



military leadership, scientists, engineers and all those who remained associated with our nuclear programme," he said in a tweet as the nation celebrates the 25th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer on Sunday.

The prime minister further said that their hard work, commitment and determination made it possible for the people to guard their independence from any physical threat.

The day represents how the consensus between all elements of national power achieved

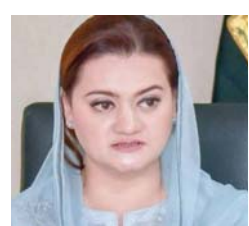
what once looked like an uphill task," he posted in a tweet.

The prime minister said Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was a visionary who initiated the nuclear programme, adding in a show of bold leadership, his leader Mian Nawaz Sharif firmly rejected the policy of stick and carrot and made sure that the country became nuclear.

"All along, our armed forces remained a guardian & protector of the programme in the face of malign intentions of our enemies," he said.

Youm-e-Takbeer declaration of Pakistan's invincible defence: Marriyum

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that

Youm-e-Takbeer was the declaration that Pakistan's defence was invincible.

Thanking Almighty Allah, the minister congratulated all Pakistanis at home and abroad and thanked all friends and benefactors, she said in a tweet.

"This day is the day of no compromise on the patriotism, bravery, insight and national interest by (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif," she maintained.

The minister saluted the entire team including the scientists who sacrificed for the country and made the defense invincible for future generations 25 years ago.

She asked the masses to celebrate the day national victory and national unity with pride this evening at Liberty Chowk Lahore by ensuring their participation along with Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Intelligence agencies unearth PTI's plan to malign govt, LAEs: Rana Sanaullah

Bureau Report



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Saturday said the intelligence agencies had intercepted a telephonic conversation about a staged police attack on one of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s leaders, killing its occupants, and then blaming law enforcement agencies for the act.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference here late night, the minister said the second plan revealed in the intercepted audio involved staging incidents of firing and disgracing women with the intention of portraying it as the work of intelligence and law enforcement agencies and also highlighting it as a human right issue at international level

He said as the matter was of huge importance he thought it necessary to apprise the nation as the orchestrated event was planned for tonight (Saturday night). However, he added, the timely action from the intelligence agencies foiled the nefarious design, resulting in the exposure of the plot even before its execution.

Bilawal greets nation on silver jubilee of country's nuclear tests

Bureau Report



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended greetings to the nation on the silver jubilee of the country's nuclear tests and saluted all the people, including scientists, who played their role in making Pakistan the first nuclear nation in the Islamic world.

According to the statement issued by media cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP said that the nuclear programme of the country is indeed a great gift of the Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the nation.

He said that the first elected Prime Minister of the country, Shaheed Bhutto, had said that if we have to eat grass, we will do so, but we will make Pakistan a nuclear power at any cost. "Making Pakistan a nuclear power was the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto shielded and advanced the country's nuclear programme as Prime Minister.

Magnitude 6 earthquake jolts Rawalpindi, Islamabad, KP districts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An earthquake of magnitude 6 earthquake jolted twin cities of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, adjoining areas and several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, ARY News reported on Sunday.

Local residents out of fear and panic ran out of their homes to open space in the wee hours of Sunday morning after tremor jolted the area.

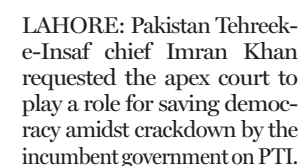
The earthquake tremors were also felt in Swat, Peshawar, Butgram, Upper Dir, Swabi, Mardan, Kohat districts and adjoining areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to National Seismic Monitoring Centre in Islamabad, tremors were also felt at Lower Dir, Buner, Mohmand and Charsadda districts of KP.

The National Seismic Monitoring Centre said that the intensity of the earthquake was recorded at magnitude six on the Richter scale and the epicentre was in the border area of Afghan-Tajikistan at a depth of 223 kilometers.

According to reports, tremors were also felt at Murree, Chiniot, Phalya, Malikwal, Zafarwal, Shakargarh, Jalalpur Bhattian, Sara-e-Alamgir, Sargodha, Hujra Shah Muqem, Farooqabad and Paisalabad.

Imran requests top court to save democracy post May 9 crackdown on PTI

Bureau Report



LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan requested the apex court to play a role for saving democracy amidst crackdown on the incumbent government on PTI.

He said women since May 9 were being treated badly in a way that was not visible in the country's history adding all this was part of a 'plan'.

The former PM stressed that women were being oppressed to keep them out of politics adding that would be a great tragedy because they represent half of the Pakistan's population.

The PTI's chief highlighted that his party was the only one in which women took part in possession with their families and that was the reason the ruling dispensation was against the PTI.

He said, "An independent judiciary protects fundamental rights and ensures the rule of law which gives rise to real democracy because a free justice system will keep checks on the government powers."

Talking about his government performance, the PTI's

supremo said he was praised by world leaders referring to former premier Boris Johnson speech at the United Nations - in which the latter praised the Khan's billions tree tsunami.

Referring to the ongoing PTI exodus, he said the members were quitting the party under duress and they were declared innocent as soon as they leave the party to save their families from the 'tyranny' of this regime.

He appealed the Supreme Court to play a role to play for protecting fundamental rights adding if the top court did not make efforts to uphold basic rights, it would be remembered in history negatively.

Mr Khan requested the Supreme Court to intervene and take a suo moto notice to protect the women treated harshly in prisons - who were only doing peaceful protests - claiming that some of them were facing abuse.

Concordance

Lahore: Christian community take part in a rally to show solidarity with Pakistan Army organized by Eternal life Ministries of Pakistan International.



Nawaz's decision of atomic explosion made country's defence stronger: Maryam

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that the unwavering commitment and dedication of Nawaz Sharif towards the nation made the country's defence more stronger by making atomic explosions on May 28, 1998.

Addressing a public gathering organised by the PML-N to celebrate 25th Youm-e-Takbeer, Maryam Nawaz paid glowing tributes to the political leadership, scientists and armed forces for playing role for making the country's defence undeterred.

She said that the then leadership led by Nawaz Sharif took daring step to give a befitting response to India's atomic explosions. She added



that then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif refused to take any pressure by international forces including billions of US dollars offer to stop the atomic explosions.

Maryam Nawaz said that whenever Nawaz Sharif was given a chance to serve the nation, he took the country

towards progress and prosperity as he launched various mega projects including Motorways, Metro bus, Orange Line Metro Train. Load-shedding was eliminated through generation of more than upto 12,000 megawatt electricity while peace was restored in Karachi.

She said that only PML-N workers and leaders remain steadfast and loyal with the party despite the worst victimization during the PTI rule. PTI leadership invoked its followers towards chaos and put the entire country on fire on May 9 whereas the PML-N leadership made the country prosper with strong defence, she mentioned.

The PTI chief first made fake stance of foreign conspiracy against them and now they were seeking help from the same country which showed their dual faces, she said and regretted that PTI leadership prepared its workers and followers for creating chaos in the country under a plan.

Later, an audio message of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was played at the end of the ceremony in which he

felicitated the whole nation on 25 years of atomic explosions. He said that the then government refused international pressure and made atomic explosions. He said the country was progressing under his rule but the process of development was stopped by ousting him from government three times.

Former premier said that prevailing challenges were resolved by the PML-N leadership whenever it was given a chance to serve. He added those who push the country backward were getting exposed before the nation due to their political decisions.

National anthem and songs were also played to celebrate the Youm-e-Takbeer.

A large number of party workers and leaders participated in the gathering.

Nawaz vows to protect national interests, slams PTI for 9/5 violence

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In a passionate address to a gathering in Lahore on Sunday, former Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, reaffirmed his party's commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's national interests.

Mr Sharif expressed his disappointment at not being allowed to complete his government's term whenever the PML-N came to power.

Speaking to the crowd via telephone, Nawaz Sharif stressed Pakistan's achievement of becoming the world's seventh nuclear power on May

28. He shared his desire for Pakistan to also become the world's seventh economic power. Stressing that the PML-N harbors no aggressive intentions towards any nation, Mr Sharif spoke of divine guidance in making the right decisions during challenging times.

Expressing concern over the actions of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Mr Sharif remarked, "I don't know what these people (PTI) are doing; they spoil the country while laughing."

He then proceeded to highlight his own accomplishments, asking the crowd, "Who has ended terrorism, unrest, and load shedding in the coun-



try?" He contrasted his tenure, during which petrol prices were 60 rupees per liter, with the current price of 270 rupees per liter.

PML-N chief slammed PTI for allegedly stoking hatred and misleading the people, which, according to him, has set the country back by many years.

Referring to the violent protests of PTI on May 9, during which military installations were attacked, former PM stated, "Allah has not blessed the nation with this country for a dark day like May 9 but for a bright day like May 28 (Youm-e-Takbeer)."

He further reiterated his dedication to serving Pakistan with sincerity and love, lamenting that he had been deprived of furthering the country's progress on three occasions.

PM Shehbaz felicitates Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his presidential win



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his presidential win.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to twitter saying 'Heartiest congratulations to my dear brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his historic re-election as President, Republic of Türkiye.'

The Prime Minister said Recep Tayyip Erdogan is one of few world leaders whose politics has been anchored in public service.

He said the Turkish President has been a pillar of strength for the oppressed Muslims and a fervent voice for their inalienable rights.

Shehbaz Sharif said Recep Tayyip Erdogan's presidential victory and that of AKP in parliamentary elections is significant in so many ways, reflecting the trust and confidence of the Turkish people in his dynamic

leadership.

Shehbaz Sharif said the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkey will continue to stay on an upward trajectory.

The Prime Minister said he keenly looks forward to working with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to further deepen strategic partnership in line with the excellent brotherhood between our two peoples.

Turkiye's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed victory in presidential runoff polls.

Addressing his supporters in Istanbul, Erdogan said that the Turkish nation is the winner in the second round of the presidential election and all 85 million of the nation's citizens won.

With this victory, the door of the "Century of Türkiye" has opened, he emphasized. His speech came after results showed him leading with 52.10 percent of the vote with 98.2 percent of the ballots counted.

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani calls on CM Balochistan



Raja Furqan Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani called on Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo. According to the details, an important meeting was held between CM Balochistan and President Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and Chairman Senate Mir Sadiq Sanjrani. The two leaders discussed the political situation in the country and the affairs of BAP in the prolonged meeting. Organizational matters of the party were also discussed during the meeting. Both leaders denied reports suggesting that Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) will be merged into any other party.

"The BAP will participate in the upcoming elections as an independent party," the meeting agreed. They also agreed that the party will consider seat adjustments with other parties

after taking into consideration regional political scenarios. Party cadres at the grassroots union council level will be formulated and strengthened. It was decided that party workers who are the real assets and driving force behind the party will be supported and given the utmost value and respect.

They also agreed that party workers will be taken into confidence before taking any major decisions vis national and regional politics and alliances. The two leaders resolved to make BAP a dynamic force not just at the provincial level but also in the national mainstream political scene. The CM added that BAP is the biggest political party in the province and it will emerge once again as the biggest force in the province in the next general elections. Both leaders also agreed that those party workers who left will be welcomed if they join again and doors for rejoining are always open for annoyed members.

