



Minister of State's visit to Denmark and Finland

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, paid a two-day visit to Denmark and Finland on 8-10 June 2023. During the visits, the MOS held government level interactions and engaged with think tank and local media. In Denmark, the MOS met the Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Dan Jørgensen. (Details on Page 8)



Rs7.5bn earmarked for culture, tourism

KARACHI: The budget estimates for 2023-24 to further promote Sindh's rich cultural heritage, support literary activities and conserve archaeological sites and monuments a amount of Rs7.500 billion has been allocated for culture and tourism, marking a 24 per cent increase over the last year's allocation of Rs 6.5 billion. The Sindh Cabinet on Saturday approved Rs2.24 trillion budget for the next financial year 2023-24 in its pre-budget meeting here at the Chief Minister House.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Cyclone

KARACHI: Fishing boats are seen after ban in fishing following the cyclone in Arabian Sea, at fish harbour.



Photo: APP

Heavy rainfall kills 15, injures more than 100 across Pakistan

Adam Khan Wazir

PESHAWAR: Heavy rainfall and strong storm killed 15 and injured more than 100 people including women and children across Pakistan.



As per details, the heavy rainfall caused damage mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

Several cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Swat, Karak, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Shakargarh, Hangu, Tank, Mingora, Murree and Shangla received heavy rainfall.

While in Punjab the cities where heavy rainfall and storms were recorded include, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Bhakkar, Pir Mahal and several other areas.

The strong storms and heavy rainfall resulted in the collapse of walls, roofs, and trees across the country. Emergency has been declared in hospital as the death toll may rise.

Earlier, at least nine people were killed as heavy rains lashed Hyderabad and other Sindh areas in the past 48 hours, with gusts of winds, hailstorms and lightning piling misery on people. The twin cities of Hyderabad and Kotri received heavy showers and hailstorms the size of golf balls damaging several vehicles and windows in Hyderabad's SITE area. Gustly winds uprooted trees and damaged vehicles.

In Kotri City, the heavy rainfall killed three children and seven other people injured. Police said the children were playing when the wall came crashing down, leaving them dead on the spot.

It is pertinent to mention here that Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman had stated that "Pakistan is among the 20 countries where above-normal rainfall is predicted. These 20 countries include America, Turkey, Iran and others. The third return of the El Niño ocean trend in the last 2 years is a cause for concern."

Meanwhile, The relief teams of Pakistan Army have reached the spot and are engaged in relief activities. Pakistan Army is standing by the side of the people in this difficult time along with the civil administration by using all resources.

The injured have been shifted to district hospitals with the help of Pakistan Army. Emergency has been implemented in the government hospitals of Bannu district.

Post budget presser: 3.5% GDP growth target 'realistic & easily achievable', says Dar

Naveed Ahmad Khan/ Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday expressed confidence that the federal government would easily achieve the 3.5 per cent growth target of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) set for the upcoming fiscal year with effective and transparent utilization of massive development funds it allocated for the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2023-24).

"I believe if we rightly implemented the PSDP and invested with complete transparency, the GDP growth from 0.29% to 3.5% will be easily achievable. We have set a very modest target and I am very much sure if PSDP funds are invested judiciously, you will find perhaps the 3.5% growth at the lower side," he said while addressing the post-budget news conference.

He said the government allocated a historic size of Rs1150 billion in development funds under the PSDP, which was almost double the funds of Rs567 billion utilized



in 2022-23.

In 2017-18, Ishaq Dar said he had presented over Rs1 trillion PSDP budget that was a record-high at that time, while for the year 2023-24 a 'new-high' size of the development funds amounting to Rs1150 billion had been earmarked to achieve the required goals of national development and put the economy on a consistent growth trajectory.

He said the GDP growth target was not 'unrealistic', adding the international financial and rating institutions always remained

conservative as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB) projected the growth at 2 per cent, International Monetary Fund (IMF) itself announced the target of 3.5 per cent, Bloomberg and Fitch rated at 4 per cent while Standard and Poor (S&P) calculated at 2-2.5 per cent.

"As per our professional calculation, it (3.5% GDP growth target) is doable by the grace of Allah Almighty," the finance minister said confidently.

Talking about the drivers of growth, he said the budget for the

fiscal year 2023-24 was somehow different from traditional budgets as it focused more on growth that would help create employment, get macroeconomic indicators better, reduce inflation and bring down the policy rate.

He said there was a need to reverse the trend witnessed during the tenure of the past regime, adding the target should be to achieve macroeconomic indicators for the fiscal year 2017. "Once you get that then you have the second goal to achieve a position in G20," he added.

The minister said, "I think being a nuclear power, if Pakistan establishes itself as an economic power that is what the nation expects from us and that is the target of this government, PML(N) in particular."

He said the country's economy had come out of the steep vulnerable stage and it was stable now, so further decline had been stopped.

"We will try our best to put the economy on a growth path. "This should be our national goal," he added.

For achieving this objective, he

said special focus had been put on certain areas to promote growth on a fast-track basis.

Among these areas, the government had prioritized the agriculture sector as it could provide quick dividends, he added.

Ishaq Dar said the Prime Minister's agriculture package helped in producing bumper wheat crops which meant this sector had the potential to give quick dividends, and accordingly, the government enhanced agriculture loans up to Rs 2250 billion.

He said the government would strictly monitor loans and ensure their fast-track disbursement adding Rs 30 billion had also been allocated to solarize around 50,000 tube wells.

Special focus would also be given to developing seeds and promoting research to enhance per acre yield, the minister said, adding "We want to bring about an agriculture revolution, and it can happen as we have the potential." He said seed imports had been exempted from duties whereas the government also withdrew duties on the import of combined harvesters.

Interior Minister unveils secure, reliable, hassle-free passport system



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Saturday announced the successful development of a robust and reliable passport system in the country, which complies with international standards and is crucial in providing secure travel documents to citizens and facilitating visa-free travel.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of passport processing counters, inland online passport

renewal facility and e-passport facility for the residents of Islamabad Capital Territory at the Directorate General of Immigration and Passport (DGI&P) Headquarters. Director General I&P Yawar Hussain and Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik were also present on the occasion.

The minister said the introduction of e-passports, an online passport renewal system within the country and passport processing counters would empower our citizens, streamline their travel and contribute to the overall development and prosperity of our nation. Efforts were being made to strengthen partnerships and cooperation with other countries to enhance facilitation, he added.

Economy direly needs reforms; charter of economy only way forward: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the country's economy direly needed reforms, which in turn, could be undertaken in a stable political environment as the economic development was intrinsically linked to political stability.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister stressed "It is here that the Charter of Economy appears to be the only way forward for our political parties to achieve prosperity for our people."

The prime minister in a lengthy tweet referred to the laying of the fiscal budget 2023-24 said that it represented the beginning of the process to fix the economy's long-term ailments.

The coalition government had

prioritized the right areas that have the potential to spur economic growth, attract investment and make the economy self-sufficient, he added.

The prime minister said the



making of budget (FY2023-24) was particularly a difficult task in view of the persistent challenges arising out of the floods-related relief and rehabilitation, global supply chain

disruptions and geostrategic upheavals.

"Never-ending headwinds of political instability created by Imran Niazi damaged the economy and created uncertainty, as the country remained on the boil for well over a year," he regretted.

Mindful of the impact of inflation, the prime minister said the government provided relief to the public sector employees and pensioners in the form of pay raise of up to 35% and 17.5% respectively, and increased minimum wage to Rs32000.

He said a more balanced budget that levied no new tax could not have been possible within the existing constraints.

The prime minister also commended all those who remained part of this exercise and played their role in the budget-making exercise.

Sindh Cabinet approves Rs2.24 tr budgets for next fiscal year 2023-24



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Cabinet on Saturday approved Rs2.24 trillion budget for the next financial year 2023-24 in its pre-budget meeting here at the Chief Minister House.

The Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah discussed a five-year performance of the provincial government.

The Sindh Cabinet meeting was attended by the Provincial Ministers of Sindh, Advisors, Special Assistants, Chief Secretary Sindh, Chairman Plan-

ning and Development, CM's Personal Secretary and others officers concerned.

The CM Syed Murad Ali Shah said that it was the last pre-budget meeting of the five years tenure performance of the provincial government.

He said that the other meetings of the Provincial Cabinet would continue as usual.

The Chief Minister said that their Cabinet performed well under the leadership of PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardri.

He said that the local bodies elections were the manifestation of their success.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that PPP got success in every district of the Sindh province in the local bodies elections.

Havey Rain

ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way during rain as the weather becomes pleasant due to sudden rain after high temperature in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Islamabad, Punjab ask Center for army withdrawal

TLTP

LAHORE: After finding law and order situation under control in federal capital and Punjab on Saturday the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Chief Commissioner and Punjab caretaker government has decided to return the services of Pakistan Army.

The Islamabad Chief Commissioner and Punjab Home Department has written a letter to the Interior Ministry in the matter requesting the Ministry to withdraw its notification issued on May 10 in



public interest.

The army was called in

to control the law and order situation in ICT and Punjab following the May 9 riots after the arrest of PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the Al-Qadir Trust case. The caretaker government of Punjab had called in the army on May 10.

In May 10, keeping in view the precarious security situation, the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments have sought the services of the Pakistan Army under Article 245 of the Constitution in aid of the civilian authorities across the provinces. Consequently, the federal Interior

Ministry approved the requisition and initially, 10 companies of the army were deployed in Punjab.

On Saturday, the Punjab Home Department wrote a letter to the federal government, asking it to withdraw the services of the army from the province. The letter reportedly asks the federal government to immediately call back the army troops deployed in Punjab.

Sources disclosed the army is being sent back after the law and order situation in the province has been brought under control.

ANF recovers 833 kg drugs in six operations

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in six operations conducted across the country managed to recover over 833 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that in an operation, ANF foiled a bid to smuggle drugs from Quetta to Punjab and recovered 180 kg charras concealed in secret cavities of an onion-loaded truck intercepted near Dera Ghazi Khan. ANF also arrested two accused residents of Pishin.

In another operation near Wazirabad Road, 500 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of two accused resident of Sialkot.

In third operation, a raid was conducted on Indus Chowk near Gadap Town, 51 kg charras concealed in



Anti Narcotics Force ANF

secret cavities of a vehicle was recovered. Charras was being smuggled from Quetta to Karachi while an accused resident of Quetta was netted during the operation.

In fourth operation conducted in a deserted mountainous area of Pishin, 371 kg heroin and 221 kg morphine stored there to smuggle abroad were recovered.

In fifth operation on Airport Road Quetta, 10 kg charras was recovered from a Rickshaw while an accused resident of Kalat was nabbed.

Court stops police from arresting Shah Mehmood Qureshi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Saturday approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's interim bail till June 27 in three different violence cases.

Accepting Qureshi's bail pleas against surety bonds worth Rs100,000 each, the court stopped police action against the PTI leader till June 27. PTI Vice Chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was released from Adiala Jail Rawalpindi on June 6.

