

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرومان رسول
عبداللہ بن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے حرم کو زعفران پادرس سے رنگا اور اپنی پیشینگی سے منع فرمایا اور نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جسے جوئے میں دھموز سے پہچان لیں لیکن ان کو کھانے کے بیچ تک کاٹ دیں۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5852)

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RAWALPINDI



BRI shaped structure of global economy, trade: Ambassador Haque

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has largely shaped the structure of the global economy and trade, and it has completely changed and enriched the concept of regional economic integration and interconnection. (Details on Page 8)



Zil Hajj moon sighted in Saudi Arabia, Eidul Azha on June 28

Zil Hajj moon has been sighted in Saudi Arabia and Hajj rituals will be performed on June 27 and Eidul Azha will be celebrated on June 28. The annual Hajj pilgrimage will start on June 26 after the crescent sighting for the Islamic month of Zil Hajj today. Eidul Azha will be celebrated on June 28, Wednesday, in Saudi Arabia. In Pakistan, a meeting of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will be held tomorrow (Monday) for sighting of Zil Hajj.

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Greece boat tragedy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced to observe mourning day and the national flag will be flown at half-mast and special prayers will be offered for the deceased people in the Greece boat tragedy.



President grieved over loss of lives in boat tragedy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday expressed grief over the loss of precious lives after sinking of boat off the coast of Greece.

He sympathized with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls and for grant of patience to the heirs. He said he was deeply saddened by the death of Paki-



stanis due to capsizing of the boat in the Mediterranean sea. The President underlined the need for tangible steps to stop human smuggling.

Pakistan has 'no problem' with US-India developing ties: Khawaja Asif

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan has no problem with the United States developing a partnership with India if it is not at Islamabad's cost, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said in a wide-ranging interview with Newsweek, a leading American magazine.

"I think we do not have any problem with the United States developing a partnership with India if it is not at the cost of Pakistan," he said, ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington where he is set have talks with President Joe Biden on June 22.

"That is one. And balancing between the relationship with United States and our regional partners, again, it is not like that. We have common borders with China, we have common borders with Afghanistan, Iran, India," Khawaja Asif said.

In the interview, he argued that substantial improve-



ment is need to ensure Pakistan's stability, and key to that improvement is maintaining the increasingly difficult geopolitical balancing act between Washington, Beijing and other powers with whom Islamabad seeks good ties. Such relations, he underscored, are particularly important as Pakistan attempts to not only promote trade, but also counter the increasing threat of cross-border terrorist attacks.

About India, Khawaja Asif said that ever since Modi came into power some 10 years ago, the Indian outlook towards regional politics completely changed, with the abandonment of the secular ideology, which the country pursued since 1947.

PM Shehbaz Sharif announces mourning day, forms probe committee

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced to observe mourning day on Monday (today) and constituted a four-member high-level committee to probe into the death of dozens of Pakistanis in the Greece boat tragedy.

PM Shehbaz Sharif announced that the national flag will be flown at half-mast and special prayers will be offered for the deceased people in the Greece boat tragedy.

The premier constituted a high-level committee to probe into the incident. National Police Bureau Director General Ehsan Sadiq has been appointed chairman of the probe committee while the other members include Foreign Ministry's Additional Secretary for Africa Javed Imrani, DIG Poonch Zaheer Ahmed and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Joint Secretary Faisal Nisar Chaudhry.

Greece boat tragedy: FIA arrests 'human smuggler'

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Lahore has arrested a suspected 'human smuggler' for his alleged involvement in illegally sending a youth to Greece who went missing in refugees boat tragedy.

The federal agencies commenced crackdowns against 'human smugglers' after dozens of Pakistanis drowned in the Greece boat tragedy.

The probe committee will collect evidence and facts regarding the people who drowned in the shipwreck to ascertain responsible persons and investigate the human trafficking aspects.

PM Sharif said in a statement that the government will table recommendations for addressing the issue through global cooperation and joint framework.

The FIA spokesperson confirmed in a statement that the agency's anti-human trafficking circle arrested a 'human smuggler' - a travel agent Talha Shahzeb.

The travel agent Talha Shahzeb from Sheikhpura had allegedly received Rs3.5 million to illegally send a youth to Greece. The spokesperson added that the agent was arrested by the agency after receiving information from

the affected youth's family. A case was registered against the accused and further investigation is underway, the FIA confirmed.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed authorities concerned to hold an inquiry into the human trafficking that led to the tragic incident of migrants shipwreck near Greece with several Pakistani nationals onboard.

police station, four from the Rehmania police station, three from the vicinity of the Kakrali police station, 10 from the Bolani police station, two from the Kot Qutbuddin police station and one from the vicinity of the Nathu Kot police station.

The UN human rights office said that up to 500 people are still missing from a migrant boat that sank off Greece.

The spokesman Jeremy Laurence said that large numbers of women and children were among those missing in the "horrific tragedy" that left 78 people dead. He added that the appalling loss of life underscored the need to bring people smugglers to justice.

A media outlet reported that at least 298 Pakistanis died, 135 from the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). One estimate indicated about 400 Pakistanis were on board. Pakistan's foreign ministry has so far confirmed that only 12 of the 78 survivors were from Pakistan.

1,300 pilgrims from more than 90 countries to perform Hajj this year

News Desk

RIYADH: Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has given instructions that 1,300 pilgrims from more than 90 countries are allowed to perform Hajj this year (1444-AH), at their expense, as part of the Custodian of the two holy mosques Hajj Guests Program, which is supervised and implemented annually by the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the Minister of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance, General Supervisor of the custodian of the two holy mosques Hajj Guests Program Sheikh Dr. Abdullatif bin

PML-N always preferred state over politics: Ahsan Iqbal

Faisal Butt

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has always preferred state over politics, and recently saved the country from bankruptcy after forming a coalition government in centre last year.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of Construction Division Narowal, along with Federal Minister for Energy Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan here on Sunday. He said the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government put the development gear in reverse and destroyed the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said that an incompetent person was made the prime minister of a nuclear power Pakistan by giving him the certificate of 'Sadiq' and 'Ameen'.

He said that in the past, instead of



development projects, seeds of hatred were sown and only revenge actions were taken. He said that through the political of uncertainty, Imran Khan tried to destroy the national economy. The federal minister said "we are responsible politicians; we have a national government, and we are serving people with national spirit, while Imran Niazi created a situation of anarchy".

He said "we played our role, we saved Pakistan from bankruptcy in

one-year rule and launched development programmes for the country".

The PML-N senior leader said "our allies are united, and they prepared a budget for the entire nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif". He said Shehbaz Sharif was taking all decisions through consensus among all coalition partners. He said the prime minister had always consulted the ruling coalition parties before making any crucial and national decision.

Two passengers offloaded for having fake documents

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration team on Sunday offloaded two passengers from Islamabad Airport, who wanted to travel to Italy and Spain on fake documents.

According to the immigration officials, Khurram Saleem was travelling to Italy on Ghulam Murtaza's passport, with fake visa and fake immigration stamps on it.

In another case, Saad Saeed, who was using Nazim Saeed's passport for travelling to Spain, was caught by the immigration officials. Deputy Director Immigration Islamabad airport Amina Beg has praised the performance of immigration officials.

National footballer Shumaila Sattar held in Jinnah House attack case

Bureau Report

LAHORE:

National footballer Shumaila Sattar has been arrested by police for her 'involvement' in the Jinnah House attack on May 9.

Jinnah House was attacked by violent protestors following the arrest of the former prime minister and PTI chairman in Al-Qadir Trust corruption case.

The national team wicket-keeper was taken into custody after investigation police after geofencing. The police raided



Shumaila Sattar's house after her name was revealed in an investigation.

Shumaila Sattar has been sent to jail on judicial remand for identification parade. Further probe is underway with the help of the cameras installed outside Jinnah House.

It is pertinent to mention here that several politicians, activists, and members of former ruling party including the son-in-law of a former army officer, and fashion designer Khadija Shah are facing trial in an anti-terrorism court in the wake of the attacks.

Ji announces to move court against LG polls' result

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) chief Sirajul Haq on Sunday announced to move court against the results of local government (LG) elections, wherein Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged as the single largest party.

Addressing a press conference, the JI chief said that the "theft of public mandate in Karachi" was unacceptable to the party, announcing to move court against the local government (LG) elections' result.