Tax policies encouraging businesses to join informal sector

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said the tax-to-GDP ratio is below 10 percent in Pakistan which is below the level required for any proper economic growth.

There have been no serious efforts to expand the tax base and tax machinery relief on increasing collection through indirect taxes and burdening taxpayers which has never worked, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President of ICCI and Chairman of PVMA said in a statement issued here today that over-reliance on imports and turning businesses into withholding agents was a policy which was not supposed to work from the very beginning and it encouraged many businesses to move from formal to informal economy.

The concept of higher taxes on non-filers persuaded businesses to

remain outside the tax net and pay a higher tax in the shape of withholding tax in order to escape documentation and scrutiny by taxmen, he noted.

The business leader said that businesses absorbed the higher tax in their cost of doing business and priced their products accordingly which also increase the cash in circulation.

He observed that the government is still not learning from its mistakes and the focus continues on extracting more tax from the existing tax base which will shrink the base even further.

There are plans for imposing taxes on banking transactions which have not worked in the past, he said, adding that the tax burden is tilted towards the documented manufacturing sector.

There are 52 tobacco companies in Pakistan while the track-and-trace system has been implemented in only two big multinationals.

Resolution of UN-recognized Kashmir dispute to have positive impact on Int'l security: Fai

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: A prominent Kashmiri leader has called for a "Global initiative" to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute, saying it would not only end the bloodshed and suffering of Kashmiri people but also have a positive effect on international security with the elimination of regional tensions.

"It is in everyone's interest to settle the Kashmir conflict peacefully without further delay," Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, a Washington-based advocacy group, said Saturday.

He was speaking at a discussion on 'Countering and dismantling Islamophobia, locally & globally' jointly organized by The Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) and the Muslim American Soci-



ety (MAS) in Baltimore, Maryland. The topic included Kashmir, Palestine, and Islamophobia.

Dr. Hatem Bazian, a well-known scholar on international relations spoke on: 'Palestine: Century of settler colonialism'; Dr. Fai on 'The Situation in Kashmir'; Joram Van Iaveren, a Dutch politician and author of 'Apostate: on From Christianity to Islam in times of secularization and terror' and 'The rise of the far

right in Europe', and Edward Mitchell, Deputy Director of Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) on 'The ripple effect of Islamophobia.'

In his remarks, Dr. Fai regretted that India's continuing barbarities in Kashmir were going unpunished. The irony, he said, was that the impunity granted to the violator of human rights was not in the context of a new dispute where the actions of the parties remain unclear delaying an international response — they are taking place in Kashmir even though the dispute is more than 76 years old.

"There is no alibi for the international communities' inaction, except that India with its major power pretensions, maintains violent occupation of the territory," Dr. Fai said. The dispute, he said, has the potential of a large-scale international conflict with the possibility of a nuclear

confrontation.

Therefore, he said, ending the suffering of the people of Kashmir was "vital and urgent". The United States, he said, holds unique powers of moral suasion and the capability of coming up with material and economic assistance to help Kashmir's search for an enlightened solution. "After all, the United States has made such efforts in other international conflict, How was Kashmir any different?"

Dr. Fai also denounced the Modi government for asking the High Court to impose the death sentence on the most popular leader of Kashmiri political resistance movement in Indian-occupied Kashmir — Mohammad Yasin Malik — and called on the international community to pressure India to drop the trumped-up charges leveled against him to pave the way for his release.

IS Youm-e-Takbir

PM AJK congratulates nation on the silver jubilee of nuclear tests

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while congratulating the nation on the silver jubilee of nuclear tests, has said that the day (Youm-e-Takbir) bears testimony to the fact that Pakistan's defense was impregnable. "On this day (28 May 1998), Pakistan got the honour of becoming the first nuclear power among Islamic countries and the seventh nuclear power in the world", the PM said. Haq paid great tribute to the founder of the nuclear program and



ex-Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, political and military leadership, scientists, engineers who played a key role in accomplishing the historic feat. The Prime Minister in his special message on the occasion of Takbeer Day said that many countries, including the United States, had offered huge economic concessions in return for not carrying out nuclear explosions, but the political leadership of Pakistan kept Pakistan's dignity in mind and conducted six nuclear tests in response to five tests by India. He said that the nuclear tests have

made the defense of the country impregnable and today no one can dare look at Pakistan with bad intentions. The PM also praised the services of Pakistan's scientists and engineers, whose hard work made Pakistan's defense invincible. He said that Pakistan's defense and missile system was the best system in the world. "That is the reason India cannot even think of any kind of misadventure against Pakistan", the PM said, adding that Chagi has now become a symbol of strength for Pakistan.

Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik is being convicted under baseless cases: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that India wants to judicially kill Hurriyat leaders to suppress the freedom movement. Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik is being convicted under baseless cases. He said that the BJP Hindutva Indian government has allowed soldiers to kill, arrest, torture and maim innocent people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed these views



while talking to the Muslim Conference leaders at the State Guest House. Aiming for revenge. He said that the Indian investigation agency "National Investigation Agency" (NIA) has approached the New Delhi High Court to get the death penalty for the Chairman of

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Muhammad Yasin Malik, who is imprisoned in the notorious Tihar Jail of New Delhi. An agency court had sentenced him to life imprisonment in a false case on May 25 last year. He said that despite the worst repression, India had failed to break the spirit of the detained leaders and workers and that he stood by his right-based stand. They are standing like a rock. President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan urged the United Nations to take notice of the Indian atrocities in the occu-

pled territory and to play its role in giving Kashmiris their right to self-determination according to the resolutions passed by them. He also urged the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the President of the European Union, the President of the European Parliament, and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament to arrest the illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists in Indian jails and penitentiaries. Put pressure on India to release all the imprisoned Kashmiris he added.

May 28 Takbeer Day metaphor of commitment

The day of freedom and determination is Ihsanuddin Qureshi

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Provincial Minister Punjab Muslim League-Nawaz Ehsanuddin Qureshi while cutting the cake on the occasion of Takbeer Day on May 28, said that Takbeer Day is a metaphor for determination, independence and commitment. He said that we are not less than anyone, but bricks will be answered with stones, to rid the country of internal and external threats, it is necessary that the entire Pakistani nation forgets its differences and becomes a tool of any enemy. Instead of being a car, it should play its role in the country's survival and national security, because if Pakistan is, then we are, without it we have no identity. He expressed these views in his special message to the nation on May 28 Takbeer



Day. He said that the world should open its ears and listen that the Pakistani nation believes in peace, love and brotherhood which no power in the world can challenge. It is the responsibility of Pakistan Muslim League-N (Pakistan Muslim League-N) to protect the

country and the nation from threats due to political instability and chaos, and in the end they will raise slogans in favor of the Pakistan Army in the Takbeer ceremony. Deputy Mayor Manwar Ehsan Qureshi. Former Chairman Zahid Bashir Qureshi Qasor Bhatti. Rafiq

aka Tuti. Tasoore Qureshi. Haji Mureed. Jameel Abbasi, Hamid Khan Rana Arif Atif Butt, Usman Hashmi, Ghulam Muhammad Awan, Masood Qureshi, Shrafat, Farid Bhatta, Arshad, Sheikh Adnan Ramzan Abbasi, Atiq Gul and Taslim Qureshi and others are participating.

Wazir tribal elders stands behind the Govt of Pakistan, Army & national institutions

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower South Waziristan district a peace conference was arranged by Ahmed Zai Wazir tribal elders and Ullamas in AC Wana Jirga Hall, in which Deputy Commissioner Lower South Waziristan Mohammad Nasir Khan, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi and Tehsil Wana Chairman Maulana Muhammad Saleh participated. Addressing the Peace conference, tribal elders, Malik Said Ullah, Malik Jameel Khan, Malik Shehryar Khan and Malik Aziz Ullah Khan said that we tribal elders and want peace in the area, we cannot allow anyone to disturb the peace in the country and region. The speakers said, that in recent events in the country, the people of a political party damaged the national heritage in addition to the illegal clutter and vandalism in the country, So as the vile propaganda against our army and institutions is unforgivable and an offense unthinkable by the enemy,



The speakers said that the tribal people are standing behind Pakistan's forces and institutions, against every conspiracy against the country, the tribes stood like a leaden wall on the first day, are standing and will continue to stand. They further said that elements who conspired against the country cannot be forgiven. DC Lower South Waziristan

Muhammad Nasir Khan and Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi said on this occasion, that there are many sacrifices of tribal elders for the establishment of peace, the government of Pakistan values their sacrifices. They cannot be forgotten under any circumstances, DC added that the role of tribal elders in Waziristan towards peace is not only commendable but we are proud of them.

Punjab Food Authority punishes substandard, adulterated food in two Tehsils

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Food safety team of Punjab Food Authority Attock has discarded huge quantity of expired, substandard and adulterated food items besides imposing fine worth of rupees lacs to the food outlets in tehsil Pindigheb and Fatehjang. A spokesman of Punjab Food Authority Attock told media that the food safety teams were on their routine testing and checking in the shopping centres of the tehsil Pindigheb and Fatehjang to ensure provision of hygienic and qualitative food stuffs to the consumers when they seized 281 litres of substandard cold drinks, 37 liters milk, 24 liters rancid oil, 05 kg sweets which were injurious to public health. The owners of the outlets were also imposed fine under Punjab Food Authority Act with the stern direction to maintain their standard as per SOPs of the Punjab Food Authority failing which further legal proceeding will also be initiated against them, accordingly, Spokesman added.

Utility bills have made impossible for millions of small businessmen to live: Khawaja Sulaiman

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Central Chairman of the Central Organization of Tajran Pakistan Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, President Battery Association and General Secretary Anjuman Tajran Kalma Chowk, Nawan Shahri Dera Adda Khawaja Talal Siddiqui, Chairman of South Punjab Javed Akhtar Khan, Vice President of South Punjab Zeeshan Zafar, and Bazar Bohar gate President Chaudhry Abdul Hamid-jat, Old Vegetable Market Chowk Shaheedan President Rana Owais Ali, Multan District Chairman Hafiz Imran Sajjad Qureshi, Gilgashat leader Sheikh Tanveer Ashraf Qureshi have said that if the government did not give a people-friendly budget, then the people would vote in the general elections and give a big decision. And the political parties contending for huge mandates will be blown away because the soaring dollar, the deterioration of the country's economy, new taxes, inflation, the whirlwind of utility bills have made it impossible for millions of small businessmen to live. The white-clad class has been suffering from serious problems, he added that the business community has already been devastated by rising inflation and the deterioration of the country's economy, but utility bills have met the deficit.

Citizens take precautionary measures during heavy rains. Umar Jahangir

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Deputy Commissioner has ordered the district departments to be on alert due to severe weather Instructions for immediate assessment of damages caused by severe storms and hailstorms Rescue 1122 of the Deputy Commissioner and related organizations including Civil Defense issued a red alert Vasa should ensure immediate drainage as soon as the rain stops. Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners should be prepared to deal with any emergency situation in their tehsils.