Addressing media outside Adiala Jail Shah Mehmood Qureshi had said that the 'flag of justice' is in his hands and he would meet the PTI chief tomorrow and discuss the current political situation of the country with him.

He said that the party is facing hardships "But don't lose hope as the sun of justice will rise again".

It is pertinent to mention here that former foreign minister Qureshi was taken into custody by police in Islamabad following May 9 protests.

NDMA urges public to avoid shorelines, follow local authorities' guidance amid intensifying BIPARJOY

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Saturday urged the general public to stay informed about cyclonic activity and stay away from shorelines and follow local authorities' guidance in any emergency situation.

According to the NDMA spokesperson, in the latest development, as reported by Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and International Weather Models on June 10, 2023, Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY was currently located in the Northern Indian Ocean with sustained winds of 150 km/h.

He added that the storm was predicted to strengthen

and maintain its intensity for the next 24 hours, with a possibility of significant shifts in its position.

As per the report, BIPARJOY cyclone was located approximately 910km from Karachi and 890km south of Thatta while maintaining speed of 150km/h at its center.

The tropical cyclone was likely to impact coastlines which were potentially exposed to damaging winds, storm surge and flooding.

The NDMA has already officially forewarned the relevant authorities and instructed to conduct preparedness measures proactively about cyclone in coastal areas in its probabilistic projections about unprecedented extreme climatic events in May, 2023.

Minister of State's visit to Denmark and Finland

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, paid a two-day visit to Denmark and Finland on 8-10 June 2023. During the visits, the MOS held government level interactions and engaged with think tank and local media.

In Denmark, the MOS met the Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Dan Jørgensen. The two Ministers agreed on building collaboration in renewable energy sector, under the recently signed Green Framework Engagement Agreement. The MOS hoped that the Danish Minister's upcoming visit to Pakistan next week (16-18 June 2023) would be instrumental in this regard. She assured Minister Jørgensen warm welcome and full cooperation on government's behalf.

Meeting with Prehn Rasmus, Member of the Danish Parliament, the MOS underscored the importance of parliamentary engagement in further cementing mutual ties. Discussions were also held on areas where quick progress could be made bilaterally.

The MOS engaged with the



Danish chapter of the Schiller Institute on Pakistan's approach to key regional and international issues. The talk was joined in via zoom by the international president of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche. She also gave an interview to the leading Danish newspaper, Berlingske.

On 9 June, the MOS called on Johanna Sumuvuori, the State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland in Helsinki. The two Ministers noted the growing bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of education and vocational training.

Float depicting Indira Gandhi's assassination ignites Indian govt's anger



Spokesman Report

LONDON: The approval of a controversial float in Canada, depicting the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has sparked anger in India.

Dr S. Jaishankar, the Indian Minister of External Affairs, has expressed his strong protest against the participation of the disputed float in the Khalsa Day Parade held in Brampton, Canada.

A video circulating online shows the float featuring a blood-stained white sari symbolizing Indira Gandhi, being lifted while Sikh men hold guns pointed at her, with the word "revenge" displayed in the background.

The Indian Minister emphasized that the support for extremism and violence is detrimental to the relationship between Canada and India.

He stated that this incident highlights the presence of extremist elements and a lack of tolerance in Canada, which goes against the values it upholds.

Furthermore, the incident was also condemned by the Canadian minister in India.

It is important to note the historical context behind this controversy.

In 1984, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, being lifted while Sikh men hold guns pointed at her, with the word "revenge" displayed in the background.

LHC forms bench to hear Khadija Shah bail plea on Monday

TLTP

LAHORE: A Division bench of the Lahore High Court has been formed to hear the bail application of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Khadija Shah who is behind bars under charges of an arson attack on Jinnah House on May 09.

Khadija Shah, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and daughter of former finance minister Dr Salman Shah is currently in jail on judicial remand in the Jinnah House attack case. It is pertinent to mention that on June 08, accepting the US consular access to PTI leader Khadija Shah on June 08, Federal Interior Ministry has granted the access to PTI leader Khadija Shah in the matter. The ministry received the request through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The



Interior Ministry has directed the Punjab Home Department to extend full cooperation to the US Consulate in Lahore in this regard. Dr Salman Shah and husband of Khadija Shah have invoked jurisdiction of the LHC for bail of the accused person. A two-member bench of the LHC led by Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi will take up the bail application matter on June 12.

Female student kidnapped, sold for 6 Lac in Punjab

Correspondent

HAFIZABAD: A young girl from the neighbourhood of Hafizabad who was allegedly abducted and sold off for Rs 600,000 has been recovered.

While sharing her traumatic experience, the victimized girl stated that the culprits kidnapped her in a car after she was returning from the academy and sold off for a hefty sum of Rs 600,000.

The victimized girl further revealed that she was subjected to violence, cutting off her hair and continuous sexual assault during her captivity.

However, the affected family claimed that the authorities did not arrest any culprit yet and did not provide any medical assistance.

Furthermore, the family alleged that the police are threatening them with severe consequences if they refuse to settle with the culprits.

CCTV footage of newborn's abduction from Jinnah hospital surfaces

News Desk

KARACHI: The CCTV footage of the newborn's abduction from Jinnah Hospital Karachi has surfaced.

The CCTV footage shows the woman who was going out of the main gate of hospital at 2am midnight.

Earlier, a newborn girl was abducted from Jinnah Hospital Karachi, leading a strong protest against the hospital administration.

The baby girl belonged to Mohammad Ismail, a resident of Yusef Goth, who was born yesterday was kidnapped by an unidentified woman.

As per the details, the mother of the newborn took a nap during which an uniden-



Shocking CCTV Footage Surfaces of Newborn Abduction at Jinnah Hospital Karachi

tified woman deceived the security guard by impersonating the relative of the victim and kidnapped the baby girl.

The family members staged a protest against the hospital administration, demanding a transparent investigation of the kidnapping.

According to the family members, the CCTV camer-

Lahore: Load-shedding intensifies, shortfall raises to 393MW

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The load-shedding in Lahore has further intensified due to the substantial shortfall from the current production of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) which stands at 4263 megawatts.

LESCO, the power distribution company responsible for supplying electricity in the city, has been struggling to meet the escalating demand. Despite its efforts, the current capacity stands at 4263 megawatts, leaving a substantial shortfall of 393 megawatts, resulting in frequent power outages in different areas of Lahore.

Terming resolution of the Kashmir dispute as a key to regional peace: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Terming resolution of the Kashmir dispute as a key to regional peace, the Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has urged the international community to play its much needed role to help resolve the lingering dispute peacefully.

In a statement issued here today, the PM said that sustainable peace in South Asia hinged on a just and equitable solution of the Kashmir issue.

He said that it was high time that the international community should play its role to resolve the long pend-



ing dispute that has been pending on the UN agenda for the last 75 years.

Terming Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement as a legitimate struggle, he said, "Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives to achieve their cherished goal of freedom".

Referring to the massive human rights violations taking place in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the PM said that blood-bath of innocent civilians, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests, molestation of women at the hands of occupation forces have become a new normal in

Kashmir.

"Despite all these cruel tactics, India could not suppress the spirit of freedom from the hearts of Kashmiris", he said.

He said that international human rights organizations should take notice of the woeful plight of Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders who have been booked under Draconian laws and left to rot in jails.

The Prime Minister also urged the world leaders to take notice of India's stubbornness and play their role in giving the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination guaranteed to them under the UNSC resolutions.

UN Secretary General to visit both sides of Kashmir to see ground situation: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan President Muslim Conference has strongly reassured millions of Indian atrocities-sufferers in India-held Kashmir that their worst woes are being flashed across the world with utmost diligence as our dedicated duty. The UN, OIC, UNHRC and world capitals are being regularly posted with urgent details drawing their attention towards inhuman consequences of militarized siege of Kashmir by India. Over one million Indian regular forces have practically imprisoned the people, geography and even animals in occupied Kashmir as lands and grazing grounds of Kashmiris are being grabbed by occupying Indian military, he said.



Talking on Friday here to a delegation of occupied Kashmir refugees of 1989 Sardar Attique Khan a

former two-timer Prime Minister of AJK said that India government and Indian forces are aliens in Jammu and

Kashmir and that they cannot hold on permanently there; if the Britishers could not stay in South Asia even after ruling for 100 years how can illegal Indian occupiers can stay in Jammu and Kashmir landmass which is not theirs, he asserted.

"We want that UN military observers stationed by UNO in occupied Kashmir should have free access to visit all areas as Kashmir being a UN-listed dispute is an institutional liability of the UNO. This way Kashmiris are not only citizens of their own State but a geo-demographic liability of the UN. Secretary General of the UN should himself visit both parts of Jammu and Kashmir and see for himself the ground situation and meet the people on their home ground", Sardar Attique suggested.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Assesses Progress at CBD Punjab Project Site

Bureau Report:

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, visited Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), project site to assess the progress of the development work for CBD Punjab phases 2,3 and Main Boulevard linkage to Bab E Pakistan, Walton Road, Lahore.

During the visit, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab was provided a comprehensive briefing by the CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, highlighting the significant advancements made in the project. Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain, Project Director CBD Punjab, Asif Iqbal and senior officials of CBD Punjab were present during the briefing.

CBD Punjab has embarked on the development of phases 2 and 3, along with the establishment of a linkage between the Main Boulevard Lahore and Bab E Pakistan, Walton Road. Notably, CBD Punjab will construct flyovers at Ghora Chowk, Lahore, Walton Railway Crossing, and



Bab-e-Pakistan, addressing key traffic congestion points. Construction of a roundabout at Kalma Chowk has also been advised by CBD Punjab.

CEO CBD Punjab, Mr. Imran Amin, expressed his commitment to

delivering a state-of-the-art project. He reiterated CBD Punjab's commitment to delivering high-quality infrastructure projects that will greatly benefit the people of Punjab.

The visit was attended by esteemed

government officials, including the Chief Secretary Punjab, Secretary Planning, Commissioner Lahore/DG LDA, CCPO Lahore, CTO Lahore, Deputy Commissioner Lahore, and Chief Engineer LDA.

IGP KP Akhtar Hayat Khan inaugurated the newly constructed modern Regional HQs

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur inaugurated the newly constructed modern Regional Headquarter CTD Dera Ismail Khan building.

According to details, Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur inaugurated Regional Headquarters CTD Dera Range in Dera Ismail Khan yesterday, during the inauguration ceremony. Additional IG CTD Shaikat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi, District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SP CTD Region One Fazal Wahid, SP CTD 2 Izhar Shah along with CTD District police officials were also present.

Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi gave a detailed briefing to Inspector General of Police regarding CTD Building, Meanwhile, IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur reviewed the internal and external security of police station CTD and while visiting different parts of the police station building also inspected the electronic monitor-



ing system of CCTV.

The IGP visited the Regional Headquarters CTD offices, Hawalat, Investigation Cell and various counters and reviewed the performance of each department in detail.

IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan chaired a high-level meeting with police offi-

cials at Police Club Dera, in which Additional IG CTD Shaikat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi, District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, DPO Tank Waqar Ahmed, DPO South Waziristan Upper Niaz Muhammad, DPO South Waziristan Lower

Shabir Hussain, Additional SP Dera Iftikhar Ali Shah, SP Investigation Tank Nasir Ali, SP Special Branch Toheed Khan, SP CTD Region One Fazal Wahid, SP Region Two Izhar Shah, SP FRP Iqbal Khan participated.

Al Khidmat Foundation Distributed Grocery to Railway Employees

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Supertendent Railway Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza with the support of Al Khidmat Foundation Multan distributed ration to the employees of class IV of the flood affected areas of Dera Ghazi Khan section. DS Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza was the chief guest of the ration distribution ceremony while President of Al Khidmat Foundation Multan Muhammad Ahmad Chaghatai and President of Dera Ghazi Khan Al Khidmat Foundation Shakeel Ahmadani Divisional Engineer Muhammad Rehan Sabir were also present. thanked DS Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza for identifying the flood-affected employees of the railways and assured cooperation in the future.



Railway officers and employees donated blood: Hamad Mirza

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: DS Railway Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza says that we can understand importance of the blood running in our body only when our blood can be useful to those who are in desperate need of a single drop of blood. By donating blood, not only other human lives can be saved but also the health of the person who donates blood improves. It was further said that railway officers and employees should actively participate in this good process of donating blood. He expressed this while addressing the participants of the blood donation camp organized by the Regional Blood Center yesterday. On this occasion, the administrative officers of the Regional Blood Center Syed Asim Raza Shah, Mohsin Abbas and others said that the blood donors 08 tests per person are conducted free of charge.



While the Regional Blood Center saves the data of the blood donors so that whenever they or any of their relatives need blood, the Regional Blood Center can provide blood to them, he said. Every single drop of blood is precious for them. Citizens are requested to cooperate and donate blood as much as possible to save the lives of these children.

A new Mosque would be constructed soon: Ameer Mushtaq



Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed Chairman Anjuman Tajran Registered Tandlianwala has said in a statement that at Rescue 1122, a new Mosque would be constructed soon. He further said in details that the community of Tandalianwala will also be provided basic facilities if life to the poor and needy.

The President Haji Shehzad Bukhtar Ali Khurana ascertained to provide free of charge medicines may be used for emergency. Trade community will stand together for the public and social needs along with Rescue 1122, said Zaigham Ali Sadar Mobile Association.

According to the details the Anjuman Tajran registered Tandlianwala delegation led by Chairman Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed visited Rescue 1122 Okara Road Center. Yasir Munir, section coordinator of this center, along with his team welcomed the delegation of businessmen. Anjuman Tajran registered Tandlianwala president Haji Shehzad Bukhtar Ali Khurana, senior vice president Sheikh Farooq Ahmed and joint secretary Haji Muhammad Nazir, while sub-organization mobile association president Zaigham Ali and senior vice president Hafiz Mehr Kashif also participated. Section coordinator Yasir Munir.

Chairman of Association of Traders Registered Tandlianwala Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed appreciated the efforts of Rescue 1122 and indicated the construction of a mosque in the center of Rescue 1122 in good manners & it was warmly accepted and due site was visited. President Haji Shehzad Bukhtar Ali Khurana, Senior Vice President Sheikh Farooq Ahmed and Joint Secretary Haji Muhammad Nazir assured Yasir Munir for free supply of medicines while Sub-Organization Mobile Association President Zaigham Ali and Senior Vice President Hafiz Mehr Kashif also to cooperate in different department of this center.

DC SW Upper & DPO Tank Forge Alliance for Security & Prosperity in SW Upper

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: In a significant development towards enhancing the safety and security of the people of South Waziristan Upper, Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Upper, Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad, and District Police Officer Tank Mr. Waqar Ahmad emphasized the need for increased coordination to effectively combat crime and maintain law and order. By aligning their efforts, the officials aim to streamline the exchange of information and resources, enhancing the overall effectiveness of security operations.

This collaboration aims to foster mutual cooperation, bolster coordination with law enforcement agencies, and launch a cleanliness campaign in the region, as directed by the esteemed Inspector General of Police.

The meeting between Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Upper and District Police Officer Tank signifies a commitment to work hand in hand for the welfare and prosperity of the residents of South Waziristan Upper. Recognizing the importance of joint efforts, both officials have vowed to take necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of the people in the region.

The partnership will focus on strengthening collaboration between

law enforcement agencies operating in South Waziristan Upper, the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad and District Police Officer Tank Mr. Waqar Ahmad emphasized the need for increased coordination to effectively combat crime and maintain law and order. By aligning their efforts, the officials aim to streamline the exchange of information and resources, enhancing the overall effectiveness of security operations.

Moreover, Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Upper, District Police Officer Tank and Newly appointed District Police Officer Mr Niaz Muhammad also announced the launch of a comprehensive cleanliness campaign across the region. The campaign, initiated under the guidance of the esteemed Inspector General of Police, seeks to create a cleaner and healthier environment for the residents of South Waziristan.

By fostering awareness, organizing clean-up drives, and engaging the local community, the campaign aspires to instill a sense of civic responsibility among the residents and promote sustainable living practices.

Pakistan is one of the world's highest Solar Energy Resource Country

Prof. Dr. Zahir Javed Paracha, CEO, PENTA-H PVT LTD. AEDB Approved (C1-Category) Renewable Energy Company in Pakistan.



Professor Dr. Zahir Javed Paracha is an upcoming Pakistani entrepreneur in Solar Industry of Pakistan. He is a top-notch electrical engineer with expertise of both Academia and Industry. He successfully won Australian post graduate award and did his masters and PhD in electrical engineering from Australia. He has over 30+ years comprehensive range of experience which includes Academic leadership, Skills development, Entrepreneurship, Industrial Projects management, Teaching & Research training and consultation. He remained VC of Qarshi University and University of Faisalabad and is currently HEC Master Trainer and PhD approved supervisor. As an entrepreneur he is keen to serve community and educate people about the importance of renewable energy by providing best services of Solar system solutions across the globe. We are presenting the Interview of Prof. Dr. Zahir Javed Paracha. **Tell us about yourself and your contributions in Academia and Industry?**

Ans. I started my engineering career from Wapda and then moved to

Australia from Pakistan for higher studies in 1995 where I completed my masters and Phd in electrical engineering. I have served in TEVTA Punjab as General Manager Academics and various universities in Pakistan in top leadership positions. In Industry, my area of specialization is energy conser-



vation and management and I have worked in key industries in Singapore, Malaysia and Australia. After 30+ years of comprehensive experience of both academia and Industry. I have set up my own company in renewable energy system. By utilizing our expertise and knowledge our aim is to educate people of Pakistan to help themselves and the global community by saving energy, money and our beautiful planet to install solar power plants. You held top academics and industrial positions in different countries.

How do you see your role as an Entrepreneur in Solar Industry?

Ans. First of all I am a teacher and mentor who seriously believe that we need to promote strong ethics in our society based on the principles of holy Quran. These days I am going to different Universities and conducting workshops on capacity building for faculty of affiliated colleges as Master Trainer. As an Entrepreneur I have set up compa-

ny with the name of Penta-H Private Limited, to play role in managing the energy crisis by using renewable energy solar system in Industrial, commercial, residential and agricultural sites. I lead the team of engineer who provide Solar System services from concept to completion of project and afterwards operation and maintenance. Our Company is different from other solar companies because in the top authority we have foreign qualified Doctors for the technical analysis of any site, we provide 24/7 operation and maintenance facility for our clients to ensure continuous electricity supply. We have provided engineering services of solar projects from 5KW to 1MW+ and we are approved from Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Alternate Energy Development Board 9 (AEDB) and Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). I and my team believe in making the electricity bill zero for our client. We have practically done this in our various projects such as in Toyota Multan Motors where huge electricity bill is now almost zero after the installation of solar system. Our professional engineers are monitoring the site online 24/7.

What is strength of PENTA-H Solar Company?

Ans. One of the key strength of PENTA-H Solar lies in its highly qualified team of PhD's and Masters engineers who are actively involved in practical implementation. The combination of knowledge of advanced academic degrees and hands on experience enables them to bring a unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical expertise to the table. With their deep understanding of solar energy principles and technical proficiency, these professionals play a crucial role in designing and executing solar projects efficiently and effectively. Their ability to analyze complex challenges, develop innovative solutions, and trouble-shoot technical issues ensure that PENTA-H Solar delivers solutions to its clients. PENTA-H Solar as trusted player in the Solar Industry.

Why Renewable/Solar energy is important specially in Pakistan?

Ans. Pakistan holds immense solar energy potential due to its favorable geographical location and abundant sunlight. With high solar irradiance levels, long sunshine hours, and clear skies, the country is well-positioned to harness solar power for various applications. The country is blessed with a high level of solar radiation through out the year, making it an ideal region for solar energy generation. On average, Pakistan receives approximately 5 to 7 kilowatt-hours per square meter per day (kWh/m²/day) of solar irradiance. However, certain areas, particularly in the southern and southwestern regions, experience even higher solar irradiance levels, ranging from 6 to 8 kWh/m²/day. This significant solar irradiance potential under scores the immense

opportunity for harnessing solar power as sustainable and renewable energy source in Pakistan.

What is the future of renewable/solar energy in Pakistan?

Ans. In Pakistan, the renewable energy sector has experienced significant progress. The country aims to achieve a target of 30% renewable energy in its total power mix by 2030. As of 2021,

Pakistan's renewable energy capacity stands at around 9 GW, with Solar

power contributing a substantial share. the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur, one of Pakistan largest solar projects, has a capacity of 1,000 megawatts (MW), while numerous other solar power projects are in operation or under development across the country. The declining costs of Solar technology have instrumental in driving its adoption. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates that

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Canadian Solar launches new Bifacial high efficiency solar panels at ISEM

Exclusive Interview of Grace Wan The Director of Sales Canadian Solar, Singapore, Pakistan And Myanmar

Tahir Amin Malik

The three days Solar Exhibition and conference which organised by ISEM from 2-4th June was quite successful and eye-catching. During the expo, Canadian solar has launched our new product of CSI TOPCon N-type Bifacial high efficiency solar panels from a range of 560W to 695W which best suit customers' needs across residential, commercial & industry, large solar utility scales with twelve years (12) Enhanced Product Warranty on Materials and Workmanship and Thirty (30) years Linear Power Performance Warranty. CSI TOPCon N-type provided a long-term reliability performance output and has reduced module LID and the Degradation through process opti-

mization. Canadian Solar TOPCon N-type panels provides better LCOE which is an important indicator that can make objective and fail economic performance comparisons of Photovoltaic system which is widely used by the PV industry to evaluate the impact of different system components which gives better investment returns. In this regards, The Director of Sales Canadian Solar, Singapore, Pakistan and

Myanmar Grace Van said an interview that we received huge response during the 2nd International Solar Energy Meet (ISEM) & IEEP IREM Expo held in Lahore Expo. Grace Wan who also participated as a Speaker in Clean and Green Pakistan Seminar and during her speech she put the high light on Clean and Green Pakistan and said that Pakistan has great potential in Solar and Energy and there are many Solar Companies are working very well in Solar and Energy Sectors. She said that in an Special Interview with Daily Spokesman and Said that

Canadian Solar was founded by Dr. Shawn Qu, Chairman and President of CSI in 2001 in Canada with a mission and vision to foster sustainable development and to create a better and healthy living environment for future generations though the power of the sun. Over the last 22 years, Canadian Solar has grown into one of the global largest solar PV module manufacturers as well as completed energy solutions providers. YTD, we have delivered over 96 GW of solar modules to thousands of customers in more than 160 countries, we have more than 18,500 professional employees working together to achieve mission. She said.