Sirajul Haq also announced to hold a protest outside the office of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on June 23. "JI always stand by people of Karachi and will not allow anyone to

steal their trust," he added.

He assured that his party would take back the public mandate, which according to him was stolen in Karachi Mayor elections. Haq demanded to hold mayoral elections against after bringing back the 30 elected UC chairmen of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) candidate Murtaza Wahab was elected Karachi mayor after securing 173 through a show of hand.

Ji's candidate Hafiz Naeem Rehman secured 160 votes, the unconfirmed and unofficial results showed. The voting for Karachi mayor and deputy mayor was held at Pakistan Arts Council under strict security.

Minister Information addressed

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing the NASFF's high achievers who are leaving for Australia to participate in the National Amateur Film Festival Award.



Photo: PID

Revival, expansion of Pak film industry vital to project national narrative through screen tourism: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the revival and expansion of Pakistan's film industry were vital to project the national narrative through screen tourism.

"Screen tourism presents an opportunity to spread the narrative of Pakistan, as seen in the successful examples of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran, where budding film industries have thrived", she said while addressing 25 high achievers of the National Amateur Film Festival Award bound to leave for Australia on Monday.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sponsored these 25 students one-year training in New York Academy, Australia.

The government was to promote Pakistan's narrative, focusing on heritage, youth engagement, and tourism

through screen tourism, she maintained.

The minister said it was high time to invest in Pakistan's entertainment industry, which currently enjoyed tax exemptions.

"Over the next decade, I foresee a revival of the industry that will allow it to compete with neighboring countries and even international markets," she said adding that the high achievers had the potential to make a significant impact in this field.

The minister recalled that Pakistan's film industry faced a significant setback between 1970 and 2000, causing its growth to stagnate. However, since 2000, the industry has experienced a boost, although its progress has been hindered by the absence of cinemas and affordability issues, which limited access for the general public, she maintained. The minister said the government introduced a film policy in 2017 to address these challenges.

She said that extensive research and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts were conducted to develop this comprehensive policy. Lessons, she added, were learned from countries with flourishing film industries or successful revivals, providing valuable insights.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that incentives for the film industry were included in the 2018 budget, and after coming into power again last year, the coalition government established a dedicated film division in the ministry. The film sector currently enjoyed zero taxation, with income tax exemptions for individuals and production houses. Import of equipment for film and drama production had also been tax exempted, she said. The minister disclosed that the corporate entities providing funds for film production can claim CSR tax credits from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), making it a

significant incentive.

Furthermore, she said, the government has approved a film finance fund with an initial allocation of Rs 2 billion. This fund, operated through the Film Council, will support budding producers in the production of films, television dramas, and documentaries.

The minister said for making entertainment accessible to the general public, cinema income has been exempted from taxation for the first ten years, especially for those cinemas offering affordable ticket prices. She maintained that an excellent example of the cinema industry's revival was the monumental success of the new version of *Maula Jatt* movie. This version, not seen by those who made the original movie a hit, generated substantial business overseas in multiplex cinemas.

She said by taking advantage of this framework, young students and professionals, equipped with valuable skill

sets, can tap into the immense potential of the film industry.

Marriyum said that universities like NUST, Iqra and LUMS as well as schools and colleges, offer film production and drama as degree courses, fostering a talent pool for the industry. The revitalized PTV academy, equipped with modern studios, will be open to schools and colleges, allowing the youth to gain knowledge and experience in film production, she remarked.

About the Australia-bound high achievers of the National Amateur Film Festival Award, she said as individuals embarking on this course, they were fortunate to be part of this endeavor. Upon their return, they might even become instructors and produce films at the PTV academy, further contributing to the industry's growth. She congratulated them on their achievement, and wished them best of luck for their future endeavors.

Kallar Kahar bus tragedy: Motorway police devise strategy to control accidents



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) has devised a strategy for controlling accidents in the Kallar Kahar salt range area in the aftermath of the deadly bus accident on Islamabad-Lahore motorway.

"In order to prevent accidents, the strategy of passing the buses from Kallar Kahar in the form of a convoy has been decided," DIG (Motorway North Zone) Muhammad Yusuf Malik said in a statement.

He said that the motorway police has formulated a strategy to protect the precious lives of public service transport, especially passengers and staff of passenger buses and other traffic on the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway.

He said that for the purpose of road safety, it has been decided that buses travelling from Islamabad to Lahore will be issued time cards at predetermined safe places on the motorway and strict monitoring will be done with the help of speed-checking cameras and police patrolling officers at the Salt Range.

He said that before the start of PSV Halt Point Area 232 km, the appropriate number of buses will be stopped at a safe place near the signboard and dispatched in the shape of convoys with Motorway Police mobiles about 10 km of salt range

Kallar Kahar while on the rest of the journey, the existing rules of the National Highways and Safety Ordinance will continue to apply in the same manner.

According to the Motorway Police officials, through this effort, it would be possible to bring a significant reduction in the accidents that occur on the Motorway, especially in Salt Range Kallar Kahar.

It should be noted that on behalf of NH&MP, all the entry points of the Motorway, Briefing Officers and the checking staff are on duty round the clock in three shifts and for this purpose, at the Islamabad toll plaza under the management of Sector M2 North.

A day earlier, at least 13 people, including five women, were killed and 31 others injured when a bus veered off the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway and overturned near Kallar Kahar.

The police, in a statement said, driver lost control over the steering apparently due to a 'brake failure'. It was around 3.30pm when the Jhang-bound bus (BBA452) was passing through Kallar Kahar and its driver lost control over the steering due to 'brake failure'.

Earlier in Feb 2023, at least 14 members of a wedding party, including women and children, were killed and 64 people were injured after a bus fell into a ravine and overturned near Kallar Kahar.

BRI shaped structure of global economy, trade: Ambassador Haque



Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has largely shaped the structure of the global economy and trade, and it has completely changed and enriched the concept of regional economic integration and interconnection.

The initiative has successfully overturned some suspicions and doubts among members of the international community, and based on the principle of win-win cooperation and mutual benefit, it has built a bridge of trade, business and cultural cooperation among various members of society, Haque said while addressing at the 13th China Overseas Investment Fair here.

In the past 10 years, under the BRI, Pakistan has laid 880 kilometers of road networks, 13 new ener-

gy projects have been put into operation, and more than 8,000 megawatts of electricity have been added to the national grid.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic and the challenges of economic recession and natural disasters, the original timetable was achieved and the projects in Pakistan were completed on time, Haque further noted.

The fruits of the BRI are clear. In the past decade, China has signed more than 200 Belt and Road cooperation documents with 151 countries and 32 international organizations, forming more than 3,000 cooperation projects, according to media reports.

The initiative has stimulated an investment scale of over \$1 trillion, created 420,000 jobs for countries along the route, and lifted more than 40 million people out of poverty.

Pakistani politicians & military need to learn the art of co-existence

Amjad Mehmood

During the era of a cold war between the United States and USSR, the term 'co-existence' evolved suggesting a theme where two or more groups can live together while respecting their differences and resolving their conflicts non-violently. This useful policy offers a recipe to end aggression and reframe the mutual relationships between two powers.

Eugene Weiner (1998) in his book "Coexistence Work: A New Profession" stated that in the late 80s, the policy of peaceful coexistence included principles such as "non-aggression, respect for sovereignty, national independence, and non-interference in internal affairs. Mutual tolerance, respect, recognition of differences for living together, non-intention of harming each other, and silent agreement to settle the conflicts without using violence are various pragmatic ways of coexistence. Based on diversity, equality, and interdependence between different groups, a society can derive the benefits of co-existence. The most valuable attribute of 'co-existence' is it lets people work in a shared environment and grow smoothly without collision. The policy of co-existence is even helpful in times of global political polarization and stalemate on various conflicts between the governments.

Apparently, the phenomenon of co-existence is discussed when two different countries are engaged in hostile affairs. To safeguard the politics, public, economy, and overall peace in society, the policy of political co-existence helps the governments to mitigate their conflicts and find the way forward to socio-economic prosperity in the larger interest of their masses.

Pakistan is facing an entirely differ-

ent situation and the need to espouse the philosophy of 'co-existence' is not proposed to deal with any external disputes. Rather, this lesson is imperative for Pakistani politicians and military so they accept the existence of each other in a respectable manner and operate within their constitutional trajectories. Historically, politicians and the military establishment in Pakistan equally share the legacy of toxic relationships which resulted in political, economic, and geographical devastations for the country. The public remained ultimate loser in the war of establishing supremacy between politicians and the military.