Government provides scholarships to the talented students: Dr Misba Mirza



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: A cheque distribution ceremony of Benazir / Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship program Phase-III F/Y 2021-22 & 2022-23" was held at Katchery campus the Women University Multan. The ceremony was attended by Focal Person SFAO Dr. Misbah Mirza, Mrs. Sundus Hashmi Deputy Registrar scholarships & Miss Zara Rafiq Assistant Treasurer scholarships handed over the payment cheque to eligible awardees of various BS programs session 2021-25. Focal Person SFAO Dr. Misbah Mirza, said that Government decision to provide scholarships to the talented students from low-income families to pursue higher education was a revolutionary step toward promotion higher education in the country.

Electricity system affected by heavy hailstorm and rain



Quratul Ain Asim

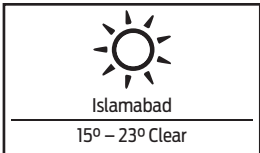
MULTAN: Electricity system affected by heavy hailstorm and storm in Multan Mapco Region administration areas. More than 200 feeders of 6 MAPCO operation circles were tripped Heavy hail and strong winds damaged the system Electricity supply affected from 76 feeders of Multan circle, 25 feeders of DG Khan circle, 11 feeders of Wahari circle. 70 feeders of Bahawalpur circle, 25 feeders of Muzaffargarh circle and 5 feeders of Khanewal circle were also tripped. Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana ordered the operational circles to remain alert Instructions to start power restoration activities after storms and hailstorms are over Instructions to Superintending Engineers of MAPCO Operation Circles to monitor in circle control rooms Instructing MAPCO line staff to implement safety SOPs for field work Consumers should stay away from electrical installations during rain. In case of downed wires, poles and transformers, report to the concerned office

LUMHS prize distribution ceremony held at Jamshoro Public School: Ikram u Ddin Ujjan



Rehan Khan Khushik

HYDERABAD: The first annual prize distribution ceremony of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro Public School Jamshoro was held in which the special guest, LUMHS Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ikram u Ddin Ujjan while speaking to the ceremony said that it was started last year but due to quality education of this school, so many children of employees of other institutes and private people came for admission that we have less classes. He said that we are trying to build new classes, the construction of which will be started as soon as possible. He also announced that the construction of a computer lab in case of starting the ninth and tenth classes of the school and appreciated the hard work and efforts of the school management. On this occasion, the guest of honor, the newly elected chairman of District Council Jamshoro, Sohail Ahmed Shoro, said in his address that the heart was very happy to see the beautiful program today that there is such a good school in our district which is providing the best education at very low fees. He announced that PPMPA Kotri, Sardar Malik Asad Sikandar said that district Council Jamshoro will build new classrooms in the school and Pakka Road for the school. Habib Naveed, Chief Operating Officer of Green Crescent Trust, said in his that knowledge Acquiring is the basic need of every human being, especially when a girl child is equipped with the jewel of knowledge, she goes ahead and prepares a good generation in the form of an educated mother who serves the country and the nation better, so with children. He said that special attention needs to be paid to the education of girl child. On this occasion, prizes were distributed among 20 first, 11 second, and 13 third position students while a total of 113 prizes were distributed. Among the other special guests were Registrar LUMHS Dr. Haji Muhammad Sheikh, Engineer Zeeshan Yousafani, Colony Incharge Dr. Musrat Abaro, Ali Ahmed, Laswa President Saeed Lashari, General Secretary Makhdoom Ashfaq Abbasi, Ashfaq Rajpar, Niaz Chandio, Waheed Brohi, Nazir Nohani, KK Brohi and others were present while a large number of parents also participated in the programme.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:20 am
Zohr 12:05 pm
Asr 5:03 pm
Maghrib 7:10 pm
Isha 8:51 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 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
Cant Hospital 9270907-11
DHO 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224

Martyr's Day held by Students as Meri Pehchan, Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Roots Millennium Education Group, Pakistan Largest Teaching and learning community of Schools, Colleges and University hosted and commemorated Martyrs Day at TMUC Auditorium Islamabad says a press release.

The symposium held great significance in honouring the martyrs' legacy and the values they stood for. The panel and forum remember national sacrifices and honoured the Martyrs & Ghazi's with tributes who have given their lives for our nation. Together, we must ensure that the national sacrifices are never forgotten.

A graceful and solemn ceremony was held to pay tribute to the heroes of our nation, our Martyrs & our Ghazi's. The Panel of esteemed guests included Former Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman as the Chief Guest, Maj Gen Dr. Muhammad Samrez Salik, Ambassador Maj Gen Dr. Raza Muhammad, Additional

Secretary National Assembly Syed Shamoon Hashmi and Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq as the Guest Speakers.

The Chief guest and esteemed guests of honour spoke of their experiences in defending our precious motherland and the sacrifices made by their fellow countrymen and women and the worthy citizens of Pakistan in the war against terror. The Chief guest, Air Vice marshal Sohail Aman HI (M), NI (M) spoke of his love for his beloved homeland that encouraged him to rise to heights during his service and how the youth, the true future of Pakistan need to be invested wholeheartedly in whatever endeavours they set their eyes upon to make Pakistan's future brighter so as to honor the sacrifices made by our nation's unlimited martyrs.

Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. Muhammad Samrez Salik talked of his encounters and experiences that deepened this commitment to honour the sacrifices made by the



martyrs of Pakistan, by making sure that all efforts are towards a safer and secure Pakistan for the coming generations. Ambassador Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. Raza Muhammad shared his memories that despite being targeted and staring down death, how his love and devotion to his coun-

try Pakistan kept him going and the measure he initiated to make Pakistan soar to heights of prosperity with the commitment of all joined forces.

Syed Shamoon Hashmi, Additional Secretary National Assembly Pakistan, in his poetic, passionate and eloquent style

expressed his undying love for Pakistan and the respect the Pakistani nation has towards its martyrs and all those who put themselves in the line of fire to safeguard our freedom and Pakistan's vitality. CEO The Millennium Education Dr. Faisal Mushtaq spoke passionately about how the

youth is future ready to face challenges in support of our motherland and further strengthened the need for a more inclusive social contact to honour all elements that are fighting with valour and bravery and laying lives for Pakistan and its sovereignty.

The attendees and audience were mesmerized by the speeches, songs, presentations, vigil and memories shared to honor Pakistan's martyrs for TMUC's symposium 'Meri Pehchan, Pakistan' and the students spoke passionately while acknowledging the sacrifices made by the martyrs with their lives in exchange for our peace and safety.

Students of the Institution showed their love and gratitude towards the martyrs and Ghazi's and their country by performing patriotic songs.

As a teaching and learning community, we pay our respect and express our gratitude and reflect upon the courage and sacrifices made by our heroes.

Together, we can ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Solidarity

Pakistani American Dispora gathering at Times Squares, New York, to express solidarity with Pakistan Army.



A two-day women's scouting camp organized by the Provincial Scouts Council has concluded

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: More than 250 female scouts have pledged with their full potential and develop their academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives besides serving the cause of humanity and will further strive to engage youth in this noble cause.

This was expressed by the participants of closing ceremony of the female scouting camp which was presided over by Tariq Qureshi, Secretary of Punjab Boys Scouts Association while Adnan Anjum Raja, Additional Deputy Commissioner Attock was Chief guest on the occasion.

The female teachers from various public and private schools of Hassan Abdal attended the two-day program organized by Provincial Scouts Council with Sir Syed Educational Foundation. Malik Anjad Mahmood Deputy district education officer, Qazi Zahoorul Haq Project Director Sir Syed Educational Foundation and Member Provincial Scouts Council participated in the inauguration ceremony.

The training to the participants was also given by the leading scout leaders and trainers. Speaking on this occasion, Tariq Qureshi said that training has been carried out to furnish the participants with the basic knowledge and skills in administering the scouting program into a scout unit, help the youth grow to their full potential and develop their academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.

MALAK Launches One-Stop Multiservice Beauty Shop, Unveiling Flagship Store in Karachi

City Desk

KARACHI: MALAK, a revolutionary beauty brand dedicated to providing exceptional beauty services and premium beauty products, had the grand opening of its flagship store in an exclusive ceremony here in Karachi. With an ambitious vision to establish a retail network of ten stores nationwide within the next three years, MALAK aims to become the go-to destination for beauty enthusiasts across Pakistan.

"We are thrilled to introduce MALAK, a one-stop multiservice beauty shop, to the people of Karachi and soon to the rest of Pakistan," said Kashif Shehzaad, Chairman, MALAK.



"Our flagship store in Karachi is just the beginning of our journey to revolutionize the beauty industry in our coun-

try. We believe that everyone deserves to feel confident and beautiful, and our dedicated team and exceptional range

of exclusive brands are here to make that a reality. We look forward to welcoming customers to MALAK and helping them discover their unique beauty journey."

With its flagship store in Karachi, MALAK sets the stage for its rapid expansion plans. Over the next three years, the brand envisions establishing a retail network of ten stores strategically located in key malls across cities such as Lahore, Islamabad, Faisalabad, and Sialkot. By carefully selecting prime locations, MALAK aims to make its beauty services and exclusive product offerings easily accessible to customers across Pakistan, ensuring convenience and a delightful shopping experience.

Pakistan inching towards political stability

T Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Sunday that Pakistan is inching back to normal as the political crisis that has engulfed the country for years is subsiding.

"Political stability will result in economic stability, which will not only improve the image and economy of the country but also advance the quality of life of people," he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that policymakers should not try to manipulate the US dollar for at least two years, which will not only reduce its value and strengthen the rupee but also attract investment and capital that has fled the country due to political turmoil.

Engineering the exchange rate has eroded the confidence of local and foreign investors, stoked inflation to unprecedented levels, and pushed the country to the brink of default. Therefore, the disastrous policy should not be repeated for short-term gains, he demanded.

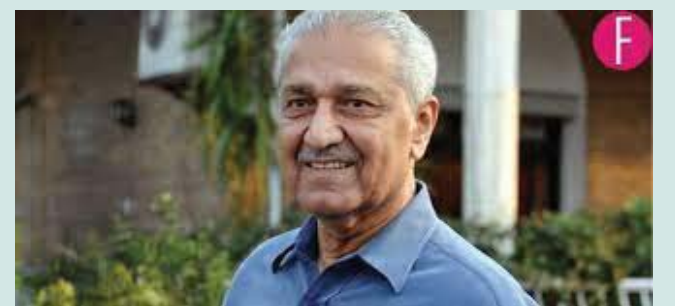
The business leader said that the government should not delay important economic decisions, aggressively restructure all the sectors of the economy, and take courageous actions to reduce losses worth billions.

Shahid Rasheed Butt lauded the steps regarding exchange rate and interest rate adjustments, efforts to improve fiscal position, the imposition of a levy on petroleum products but noted that a lot has to be done without further delay.