Canadian Solar has a proven record in development of utility-scale, solar and energy storage plants in more than 20 countries on six continents. By end of Q1 this year, Canadian Solar has established a global leading solar power plant project reserve approx. 25 gigawatts and energy storage project reserve of 47 gigawatt hours. She further said.

As one of world-leading solar energy full system solution provider, Canadian Solar has started business footprint since 2011 and has established a remarkable market reputation.

Canadian Solar have two major business segments: Recurrent Energy and second is CSI Solar.

Recurrent energy focus on Global Energy business, including photovoltaic and storage plant development. As one of the world's largest clean Energy developers, we have 14-year brand history and a pipeline of global project development experience. Grace Van

Expressed the views over the

The second business segment is CSI Solar which is engaged in the development, production and manufacture solar modules, inverters, with a supply

of complete energy system solutions. She said

To continuously remain competitive and sustainable, Canadian Solar come to full vertical production supply chain.

By the end of 2023, Canadian Solar is expected to have a production capacity of 20.4 gigawatts in ingots, 35 gigawatts in wafers, 50 gigawatts in cells and

Continued on Page 6



CSI TOPCon Module Family For All-Scene Applications

182 mono facial



420-435W

CS6R-T

182 Bifacial



560-580W

CS6W-T

210 Bifacial



555-570W

CS6W-TB-AG



620-635W

CS7L-TB-AG



680-700W

CS7N-TB-AG



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Religion and Politics in Pakistan over the Past Decade

Over the past decade, Pakistan has witnessed significant developments in the relationship between religion and politics. As a country with a predominantly Muslim population, Islam holds a central place in the political discourse and governance of Pakistan. This article aims to provide an overview of the evolving dynamics of religion and politics in Pakistan from 2013 to 2023, highlighting key events, challenges, and their implications on the nation's socio-political landscape.

The general elections held in 2013 marked a significant turning point in Pakistan's political landscape. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) emerged as the leading party, securing a majority in the National Assembly. The victory of PML-N, a center-right party that draws support from conservative religious elements, underscored the enduring influence of religion in Pakistani politics.

The last decade witnessed the meteoric rise of Imran Khan and his political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Khan, a former cricketer, capitalized on his charisma and anti-corruption stance to appeal to a wide range of voters, including religious conservatives. PTI's populist agenda, coupled with its emphasis on Islamic values and social justice, resonated with the electorate, enabling the party to secure a majority

in the 2018 general elections and form the federal government.

The struggle to strike a balance between Islamization and secularism has been an ongoing challenge in Pakistani politics. While the state upholds Islam as the official religion, there is a continuous debate regarding the role of religion in governance and the treatment of religious minorities. Balancing the aspirations of conservative religious elements with the principles of a pluralistic and inclusive society remains a complex task for Pakistani leaders.

The issue of blasphemy laws and freedom of expression has been a contentious topic in Pakistan. Blasphemy laws, aimed at protecting religious sentiments, have often been misused to target religious minorities or settle personal scores. The misuse of these laws has resulted in tragic incidents and raised concerns about the infringement of freedom of expression. Striking a balance between

religious sensitivities and upholding the right to express diverse opinions continues to challenge Pakistan's legal and political systems.

Pakistan has faced persistent sectarian tensions and the threat of religious extremism in the last decade. Acts of violence perpetrated by extremist groups have targeted not only religious minorities but also Muslims belonging to different sects. The government's efforts to curb extremism and foster interfaith harmony have been met with mixed success. Countering religious radicalization and fostering tolerance remain significant challenges for Pakistan's political leadership.

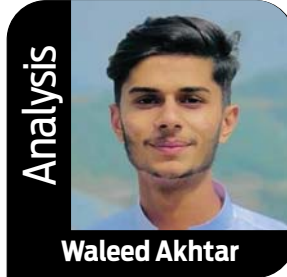
Promoting the rights and inclusion of religious minorities has gained attention in recent years. Efforts to empower religious minority communities have included legislative measures, such as the Hindu Marriage Act and the formation of the National Commission for Minorities.

These steps aim to ensure the protection of minority rights and facilitate their participation in political and social spheres.

Women's participation in politics has seen notable advancements in Pakistan during the last decade. The introduction of gender quota systems and affirmative action measures has increased women's representation in elected bodies. Women have played significant roles in political parties, advocacy, and policy-making, contributing to a more inclusive and diverse political landscape.

Pakistan's religious and political dynamics have also been influenced by global events and international actors. The country's efforts to balance its relationship with regional powers, address transnational terrorism, and manage geopolitical interests have had an impact on its domestic politics. These external factors have shaped Pakistan's approach to religious issues and its engagement with the global community.

The last decade has seen Pakistan grapple with the complex interplay between religion and politics. The evolving dynamics reflect both the aspirations of a religiously diverse population and the challenges of ensuring inclusivity, tolerance, and democratic governance. As Pakistan moves forward, it must navigate the delicate balance between religious sensitivities and the principles of a pluralistic society to foster harmony, social progress, and democratic values.



Analysis

Waleed Akhtar

The country's efforts to balance its relationship with regional powers, address transnational terrorism, and manage geopolitical interests have had an impact on its domestic politics.

Pakistan targets \$1 billion of export to China

After successful transportation of seafood cargo container to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region through Karakoram highway, Pakistan will be targeting \$1 billion of trade with China through land route in coming years, Commercial Counselor, Embassy of Pakistan, Ghulam Qadir said on Saturday.

It is very heartening that export of food items especially seafood from Pakistan to China has started through land route. This is a big success and we want to build on it to increase our export, he told APP in an interview.

He informed that the Pakistani side is targeting that \$1 billion worth of trade should happen in the long-run through land route.

However, keeping in view the current situation, we hope that this year, we have millions of dollars of export and trade from this route in the coming fiscal year, he added.

While commenting on the export of seafood from Pakistan to China through land route, a spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry welcomed quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter its market and said that the Chinese side stands ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation.

As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have engaged in close cooperation in trade and other fields, he added.

Pakistan's first-ever seafood cargo container has recently arrived in Kashgar city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region through Karakoram Highway.

This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"We welcome quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter China's market and stand ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost our trade through land transportation, achieve sustainable growth, bilateral trade and deliver more benefits to our two peoples", the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson added.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has also expressed satisfaction over the development and informed that the Pakistani and Chinese governments are making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agriculture products through Karakoram Highway to the Chinese market.

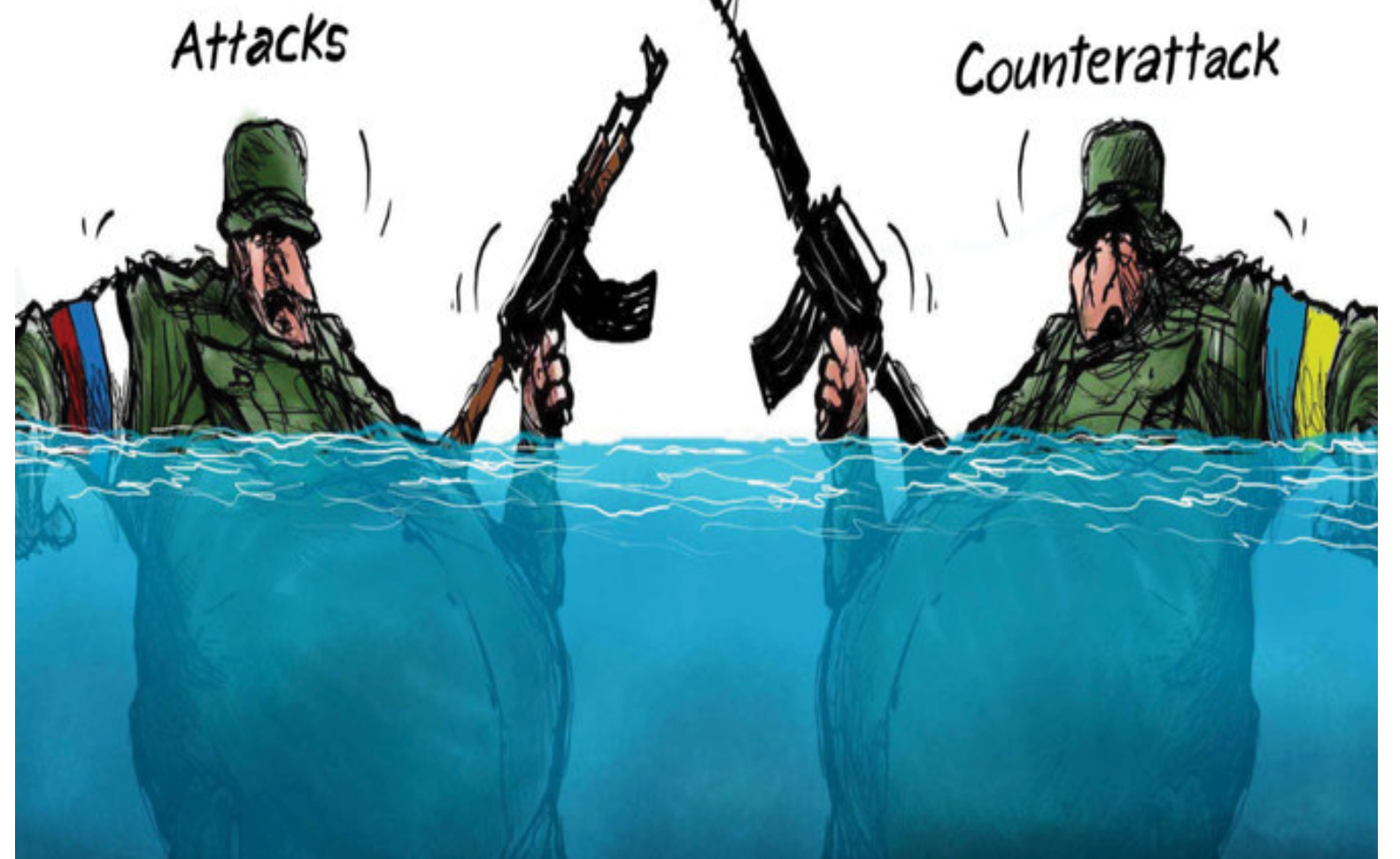
However, the Pakistani and Chinese side are now working to keep the border crossing open for 12 months making it an all-weather facility.