This tale of hate and romance has a very old history between politicians and the military in Pakistan. Putting aside the element of honesty, both politicians and the military establishment utterly used mala fide tactics to institute their hegemony in the country. Courtesy of structured organization, the military remained united in achieving their set goals. They played smartly the canon of 'divide & rule' learned from their peers. While on the other hand, the lack of political maturity and lust for power never allowed the politicians to address their dissonance for the sake of country. Their short-term union on a common platform is either credited to military intervention or safeguarding their joint miseries.

A commonly established fact is that the military in Pakistan has a parallel state with an inevitable role in make and break of governments, aligning Pakistan's foreign policy, and coaching politicians. Their empires, resources, influence, and command are daylight facts. In parallel, with a global outlook as a 'democratic state', the role of politicians is equally momentous to demonstrate an aura of democracy in Pakistan. This 'compulsion' gives democratic rights

to politicians to form a government by registering their majority of public support. Politicians and the military in Pakistan are currently seen as two power centers with a long history of strained ties. The duet of Bhutto-General Ayub, Nawaz Sharif-General Zia, Chaudhry Brothers-General Musharraf, and Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi-General Qamar Javed Bajwa was not blissful for the country except offering them to enjoy their monarchy as the conqueror.

Due to their standing as two distinct powers, Pakistani politicians and the military establishment are essentially required to learn the art of "co-existence." They may devise the power-sharing formula by fixing their dedicated domains and boundaries of 'no-go areas' for each other. They may jointly develop a consensus to safeguard Pakistan from external detriment by all means. Although the constitution of Pakistan has already established the legitimate roles of government, judiciary, and military, however, history is full of maltreatment with the constitution therefore, the mantra of the constitution has absolutely failed for all practical reasons. The policy of co-existence can teach politicians and military the lessons of mutual respect, non-violent behavior, and re-framing their relationship for the sake of country.

Historically, the judiciary's role remained very crucial in Pakistan and they did everything except justice. Rather, the Pakistani judiciary has proactively played a puppet role to serve the power elites. Mainly the judiciary bowed its head before the military establishment instead of following the constitution, however, in recent years judges opted to join the caravan of popularity. Since 2007, Pakistani judges are passionately loving their remarks during court proceedings and feel contentment by watching their names on TV screens

and other media platforms.

The dream of civilian supremacy has no fate in Pakistan. Military alone also has no solution to address the heaps of troubles stacked by making various adventures under self-assertion. Both politicians and the military establishment should put a full stop to all ventures and re-calculate their muscles. This tug-of-war is dragging the country into a more chaotic situation. They can categorize their expertise to serve the country within their agreed domains after signing a "charter of co-existence".

Currently, the season of revelations is in full swing when the former premier and military boss have much to tell the nation about each other. Both have a rationale for their deeds but nothing was beneficial for the country. The newly placed political setup in the form of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government and military establishment under the command of General Asim Munir are beneficiaries of power and privileges. The politicians and military have a golden opportunity to design and execute a treaty of 'co-existence' by accepting the role and necessity of each other. They should admit their past mistakes and pledge to make all-out efforts for betterment of the country.

The recent incidents of 9th May are the total outcome of a 'one-page' romance between a political party and the military. The countermeasures are even depressing. This is an unpredictable launch of a rogue future if both forces remain in a standoff position. Pakistan's overall socio-political and economic situations cannot afford any further adventure orchestrated by the military against the will of nation. The remnant option for politicians and the military is to accept and respect each other's mandate by following the rule of "co-existence".

JUI will be the next Govt in KP: Federal Minister Maulana Asad Mahmood

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Federal Communications Minister Maulana Asad Mahmood has said that a Jewish agent was imposed on Pakistan as part of a conspiracy and the 2018 elections were rigged to rule.

I don't know in which bill the fugitive of Dera Ismail Khan is hiding, the federal minister was addressing an event organized in Dera Ismail Khan.

He said that in the 2018 elections, the international Jewish agent was imposed and the government was given in 2018 through rigging.

He said that the development was deliberately stopped, not convinced of political revenge.

He said that we and our leaders endured the hardships of prison while resisting state oppression and institutions.

He said that those who dream of ruling at the expense of institutions will have a bad end, the agent of Jews has been expelled from the country of Pakistan.



He said that the next government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be of Jamiat Ulema Islam.

Asad said that the previous government imposed a ban on the motorway,

we did not impose a ban on Imran Niazi's constituency.

It is not known in which bill the fugitive of Dera Ismail Khan is hiding and misleading people by sitting in the bill.

Agriculture University was a mega project of ours which was cashed by the previous government. Asad further said that we are humble before Allah but we know how to crush temptations.

Hunger strike

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Mir Naseebullah Mari addressing to the protesters of Hunger strike of Government Teachers Association outside Baluchistan Assembly in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference demands urgent action on migrant boat accidents

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the loss of life in the boat capsizing of migrants in Greece and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who died in the tragic accident. He said that the accident in Yunan boat is very painful in general, but the lives lost in Azad Kashmir district Kotli, Khoi Ratta and various areas



of Punjab are deeply saddened and

saddened. May Patience be given to Jameel and make up the shortfall in their families as a better alternative. The sad part is that these incidents are happening day in and day out but the government seems unable to do anything about it. I suggest that the government and all its institutions together with all the four provinces, tribal areas, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan should crack down on these elements simultaneously through a big crackdown and at the same time the financial losses caused in these accidents should be

borne by these agents. The victims should be redressed to the extent possible by auctioning their land, property, and possessions. The Government of Pakistan should make arrangements for the repatriation of the bodies of the people from Azad Kashmir in the accident. My prayers are with the bereaved families, who lost their loved ones in the unfortunate boat accident off the coast of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea. He said that the characters involved in human trafficking should be exposed and punished.

AJK Cabinet meeting held chaired by PM Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Cabinet meeting was held here on Sunday with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq in the chair. On the occasion, Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, presented the figures of supplementary budget for the financial year 2022-23 before the cabinet. The Cabinet also reviewed the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee constituted with reference to supplementary grants. While deferring the demands of some departments in light of the recommendations put forth by the committee, the cabinet approved the rest of the demands to be presented in the Assembly. The Finance Secretary has been directed to present the demands approved by the cabinet in the Legislative Assembly. The cabinet also approved an ordinance for better management of government buildings. Under this ordinance, better management and maintenance of state-owned buildings within and outside the state would be possible.



The cabinet decided to open an account under the title of "Mad-e-Amanat" in which development/additional funds received from the federal government not being spent before the end of the financial year could be deposited. Accountant General Azad Kashmir has been directed to take the necessary action in this regard. The cabinet, while expressing a sense of shock over the Greece boat disaster, announced a one-day mourning to mourn the death

of innocent people who lost their lives in the tragic incident. The cabinet reiterated that human traffickers and travel agents involved would be dealt with strictly according to the law of the land. The Prime Minister directed the Chief Secretary to stay in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs so that dead bodies of the victims could be brought back home in time. The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Colonel (R) Waqar Ahmad Noor

and government minister Raja Faisal Muntaz Rathore, whereas Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Usman Chachar, Principal Secretary Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Additional Chief Secretary General Ehsan Khalid Kayani and other officials including Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, Secretary Services Raja Amjad Parvez Ali Khan, Law Secretary Irshad Qureshi and Secretary Information Ansar Yaqoob were present in the meeting.

SAP Discovery Day-Unveil Cloud Path to Become Sustainable and Intelligent

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: SAP, the world-renowned provider of enterprise software solutions, organized Discovery Day event in with the theme "Become an Intelligent, Sustainable Enterprise." The event aimed to educate and empower businesses with the knowledge and tools needed to embark on a digital transformation journey, to become an intelligent, competitive and sustainable organization.

The SAP Discovery Day brought together industry leaders, experts, and professionals from various sectors to share insights, best practices, and success stories related to digital transformation.

In his welcome remarks, SAP's Senior Vice President Middle East and North Africa, Ahmed Al-Faifi, said, "We gather here to explore the transformative power of digitalization and its potential to shape a more intelligent and sustainable future for businesses. In the era of rapid technological advancements, it has become imperative for organizations to embrace digital disruption and adapt to the evolving business landscape."

Saqib Ahmad, Managing Director of SAP Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan in his address on Future of Digital Disruption in Pakistan highlighted the immense potential of digitalization and how it is reshaping the business landscape in Pakistan.