The real exchange rate is almost 15 percent undervalued due to speculation, market manipulation, and political instability, but underlying fundamentals are improving, he said.

Pakistan has historically sold petroleum products at significantly lower prices than regional countries for political reasons which has always resulted in a deficit, but now that the target of a petroleum levy of Rs50 has been achieved, the situation is changing for good, he noted.

Naseer Vohra paid tribute to the inventor of the atomic bomb, Dr. A Q Khan



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra President Markazi Cloth Board Etehad Group Pakistan & trade unions of Pakistan on the occasion of Youm Takbeer, has paid tribute to the inventor of the atomic bomb, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan.

The whole nation not only pays homage but also pays tribute to the Mohen-a- Pakistan.

Vohra expressed that the Mohsin Pakistan Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan's kindness is unforgettable till the doomsday, we salute him from our real love and passions.

He said undoubtedly, 23- Crore population was saved and secured by a real patriot, Abdul Qadeer Khan Pakistani scientist who is also known as A. Q. was born April 1, 1936, Bhopal, India—died October 10, 2021, Islamabad, Pakistan. Pakistani engineer, a key figure in Pakistan's nuclear weapons program who was also involved for decades in a black market of nuclear technology and know-how whereby uranium-enrichment centrifuges, nuclear warhead designs, missiles made Pakistan an unconquerable.

His Subjects of Study: atomic bomb nuclear weapon uranium enrichment In 1947, during Khan's childhood, India achieved independence from Britain, and Muslim areas in the east and west were partitioned to form the state of Pakistan. Khan immigrated to West Pakistan in 1952, and in 1960 he graduated from the University of Karachi with a degree in metallurgy. Over the next decade he pursued graduate studies abroad, first in West Berlin and then in Delft, Netherlands, where in 1967 he received a master's degree in metallurgy. In 1972 he earned a doctorate in metallurgical engineering from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Meanwhile, in 1964 he married Hendrina Reterink, a British national who had been born to Dutch expatriate parents in South Africa and raised in what was then Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) before moving to the Netherlands.

Vohra paid tribute to A. Q. Khan as the real saviour of the nation whom the nation salute today and tomorrow.

He said that on this day of Youm Takbeer. A. Q. Khan day must be celebrated with full swing proving that we are a nation of proud and self determination with no conception of slavery.

He said we must recall our real heroes on special days with due celebrations.

Aasma Ismail Butt presented 'Dulla Bhatti' in PNCA

City Desk

The well-known director, producer and CEO of Dolphin Communication, Aasma Ismail Butt, were executed by the king of Punjab for raising his voice against oppression for the rights of his people. A stage play on the life of the historical character "Dulla Bhatti" was presented in the auditorium of Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad. Which was directed by Aasma Ismail Butt, while Sulaiman Sunny handled the affairs as an assistant director. The play was written by Arshad Chahal. While All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation sponsored this play.

In the drama, Afzal Latif played the sage Sufi poet Shah Hussain, Kaleem



Khan played role of Dulla Bhatti, Jhalak Ali played Dulla Bhatti's fiance Noori, Sapna Shah played Dulla Bhat-

ti's mother, Arshad Khan played Dulla Bhatti's friend, Mumtaz Khan played Emperor Akbar, Shabir Shah roled as a

Mirza Nizamuddin, Ali Zeib played the role of trader Mirza Kokab very well.

Later, Aasma Ismail Butt told reporters about Dulla Bhatti's historical character that Dulla Bhatti was a brave man of Punjab. Whose heart had immense love for his people. Akbar Badshah of that period had stripped the skin of Dulla Bhatti's father's body and stuffed it with straw and hung the body in the royal fort for refusing to pay Lagan. When Dulla Bhatti comes to know about this, he cannot control his emotions. He raised his voice against the emperor akbar and oppression of the people of his area and returned the tax money and distributed it back to the hardworking and poor farmers. On which Akbar, the king of that time, arrested Dulla Bhatti and hang him.

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Indian Media confirms Imran Khan sold Kashmir

Imran Khan always had soft corner for India and Indians also like Imran Khan due to many reasons. It is very well understood now that what Imran Khan and his party has done with Pakistan on May 9 that even our enemies could not do in 75 years. Reportedly, he also has been taking foreign funding from Israel and India for his Party. Indian media has shown warm feelings for him on number of occasions. In a talk show on an Indian Channel few weeks ago, which was hosted by Tahir Aslam Gora, the guest speaker Major (Retd) Gaurav Arya said that If Pak Army will be strong then Pakistan will at least have one institution which will be stable. He said that Pak Army is not just a force, it's actually a bond and a glue which has stitched Pakistan together and if you consider that that there is no Pak Army then what Pakistan have in reality. Apart of the army there is nothing. He said that there is only one credible institution inside Pakistan which is Pakistan Army. He said that it's not just an army it's a glue which has stitched Pakistani people together. He said that Pak Army is a ray of the hope for the people of Pakistan which always heard bad news. He said that if a person from Inside Pakistan is giving such a damage to you without our interference than what else we need. He said that Imran Khan is a man of EGO and always thinks for himself and for him only he is everything. He appreciated that such a leader from Pakistan is actively working against Pakistan and we don't have to spend a single penny for doing this.

if the next Indian government were led by the opposition Congress party, it might be too scared to seek a settlement with Pakistan over Kashmir, fearing a backlash from the right. "Perhaps if the BJP—a right-wing party—wins, some kind of settlement in Kashmir could be reached," Khan told a small group of foreign journalists in an interview.

In his another address to the nation in April last year, Prime Minister Imran Khan lauded India's independent foreign policy, saying that no superpower had the audacity to tell India to change its foreign policy. Despite pressure and sanctions on Russia, he said, India didn't stop importing oil from Russia, because it felt that it was the best decision for its people. Expressing that he knew India better than other politicians, PM Imran regretted that Pakistan and India did not have good relations because of the latter's "RSS ideology and what happened in Kashmir". Soon after the address, Indian media and social media users praised Imran Khan for his comments on India which attracted wide coverage. The Hindustan Times highlighted that the premier called India a "khuddar qaum" or self-respecting nation.

over 550 princely states undecided. They were required to accede to either of the two states on the basis of the geographical location and wishes of their people. Indian army has been allegedly killing the Kashmiris and raping their women. India is using full force to suppress the voice of Kashmiris. The situation after abrogation of article 370 by the Modi regime has worsened. On August 5, 2019, the Modi-led BJP government abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir by repealing articles 370 and 35-A. A lockdown was imposed in the occupied Kashmir and Indian forces perpetrated unspeakable crimes against the Kashmiri people, with complete impunity.

Pakistani Leadership has also been showing solidarity with Kashmir cause and actively raising the issue on all international forums from beginning. But Imran Khan has not only disappointed Pakistanis but he has given huge and unforgivable loss to Kashmir cause as well. I recently seen a breaking news from Indian media that Imran Khan sold Kashmir to Modi. In a very recent talk show on an Indian channel, the guest speaker Sumeet Jain claimed that Modi and Indian Government gave funds of 100-200 crore rupees funds to Imran Khan and his party. He further said that India has been spending 10000-12000 crore rupees annually on Kashmir and Modi very cleverly gave funds to Imran Khan's party. Imran Khan kept silence and starting talking against army. He said the left over money of 9800-9900 crore we used for development. Sumeet Jain showed his deep pleasure on a very good game played by Modi. He was so happy on what Imran Khan has done for India. He also said that Indians have very big contribution for the funds of PTI which Imran Khan never declared as he was not allowed to take money from India. He very openly and firmly confirmed that Imran Khan has sold Kashmir to India in 100-200 crore rupees.



Abdul Basit Alvi

India has started the process of converting a majority into a minority in held-Kashmir. They have drawn inspiration from Israel's strategy of killing humanity. India is trying best to suppress the voice of Kashmiris by brutal actions but has totally failed in silencing them. India is continuously violating the rules of basic rights for Kashmiris. The media does not have free access and is unable to show the real picture of the disputed area. Pakistan has safeguarded the rights of Kashmiri friends and well-wishers across the Line of Control between Pakistan and India from the beginning. The Pakistan Army has shown full solidarity with Kashmiris. Sacrifices of Pakistani people and the army are appreciable. Kashmiris consider Pakistanis as their brothers and love them from the bottom of their heart. Pakistanis display similar sentiments for Kashmiris. They stand united on the same page. Hearts of Kashmiris and Pakistanis beat together. In return, Kashmiris recognize sacrifices

Readers, after watching this video I have no doubt to say that Imran Khan is not only enemy of Pakistan and Pak Army but he is the enemy of Kashmir as well. Continuous support and sympathies for Imran Khan from Indian Media is an eye opener for Pakistanis, Kashmiris, Government, Law enforcement agencies and security agencies. It's time to draw a clear border line between patriotism and betrayal. Also a strict action needs to be taken to save the people from such internal enemies.

Once Pakistani Prime Minister of that time Imran Khan said he thinks there may be a better chance of peace talks with India if Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wins the general election due to begin there on Thursday. Khan said that



Supervising the necessary arrangements for Hajj

A high-level team responsible for monitoring the Hajj arrangements has arrived in Madinah to oversee and ensure the provision of accommodation facilities, transportation, food, healthcare, and other logistical arrangements for the government scheme pilgrims.

Led by Joint Secretary (JS) Arshad Farid Khan from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, has already started diligently to identify areas for improvement and implement necessary measures, ensuring the enhancement of service quality provided to the pilgrims.

Arshad Farid Khan said, "He is bound to continuously and rigorously monitor the facilities for Hajj to provide intending pilgrims with optimum services and amenities."

"Thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of the dedicated ministry staff assigned to the task, the complaints regarding luggage and other issues raised by intending pilgrims have been successfully resolved, bringing the backlog to nearly zero percent," he added.

He said upon their arrival in Madinah, the high-level hajj monitoring team wasted no time in conducting surprise inspections of food facilities and accommodation arrangements. Immediate action was taken against catering companies that displayed unsatisfactory performance, with some receiving warnings and others being blacklisted for future engagements.

He stated that due to the expansion of Masjid e Nabvi, it was revealed that over 65,000 accommodations became redundant. However, the dedicated staff worked tirelessly day and night to ensure alternative residences were arranged.

Remarkably, more than 95 percent of the accommodations were successfully arranged in close proximity to Masjid e Nabvi, providing convenient access for pilgrims, he said.

"A total of 19,000 intending pilgrims will arrive in Madinah by Saturday night," Arshad Farid Khan informed.

He further mentioned, "The 'Main Control Office' is diligently overseeing operations, and the influx of hajj flights will continue until June 5, there is a well-established system for building identification in Madinah while the same level of organization is not present in Makkah.

Hybrid warfare is a war of ideas without weapons – I

Farzad Ahmad Cheema /
Nazar Ahmad Niazi

Any form of warfare is destructive to the state. But, with the advancement in technology and developments in political ideologies, the forms and shapes of war have changed. The latest term of 'hybrid warfare' has been invented. Hybrid warfare is a complex and evolving concept that involves the use of non-military and military tactics, including information warfare, cyber-attacks, political subversion, and conventional warfare. It is a hidden form of warfare that affects the long-term existence of the state without letting people realize what's happening.