As per officials, the reopening of the border between Pakistan and China is expected to witness a huge growth of cross-border trade and transportation this year.

The export of cherry from Gilgit-Baltistan area has been allowed to China and this will open up a market of up to \$2 billion. Similarly, sesame seed export to China has also increased.

The textiles, rice, cherry, mangoes and other food items could be exported to China which would help achieve the target of one billion dollars of export to China.

According to official data, the import and export cargo volume at the Khunjerab pass topped 200,000 tonnes from 2016 to 2020.



The impact of LGBTQ community on the world

Most of us think that the international establishment consists of the secret powers of powerful countries, but in fact it is not the case, the international establishment consists of only 12 people.

And these twelve people belong to the 12 tribes of the Jews that are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. These are the same twelve tribes for whom twelve springs of water were released during the time of Hazrat Musa (peace be upon him). The international establishment's headquarter is in Geneva and these twelve people control the entire world, each of them has enough wealth to buy even Alan Musk and Bill Gates.

You cannot imagine that all the world's media, corporate sector, IT sector, internet companies, multinational companies, banking system, military, state institutions and government systems are all directly under their control. Freemasons and Illuminati secret organizations work for them and there is much more that the world is not aware of. Even a powerful country like America cannot take any decision on its own. The global establishment is actually the helper of the devil on earth and works against the children of Adam. The main agenda of the global estab-

lishment is to maintain its control over all the resources of the world. And then the second big agenda is to control the world's population, to prevent the world's population from going beyond a certain limit.

For this, in the past, many terrible wars and epidemics were planned to control the population of the world to some extent. A member of the international establishment says that the population of the world should not be more than five million and now this organization has become a big threat, it is commonly called the homosexual organization.

It has its own flag and is working day and night to promote dehumanizing and unnatural sex, abbreviated as LGBTQ. The organization was most popular and found in the United States, where homosexuality was declared a basic human right and given destructive freedom. Former US President Barack Obama did a lot of work for it. In some European countries, homosexuals in high positions such as prime ministers were brought under a conspiracy and then made public through the use of social media.

The biggest weapon for this is the porn industry, where millions of videos on unnatural sex are made with huge investment and then they are made available to watch for free on the Internet. The desire for sex is a natural process of and its purpose is the reproduction of the human being. These relationships were made attractive by nature so that humans would be attracted to them and the human race would continue to grow, while the global establishment under the influence of the homosexual organization wanted to prevent the human population from growing.

Therefore, male-to-male sexual relations and female-to-female sex toys with which a man or woman can satisfy their own sexual desire, then an unnatural method of sexual intercourse with a woman, insults a woman, the aim is to stop the process of birth. To Get sexual pleasure and let me tell you that Facebook is doing the most work on it. Thousands of such videos are uploaded daily from India on Facebook who are promoting unnatural relations with women. This organization has got a bad grip in India. And there would be homosexuality

as well as a girl and a boy allowed to live together without marriage. The next target of this organization is Pakistan. We have an NGO called Aurat March that works directly with the organization and is attacking our family system. Pakistan will not be affected by this organization, but unnatural and inhuman relations are flourishing in our country and this filth is destroying our young generation.

At this time, fifteen-six-year-old girls are becoming full-fledged adults. And 18-19-year-old girls are fully familiar with sexual relations. In the tradition of completing education by the age of 24 and then making a career and getting married, 99 percent of young boys use illicit means for sexual relations with girls. We have elite class educational institutions regularly promoting western culture. Now it has come to this point that the trend of ordering sex toys through Amazon and Alibaba apps has increased to an alarming extent and it is not considered a sin at all. Also, this content is abundant on Instagram and other social media apps.

The saving lies in the Islamic training of the young generation and their marriages should be done as soon as possible. Allah has declared the Jews as his enemies because they are the enemies of humanity.



Analysis

Kiran Asim

Iqbal Masih: A courageous voice for child laborers

Adnan Amanat

In the annals of history, there were individuals whose extraordinary courage and unwavering determination shine a light on the injustices that plague our world. Iqbal Masih, a name that reverberates with both sorrow and hope, was one such person. Born into a life of poverty and bonded labor in Pakistan, Iqbal's incredible story of resilience and advocacy against child labor captured the attention of the world. In this feature, we delve into the life and legacy of Iqbal Masih, a young hero who fought relentlessly to break the chains that bind innocent children to a life of exploitation. He was born in 1983 in Muridke, a small village near Lahore, Pakistan. Tragically, his childhood was robbed from him at the tender age of four when he was sold into bonded labor by his impoverished family. He became a carpet weaver, forced to work long hours in inhumane conditions for meager pay. It was a life of perpetual darkness, with no access to education or the freedom to dream.

In a cruel twist of fate, Iqbal's destiny took an unexpected turn when he managed to escape from the clutches of his captors at the age of ten. He found his way to a local school run by the Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BLLF), an organization fighting against child labor in Pakistan. It was here that Iqbal's spirit found its voice and his mission began to take shape. Iqbal's own experience of exploitation fueled his determination to end the plight of child laborers. With the support of BLLF, he embarked on a mission to raise awareness about the issue both in Pakistan and abroad. Despite facing numerous challenges and threats, Iqbal fearlessly spoke out against the injustices he had endured and the countless children who were

trapped in a similar cycle of oppression.

Iqbal's powerful voice resonated far beyond the borders of Pakistan. His story reached the international community, attracting the attention of human rights organizations, activists, and the media. In 1994, at the age of just twelve, Iqbal traveled to Sweden to accept the Reebok Human Rights Award, where he passionately addressed the audience, pleading for an end to child labor. His words ignited a global movement against the exploitation of children, and he became a symbol of hope for countless children trapped in similar circumstances.

Sadly, Iqbal's fight for justice was cut short. On April 16, 1995, at the age of just twelve, he was assassinated under mysterious circumstances. His death sent shockwaves around the world, leaving many questioning the motives behind his untimely demise. Although Iqbal's life was tragically brief, his impact was profound and far-reaching. Iqbal Masih's legacy lives on as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the urgent need to eradicate child labor. His unwavering spirit and courage continue to inspire individuals and organizations to combat this global issue. Governments and international bodies have tightened regulations and implemented laws to protect children from exploitation. The Iqbal Masih Shaheed Children Foundation was established in his honor, providing education and support to vulnerable children in Pakistan.

Iqbal Masih's indomitable spirit and his fight against child labor serve as a testament to the power of one person's determination to make a difference. His life may have been short, but his impact continues to reverberate, motivating individuals and institutions worldwide to create a world where every

Writer is a student of Media Sciences, at SZABIST, Islamabad campus.

Pakistan highly values its bilateral ties with Kazakhstan, says Shehbaz Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday underscored that Pakistan deeply valued its bilateral relations with Kazakhstan.

The prime minister held a telephonic conversation with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan.

Highlighting the importance of increasing tourism and enhancing people to people contacts, the prime minister expressed satisfaction that flight operations between two coun-



tries would commence soon, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The two leaders agreed on the need to further expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, agriculture, IT, textiles, and energy.

Characterizing Pakistan as an important country in the region, the Kazakh president expressed his country's desire to further strengthen their long standing bilateral ties.

The prime minister also invited the Kazakh president to pay an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Canada's Trudeau visits war-time Kyiv, announces military aid



News Desk

KYIV: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced new military aid for Ukraine during an unannounced trip to war-time Kyiv on Saturday, as Ukraine braces for a counter offensive against Russian forces and grapples with regular air strikes.

Trudeau paid his respects at a memorial site in central Kyiv to Ukrainian soldiers who have been killed fighting pro-Russian forces since 2014, and also met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for talks.

"We will be there with (you) as much as it takes, for as long as it takes," he said, sitting across from the Ukrainian leader in footage of the talks released by Kyiv authorities.

NATO member Canada, which has one of the world's largest Ukrainian diasporas, has supplied military and financial assistance to Kyiv during the full-scale invasion launched by Russia in February 2022.

"Today, I can announce that we will provide 500 million dollars in new funding for military assistance," he told reporters at a joint press conference.

Ukraine wants to join the NATO military alliance as fast as it can, but Zelenskyy has said he recognised that cannot happen while the war with Russia is raging.

"Canada supports Ukraine to become a NATO member as soon as conditions allow for it. Ukraine and Canada look forward to addressing these issues at the NATO Summit in Vilnius in July 2023," said a joint declaration adopted after the talks.

At the talks, Zelenskyy said Ukraine was grateful to Canadians for their support: "Thank you so much. The people of Canada, and of course, to all your team, to the government and parliament. Really. It's (such) necessary help," he said.

Trudeau's trip to Kyiv followed a night of Russian missile and drone attacks on targets outside the capital, including Odesa, Poltava region and Kharkiv.

The Canadian prime minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, a Ukrainian speaker.

PTI meltdown shamed politics of loyalty and faith, says Arshad Malik video scandal character

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Mian Saleem Raza, one of the main characters in Judge Arshad Malik's Nawaz Sharif-related video scandal has said the mass exodus of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) frontline leaders had shamed politics of loyalty, faith and principles as PTI leaders had cried, begged, ran like cowards and surrendered without putting up a fight.

The PTI leader himself refused to go to jail while asking children of poor people for martyrdom to facilitate his return to Pakistan, Raza said in a statement issued here.

London-exiled Mian Saleem Raza was one of the major characters in Judge Arshad Malik's video scandal along with Nasir Butt, Mian Nasir Janjua and others.

He came under direct



attack from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) under direct orders of PTI chief and his accountability chief Shahzad Akbar and was victimised for several years for his role in the scandal.

Mian Saleem Raza claimed that he suffered for many years and his name

continues to be on Exit Control List (ECL) even under the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government but he refused offers of government's bribes, deals and lucrative offers to give false affidavit against Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz.

Mian Saleem Raza said

he, like many other political workers, had been shocked to see how PTI leaders and its chief had shown cowardice and failure of character by either refusing to face jail time or cracking within hours of going to jail.

Mian Saleem Raza's name in the "most wanted terrorists" list was added after one of the main accused Tariq Mehmood told the FIA on 1st October 2019 in an alleged confessional statement that he had sold out the immoral video of former accountability court judge Arshad Malik to Mian Saleem Raza for Rs 20 million. Mian Saleem Raza has said that's a lie and that statement was extracted from Mian Tariq after he was tortured in custody by the FIA and treated like a terrorist to the extent that half of his body was paralysed.

Dead body of newborn found in hospital washroom

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In a horrific incident, dead body of a newborn was found lying in the washroom of the tehsil headquarters hospital of Pindigheb town of Attock on Saturday.