Paul Candy, Head of SAP on Amazon Web Services (AWS) further added, "Technology supports and enables organizations to create new channels to market, improve employee productivity, lift customer engagement and do more with less. SAP is a global leader in innovation within the areas of Cloud, Mobile and Social, and has been solving business challenges for customers for over 40 years."

SAP Senior Executives, Erhan Kani Ergün, Director, Business Development, S/4HANA Cloud COE, EMEA South, and Stamatia Betsi, Climate Action & Sustainability Business Development Expert EMEA South, also shared their expertise and achievements in digitization for charting a stronger

Checked the Complaint Registers in Five MEPCO Sub-Divisional offices

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the instructions of Chief Executive Officer Mepco Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana,

Superintending Engineer Multan Circle Farhan Shabbir Malik has issued orders for immediate redressal of consumer complaints and additional Ex.ATB Multan Circle Taj Mahmood Qamar to register consumers in sub-divisional offices. The task of checking the complaints has been given. Additional XEN ATB Multan Circle Taj Mahmood Qamar visited complaint centers in Manzooraabad, Ghala Mandi, Mumtazabad, Bosan Road and Hassanabad sub-divisions for checking and monitoring the redressal of online and walk-in complaints filed by consumers.

Checked the complaint registers in all the five sub-divisional offices and directed the SDOs to keep the line staff on alert in all three shifts due to the high number of power cut complaints from consumers in summer so that in case of interruption in power supply, Electricity should be restored in a short time. Complete customer data should be entered in the register and kept in touch till the grievances are redressed. SDO Manzooraabad Sub-Division Muhammad Ikram Syal, SDO Ghala Mandi Sub-Division Salman Saeed Vance, SDO Mumtazabad Sub-Division Rana Abdul Qayyum.

SDO Bosan Roads Sub Division Muhammad Bilal Shaikh and SDO Hassanabad Sub Division Shakeel Pasha briefed the Additional XEN ATB on the occasion of their visit to Sub Divisional Complaint Centers.

Best Facilities are Being Ensured to industrialists and Traders: SM Tanveer



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The President of Multan Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Sheikh Faisal Saeed met Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer and apprised him about the problems of small traders and industrialists. Sheikh Faisal Saeed demanded the provincial minister to establish a small industrial estate for SMEs so that this sector can also participate in the process of national development and prosperity. He drew attention and said that environment related SOPs should be made and given priority. No one should have the selling authority

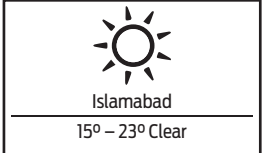
Thus direct employment is affected. Business conditions are already different. We do not have ideal environmental arrangements or ideal economy compared to other countries. It would not be appropriate to apply those rules here. The businessmen and industrialists here can bear the restrictions only according to their conditions. Therefore, the environment department should be prevented from acting outside of the SOPs. More land will be allocated for industrial estate in Multan

Industrial development will stabilize the economy. The best facilities are being ensured to the industrialists and traders, the efforts in this regard will be intensified for which the president of the chamber thanked the provincial minister.

Entry test will be conduct on June 22

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Score entry test will conduct All in one day activity test on June 22. The activity will be held at ICC Auditorium Kayani Road Bihara Kahu at 9:00 AM. In which the first three position holders will get Rs.300000 thousand, Rs.200000 thousand respectively. And a cash prize of 10000 thousand rupees will be given. Students securing 90% marks in Intermediate Part I will be given a full scholarship in Entrance Test preparation classes. Students from Murree, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan and other remote areas will be provided hostel facilities. On 24th June. Regular classes of entry test will be started. These decisions were taken in an important policy-making meeting held at Blue Area local presided over by the Director General of Career Group of Institutions Prof. Mohammad Amir.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:21 pm
Isha	9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864

Government's give maximum relief to the traders: Vohra



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: For the improvement of the economy, not showy decisions, but difficult steps have to be taken & there is no survival in presenting talk shows without practical demonstration, said Alhaj Naseer Yousef Vohra:

It is the government's job to give maximum relief to the traders and people facing numerous unexpected challenges in the history of Pakistan.

President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan further expressed that the sewage system of 8- Bazars should be restored as soon as possible, this was stressed by the Chairman Cloth Board Dr. Mahmood Yousef Shaikh.

According to the details, the traders sorrowfully expressed their views and said that experts and analysts in the oil sector and the economy consider the claims made by the government to be one side of the picture out of facts.

Central President Cloth Board Union Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousef Vohra has further said in his statement that the government has reduced oil and diesel prices only for show, while the transporters have not yet reduced the fares even an iota. Talking about the current situation, Vohra said that when the price of petroleum products increases in any country in the world, everything starts to become expensive.

Consult to present Seraiki province bill in current assembly: Gillani

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that we will consult to present the Seraiki province bill in the current assembly. While Senator Rana Mahmoodul Hasan has said that if Saraiki province is not created, they will march towards Islamabad. Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, speaking as a special guest at the All-Parties Province Conference organized by the Saraikistan National Council, said that the problem of Saraikistan province should be resolved. The conference was presided over by Zahoor Dharija, Chairman of the Saraikistan Qoumi Council.

While former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani added in his address that I am happy to see all Saraiki parties together in this conference and this is the biggest success of this conference. I as Prime Minister announced the creation of Saraiki Province in Jalalpur Peerwala Jalsa and for the first time set up the Parliamentary Commission for the creation of Saraiki Province which agreed that a province should be formed. The Commission declared that if two provinces were formed, the balance of the Senate would not be maintained.

He said that although I was punished and sent back home for raising the voice of Saraiki province, I have not given up



the voice of Saraiki province till date. He said that it was clearly said on the forum of the Senate that we do not want a secretariat but a province, so I asked my son Ali Haider Gilani to get the resolution passed by the Punjab Assembly, so he succeeded in it. Yusuf Raza Gilani appreciated Rana Mahmoodul Hasan's

suggestions and said that we will try to pass the Saraiki province bill from the current assembly.

He expressed his determination that he will intensify the struggle for the establishment of the province. Senator Rana Mahmood Al Hasan said that the establishment of Saraiki province is the right of the people of this region. I am a son of this land, MPA, MNA and Senator was made by this land. I have honored my father and my elders and we owe it to us to restore the rights of this inheritance and we will not sit down until this debt is paid.

He said that if the province is not given, we will march to Islamabad for the establishment of Saraiki province.

In this regard, he invited Zahoor Ahmad Dharija to hold an All Parties Conference in Islamabad.

He will host the conference. We will sit in Islamabad and tell the rulers sitting in the upper houses that all the people of this province are united. The establishment of Saraiki Province is the problem of our children. Today, the number of provinces has increased in many countries of the world, so why provinces can't be created here? He said that I still wish that IT universities and other educational institutions should be built in the whole Saraiki region. He said that the workers belonging to Saraiki Wasib are being exploited not only in the country but also abroad.

PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman formally inaugurates development projects

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: PDM chief and president Jamiat Maulana Fazlur Rehman formally inaugurated development projects worth billions of rupees.

The inauguration ceremony was held at a private wedding ceremony in Dera Ismail Khan, where Jamiat leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman was the chief guest.

While he was accompanied by Federal Minister of Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood, District President of JUI Maulana Lataf Ur Rehman, Maulana Obaid Ur Rehman, Maulana Ziaur Rehman, Divisional Secretary Information of JUI Haji Noor Asghar Khan Wazir, Samiullah Alizai, Imtiaz Baloch, Mushtaq, Dar, District general secretary Chaudhry Ashfaq, tehsil members of JUI, Noor Rehman Wazir, Engineer Hammad Rauf, Zain Dar, Hafiz Adil, former Nazim Inayat Chhina, former Nazim Imran Patti, Nazim Sheikh Hammad, Alfaz Khan, Rafiullah Gandapur, Lala Kharuti, Ahmed Ali, General Counselor Haider Ali and other Jamiat workers, People participated in large numbers.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the hair in my beard was black. I said at that time that I will make Dera Ismail Khan an International Economic Zone and



today my beard has turned white but Dera Ismail Khan has become an International Corridor Economic Zone, God willing, we will build a two-way Indus Highway from Dera Ismail Khan to Karachi in the coming period.

The federal minister was addressing a function organized in Dera Ismail Khan.

He said that the international Jewish agent was imposed in the 2018 elections and the government was given in 2018 through rigging.