"To fight and conquer in all battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking one's resistance without fighting." Sun Tzu

Hybrid war is a type of warfare that uses many different tools, both conventional and unconventional. When these tools are used together in an organized way, the impact can be very bad, causing chaos and disorder in a short time. In traditional wars, non-military targets are not attacked, but in hybrid warfare, both military and non-military targets can be attacked at the same time, causing damage to the state, politics, and society. Hybrid warfare is not just about military actions but also includes political and diplomatic actions. One dangerous tool of hybrid warfare is information exploitation. This means that information can be used in a way that disrupts society and makes it hard

to make good decisions. Social media plays a big role in this type of warfare, where false information and propaganda can be spread to achieve political goals.

As for Pakistan, the country has been facing various hybrid threats from its adversaries, particularly India. Hybrid warfare in Pakistan dates back to the period of 1970s and 1980s when Indians promoted Shaikh Mujib's six points agenda. Secondly, the guerrilla resistance movement the MuktiBahini was also supported by India especially by their secret agency RAW, even Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself confess this in a statement. Hybrid Warfare emerged because of the global dislike of the use of Nuclear Weapons e. g. : when border tensions between Pakistan and India increased after the Pulwama attack, the whole world asked to solve this issue through dialogue because if a war started, there was a danger that the whole world suffers from it.

At present, Pakistan is facing non-traditional security threats mainly from India, Israel, and the United States, in the shape of poverty, education, global warming, climate change, and non-state actors such as Multinational cooperation's, Non-governmental organizations. Non-traditional security threats are done through the controlling of narratives, cyber-attacks, secret use of irregular forces, and by providing diplomatic support to the rebels. The best example is Kalbhushan Yadav, he said that I am involved in providing diplomatic support to the rebels in the areas of Balochistan and Sindh. Second example: in a 2019 cricket world cup match a plane flies over on the ground with a banner, "Justice for Balochistan." Third example: Narendra

Modi said that he condemned the human rights violation in Balochistan, in his statement he threatens the sovereignty of Pakistan because this is an internal matter of Pakistan. Fourth example: In May 2019, a brutal attack took place at a luxurious hotel in the port city of Gwadar. The Prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, strongly condemned the deadly incident. Stating that it was a deliberate attempt to undermine the country's economic project and prosperity. He added that such actions, particularly in Balochistan, are aimed at sabotaging Pakistan's economic growth, and the government will not allow these agendas to succeed. The Balochistan liberation army (BLA), a banned militant group, claimed responsibility for the attack. India is also imposing economic pain on Pakistan through the platform of FATE. India is trying its level best to include Pakistan in Black-list. Pakistan is facing a hybrid war in the shapes of political warfare, diplomacy warfare, and unconventional threats.

Instruments of hybrid warfare in Pakistan are mainly, Separatist movements, Insurgents in the Tribal Belt, Social Media Propagators of fake News, Target Killers in Karachi, etc. The separatist movements exploit the local people against the state and government. These movements are backed by foreign hands causing a disturbance in a region or the whole country. The insurgents in the Tribal areas of Pakistan use the techniques like suicidal bombing, conventional shootings, and bombings across various public areas of the country to create deterrence and violate the peace of the country.

To be continued

May 28: A Terrifying Plan - I

The White House was in chaos today as a worried American President and an ordinary man were seen deep in thought inside the iconic building's Oval Office. Everyone was contemplating the possible consequences of what might happen if the worst came to pass. If this were to occur, what would happen to the civilized world and the millions of people and animals living on this planet would be in danger? If ignorant, stubborn, and foolish people got hold of this power, they would destroy the world and take their last breath. Such overwhelming questions were troubling everyone's minds and hearts.

Inside the White House, the American President paced restlessly around the room, his hands clasped behind his back. The Minister of Interior and a few other important dignitaries were also present, standing solemnly with their hands tied behind their backs. The President's forehead was beaded with sweat, and he muttered under his breath, "This cannot happen. . . he cannot do this. . . let's talk to him again." But once again, their efforts were in vain.

"Sir! He's not willing to listen. His intentions are extremely dangerous. I think he. . ." The Minister of Interior could not finish his sentence.

"Sir! It's a call from Israel!" The American President's attention was immediately drawn toward the phone.

In 1998, when India conducted a nuclear test in the Pokhran desert in Rajasthan, the intoxicated giant of arrogance and pride started to provoke Pakistan, and the army rushed to its borders. India was on the verge of attacking, but this dream could not come true. Every Pakistani's heart was trembling, and there was only one question on everyone's lips: what will happen now? But behold the power of God, a few days later, Pakistan carried out several more powerful atomic explosions in the high mountains of Chagai, and it was as if a slap on the face of India. Even in their wildest dreams, India did not expect Pakistan's nuclear capability

to reach this level. Despite the endless pressures and internal conspiracies of the Western world, conducting nuclear explosions was equivalent to bringing a lion to its knees. In the web of conspiracies, this miracle was no less than a divine intervention. Pakistan's sudden attainment of such massive atomic power did not go unnoticed by the Western world. The whole Western world was in a frenzy.

Israel had devised a terrifying plan before this, which, if successful, would have made Pakistan a desolate land, erased from the world map. Pakistan's security forces knew very well that the enemy would never sit quietly. They knew very well that Israel had destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor on June 7, 1981, when the first shift of guards had ended their duty, and the second shift had not yet taken over. Israeli planes attacked suddenly and fiercely, when everything was peaceful. A famous scientist also died in that attack, and Iraq fell far behind in that field.

Israel had created a similar game this time too. A few days before the atomic bomb blast, Saudi Arabia's "Awacs" planes saw six squadrons of Israeli planes flying toward India. The situation and circumstances at that time seemed strange and meaningful to the Saudi Air Force. Therefore, Saudi Arabia, showing traditional friendship, felt it was its duty to immediately inform the Pakistani government. From here, the matter became a source of opposition from Israel. The Pakistani government smelled the matter and started monitoring the movement of Israeli planes through communication satellites.

An attempt was made to contact the Indian ambassador via phone around midnight, but he gave the excuse that he was "gone" somewhere. When they called again, it was discovered that he was asleep. When asked about the activities of Israeli planes in India, he said he would seek information from his government and give a response.

To be continued

Yasin Malik is a follower of Maqbool Butt who kissed gallows but never compromise his principles

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) termed the plea of NIA at Delhi high court for sentencing JKLF incarcerated Chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik to death as nefarious and politically motivated. This was stated by central chief organizer of JKLF Mr. Sabir Gul from London, UK while strongly condemning the Indian act.

In a statement issued from party's international secretariat in London, the capital city of UK, Mr. Sabir Gul said that exactly after a year when on the dictates of current extremist government of India, Yasin Malik was unfairly awarded life sentence by a special court in fake, concocted and frivolous cases, the same Indian notorious agency NIA has now moved Delhi high court asking for Malik's death penalty.

While terming the incarcerated chairman JKLF Yasin Malik as the worst victim of political vendetta at the hands of government of India, Sabir Gul said moving high court to award a capital punishment to Yasin Malik itself shows the political motivation of this agency and also the callous and undemocratic behavior of the Indian Government towards the Kashmiri political prisoners. Gul said that the concocted charges of terror funding, for which Yasin Malik was sentenced

to life, and for which now the Indian Government is seeking a death sentence for him, are not only laughable but an eye opener for those who still believe in India being a democracy and law-abiding nation.

The unbearable plight of the people of Indian-held Jammu Kashmir, unabated acts of trampling of human rights, suppression of media, use of NIA to silence the voice of political dissent and the use of heavy military might to crush any voice of freedom emanating from the Jammu Kashmir State are glaring examples of Indian state-sponsored terrorism, the statement read. Sabir Gul said that the Indian government has enhanced its tyrant approach in Kashmir and alas! The international community especially the so-called champions of democracy, human rights, free press, and non-violence including the UK, USA, EU and OIC for their petty economic motives are hand-in-glove with the Indian Government in what is happening in the State.

According to the statement, the JKLF chief organizer said that JKLF, as a largest pro-freedom political organization from across the ceasefire line of the State, and its incarcerated chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik is being targeted by the Indian fascist regime for non-violent and peaceful political beliefs. It is worth mentioning that JKLF and Yasin Malik have contrib-



uted tremendously in the peaceful resolution of the Jammu Kashmir issue, he added. Many western and European

countries, especially the UK, USA, and European Union, are aware of JKLF's leadership and its struggle, he said.

The chief organizer of JKLF, Mr. Sabir Gul castigated Altaf Bukhari and some of the BJP leaders for their

statements supporting the NIA plea in high court to award the death sentence to Yasin Malik. While terming Altaf Bukhari as a wretched political renegade, the JKLF chief organizer said that he and other renegades like him are actually those turncoats who for their petty and vested interests always sided with the power, be it of Dr. Farooq Abdullah's NC, Ghulam Muhammad Shah's defunct NC group, militancy, pro-freedom camp, Late Mufti Sayed's PDP and now of BJP. This BJP and Indian agency's stooge is now trying to please his current master Mr. Modi and RSS with the aim to earn power in Jammu Kashmir, he informed.

The JKLF chief organizer said that people like Altaf Bukhari should know that Yasin Malik is an internationally recognized leader of Kashmiris, a brave son of the soil, and a follower of Martyr Muhammad Maqbool Butt who kissed gallows but never compromised his principles and the struggle. As a matter of fact and time, bigots like Altaf Bukhari should remember that their masters will soon use and throw them like a tissue paper, Sabir Gul warned. He said that the people of Jammu Kashmir are watching their behavior and that they will never forgive them for their crimes against humanity in general and against the sacred cause of the freedom movement of Jammu Kashmir in particular.

Pakistan continues to be a valued partner to the United States: William K. Makaneole

Asim Tanveer

SAHIWAL: U. S. A. Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole visited the districts of Sahiwal, Pakpattan and Bahawalnagar from May 22 through May 25. During the three-day tour, Mr. Makaneole met with local government representatives and members of the business community to deepen the robust partnership between the United States and Pakistan. He also visited the shrines of Baba Fariduddin Ganjshakar, Tajuddin Chisti, and the landmark Harappa Museum.

Pakistan has been and continues to be a valued partner to the United States. Our governments have partnered on a range of issues and our people-to-people ties remain strong," said Consul General

Makaneole. While paying his respects at the shrines of famous Sufi saints he added, "These shrines symbolize the diverse cultural, historical, and religious heritage of Punjab and Pakistan." Founded in 2001, the Ambassador Fund for Cultural Pres-



ervation (AFCP) preserves historical and cultural treasures under threat from environmental pressure or lack of resources.

In Pakistan, AFCP has invested more than \$7.6 million on 32 cultural preservation projects. The restored sites include Buddhist monasteries, Hindu monuments, Sufi shrines, and relics of the Mughal empire. Consul

General Makaneole also visited the Harappa Museum in Sahiwal, a noteworthy archaeological site.