Niaz Ali Khan who works as a sanitary worker in the hospital told police that he as per routine was busy in cleaning of washrooms when he saw the dead body. The dead body was later shifted to DHQ Hospital Attock for autopsy. Police investigators believed that a virgin mother given birth to the baby and later abandoned the baby at wash room to conceal the crime which led to her horrific death. Police have registered an FIR and are investigating.

Meanwhile, a senior doctor at the emergency department said on the condition of anonymity that the incident exposed the security claims of the hospital administration, which was supposed to be beefed up after a scam of theft of medicines was surfaced in the hospital few months ago. The doctor said it was surprising that sanitary staff or emergency department staff did not notice the suspicious activity.

UN Peacekeeping chief pays tributes to fallen Pakistani 'blue helmets'

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Head of Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Friday paid tributes to fallen "blue helmets" and acknowledged Pakistan's contribution to the world body's peacekeeping operations in hotspots around the world.

Under Secretary-General Lacroix was speaking at a photographic exhibition "Tribute to Fallen Peacekeepers & Pakistan's Proactive Engagement and Constructive Contributions to UN Peacekeeping," to commemorate International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The exhibition, which was organized by the Pakistan Mission to the UN, was open from June 1 to 9 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

In his brief remarks, The UN peacekeeping chief lauded Pakistan's contribution to peacekeeping missions and paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the



line of duty.

Welcoming the guests, including ambassadors, defence attaches and UN officials, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram paid "the highest tribute" to all U.N. peacekeepers and other personnel who lost their lives in the service of the U.N.

Over the past 6 decade history of the United Nations peacekeepers, Ambassador Akram said 171 peacekeepers made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of international peace and security.

During the last year, eight Pakistani peacekeepers embraced martyrdom

in a helicopter crash in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Ambassador Akram expressed condolences to their families and commended their sacrifices.

He also praised the perseverance of Pakistani peacekeepers in preserving the values of the UN Charter and maintaining international peace and security.

UN's Military Adviser General Birame Diop and Police Advisor, Faisal Shahkar also spoke on the occasion.

The UN General Assembly designated May 29 as the International Day of United

Nations Peacekeepers. This is the date when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission named the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) began operations in Palestine.

Currently Pakistani peacekeepers perform multidimensional mandates: from protection of civilians to humanitarian assistance to infrastructure development. By building roads, bridges and public parks, they continue to serve and facilitate some of the most vulnerable communities of the world.

Female peacekeepers serve as doctors, nurses, gender advisors and vocational training officers but also as operations and logistics officers. In 2019, Pakistan deployed its first all-female community engagement team in DRC. They implemented several successful initiatives including vocational trainings for students, teachers and women and psychological workshops for Congolese police.

San Francisco shooting leaves 9 hospitalised; manhunt underway

A manhunt is underway after a shooting in San Francisco's Mission District neighbourhood left nine people injured on Friday night, ABC7 reported Saturday.

According to San Francisco police, none of the victims was critical and expected to survive as it was a "targeted and isolated" shooting.

The injured were taken to San Francisco General Hospital, according to ABC7.

Journalist Matthew Keys said the shooting was reported to have taken place outside a block party —hosted by clothing retailer Dying Breed.

"Please avoid the area of 24th/Treat St as we conduct an investigation related to a shooting," the San Francisco Police said in a statement. "Updates will be released as they become available."

"When officers arrived on scene they located multiple victims suffering from gunshot wounds," police said in a statement. "Officers summoned medics to the scene to treat and transport the victims to local area hospitals."

No arrests were immediately reported by authorities.

Top Indian wrestler accuses government of silence over sexual harassment probe



Reuters

SONIPAT: An Olympic wrestler on Saturday criticised the pace of a police inquiry into sexual harassment accusations against the chief of India's national wrestling body.

Vinesh Phogat, a two-time Olympian who has accused Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexually abusing her, said she has also been hurt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the issue.

Phogat is one of seven female athletes to have lodged a police case against Singh accusing him of sexually harassing them.

Singh, who is also a federal lawmaker from Modi's ruling party, has denied allegations of making sexual advances, groping and threatening female athletes if they refused to meet him alone.

"I have only felt a deep sense of humiliation since I mustered the courage to say that I have been molested by a powerful man," Phogat told Reuters in her first interview since she and fellow wrestlers were forced out of a protest site by the police last month.

Delhi Police have filed two cases against Singh, including one under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Phogat, 28, who is the first Indian female wrestler to win both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games gold, claims that during training camps and tournaments Singh would use "every possible way to single out young athletes and grope them repeatedly".

"It was the same disgusting pattern over and over again and I am among the victims," she said at her residence in northern Haryana state.

In her police complaint, seen by Reuters, Phogat said she contemplated suicide after the "mental trauma" but felt reinvigorated after a 2021 meeting with Modi, who promised to look into the complaints by the female wrestlers.

"It's been emotionally draining, the PM has not said anything about this case," Phogat said.

She said the accusers had also complained to Sports Minister Anurag Thakur in "greater detail".

"But he (Thakur) was not just interested in listening to my concerns... he was busy on his phone when I was talking to him," said Phogat.

Thakur and Modi's office were not immediately available for comment.

Lavish expenditure should be reduced to revive the economy: Zahid Bakhtawari

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business community said on the recent budget 2023-24 that the people are under the burden of inflation. The country's economy has already shrunk. In the recent budget, lavish expenditure should be reduced to revive the economy. Setting an example of saving and simplicity, the additional expenses of Members of Parliament, Federal Ministers should not be eliminated. Revolving debt is at an all-time high, how will it be repaid? The current rate of inflation is 38%, while the inflation of daily food

items has increased by 48%. No clear policy has been formulated regarding deficit control and debt repayment. A mini-budget will not be acceptable in the name of repayment of IMF or World Bank loans.

Expressing their reaction to the budget 2023-24, Zahid Bakhtawari, Sira juddin, Sheikh Siddique, Chaudhry Iqbal, Khawaja Asad of the organization Tajran Pakistan and Pakistan Chemist and Druggist Association said in their joint statement that the current budget is not a public budget but it is an election budget. If the current government is to step down after a few weeks, then what will happen

to the people? Under the pressure of the IMF or the World Bank, mini budgets are often imposed on the people, which the people and the business community will not accept in any case.

Zahid Bakhtawari said that the lavish expenses were not reduced. By setting an example of saving and simplicity, additional expenses of members of parliament, federal ministers should be eliminated. Who has come to the government with the spirit of serving the country. They should get an opportunity for public service. Here are some questions in our mind that How will the tax revenue

be obtained, how will the external debt be reduced? How inflation will be controlled, nothing has been mentioned in the budget. 28 billion dollars to be returned in one year, where will the money come from? How will the loss of 600 billion rupees be controlled? Revolving debt is at an all-time high, how will it be repaid? How will the revenue of 9200 billion rupees be collected.

The demand of the business community was that the tax net should be increased. No steps have been taken to increase it in this budget. The entire burden of this will fall on the existing tax payer,

which is a move tantamount to utter injustice. The current rate of inflation is 38%, while the inflation of daily food items has increased by 48%. The government has announced that it will bring it up to 21%. But the track record of the government does not show this. 30 billion dollars was lost to agriculture due to floods. More appropriate measures should be taken for the agriculture sector.

The government does not have any effective tax collection mechanism. People do not trust the rulers. They are afraid that Their money should not be used for corruption.



FINCA Bank Pakistan and Apna Bank suspend merger talks

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: FINCA Microfinance Bank, Ltd. and Apna Microfinance Bank, Ltd. announced today that they are suspending merger talks after completing a comprehensive due diligence process.

The following is a statement from Mr. Jahanzeb Khan, President and CEO of FINCA Bank Pakistan:

"The due diligence process demonstrated that a merger between FINCA Microfinance Bank and Apna Microfinance Bank will not be beneficial for our customers. We will continue to explore other options to expand our market share and further increase our impact on financial inclusion in Pakistan. We wish Apna Bank the best in its future operations."

The following is a statement from Mr. Mian M. A. Shahid, Chairman of Apna Microfinance Bank, Ltd.

"FINCA and Apna have mutually decided not to move forward with a merger. We are committed to exploring other opportunities to enhance our position in the microfinance sector. We sincerely appreciate the engagement of FINCA Microfinance Bank throughout this process."

Short-term, ad-hoc and expansionary Budget in testing time of economic crisis: BMP

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federal Budget 2023-24 can be termed as a short-term, ad-hoc and an expansionary budget in an unusual time of economic emergency, looking like an interim budget, with short-term policies, lacking solid measures to stabilize the economy, having no focus on changing economic priorities.

These views were expressed by the SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industries' (SCCI) newly-elected Vice President and FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar while giving his reaction over the new budget.

The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman said that the present budget lacks major objective of giving a long-term direction to economy, as no visible reduction in cost of doing business or cut in taxes in budget has been announced to speed up the growth or create new jobs in the country. He said that Pakistan needed millions of jobs annually but the government had not taken any concrete step in federal budget for job creations for the unemployed youth. Although details are still to come out, the budget vibes seem positive, he said.

Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the businessmen had demanded of the government to take concrete steps in the upcoming Federal Budget 2023-24 to keep industrial wheel running especially of SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small industries.

Pakistan is one of the world's highest Solar Energy Resource Country:

Continued from Page 3

Solar photovoltaic (PV) module costs have declined by around 90% in the past decade. This cost reduction, coupled with favorable policies and incentives, has attracted significant investments in Pakistan, the World Bank has invested over \$1 billion in renewable energy projects, with a focus on solar power. The Pakistan Solar Energy Roadmap estimates that the deployment of 30 GW of solar power by 2030 can create around 150,000 direct jobs and contribute approximately \$2 billion annually to the country's GDP. Solar energy can help alleviate energy poverty. Pakistan's commitments to the Paris Agreement and sustainable developments Goals.

What are the problems in Solar industry of Pakistan?

Ans. The Solar Industry in Pakistan faces multiple challenges that hinder its growth. These include local manufacturing, policy and regulatory issues, limited financing options, grid infrastructure constraints, a lack of awareness and capacity building, and quality assurance and maintenance concerns. These challenges requires collaborative efforts from the government, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, industry and stake-holders, and civil society to streamline. The Solar industry in Pakistan to overcome obstacles and thrive. The Government has waived off taxes and duties on imported machinery and components required for local manufacturing.

This would encourage the establishment of domestic, manufacturing facilities, attract investment, and promote the development of a robust local supply chain for solar products. By incentivizing local manufacturing, Pakistan can reduce dependence on imports, create job opportunity boost the growth of the solar industry while ensuring access to high-quality solar at competitive prices within the country.

Around 12 int'l companies interested in outsourcing-bidding of airports: Dar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said around 12 international companies have shown their keen interest to parliament in the outsourcing-bidding process of airport facilities, expected to commence in July.

Addressing the post-budget press conference, he said that the government was making



its sincere efforts to turn around all loss-making national entities in order to enhance their efficiency and make them profitable entities.