He said that the development was deliberately stopped. They are not convinced of political revenge.

He said that we and our leaders endured the hardships of prison while resisting state oppression and institutions.

Asad said that those who dream of ruling at the expense of institutions will have a bad end and the agent of the Jews has been expelled from the country of Pakistan.

He said that the next government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be of Jamiat Ulema Islam.

He said that the previous government imposed a ban on the motorway, we did not impose a ban on Imran Niazi's constituency.

Haris Rauf Joins Spring Gala closing ceremony at IIUI as Chief Guest

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Female Campus of the International Islamic University (IIU) witnessed a spectacular closing ceremony for Spring Gala 2023. The event was attended by the grandeur, renowned national cricketer Mr. Haris Rauf who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

On the occasion, esteemed dignitaries including the President of the university, the Vice President, and the Student Advisor of the Female Campus. Adding to one of the highlights of the evening was the declaration of the Faculty of Social Sciences as the Best Faculty for Sports and Co-curricular Activities.

Addressing the closing ceremony Haris Rauf congratulated all students for taking part in sports activities and said that such activities are vital for their career building in future. He hoped that students shall bring fame to the nation by participating in sports and academic activities during their stay at the institution and after completing studies.

H. E. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotai-bi, Worthy President of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) addressing the closing ceremony said that extracurricular activities are part of the



university's vision as it's a huge platform to provide maximum opportunities to students during their academic career and all students must take part in such activities.

Dr. Hatahl congratulated and appreciated the combined efforts of all departments at the female campus including Sports Section and Directorate of Students Affairs who made the event for students successful.

Prof. Dr. Samina, Vice President (Female Campus) said that extracurricular activities are a vital platform for students grooming and character building. Dr. Samina said that the spring gala

is one of the major activities celebrated every year at campus where students are provided a huge platform to showcase their talent.

The closing ceremony of the Spring Gala 2023 at IIU's Female Campus not only celebrated the achievements of the students but also provided a platform to acknowledge the efforts of faculty members and administrators. This momentous event will undoubtedly be remembered as a remarkable milestone in the university's history, highlighting the importance of holistic education and fostering a culture of excellence among the students.

CGF Women Leadership Program kicks off



Tahir Anin Malik

LAHORE: The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Women Leadership Program is in progress. Ms. Ada Jaffery, Secretary of CGA Pakistan Education Commission and distinguished MEMOSIAN, captivated the audience with her lecture on "Self-awareness of Personal Leadership Style, Areas of Development, and Strengths." After a refreshing lunch break, she followed up with her second lecture, focusing on "Communication and Persuasion Skills." Ms. Jaffery's insights provided valuable guidance to the aspiring women leaders present at the event.

The CGF Women Leadership Academic Session will culminate with a ceremony on 19th June 2023. Lt Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan, President CGA Pakistan, will address the participants. The event will also feature the distribution of participation certificates to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the attendees.

Italian Ombudsman visited Karachi and meet to Ombudsman of Sindh



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mr. Marino Fardelli attended the reception for the 2023 National Day organized by the Italian Consulate in Karachi. Mr. Fardelli had cordial meetings with the Governor of Sindh, Mr. Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori and the Chief Minister of Sindh, Mr. Syed Murad Ali Shah. He also visited the Pediatric Emergency Ward of Karachi Civil Hospital together with Dr. Francesco Zatta, the director of the Italian agency for development cooperation in Islamabad. Dr. Ahson Rabbani, President of the Child Life Foundation updated Dr. Fardelli and Dr. Zatta on the activities carried out and the collaboration between the Giannina Gaslini institute Italy and the Child Life Foundation. Dr. Fardelli also held two lectures in Karachi: 1. "The impact of the mafia in society" held at the Sind Club Library and 2. "Strengthening Human Rights and Global Justice: The Ombudsman's Contribution in the International Context" at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs.

Dr. Fardelli has invited the Pakistani authorities and his colleague Ajaz Ali Khan to the International Ombudsman Conference to be held in Rome on 21-22 September. Dr. Ajaz Ali Khan Ombudsman of the Sindh Region of Pakistan, confirmed his participation following the meeting at his office. During his visit to Karachi Mr. Fardelli also paid a visit to the shrine of Sufi Saint Syed Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Clifton and distributed langar among devotees.

The visit concluded with the dinner organized by Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan in honor of Mr. Fardelli at Sindh Government Officers Club in Karachi. Dr. Fardelli thanked the Italian Consulate in Karachi and his colleague Ajaz Ali Khan for the opportunity to share ideas, reflections to strengthen the collaboration between Italy and Pakistan in the pursuit of human rights and global justice.

PIDE issues key economic recommendations for Feds' fiscal year 2023-24 budgets

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal annual budget proposal for the fiscal year 2023-24 marks a significant milestone in crucial economic decision-making. To maximize the budget's impact and align it with national goals, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) MacroPolicy Lab has conducted a thorough evaluation, providing invaluable insights and recommendations. The Lab's analysis focuses on optimizing resource allocation, addressing socio-economic challenges, and fostering

sustainable development. The policy recommendations put forward by the PIDE MacroPolicy Lab aim to enhance the budget's effectiveness and drive economic growth. These recommendations have been formulated after a comprehensive evaluation of the budget proposal. According to a Press Release issued from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), MacroPolicy Lab insights highlighted key areas of focus that will contribute to the long-term development of Pakistan. Focus on Export Promotion:

The Lab recommends that the government prioritizes export promotion as a crucial element for economic growth. It suggests boosting investors' confidence and encouraging a favorable business environment. The budget proposals should include measures to stabilize and enhance the exports sector, such as providing incentives for the IT industry and freelancing. Additionally, the government should facilitate the remittance of earnings by allowing registered freelancers to open and maintain dollar accounts in local commercial banks.

Evaluation of Taxes and Withholding: To strengthen the tax system and revenue generation, the government needs to evaluate taxes and withholding practices. The Lab highlights the detrimental effects of withholding taxes on financial inclusion and suggests promoting the use of digital payments in certain cases. The budget should also focus on expanding the tax net by considering sectors like agriculture and retail. Prioritize Productive Growth: To drive productive growth, the government should prioritize

sectors that can generate higher value-added outputs, employment opportunities, and contribute to overall economic development. The Lab emphasizes the need to incentivize the manufacturing and export sectors for sustainable productivity gains. It also recommends allocating a portion of the budget for research and development grants, fostering innovation and addressing national challenges. Address Debt and Debt Servicing: The budget proposal should address the growing concern of

public debt and debt servicing. The Lab highlights the need for managing both external and domestic debts effectively. Long-term debt restructuring strategies should be explored to alleviate the burden. To avoid further accumulation of debt, the government should aim to achieve its tax revenue targets and ensure fiscal discipline. Public Sector Development Program: Efficient utilization of resources is crucial in the current economic situation. The Lab suggests reevaluating allocations to certain schemes and focusing on targeted sector promotion. Funds should be directed toward youth investment programs, establishing digital labs for startups, and implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability. Foreign Exchange Measures: While measures to attract remittances are important, the government should also develop a roadmap for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and diversifying exports. The budget should address the heavy reliance on textile exports and explore ways to promote other sectors.

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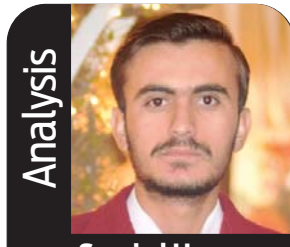
Is Gwadar a game-changer for Pakistan?-I

Trade is very important for the economic development of a country. Since most of the world's land areas are connected by sea and shipping of heavy goods is possible only by ships. That's why more than 80% of the world's trade is done by sea. There are many ports in the world for sea trade. For example, Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Los Angeles are considered to be important business and trade centers in the world due to their modern seaports. The presence of a port not only accelerates the commercial and business activities of a country, but the port's own income in terms of logistics, container handling and rent can also reach billions of dollars. According to an estimate, in 2022, Dubai generated about \$17 billion in revenue through its port alone. Friends, Gwadar port in Baluchistan province of Pakistan is of great importance due to its location and unique features. History of Gwadar at the time of establishment of Pakistan, Gwadar was not a part of Pakistan, but it was owned by the Government of Oman. Pakistan's attention was drawn to Gwadar soon after the partition of India. There were two reasons for Pakistan's interest in this coastal area of Arabian sea, economy, and defense in 1958, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Feroze Khan, made a deal to purchase Gwadar from the Sultan of Oman for 5.5 million US dollars. In 1993, the Government of Pakistan launched a plan to transform Gwadar into an international port and connect it to all major highways and railways of Pakistan. In March 2002, development work started at Gwadar under the government and today the port is almost functional.