Consul General Makaneole appreciated local entrepreneurial efforts at Digital Dera in Pakpattan, and the Semen Production Unit and Flour Mills in Sahiwal. He emphasized that the United States is Pakistan's largest bilateral export destination, noting that "In 2022, bilateral trade hit a record \$9.9 billion, with Pakistani exports to the United States reaching \$6.8 billion."

In his meetings with the Deputy Commissioners for Pakpattan and Bahawalnagar and Commissioner in Sahiwal, Mr. Makaneole thanked them for hosting the delegation in their districts and making the trip a success. The United States has a broad, deep, and long-term partnership with the people of Punjab Province spanning the education, economic, health, legal sectors and beyond. U. S. Consulate Lahore looks forward to deepening and expanding these relationships over the coming years.

Biden, McCarthy reach tentative deal to raise US debt ceiling: sources

Following months of deadlock, President Joe Biden and Republican leader Kevin McCarthy have tentatively agreed on a plan to increase the United States debt ceiling, averting a potential default.

Sources familiar with the negotiations revealed that the White House and House Republican negotiators have reached an agreement in principle, marking a breakthrough in the ongoing impasse. While some minor matters remain to be addressed, the deal has gained enough traction to move forward.

To prevent economic instability, it is crucial for the deal to pass through Congress before the Treasury Department faces a shortage of funds to fulfill its obligations. Failure to raise the debt ceiling by June 5 could have severe consequences.

Republican control of the House of Representatives



has resulted in demands for significant spending cuts and additional conditions, such as work requirements for certain benefit programs and reduced funding for the Internal Revenue Service.

Specific details of the final agreement are not immediately available. However, earlier reports indicated that negotiators had agreed to cap non-defense discretionary spending at 2023 levels for a period of two years in exchange for an increase in the debt ceiling over a similar timeframe. The delicate task

at hand involves finding a compromise that can secure the necessary votes in both the House and Senate, given their narrow majorities.

The prolonged stalemate has generated concern in financial markets, negatively impacting stocks and leading to record-high interest rates for some bond sales. Economists warn that a default would have far-reaching consequences, potentially triggering a recession, destabilising the global economy, and causing a surge in unemployment.

Initially, President Biden refused to engage in negotiations with McCarthy regarding future spending cuts, demanding a "clean" debt-ceiling increase without additional conditions. He also called for the presentation of a 2024 budget proposal to address his concerns. However, negotiations between Biden and McCarthy gained momentum on May 16.

Democrats criticised Republicans for jeopardising the economy with their brinkmanship tactics, while Republicans argued that increased government spending was fueling the country's growing debt, which now matches the annual output of the economy. The United States came perilously close to defaulting on its debt in 2011, resulting in significant shocks to the economy, including a credit rating downgrade and a major stock market sell-off.

A Book Review

Why Violence is integral to Pakistan Politics



Politics is quest for power; and power is your ability to impose your will upon others. In a Hobbesian environment power flows from barrel of the gun; but in a democratic dispensation a set of laws, rules, and norms is provided to pursue political ends through peaceful means and attain power for a fixed term through adult franchise. A prerequisite for this peaceful transfer of power at regular intervals is, supposedly, a strong state; that is strong institutions (legislature, executive, judiciary) working under the Constitution without being interrupted from without.

Niloufer Siddiqui in her new book "Under the Gun: Political Parties and Violence in Pakistan" (Cambridge University Press 2023) provides an insightful analysis of the dynamics of violence as a political tool employed by almost every political party in Pakistan, in varying degrees and manners. The focus of the book is Pakistan, but it provides comparison with scores of other countries, ranging from weak states with fragile democracy like Nigeria and Guatemala to strong states like the USA with strong democratic tradition where violence has been employed in pursuit of political ends. The Trump inspired violent mob attacked the Capitol and

tried to stop Congress from formally declaring Joe Biden President-elect. This was a watershed moment in US history when a violent mob tried to reverse the result of the presidential election.

The survey of vast literature on politics, violence, and democracy, scientific analysis of firsthand data, surveys, and in-person interviews leads the author to conclude that 'party violence is not a simple manifestation of weak state capacity but instead the intentional product of political incentives.' There exists a complex relationship between violence and democracy. The book seeks answers to the questions as to why political parties engage or facilitate violence; when and why they refrain from it; why they engage in violence in one part (like ANP in Karachi) and avoid in other parts (ANP in KP); why some parties employ violence directly from within its own ranks (MQM) why others employ violence as "by-product of a vote-getting strategy" (PMLN and ASWJ); and some resort to violence "through the process of outsourcing" it to 'armed organization' (PPP and PAC).

It is not just a "weak state" and "fragile democracy" that incentivize political violence. Political party's violence strategy depends on the incentives it faces in subnational political landscape in which it operates, the cost it incurs from doing so, and its capacity for violence. 'Engaging in violence or refraining from it, is weighed on the cost-benefit analysis by each political party. Cost-benefit is analyzed in terms of voters' reaction, retaliation from the state, and financial gain-loss in the process.

Another determinant of violence strategy is related to the organizational strength or weakness of the party.

Organizationally strong political parties like the MQM with a "captive support base" could afford to indulge in "direct party violence" with the help of party members, without fearing a loss of vote.

Where a party doesn't have organizational structure to employ violence directly, "but have incentives to do so, they must rely on distinct militias, gangs, or armed organizations to implement their directives through the process of outsourcing, as the PPP did with Peoples' Amn Committee (PAC), an ethnic militia, in parts of Karachi. The party did not use the same strategy in other parts of Sindh province or anywhere else in the country.

An Organizationally weak and structurally diffused political party like the PMLN can neither afford "direct violence" nor "outsource" it to an ethnic based armed group, for fear of negative reaction from the voter. Instead, they "form electoral alliance with such actors where and when it suits the party electorally. In Punjab the party has relied on landed elites to mobilize voters and provide patronage on their behalf. These individu-

als known as the 'electables' virtually "own" the constituency. They control the voters access to thana-ketehry, jobs, and irrigation water in connivance with the local state officials. This coercive control ensures their electoral success. They join the party when its chances of victory at the hustings are bright, and then quit it when the party fortunes are down.

PMLN also made similar arrangements with a violent sectarian outfit like Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamat (ASWJ).

The Awami National Party (ANP) is historically and ideologically committed to non-violence. The party maintained its peaceful and non-violent image in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but engaged in tit-for-tat violence "in the Hobbesian political landscape of Karachi, where access to state resources and the informal economy were both up for grab and overlapped with ethnicity." Here the party had a captive support base among the Pakhtun community who felt threatened by the MQM's violent ethnic style of politics. The party is categorized as "organizationally strong" that can employ 'direct violence' as electoral strategy in Karachi, and desist from

it in KP, depending on cost and benefit the party expects to incur in two different electoral fields. In Karachi it was "less likely to incur a cost among its core co-ethnic voters for utilizing violence... By contrast in the heavily garrisoned and ethnically polarized environment of KP, the ANP was more likely to incur costs from both state institutions and voters... for any use of violence." Terrorist outfits like TTP, land mafia in Peshawar, and sectarian violence in parts of KP further complicate electoral environment for a secular, non-sectarian, non-violent party like ANP.

The book makes a significant contribution in studying party violence along the full spectrum of political landscape within which a given political party operates. It attempts to study political parties from "within", and "without". It examines party organization, its decision making, its internal culture, socialization, and recruitment process. It offers "a new theoretical basis from which to study and analyze the various actors involved in electoral irregularities, and which contribute to violence in democratic and hybrid settings: a spectrum from gangs and ethnic militias, to landed elites, religious clerks, and militant groups."

The holistic approach allows the author to study interaction between "parties, voters, violence specialists, and state actors". After presenting a detailed data-driven analysis, personal interviews, historical perspective, and firsthand field observation of party violence the book devotes one full chapter to put party violence in a global perspective. Every chapter makes references to different countries to elaborate a point, but chapter seven

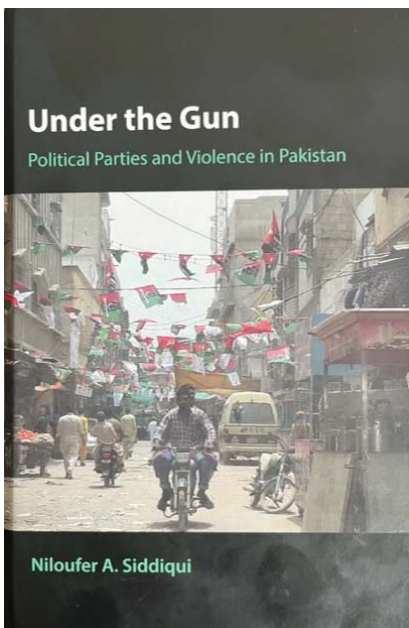
takes up Nigeria, Philippines, India, in more details.

The researcher did her field study and academic work during the years when the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf was slowly emerging on the political horizon. Therefore, the book uses only second-hand information in just two pages to describe the gradual rise of the party and its success in 2018 elections. The 2014 dharana, ostensibly orchestrated by the intel operatives against the PMLN government, that led to violent attacks on the parliament, television headquarter, beating up of senior police officers, forced release of party workers from the police custody, and calls for civil disobedience are not analyzed in the book. The May-9 violent attacks on military installations, the General Headquarters, and military symbols in response to the arrest of Imran Khan have added a new and unprecedented dimension to party violence. This calls for a detailed study in the follow-up research.

The book provides a huge amount of data and reference material for any future research on the subject. It's equally useful for students, researchers, academics, and casual observers of Pakistani politics.

The book is published by the Cambridge University Press. Currently it's available in the USA, and EU. Its Asian edition is scheduled for this summer.

The author Niloufer Siddiqui is Assistant Professor of Political Science, at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University of Albany State University of New York. This is her first book. She has numerous research papers to her credit.



SECP hosts banquet in honour of guests of First ICM Conference

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A reception dinner was hosted by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan to welcome speakers and eminent guests of the First International Conference on Islamic Capital Markets (ICM) in Pakistan.

The reception dinner, featuring an array of local culinary delights, showcased the rich diversity of Pakistani culture. It provided a unique opportunity for the guests to network and have informal discussions centered around the conference theme. The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, and H. E. Sh. Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAOIFI, were the chief guests at the occasion.

Chairman SECP, Mr. Akif Saeed, thanked all attendees for their participation and contribution to the conference. A glimpse of the event can be seen on SECP's social media pages.

UAE government to issue visit visa in 24 hrs: says UAE business council

News Desk



KARACHI: UAE business council chairman lauds the decision of UAE government to issue visit visa in 24 hrs. "The issuance of visit visas by UAE for Pakistanis across the board, from businessmen to investors and students, is a very welcome initiative and credit goes to HE Bakheet A. Al Remeithi UAE CG in Karachi". This was stated by Mr. Diwan Fakhruddin, Chairman of Pakistan-UAE Business Council, who also stressed that this shall become the bedrock of the bilateral business relationship between Pakistan and UAE. Nothing can stop its growth as the potential - both for imports from UAE and exports from Pakistan - is huge and was at times subject to slowing down due to visa issuance challenges.