Besides, he said that the privatization of distribution companies was on the top of the government's reforms agenda adding that currently, out of the total subsidy of Rs 1,074 billion, an amount of Rs 900 billion was allocated for the power sector.

The minister said that a lot of work was done and the government was working on other green energy resources including solar

and wind. Regarding the enhancement of exports, the minister said that special measures were introduced in the federal budget to boost the exports.

The minister said that the government was also negotiating for extending GSP plus status with the European Union (EU) and the relevant ministries including commerce and finance were engaged with the relevant authorities.

Tax target, deficit will be challenges: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Saturday that the budget is overall balanced.

Attention has been given to every sector except the industrial sector. The cost reduction of the industrial sector has not been addressed, so the export and manufacturing sectors will not be able to achieve the target, he said.

"Agriculture, SMEs, IT, solar, and many other sectors will get a boost due to the budget measures," he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that an increase in minimum wages, salaries, and pensions and tax exemptions for businesswomen and youth are laudable, while a further hike in tax rates on non-filers is needed.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the incentives to several important sectors to develop the economy are wanting but appreciable,



and they will give a clear and correct direction to the economy.

He said that Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif has said that the budget has been made keeping in mind the recommendations of the IMF, so it is expected that things will move forward positively from the IMF.

The tax revenue target has been increased by 30% to 9200 billion rupees, which will be difficult to achieve by burdening the existing taxpayers. There is scope for tax collection of two thousand billion

rupees. The non-tax revenue has been estimated at three trillion rupees. There is a deficit of about seven thousand billion rupees in the current budget. After deducting the provincial share of Rs 5276 billion and the interest payment of Rs 7300 billion, there will be nothing left, and borrowing will be necessary to meet the budget deficit.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF wants a half percent primary budget surplus, which has decreased by 150 billion rupees, while the increase in salaries will require 100 billion rupees. This difference of 250 billion rupees will not be accepted by the international institution, for which it will be necessary to introduce a mini-budget.

He noted that the difference between the official and non-official dollar rates has to be reduced, otherwise, it is impossible to achieve the target of remittances.

He said that in the absence of loss prevention in the electricity and gas sectors, a privatisation programme, and import substitution, it is impossible to run the country without the IMF while the talk of Plan B and C makes little sense.

Government has presented balanced budget in difficult economic conditions: Ahsan Bakhtavari

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari has said that the federal government has presented a balanced budget in difficult economic conditions, the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and the entire government deserve congratulations for presenting a people-friendly budget. The increase in incentives for sectors like IT, agriculture, solar energy, construction is a positive step, relief has also been given to traders and business community in the budget, the steps taken for the energy sector are welcome, it is hoped that on the basis of this budget the next financial year will open more balanced and development paths for Pakistan. The government should focus on political stability for economic development, anarchy and unpredictable conditions are not good for business.

He expressed these views while holding a press-conference on budget proposals presented by the federal government. President Islamabad Chamber said that the government has made several important announcements for economic recovery in the budget. The decision to increase the salaries of government employees is welcome. The policy regarding bringing dollars to Pakistan from



abroad is also encouraging. Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistani economy. Appreciating the incentives given to agriculture, He said that last year was the most difficult year for the Pakistani economy, where on one hand the flood disaster caused a loss of 30 billion dollars to the economy, on the other hand the country suffered a lot due to political instability.

He said that the business community of the entire country, including the Islamabad Chamber, demands a Charter of Economy. If there is no continuity in the policies, even the best policy cannot be beneficial. He said that the government has taken historical steps to reduce the trade deficit, which has reduced the trade deficit from \$17 billion to \$4 billion, which is a major achievement of the

government. The IT sector has been neglected in the past, the initiatives announced by the government for entrepreneurship in this sector will bear fruit in the coming years. He said that energy is a serious problem of Pakistan, we need to focus on other sources instead of generating expensive electricity. The government has announced the abolition of duty on solar panels and its raw materials, which will be welcomed. There is also a need to come up with a workable policy to switch all government buildings to solar immediately. He said that the coming year is the year of development, no tax has been imposed on all industries, we as businessmen value this budget.

Speaking on this occasion, Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar Salam said that the announcement of incentives for the service sector in the budget is welcome, the government needs to invest more in the youth.

The government should announce sustainable measures for a permanent solution to the problem of LCs. President All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran Ajmal Baloch said that many concessions have been given in the budget. We expect more business friendly initiatives.

The government should include the views of stakeholders in policy making regarding businesses. On this occasion, Islamabad Chamber of Small Trade and Small Industries President Sajjad Sarwar, Islamabad Women Chamber President Rizwana Asif and Ilyas Qazi also described the budget as positive in difficult circumstances.

Pakistani handicrafts shine at int'l cultural industries fair in China



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: The dazzle of 'Made in Pakistan' handicrafts including wood carving, bronze carving and carpets won the hearts of visitors by its beautiful and artsy look and the deeply rooted tradition behind it at the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair (ICIF) this week.

Kicked off in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China on June 7, the five-day national-level fair is expected to inject new impetus into the development of the country's cultural industry.

Made-in-Pakistan handicrafts are internationally popular because of their striking appearance, alluring hues and magnetizing

textures. In addition, these unique works of craft add to Pakistan's name worldwide.

A visitor told China Economic Net (CEN) that the handicraft industry of a country deeply reflects its culture. "Like other forms of arts, Pakistani handicrafts are the expression of the thoughts and feelings of artisans influenced by their environment, culture and social patterns," he said, adding that he and his friends are quite into such exotic handicrafts.

Since its founding in 2004, the cultural fair has seen a continuous expansion in its exhibition scale, visitor number and internationalization. It has become an important platform to promote the development and opening up of China's cultural industries.

Many budget statistics contradict ground realities

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Saturday that some important statistics presented in the economic survey and budget are not according to the ground realities.

The toxic policies of the former government, the 2022 floods, the Russia-Ukraine war, political instability, and the delay in getting loans from the IMF have been blamed for the economic situation, but the government has not taken any responsibility for the situation, he said. The revenue shortfall has increased in the current government as compared to the previous regime, which was not mentioned, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

The government has claimed that industrial sector has shrunk by 2.9 percent, while in fact, the output of major industries alone has decreased by 8.1 percent in the last ten months, and LSM was down by 25 percent in the month of March alone, he added.



Dr. Mughal said that the average inflation has been stated as eighteen percent, which has remained above 30 percent.

It has been claimed that the circular debt was 2.4 trillion rupees in June 2022, which has now been stopped at 2.5 trillion rupees, but the earlier statements of the top officials say something else.

If the circular debt is not increasing, why did electricity continue to be expensive, he questioned.

The ban on imports has caused irreparable damage to the country's economy. In April 2022, the foreign exchange reserves were 10.08 billion dollars, which in May 2023 have reduced to 4.09 billion dollars, and if the import bans are relaxed, this is not even a fortnight, he observed.

Canadian Solar launches new Bifacial high efficiency solar panels at ISEM

Continued from Page 3

50 gigawatts in modules. And We continuously expend our Production capacity and expected to reach 50.4 gigawatts in ingots, 50 gigawatts in wafers, 60 gigawatts in cells and 75 gigawatts in modules by Q1 2024. She Explained

Why customers choosing Canadian Solar:

High-Quality and Reliable Products: Canadian Solar has established a reputation for producing high-quality solar products which are known for our reliability. Canadian solar panels are manufactured using advanced technology and undergo strict quality control measures to ensure excellent performance and warranty to our end users. This reliability

gives customers confidence in their investment. Over the past 22 years, Canadian insisted every CSI panels is made by CSI factory only.

Strong Track Record: Canadian Solar has been in operation for over two decades and have successfully executed thousands of projects worldwide. This experience and expertise demonstrate our commitment to delivering reliable and efficient solar solutions, making us a trusted choice for customers.

Technological Innovation: Canadian Solar is known in the industry for our continuous investment in R&D, resulting in innovative solar solutions. We continuously strive to improve efficiency, increase power output, and enhance the overall performance of our products. By

staying at forefront of technological advancements, Canadian Solar provides customers with cutting-edge solar solutions that maximize energy generation and optimize system performance.

Canadian Solar offers a comprehensive range of solar products and full system solution. These includes solar panels from household, Commercial & Industry rooftop, Utility scales, Large solar farms, inverter, battery storages. Our extensive product portfolio allows customers to choose solutions which best fit their specific needs with a trustworthy brand.

Environmental Commitment: Canadian Solar places a strong emphasis on sustainability and environmental responsibility. We

prioritize reducing the carbon footprint throughout our manufacturing processes and have implemented various initiatives to enhance energy efficiency and reduce waste. By choosing Canadian Solar, customers can align their values with a company that actively contributes to a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Canadian Solar's success in Pakistan is a testament to the company's commitment to sustainable development and technological innovation. Through efforts, Canadian Solar has not only contributed to Pakistan's energy landscape but has also set an example for other companies to follow. As we move forward towards a cleaner, more sustainable future, companies like Canadian Solar will continue to play an essential role in

shaping the market worldwide.

Grace Van Thanked to ISEM for organising the exhibition and conference to promote solar energy in Pakistan. She also thanked to Mr. Rana Abbas, CEO of AE Solar Alternative Energy former Chairman of PSA for building a strong connection and enforcement with government high level officers for consistently promoting and fighting the benefits for industrial players in renewable solar energy sector in Pakistan. Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) plays a vital role to foster a rapid growth of solar energy in Pakistan. She said that Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) will continue to played a vital role under Mr. Amir Chanudhry, CEO of READ Solar Pvt Ltd the present chairman of PSA.

Eyman Fatima Establishes Her Goal For ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Eyman Fatima, an 18-year-old hailing from Sargodha, is another rising star in Pakistan's cricket scene. Driven by her passion for the sport, Eyman and her family made the bold decision of relocating to Lahore to pursue her dreams.

As a right-handed opening batter, Eyman's talent and dedication have earned her recognition, including a chance to represent Pakistan U19 in the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup. Focused on performing in upcoming tournaments, Eyman aspires to make a lasting impression on the international stage.

Growing up in Sargodha, Eyman's love for cricket was evident from an early age. Inspired by her father, who shared her passion for the sport, she would often join local boys in participating in tape-ball cricket sessions.

Prior to her departure to Hong Kong to feature in the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023, Eyman, a member of the 14-player squad, talked exclusively to PCB Digital.

She said, I used to live in Sargodha and there was a lack of cricketing facilities in my city compared to the major urban centres. My father wanted me to play this game, so for the love of the game my family shifted to Lahore.

Here in Lahore, I got registered in Abdul Qadir Cricket Academy and even today my mother accompanies me to the academy.

The opening batter featured in the first-ever Women U19 T20 Tournament 2022-23, which was held in Muridke and Sheikhupura from 13 to 22 August. Playing for Central Punjab Women U19, Eyman scored 171 runs from five matches at a strike-rate of 119.58, which included one half-century. She finished on second spot in the batting list and her highest score of 70 not out came in the final against Sindh Women U19, helping her side to the championship title.