Location of Gwadar. Gwadar is one of the most important cities on the world map which is located on the shores of the Arabian Sea. Geographically, this coastal city connects the eastern world with the western world and divides the world's population into two parts. Gwadar port is located at the tip of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, while the Strait of Hormuz is located on the edge of the Persian Gulf. The Strait of Hormuz is an important hub for global oil transportation, and one-third of the world's oil is shipped through this route. More than 60 ports of Dubai, Oman, Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia are in this region. Going west from China and East Asia, Gwadar comes at the entrance to all these ports. In addition, the port also forms an important link between energy-rich Russia and other Central Asian countries and the Arabian Sea. It is also very important here that Asian and African countries are the most important markets in the world due to their large population. Trade with countries in Africa and the Middle East is possible for Russia only through Iran's Chabahar port and Pakistan's Gwadar port. As such, Gwadar is a very important location for global trade and transportation, especially in the energy sector. Friends, there are many countries around Pakistan which are surrounded by land, called land locked have no sea route for trade. The construction of Gwadar port has also provided a trade route to land-locked countries including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan. That is, due to its location, Gwadar Port is opening the way for development not only for Pakistan but also for many other developing countries.

If trade with China, Russia and Central Asian countries starts through Gwadar, it is estimated that more than 80,000 cargo trucks and containers will move between Gwadar and these countries every day, with a possible income of 20 to 25 billion rupees for Pakistan, only from toll taxes. Deep water port Gwadar port is one of the largest and deep-water ports in the world. Friends, a deep sea, or deep-water port is different from other normal ports. These ports are designed for large ships carrying heavy cargo. For a port to be classified as a deep-water port, the water depth must be 10 meters or more. The deeper the sea, the larger cargo ships can anchor at this port. In ports that are not in deep water, large ships anchor off the coast in a deep place and then small boats take their cargo to the shore. This work not only requires extra time and effort but also requires extra cost. Since deep water ports allow ships to approach the shore and dock or anchor, these ports also have pipelines, pumping stations, service platforms and ship maintenance facilities. Apart from this, these ports are also equipped with all kinds of equipment to deal with any emergency. Among the world's largest deep seaports, Shanghai Port in China has a maximum depth of 15 meters, Singapore Port has a maximum depth of 16 meters and Jebel Ali Port in the United Arab Emirates has a maximum depth of 17 meters. Gwadar port has a unique position, that the natural depth of the sea here is around 15 meters, which is also being planned to be deepened to 20 meters in the future, so big ships can also dock here.

In addition, the natural hammerhead at Gwadar plays an important role in preventing seawater erosion, making it easier for large ships to access the port. Warm water port. Gwadar port is also called as warm water port. A warm water port is a port that does not have ice in its waters and is accessible throughout the year as it is in a relatively temperate climate. In contrast, ports located on colder waters have ice that makes trade difficult and not possible throughout the year. A warm-water port that is usable year-round and is close to major waterways reduces transportation time and cost and is more advantageous defensively and economically. Similarly, if a port itself is usable all year round, but if the roads leading to it are thousands of kilometers long and mostly blocked by ice, then the port will not be very useful. In this sense, the port of Gwadar has the advantage that it is itself located in warm water and most of the roads connected to it are open for traffic throughout the year, so that trade can be conducted through this port throughout the year. Significance of CPEC and Gwadar. Besides Pakistan, Gwadar port is important for many countries in Central Asia and Middle East, but its most strategic importance is for China. For China's defense, commercial and regional interests, this port is its lifeline. The \$65 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was also launched in view of this importance and is an important part of China's One Belt One Road initiative. But here the question arises, why is this port so important for China? The short answer is that this port provides a relatively small trade route from China to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. 60% of China's energy resources reach China through the Persian Gulf, usually through the Strait of Malacca, for which Chinese ships must cover about ten to twelve thousand kilometers. However, through Gwadar port, this sea distance will be reduced to only 3000 km. Similarly, China mostly uses the same sea route to transport its products to the rest of the world. So, through Gwadar port China will get a short trade route which will save time and capital.



Analysis
Sami ul Haq

To be continued

Build civilized world

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, has called on everyone to work together to build a more respectful and civil world, and for effective action to end hate speech.

"We know that the spread of hate is used by those who want to sow divisions, to scapegoat and to distract from real issues. Social media is a remarkably fertile ground for hate speech, providing it with both unprecedented reach and speed. And hate breeds bigotry, discrimination and incitement to violence," Turk said, marking International Day for Countering Hate Speech on Sunday.

"What must be done? There is no silver bullet, no switch to flip that will rid our world of hate, online or offline. But with targeted and well-resourced measures, we can succeed in limiting its spread, isolating and holding accountable hate-mongers, and building greater respect."

Globally, the spread of hate speech-related laws being misused against journalists and human rights defenders is almost as viral as the spread of hate speech itself, the UN Human Rights Chief said. Broad laws – that license States to censor speech they find uncomfortable and to threaten or detain those who question Government policy or criticize officials – violate rights and endanger essential public debate.

Rather than criminalizing protected speech, we need States and companies to take urgent steps to address incitement to hatred and violence, Turk said.

The High Commissioner called for multifaceted and well-resourced efforts, including:

- Ratcheting up investment in efforts to combat hate speech in languages other than English, and detecting and pivoting greater attention and investment to fragile contexts, or where early warning signs demand;

- Listening to those most affected by hate speech, and providing better channels for them to raise concerns and get prompt action;

- Holding companies responsible for what they are – and are not – doing to respect human rights, including by requiring human rights due diligence with regard to their operations and increasing transparency around hate speech policies and practices;

- Empowering expanded research into how to effectively combat hate speech through greater transparency, including by open or affordable API (Application Programming Interface) access;

- Providing support to those whose mental and physical health are seriously affected by incitement to hatred and violence, particularly the well-documented harms caused to women and girls by gender-based hate;

- Investing in digital and media literacy programmes, human rights education, and supporting mechanisms to provide independent fact-checking with the participation of journalists and civil society.

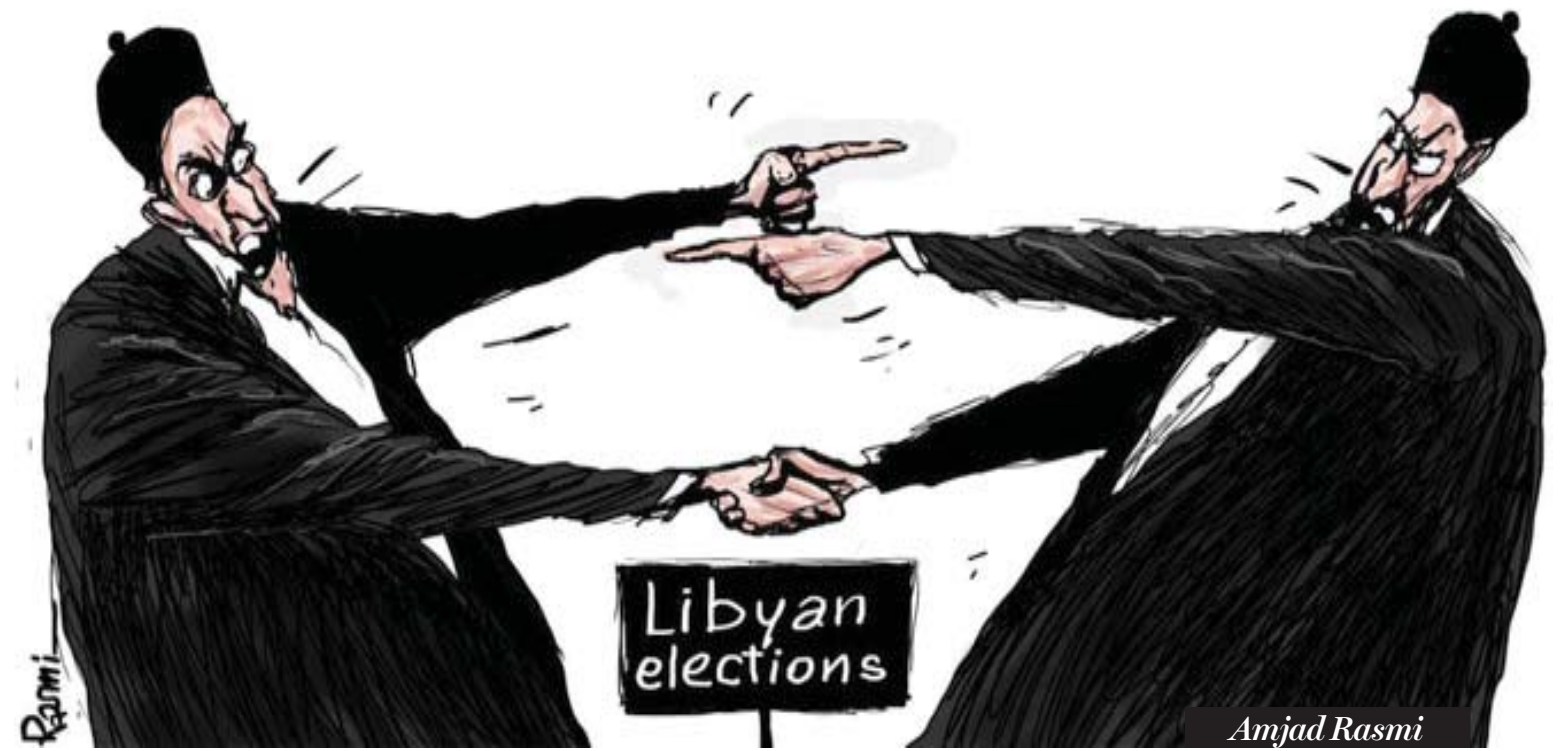
The UN chief underscored that hate "fuels humanity's worst impulses," noting that it is a catalyst for polarization and radicalization and a conduit for atrocity crimes.