"The UAE-Pakistan business relationship has a long history and has contributed greatly to the liberalization of trade between the two brotherly nations," said Mr. Diwan. Pakistani products are facing stiff competition in UAE markets, and thus Pakistani companies have to travel regularly to understand and counter competition and this visa initiative has resulted in ease to reach UAE markets.

He said, "By visiting markets regularly in the UAE, we shall enhance our understanding on how best to do business and also, at the same time, spend time on UAE products which can be imported by Pakistan's business community." "Dubai is our window to getting into the world and is also a hub for education, tourism and business expos which adds a lot of value," said Mr. Diwan.

This simply means that through the ease of visa issuance, a whole new horizon opens up for Pakistani industry and commerce fraternity that can be tapped for growth and to strengthen the bilateral relationship between UAE and Pakistan.

Plot to spoil Pakistan-China relations has failed

T Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Sunday that the conspiracy to destroy Pakistan economically, politically, and defensively by making it hostile towards China has been foiled.

The attack on PTV and Parliament House in 2013 was aimed at gaining power and sabotaging the visit of the President of China, he said. After that, the head of a political gang started conspiracies against CPEC and in violation of the agreement handed over the complete details of the project to the IMF, which angered China, he added.

Saifuddin Sheikh said in a statement issued here today that when the current government and the COAS removed China's reservations and assured the speedy completion of CPEC, the same gang repeated its conspiracy by creating an atmosphere of civil war in the country.

The protests were repeated with more intensity the day after the visit of the Chinese foreign minister, but the conspiracy was foiled by timely action.

Saifuddin Sheikh has said that China's influence in the region is continuously increasing, the Middle East and Gulf countries are also getting closer to China to leave the US, and now the US has no friend except India in the region to confront China.

Therefore, an arsonist group was used to push Pakistan to the anti-China camp, but their plot has been foiled.

Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has assured the Chinese leadership to complete the CPEC and provide security for it, and a satisfied Beijing has announced the project of laying a railway line worth fifty-eight billion dollars from Kashgar to Gwadar.

Taxation on Tobacco

Govt needs to levy high taxes on tobacco industry

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: Increased tobacco taxation is a win-win situation for the government and people of Pakistan provided that the government remains steadfast on its decision of increasing tobacco taxation. This argument was raised during an event organized by the Society for Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and elected representatives. The event explored economics of tobacco, health cost burden, and tactics of tobacco industry in the presence of key journalists from various media outlets to gather support for the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) track and trace system known as TTS.

Malik Inman, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), mentioned that the tobacco industry caused a 615-billion-rupee economic burden to our country therefore, it must be taxed heavily. He mentioned that due to the government's decision of increasing Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cigarettes in February 2023, an additional Rs 11.3 billion FED revenue and 4.4 billion VAT revenue was obtained in the fiscal year 2022-23. This additional revenue makes up 0.201% of our GDP



which is a significant boost for an economically struggling country like Pakistan. He further added that the illicit trade is an excuse used by the tobacco industry to avoid taxes. In reality, the tobacco industry practices underreporting where they hide their actual production figures to avoid government taxes. Alternatively, cigarette manufacturers also shift the tax burden to consumers to increase their own profitability.

Mr. Rizwan Sarfraz, Additional Project Director of TTS from FBR, mentioned that the system implemented by the FBR in Pakistan

has achieved several objectives. These include technology-based monitoring, increased transparency, improvement in tax compliance, and a reduction in the prevalence of counterfeit goods in the country. He mentioned that since the production of cigarette sticks decreased by 6.5% from July-December 2021 to July-December 2022 and during the same time FBR's tax collection improved by 11.75%. This is a major achievement of the newly implemented Track and Trace System.

Mr. Nisar Ahmed Cheema, Member of

National Assembly, sharing his thoughts on the issue said all stakeholders need to work tirelessly for ensuring that the health of Pakistanis does not suffer at any cost. He said that FBR's track and trace system must be implemented in all companies without any relaxation so that tax revenue is not wasted. He also urged the parliamentarians to work for a consistent and adequate increase in tobacco taxation.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head of Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said that the annual 170,000 deaths due to use of tobacco and Rs 615 billion economic burden require immediate, serious, and sustainable measures. Pakistan should increase tobacco taxes at regular intervals to reduce consumption and generate revenue.

At the end of event, Mr. Khalid Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC thanked all the participants for their presence and valuable input and said that to protect the children from the harms of tobacco all stakeholders must put their differences aside and unite to protect our children and youth from an industry which is causing billions of loss to the national exchequer. Increasing tobacco taxes is such a step which should be regularly implemented.

The govt is working on priority basis to promote exports, Zubair Motiwala

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: CEO Trade Development Authority Pakistan Mohammad Zubair Motiwala has said that the government is working on priority basis to promote exports from Pakistan. There is a special focus on trade relations with regional countries. The solution to Pakistan's economic problems lies in reducing imports and increasing exports. The role of business community is key to get Pakistan out of the current economic problems. TDAP will provide full support in projects like construction of expo center in Islamabad, a display center in the chamber and FM radio. The performance of Islamabad Chamber in the last one year is an example for other Chambers.

He expressed these views in a meeting with the President of the Chamber Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday. He said that the main objective of TDAP is to solve the problems of the business community and ensure access of Pakistani goods to every market in the world. Economic problems will be solved only if Pakistan's trade increases. Islamabad Chamber has taken many revolutionary steps in the last



one year. Being the representative chamber of the federal capital, Islamabad Chamber is fulfilling its responsibilities.

Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan has a key role in the promotion of Pakistan's trade relations. As a business leader, Zubair Motiwala understands well all the problems that the business community of Pakistan is facing. He said that like other big cities, Islamabad Chamber is trying to establish Expo Center. In this regard, CDA has agreed to provide land. The Government should cooperate with the Chamber for the construction of

the Expo Centre. He said that Islamabad Chamber is also working on the project of FM radio station.

On this occasion, TDAP Director General Muhammad Naseer said that the Islamabad Chamber should play a key role in promoting trade and cooperation with regional countries. And research work should be done to promote trade with these countries including Iran, Afghanistan and China. TDAP will provide guidance to the Islamabad Chamber in this regard.

Caption: CEO Trade Development Authority Pakistan Muhammad Zubair Motiwala meeting with President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to Islamabad Chamber.

Chairman SECP calls on Finance Minister



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman SECP Mr. Akif Saeed called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, today.

Chairman SECP and Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar discussed the arrangements of the First International Conference on Islamic Capital Market to be held in Islamabad from tomorrow.

The Chairman SECP also informed the Finance Minister that the delegations have already arrived to participate in the conference. This Conference will help Pakistan in implementing the Federal Shariat Court's judgement to make our financial system Riba free.

Apart from the arrangements of the conference, other matters related to the SOEs were also discussed in the meeting.

Gas welding

KARACHI: Workers are busy in repairing of electronic items at their shop at Liyari area, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

The government should reduce the taxes levied on real estate, Adil Nawaz Bhatti

Commerce Desk



RAWALPINDI: The government should reduce the taxes levied on real estate, the double standard of DC and FBR regarding property valuation should end. The increase will cause more difficulties in obtaining tax revenue. Introducing special incentives for filers will increase the tax net. These views were expressed by General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association. (RECA, DHAI-R) Adil Nawaz Bhatti while addressing the meeting. Adil Bhatti said that Advance tax should be reduced for filers. Expatriate Pakistanis should be given incentives to invest in the real estate sector so that investment can increase in the country, the government should take decisions in consultation with stakeholders to increase the tax net. Adil Bhatti said that The real estate sector is under severe pressure, which is the main reason for the transfer of capital from the country to abroad. Previously, only capital was transferred out of the country, now investors are also moving abroad very quickly. In this case, the government should decide soon about IMF package. Decisions made under IMF pressure are causing irreparable damage. The real estate sector can bring the country's economy out of this situation. RECA DHAI-R has conveyed its suggestions to the competent authorities. RECA is ready to play more role in this regard.

Mian Akram calls for special training of young people in order to boost employment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Central Employers Federation of Pakistan and Member Task Force Mian Akram Farid said that we should pay special attention to the technical education of young people who want to work in our countries, as well as their attitude and behavior. They should be given special training and we should see that India and Bangladesh have gone ahead of us in this sector.

By paying attention to this, we can increase unemployment and domestic

exchange. There are excellent employment opportunities for the young generation, it is necessary for the government to pay special attention to the tourism sector, so that the tourism industry can flourish and the workforce can be prepared according to the needs of the industry and unemployment can be reduced. And the country's revenue should increase.

He further said that now the concept of Ustad Shagar should be ended. Steel oil and ghee and various industries are included, more than 7 million of our people are working in other countries,



these young people are mostly serving abroad by taking short-term courses of technical education. By making education a part of their general education and paying attention to it, the pace of economic development is

high and from which the investment of 24 billion annually can be increased to 40 billion annually by skilling the youth, he added.

He said that the industry has played an important role in providing employment and students are benefiting from the use of their lab and other equipment. are doing For the production of goods and its increase, we have to use the skills of our youth so that they run the technical and production sectors on the right lines and the country is on the path of development. The Federal Minister said that the main work of the

Ministry of Planning.

The future of the youth is to be planned. The development of Pakistan depends on the active role of the youth and the private sector. We have to forget our differences and work together to get the country out of economic crisis. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal while addressing the meeting of the Task Force for Skill Development and Human Resource said that we have to see why we have lagged behind other nations in development, and what are the obstacles.

The National Games Golf Event 2023 concluded

Sports Desk

QUETTA: The National Games Golf Event 2023 comes to a celebrated conclusion after four rounds of strikingly impressive golfing encounter between top golf amateurs of the country. Management of Quetta Golf Club Golf Course and Balochistan Golf Association led by Asghar Ali Shah made this possible as did harmonious efforts of Pakistan Golf Federation represented by Brig Sohail Ishrat and Malik Kamran and at their playing best were noteworthy players like Salman Jehangir, Hussain Hamid, M. Arsalan Shahzaib Jahan, Nouman Ilyas in Mens section and Parkha Ijaz, Rimsha Ijaz, Suneya Osama and Hamna Amjad in Ladies Section.

Ultimate winners of the Team Gold Medal was the Army Team whose playing members were Noman Ilyas, Shahzaib Jahan, M. Arsalan and M. Shaohib. Their untiring preparations for this national event paid off and by adhering to a game plan and winning strategy, they maintained a dominance on all four days of the competition flow. They had the distinction of being the front runners on the first day and never let go of this command and control till the victory target was achieved on the final fourth day. And all accolades to their effort as they were up against a very accomplished WAPDA Team comprising of sturdy and energetic Salman Jehangir, the highly talented

Hussain Hamid, the proficient Noman Asghar and the adroit Danish Javed. In the overall reckoning Army Team won the illustrious gold medal by a compiling a team score of 867 over four rounds and in golfing terms 72 holes, 18 holes each day. As against this WAPDA Team had to be content with the silver medal with a team aggregate score of 876 and they lost to Army by nine strokes and managed to reduce the 13 stroke advantage that Army enjoyed at the start of the final round.