Later, that year, Eyman featured in the phase one of the T20 Women's Cricket Tournament, held from 26 November to 2 December at the LCCA Ground in Lahore. The first phase of the tournament was planned with



the objective of expanding the selection options for the national squad,

enabling the selectors to choose from a larger talent pool for the inaugural ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023. Playing for Conquerors, Eyman scored 89 from four outings, where she struck 15 boundaries.

In the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup, Eyman played five matches and amassed 157 runs at 52.33. Her runs were scored at the strike-rate of 126.61 as she managed to grab two player of the match awards in the competition for her half-centuries against Rwanda and Zimbabwe respectively.

Talking about her journey in the ICC event, Eyman said, "It was a great experience playing in the first edition of the mega event. I am pleased with my performance which helped the side win matches in the tournament. In the future, my goal is to bat more responsibly and actively contribute to the team's success."

As an opening batter, Eyman showcased her skills alongside England veteran Danni Wyatt in the Women's League exhibition matches staged in Rawalpindi in March this year. The experience of playing alongside inter-

national stars not only elevated her game but also provided valuable learning opportunities.

Reflecting on the insights gained from the exhibition matches, Eyman said, "The participation in exhibition matches allowed us to interact and share experiences with foreign players. These exchanges proved to be a wonderful opportunity for us as we learnt about training routines, strategies, and game management from prominent stars."

Having developed a reputation of being a prolific six-hitter in the domestic circuit, Eyman intends to maintain her role as a dynamic opener, giving her team swift starts in the Powerplay. When asked about her power-hitting abilities, Eyman mentioned how she particularly practised this aspect of the game in training sessions in order to replicate it in a match situation.

With her eyes firmly set on the future, Eyman is excited for the upcoming ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023. Eager to end up on the winning side, Eyman is determined to give her all and help secure victories.

ICC U19 men's CWC qualification resumes

Sports News

ISLAMABAD: The qualification for the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka 2024 returns next week with Darwin, Australia set to play host to the next generation of cricket talent in the East Asia-Pacific (EAP) Qualifier from June 12 to 21.

In what would be the first U19 Men's Qualifier to take place in the region since 2019, future stars from seven teams will battle it out to determine the next qualifying nation in the race to Sri Lanka 2024, the 15th edition of the celebrated event, which continues its rich legacy of forging the careers of some of the greats of the game, said a press release.

A total of 12 teams have already secured their place at the U19 Men's Cricket World Cup, and with only one spot available from the region, the EAP Qualifier will see Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu go head-to-head knowing only the winning team will seal their passage through to the next year's main event.

Ten days of competition would see 21 matches take place across five venues in the Northern Territory capital, which will host a combination of day and day/night matches in a round-robin format.

Speaking ahead of the EAP Qualifier, Rob Gomm, ICC Development Manager, East Asia-Pacific commented, "I will like to wish Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu the very best for the event, and extend my sincere thanks to NT Cricket for hosting what will no doubt be an incredible event."

Among the venues hosting the EAP



Qualifier is TIO Stadium, a multi-purpose venue which regularly hosts Rugby League and Australian Rules Football.

The venue will see the welcome return of international cricket after 15 years, following the installation of a drop-in pitch earlier this week.

Gavin Dovey, Chief Executive Officer of Northern Territory Cricket added, "Cricket is surging in popularity across the Asia-Pacific region so there will be some serious talent on show for our cricket loving community to watch."

As many as 16 teams would be

competing at the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka 2024 over 41 matches. 11 teams have automatically qualified for the event as the best-placed Full Member nations from the previous event in 2022.

These include Pakistan, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe.

The remaining five spots would be determined through regional qualification pathways, with one team from each region securing a place at the event.

Nepal secured their qualification back in March as winners of the Asia Qualifier. Americas and EAP each host one qualifying event in 2023, with the winner of each event sealing a spot at the U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka 2024.

The Africa, Asia and Europe regions each have a two-step qualification structure.

These regions hosted Division 2 Qualifiers in 2022 to determine the teams that will compete in the second and final qualifying event, the Regional Qualifier, with events taking place in 2023. Only the winning teams from the Regional Qualifiers will qualify to compete at the U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka 2024.

Outlay of Rs1.83 proposed for Sports



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The budget estimates for activities relating to Sports and Youth Affairs have been proposed to be Rs1.83 billion for the next financial year 2023-24.

The Sindh Chief Minister in his budget speech said that the Sindh government has always facilitated the talented youth of the province to mark their indelible impression countrywide and internationally.

He said, 'We recognize the importance of sports and recreational activities in the development of a healthy mind.' Fortunately, the majority of our population consists of youth. We need to capitalize on this vital human resource and provide them with opportunities to strive and excel in all fields of life.

Sit and talk, Younis Khan on Asia Cup deadlock

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Younis Khan shared a piece of advice on the ongoing deadlock regarding the venue of Asia Cup 2023, stating that dialogue is the only way forward.

The former Pakistan captain joined the ongoing debate regarding the venue of this year's Asia Cup and the deadlock between two arch-rivals Pakistan and India.

He while highlighting the importance of the rivalry in cricket also shared a piece of advice regarding the tie on the Asia Cup venue and shared that the officials should sit and talk to resolve this issue.

"Everyone [officials] should sit and talk regarding Asia Cup. If there's no dialogue then the matter will not be resolved," said Younis Khan during the MoU signing ceremony here for the Karachi Premier League.

Younis Khan further weighed in his opinion by asserting that Pakistan-India matches are beneficial for all and with-



out them, there would be no entertainment in cricket.

"If there are no India-Pakistan matches, then there is no fun in cricket. If Pakistan plays India, everyone will benefit," Younis

Khan stated.

This year's Asia Cup is originally scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan. However, the BCCI refused to send their team to Pakistan for the continental event on

political grounds.

The BCCI since then made several efforts to take the hosting rights from Pakistan and to hold Asia Cup at a neutral venue.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was determined not to give away the hosting rights of the tournament and thus the chairman of the PCB management committee Najam Sethi came up with a hybrid model.

As per the PCB-proposed model, Pakistan will host the four to six group matches which will feature Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Afghanistan.

However, the BCCI has refused the hybrid proposal for both events and once again demanded to shift the Asia Cup entirely from Pakistan.

Following BCCI's reported refusal, the final decision regarding the venue of the Asia Cup was likely to be taken on the sidelines of the Indian Premier League (IPL) final. However, no development was reported on the deadlock.

Swiatek makes history with consecutive third French Open triumph



Poland's Iga Swiatek showcased her dominance on the clay courts of Paris by winning her third French Open title in four years.

In a thrilling final, she defeated Karolina Muchova from the Czech Republic in a match that went down to the wire. Swiatek's victory marked her fourth Grand Slam title and solidified her position as one of the top players in the world.

Since becoming the world number one last year, Swiatek has lost only two out of 26 matches in Grand Slam tournaments. At just 22 years old, she became the youngest woman since Monica Seles to win consecutive titles at Roland Garros. Swiatek also joined Seles and Naomi Osaka as the only women in the Open Era to win their first four major finals.

The match against Muchova was a tough battle, with both players giving their all. Swiatek took an early lead but faced strong resistance from Muchova, who fought back and forced a deciding set. In the end, Swiatek managed to regain control and emerged as the champion after a grueling contest.

After her victory, Swiatek expressed her appreciation for her opponent and credited her team for their support. She also thanked her family and the fans for their love and encouragement. Swiatek's skillful play, especially from the baseline, and her ability to handle pressure played key roles in her triumph.

Virat Kohli leads India's fightback in WTC final vs Australia

Virat Kohli's exceptional performance against Australia has given India hope of an extraordinary victory in the World Test Championship final at The Oval.

Despite still needing 280 runs to reach a record-breaking total of 444, Kohli remained unbeaten on 44 at stumps, while Rahane was on 20. Winning this match would surpass India's previous victories against Australia, but the task ahead is daunting, considering only four teams in Test cricket history have successfully chased more than 400 runs in the fourth innings. Meanwhile, Australia needs just seven more wickets to secure their first major men's trophy and head into the upcoming Ashes opener against England with high spirits. The chase began with Rohit Sharma's impressive boundaries, but controversy arose when Shubman Gill fell to a disputed catch by Cameron Green. The decision created an uproar among the Indian fans, but Green insisted that he caught it cleanly.

Rohit and Cheteshwar Pujara continued to attack the Australian bowlers, aiming to improve on their loss in the previous WTC final. However, Rohit's dismissal came from a sweep shot against Nathan Lyon, while Pujara's attempt at an upper-cut led to an easy catch by Alex Carey. Nevertheless, Kohli regained control by scoring boundaries, receiving loud cheers from his dedicated fans.

Motlhanka-inspired Botswana sink Rwanda in Africa Continental Cup

A Sports

NAIROBI: Botswana skipper Karabo Motlhanka's sensational 75 powered his side beat Rwanda and register their maiden victory in the ongoing Africa Continental Cup.

Opting to bat first, Botswana piled up a commendable total on the scoreboard as they finished at 169/2 in the allotted 20 overs, thanks to a blistering 75-run knock by their skipper Karabo Motlhanka.

Botswana opens Motlhanka and Ameer Saiyed provided a solid start to their side as the pair raised a brilliant 112-run partnership.

Motlhanka was the core

aggressor of the opening stand while Saiyed played an anchoring role before walking back to the pavilion in disgust after a bizarre dismissal.

He batted patiently for his 41-ball 38 which included two boundaries and a six.

Motlhanka then put on a brief partnership with Thatayaone Tshose (12) and added 23 runs to the total before the latter perished in the 17th over.

Following Tshose's dismissal, wicketkeeper batter Valentine Mbazo joined skipper Karabo Motlhanka in the middle and stitched an unbeaten partnership.

The pair added brisk 34 runs in the last four overs and bolstered Botswana to a respectable total.

Kabaro Motlhanka top-scored for his side with a quickfire 75 in just 59 deliveries, laced up with eight boundaries and a six while Mbazo remained unbeaten on an 11-ball 19.

For Rwanda, only Martin Akayezu and Clinton Rubagumya could pick up a wicket.

Set to chase 170, Rwanda's batting lineup failed completely and could only accumulate 136 runs before bundling out in the final over.

Didier Ndikubwimana remained the top-scorer of Rwanda during their dismal batting show with a 33-ball 39 while skipper Clinton Rubagumya was the other notable run-getter as he scored 22 off 16.

Besides them, only two batters made it into the double figures while the rest seemed hapless against Botswana's bowling attack.

Katlo Piet and Dhruvkumar Maisuria bagged two wickets each for Botswana while Mmoloki Mooketsi and Losika Makgale struck out a batter each.

The victory marked Botswana's first in the ongoing Africa Continental Cup after they succumbed to a six-wicket defeat against Uganda in their opening victory.

Botswana now hold the third spot with two points in the Africa Continental Cup's standings while Rwanda remained at the bottom with no points.