"It is also a result of these crimes, contributing to horrific cycles of violence that can chum for decades. It greases the wheels of violence, frays the social fabric, and corrodes the pillars of stability. It is, in short, often the bloody heart of the conflict," Guterres elaborated.

"And as part of Our Common Agenda, we are working on a Global Digital Compact for an open, free, inclusive, and secure digital future for all, firmly anchored in human rights and nondiscrimination," he added.

The secretary-general called for efforts to "move toward ever-more multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies" and "invest in social cohesion."

- Agree to disagree -



Menace of Yellow journalisms in Pakistan

Atta Ur Rahman

It is the duty of media organizations and journalists to provide the public with reliable, unbiased information in the field of journalism. However, Pakistan's increasing use of yellow journalism has become a worrying trend. Yellow journalism has the ability to undermine the foundations of an educated society since it is characterized by sensationalism, inflated headlines, and a disdain for truth. This article tries to bring light on Pakistan's pervasive yellow journalism, its effects on the general population, and the necessity of responsible media there.

Yellow journalism, a term used in the late 19th century, describes the habit of exaggerating and sensationalizing news in order to draw readers. Yellow journalism places more emphasis on maximizing profits than on reporting with accuracy and objectivity. It is essential to address the issue in the context of Pakistan due to the growth of digital media and the 24-hour news cycle, which have accelerated the spread of sensationalism and false information.

The media environment in Pakistan is varied and includes a large number of television networks, newspapers, and online platforms. While there are reliable news sources in the nation, a sizable chunk of the media sector has been ruined by sensationalism, clickbait, and the desire for more viewers. Media integrity has declined as a result of sensational headlines, overblown news reports, and a lack of fact-checking.

Pakistani examples of yellow journalism include:

Fake News & False Headlines: A renowned news outlet broadcast a headline in 2022 asserting that Pakistan was in immediate danger of a nuclear assault. The sensationalized report greatly alarmed and terrified the

population. Later, it was discovered that the story was untrue and lacked any solid supporting information.

Politics and Character Assassination: Certain media sources released scandalous tales during the 2023 general elections with the intention of damaging the reputation of particular political contenders. The stories served as a vehicle for character assassination rather than providing in-depth policy disputes since they contained unsubstantiated charges and personal insults.

Sensationalizing terrible Incidents: Following a terrible plane crash in 2021, some news outlets turned to sensationalized reportage, focusing on gory visuals and speculative ideas rather than giving accurate updates and analysis. This tactic caused unjustified dread among air travelers while also showing disrespect to the victims and their families.

Yellow journalism has far-reaching effects, polarizing society and affecting public opinion and political narratives. A climate of dread and panic is frequently fostered by sensationalized tales, which breeds public distrust in institutions and widens social divides. Media organizations contribute to a distorted perception of reality and impair the public's ability to make educated judgments by putting entertainment value ahead of honest reporting.

The use of yellow journalism for political purposes in Pakistan is among its most concerning features. Sensationalism is a common tactic used by media outlets allied with certain political parties to advance their agenda, shape public opinion, and delegitimize rivals. The democratic process is harmed by this unwholesome association between journalism and politics, and public confidence in the media as a reliable source of information is also diminished.

A complex strategy combining media companies, journalists, regulatory agencies,

and the general public is necessary to combat yellow journalism. Significant obstacles to reversing this tendency include lax enforcement practices and a lack of strict laws. It is imperative to advance ethical media standards, give fact-checking top priority, and hold those responsible for spreading false information accountable.

Employing and educating ethical journalists who are devoted to preserving journalistic ethics must be a top priority for media organizations. To combat the influence of yellow journalism, funding fact-checking departments, supporting investigative journalism, and promoting responsible reporting are crucial. The integrity of news reporting also depends on maintaining an atmosphere free from outside pressures that supports journalistic independence.

In order to enable people to critically assess news sources and differentiate between trustworthy information and sensationalized content, media literacy programmes must also be established. To give the public the skills they need to properly traverse the media ecosystem, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and media outlets themselves must work together.

In conclusion, media companies, journalists, regulatory agencies, and the general public must work together to combat yellow journalism. The main pillars in regaining the media's reputation and assuring the broadcast of accurate and balanced information to Pakistani citizens are upholding journalistic integrity, advancing media literacy, and creating a strong regulatory framework.

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Exploiting the Religion Card: Politics in Pakistan

Politics and religion have long been intertwined in Pakistan, creating a complex and often problematic dynamic. The exploitation of religious sentiment for political gain, commonly known as playing the "religion card," has become an all-too-familiar strategy employed by politicians in the country. While Pakistan was founded as a homeland for Muslims, the misuse of religion for political purposes has led to a multitude of issues, hampering progress, fostering division, and impeding the country's democratic values.

The exploitation of religion for political gain in Pakistan has resulted in deep-rooted polarization and division among its citizens. Political parties often use religious rhetoric and symbols to appeal to specific voter bases, further segregating society along sectarian lines. Instead of focusing on policy issues and socio-economic development, politicians manipulate religious sentiment, exacerbating existing divisions and hindering national unity.

The misuse of the religion card has severely weakened democratic values in Pakistan. By appealing to religious sentiments, politicians are able to garner support from conservative elements within society, thereby consolidating power. However, this comes at the expense of pluralism, freedom of speech, and the rights of religious minorities. Such exploitation undermines the principles of equality and fairness, eroding the foundations of a true democracy.

The prioritization of religious rhetoric over substantive policy issues has impeded progress and development in Pakistan. Political leaders, vying for power, often engage in populist measures rather than focusing on long-term development plans. Consequently, vital issues such as education, healthcare, and economic growth take a backseat. The country's potential for growth and prosperity

is stifled by the persistent exploitation of the religion card, hindering its ability to address pressing socio-economic challenges.

The exploitation of religion in politics has also amplified extremism and radicalization in Pakistan. By employing religious narratives and symbols, politicians inadvertently provide legitimacy to extremist elements within society. This not only fuels sectarian tensions but also encourages the rise of extremist ideologies. The dangerous consequences of this manipulation are witnessed in the form of sectarian violence, intolerance, and the marginalization of religious minorities.

Pakistan is home to various religious communities, including Muslims, Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs. However, the politicization of religion has created an environment that hampers interfaith harmony and coexistence. The use of the religion card by politicians for their own gain reinforces religious biases and fosters an atmosphere of suspicion and intolerance. This not only undermines the social fabric of the nation but also obstructs efforts towards building a pluralistic and inclusive society.