Bronze medal winning Team was Pakistan Air Force and their performing team members were Usama Nadeem, Muslim Abbas, Danial Jehangir and Damil Ataulah. Team score was 901. For PAF their team members put up a commendatory effort.

And the valiant one in the Individual Gold Medal race was Salman Jehangir, a merited player of the national golf circuit. Up against competent and masterly rivals, he managed to ensure success for himself through application of golfing technique, powerful hitting, accurate shot making from the fairways and most important of all, nerve free putting on the greens. His final round score of gross 69 was a remarkable effort and enabled him to assure for himself an esteemed gold medal. His scores for the championship were 76,69,71 and 69 and aggregate score was 285.

Silver medal winner was M. Arsalan, a young one whose father M. Sultan



was a prominent golf player and raised Arsalan to become a top of the line golfer. M. Arsalan had four rounds scores of 70,76,72 and 71 and his aggregate for this championship was 289

and he lost to the gold medal winner by four strokes.

Bronze medal winner was Shahzaib Jahan who impressed all through the four days with his relentless effort. His

four rounds scores were 74,71,71 and 74 and Championship aggregate was 290.

Other notable performers were Noman Ilyas 293, Asif Khan 294, Hussain Hamid 295, Shahzaib

Khan 297, Damil Ataulah 298, Ahmad Zafar Hayat 299 and Irtiza Hussain 301.

Ascendancy of Army Team in Ladies Section was spearheaded by the wonder girls Parkha Ijaz, Rimsha Ijaz and Ania Farooq Syed. They combined well to become the proud winners of the National Games 2023 Gold Medal. Army Team compiled a winning aggregate team score of 450 and beat the silver medal winning Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Team by seven strokes. PAF Team of Hamna Amjad, Suneya Osama and Dania Aziz put up a strenuous effort but could only succeed in securing the silver medal which is an honor by itself. The Bronze winning Ladies Team was WAPDA and team members were Ana James Gill, Zaib un Nisa and Ghazala Yasmin. Team Score was 502.

In the Ladies Individual race, Parkha Ijaz and Rimsha Ijaz remained strikingly noteworthy on all days of the championship. Hitting off the tees was precise and faultless and absolutely error free were the approach shots to the green. Ultimately Parkha Ijaz emerged as the gold medal winner while her sister took home the silver medal. In this way this Ijaz Family takes home the Team Gold Medal, the Individual Gold and the Individual Silver. This is a compliment to their father and mother who have devoted time and resources to raise such girls of exceptional ability and talent.

Hareem Malik makes us proud by winning three gold medals in swimming, Chef De Mission Sindh, Dr. Farhan Essa

Sports Desk

QUETTA: Dr. Farhan Essa Abdullah, the Chef de Mission of the Sindh contingent participating in the ongoing 34th National Games, has said that the message of peace and love from the ongoing National Games in Quetta is not only going to the country but also to the whole world.

Today, through sports, the world is becoming aware of the culture of all the provinces of Pakistan, the national heritage and the scenery of the beautiful places of Balochistan.

The organization of the National Games will be very helpful in the promotion and development of sports in the



country. From this mega event, where the discovery of new talent, young athletes are given ample opportunities to express their abilities, there is an environment of healthy competition between athletes at the national level and mutual respect is being cultivated. The atmosphere of harmony and brotherhood has increased. While congratulating the government of Balochistan, the Pakistan Olympic Association and all the security agencies for the successful organization of the National Games, Dr. Farhan Essa said that in the current situation, peaceful methods and best arrangements are laudable by the Balochistan Govt. regarding the performance of the Sindh team in the Games. Dr. Farhan Essa said that Pakistan's

rising star Hareem Malik has made us proud by winning three gold medals for Sindh in Swimming.

In other sports too, the performance of our athletes has been outstanding. Sindh tops the ranking of the provinces in swimming events.

The exemplary discipline shown by all the players and officials in the squad during the mega event is commendable.

He said that regarding the formation of teams for the Games, I had given clear instructions to the officials of all the sports associations that open trials should be held for teams selection, selection should be based on merit and no talented athlete should be deprived of his rights, he concluded.

PSG win 11th French title as Messi breaks European goal record

Messi's 496th league goal in Europe breaks Ronaldo's record and secures 11th Ligue 1 title amid sour mood at the club.

Paris Saint-Germain have clinched a French record 11th league title as Lionel Messi scored in a 1-1 draw away at Strasbourg and broke the scoring record for Europe's top five leagues, but questions remain over the Argentinian's future at the club.

Messi's opener on Saturday was cancelled out by a Kevin Gameiro equaliser, but the result gave PSG an unassailable four-point lead over second-placed Lens with one match of the season remaining.

PSG moved ahead of the previous record of 10 titles set by Saint-Etienne in 1981 and which they equalled a year ago under former coach Mauricio Pochettino.

It is PSG's ninth title in the last 11 seasons, a period in which they have dominated French

football under the ownership of Qatar Sports Investment.

PSG started the penultimate weekend of the season six points clear of nearest rivals Lens with just six points to play for, and with a far better goal difference.

In the end, they needed only the draw to be officially confirmed as champions with a game to spare, as Lens eased to a 3-0 win over already-relegated Ajaccio.

Kylian Mbappe set up Messi to put PSG ahead just before the hour mark with his 16th Ligue 1 goal this season.

It was also Messi's 496th league goal in Europe and broke Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record for Europe's top five leagues.

Ex-Paris striker Gameiro equalised with 11 minutes left, bundling in the rebound after Gianluigi Donnarumma had saved from Morgan Sanson.

The draw ultimately suited both teams as it enabled



Strasbourg to guarantee their top-flight survival.

Unhappy days

PSG's triumph was secured despite Christophe Galtier's team losing six games in 2023, while nearest challengers Lens have taken most of the plaudits.

PSG were unbeaten before the FIFA World Cup, when Mbappe, Messi and Neymar appeared driven by the prospect of the approaching tour-

namment in Qatar.

However, they lost six of their first 17 league games in 2023 and were eliminated from the Champions League in the last 16 by Bayern Munich and in the French Cup at the same stage.

PSG's holy grail is the Champions League, in which the club has regularly come up short at the crucial moment - including crashing out in the last 16 five times in seven seasons.

The mood around the club in recent weeks has appeared sullen with fans disaffected. Neymar, now 31, has suffered more injury problems and Messi was suspended for missing training after taking an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

When results were going poorly, some of the fans' anger was targeted towards Messi, who was seen to be underperforming after his return from winning the World Cup with Argentina.

Marco Kirdemir, a football agent, told Al Jazeera earlier this month that it is clear Messi - who is out of contract at the end of the season - wants a change of scenery.

"He could go with Al Hilal, or Inter Miami or Barcelona ... but what is certain is that Messi will not be with PSG next year because there is already a rupture, including one with the fans," he said.

Pakistan hold India to 1-1 draw in Junior Asia Cup



A Sports

SALALAH: Pakistan held India to a 1-1 draw and continued their unbeaten streak in the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 hockey tournament in Salalah, Oman on Saturday.

Sharda Nand Tiwari scored the opener for India in the 24th minute before Pakistan's Basharat Ali equalized in the 44th.

Both India and Pakistan have accumulated seven points each from their respective three-game in Pool A but the latter leads the tally with a better goal difference.

Japan, who beat Chinese Taipei 10-1 earlier on Saturday, are third with six points from three outings.

Playing at the Salalah Sports Complex, the Pakistan team defended the Indian attack quite brilliantly in the first quarter which ended without a goal despite men in blue enjoying the bulk of possession.

India took the lead via a penalty corner with Sharad Nand Tiwari flicking the ball in the net to help his team go 1-0 before halftime.

Pakistan, however, unleashed a counterattack in the third quarter and put the Indian defence under pressure.

India won a couple of penalty corners but failed to score. Pakistan, on the other hand, equalized through Ali Basharat, who netted from a close distance to make it 1-1.

ICC Chairman and CEO to visit Pakistan next week

Sports Desk

LAHORE: ICC Chairman Greg Barclay and Chief Executive Geoff Allardice will reach Lahore on Tuesday morning on a two-day visit to meet the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) top officials.

According to the details, International Cricket Council's high-ups will meet the Chair of the PCB Management Committee Mr Najam Sethi (also an ICC Director), PCB Chief Operating Officer Barrister Salman Naseer and other board officials during the visit.

"While Mr Allardice has regularly visited Pakistan, first as ICC General Manager - Cricket and then as ICC Chief Executive, this will be Mr Barclay's first visit to Pakistan." said the PCB media release on Sunday.

"Mr Barclay will be the first ICC Chairman to tour Pakistan since ICC President Ray Mali's visit in 2008. This will also be the first time since October 2004 that both the top two ICC officials will together visit the Pakistan cricket headquarters," it added.



Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan to study at Harvard Business School

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Babar Azam and teammate Mohammad Rizwan will become the first cricketers to join the prestigious Harvard Business School's executive education program.

The star Pakistani duo will join the long list of top-tier sportspersons, who have pursued the course previously. The list includes footballers such as Kaka, Edwin van der Sar, Gerard Pique, Oliver Kahn; NBA stars like Dirk Nowitzki, Chris Paul and Paul Gasol.

According to the details, Babar and Rizwan are enrolled in the executive education program on The Business of Entertainment,

Media, and Sports (BEMS) which will run from May 31 to June 3 at the Harvard Business School in Boston, Massachusetts.

The two cricketers will also engage with the various communities in the US after the program till June 13.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam said his inspiration for joining the world-class program at Harvard was to connect, explore, listen, learn, grow, and give back to the community worldwide.

"I am sure there are scores of things to learn from the amazing athletes and top business executives from the entertainment, media, and sports industries who are coming from corners of the world," said the No. 1-ranked ODI

batter.

Similarly, wicket-keeper batter Rizwan also expressed his delight on getting such a great learning opportunity.

"It is a huge honor to represent Pakistan on such a prestigious global stage. We are going to the BEMS program at Harvard to learn from the best of the best in the world - both in terms of faculty and program fellows - and at the same time to share our journey and learnings with everyone," he said.

I am certain that this will be an exciting journey, and I look forward to sharing our learning and experiences with the next superstars of the cricket world," Rizwan added.

Talha Rehmani, the founder and CEO of sports talent management company Saya Corporation, will also be part of the programme along with the two esteemed cricketers.

The programme will be chaired by Professor Anita Elberse, one of the youngest women ever to earn tenure at Harvard Business School.

"I am delighted to be able to welcome Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan to the Harvard Business School and to the BEMS program," said Elberse. "We think the other participants will benefit greatly from their experiences as world-class athletes with a strong interest in the business world."