The exploitation of the religion card in Pakistani politics has had far-reaching negative consequences. It has resulted in polarization, weakened democratic values, hindered progress, amplified extremism, and hindered interfaith harmony. To break free from this cycle, Pakistan needs leaders who prioritize the well-being of their citizens over short-term political gains. Genuine efforts must be made to avoid manipulation of religion in politics and focus on inclusive policies that address the needs of all citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs. Only then can Pakistan hope to realize its true potential as a democratic and progressive nation.

Writer is School of Politics and International Relations Quaid I Azam University Islamabad.

Xi meets with Bill Gates

Xinhua

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in Beijing on Friday.

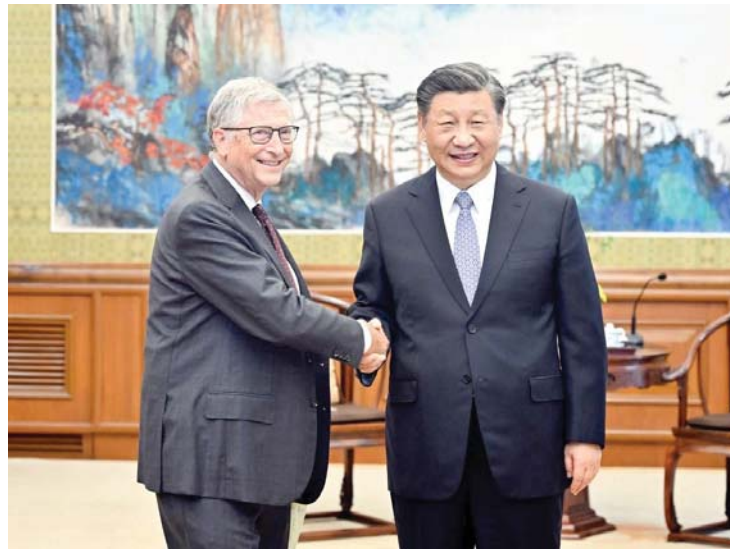
Xi applauded Gates and the Gates Foundation for their long-term work to promote poverty reduction, health, development and philanthropy around the world.

"At present, momentous changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. I put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative to provide Chinese solutions to global challenges," Xi said.

Xi said that China is first and foremost focused on solving its own problems. He said that as a large country with a population of over 1.4 billion, China's long-term stability and sustained development are major contributions to world peace, stability and prosperity.

China will consolidate its achievements in poverty alleviation, realize rural revitalization, and constantly improve rural health, Xi said.

Stressing that China is committed to advancing the great rejuvenation of



the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, Xi said China will never fall into a pattern of seeking hegemony, and will instead work with other countries to achieve common development and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Xi said that China is ready to carry out extensive cooperation with all countries on scientific and technologi-

cal innovation, and actively participate in and promote the response to global challenges such as climate change, the fight against the pandemic and public health.

China will continue to strengthen cooperation with the Gates Foundation in relevant fields, and will provide support and assistance to other developing countries within its capacity, he said. "You're the first American friend I've

met in Beijing this year," Xi told Gates, noting that people should travel and communicate more to increase their understanding as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The foundation of China-US relations lies in the people. We have always placed our hope on the American people and wish all the best for the friendship between the two peoples," Xi said.

Gates spoke about the progress of cooperation with China and his vision for the future. He said that China has made remarkable achievements in poverty reduction and COVID-19 response, setting a good example for the world.

He said that in recent years, the Gates Foundation's cooperation with China has made remarkable progress, and that accelerating innovation and development in China is good for China, developing countries and the world.

The Gates Foundation is committed to strengthening cooperation with China in the fields of innovation, global poverty reduction, public health, research and development of drugs, rural areas and agriculture, and spreading successful practices and technologies to other developing countries, Gates said.

Another Cradle of People Created in Golden Age of Pyongyang of New Era Inaugural Ceremony of Dwelling Houses in Taephyong Area held



Ri Jin Bom

The inauguration ceremony of modern apartment block built in the Taephyong area in the capital city of Pyongyang took place on May 21. It was attended by Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, senior officials of the Party Central Committee and Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, officials concerned, working people who would live in new flats, and builders.

Kim Tok Hun delivered an inaugural address. Noting that the housing construction in the Taephyong area which had been promoted under the special concern of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was brought to completion and the people would move into new houses, he warmly congratulated them on behalf of the WPK Central Committee and the government of the DPRK.

He said that in order to relieve the evacuees of their discomfort in life as soon as possible Kim Jong Un emphasized at major Party meetings to fulfil the promise made with the people, ensured that forces already involved in other major projects were mobilized for the project and the construction was continued even in the period of the top emergency anti-epidemic campaign, and took meticulous care to provide people with comfortable living conditions.

Expressing his expectation that the owners of new houses would cherish their joy of today deep in mind and do their jobs better for prosperity of the country and wishing all families harmony and happiness, he declared the inauguration of dwelling houses in the Taephyong area.

After the ceremony, the participants went round the houses, schools, kindergartens and public service facilities. Photo: By courtesy of KCNA

Indonesian envoy stresses on product diversification to maximize bilateral trade benefits



Spokesman report

LAHORE: The diversification of products and robust market research to identify new business sectors would be the key for the Pakistani business community to gain maximum benefits from bilateral trade relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan. This was stated by Ambassador of Indonesia Mr. Adam M. Tugio while interacting with top CEOs at a "Dialogue on Indonesia-Pakistan Trade Relationship" organised by CEO Club Pakistan in Lahore.

Answering to various queries of leading business companies chairpersons

during an engaging session, Ambassador Tugio highlighted many opportunities to further enhance bilateral trade beyond raw materials and agricultural products. "Textiles, leathers and pharmaceutical industries are the areas where business community of the two countries have the potential to team up in JV and produce items for third country markets", the envoy said.

Responding to the prospects of FTA, the Indonesian envoy suggested the business community to identify more items where Pakistan has comparative advantage and consult with relevant authorities to include them



in Trade in Goods Agreement (TIGA) as part of the review process to expand the PTA. He reminded the audience on the important location of Indonesia as hub for expanding trade to the wider area in Southeast Asia and suggested leapfrogging strategy to explore possibility of joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which represents 15 countries and 30% population of the world. "By joining RCEP, Pakistan would get easy access into huge market of ASEAN and additional 5 partner countries with vast trade potential", added the envoy.

Discussing about mutu-

al collaboration in IT sector, Ambassador Tugio said animation, health sector, business outsourcing new apps and other innovative ideas present lucrative prospects and are attractive areas of cooperation. He informed that Indonesian Embassy is working hard to promote educational linkages with universities in Pakistan and to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation with COMSTECH which would also be beneficial for pharmaceutical, herbal and halal industries.

Earlier, the Ambassador of Indonesia was warmly received by Ms. Nazeya Qhan Head Corporate Communica-

tions and esteemed members of the CEO Club Pakistan. The Ambassador expressed his admiration for Pakistan's thriving business community and its significant contributions to the country's economic growth.

The CEO Club Pakistan members reciprocated the Ambassador's sentiments and expressed their eagerness to forge stronger economic ties with Indonesian counterparts.

They acknowledged Indonesia's vibrant economy, its rich cultural heritage, and the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships in trade across various sector industries.

US Soybean Export Council successfully concluded AquaCon Invest held in Colombo, Sri Lanka



News Desk

COLOMBO (SRI LANKA): The US Soybean Export Council (USSEC) successfully concluded AquaCon Invest which was held recently in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event served as a platform dedicated to connecting aquaculture start-ups from South Asia with venture capital and private equity firms.

While the primary objective was to foster collaboration and co-creation among over 40 aquaculture start-ups from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, the entrepreneurs showcased next-generation sustainable aquaculture systems and innovations that were appreciated collectively by the audience. The gathering enabled potential investors to gain deeper insights into their ventures and potentially form partnerships.

It featured a wide range of activities, including keynote speeches, panel discussions and networking sessions. Distinguished speakers from the aquaculture industry shared their expertise and insights on the use of technologies in soybean farming, initiatives by USSEC in training manpower for scientific aquaculture practices, an overview of global shrimp aquaculture, the status of aquaculture in Bangladesh, US Soy Sustainability, the role of nutrition in aquaculture to name a few.

"Through this event, we have taken a significant step towards building a sustainable future for the aquaculture industry in South Asia. Globalization and innovation in this industry will play a key role in accelerating and elevating the sector. South Asia has a massive geographical advantage, thanks to the huge coastal line shared by the different countries. Therefore, with the use of the latest best practices, technology and collaboration the future of the aquaculture industry holds immense potential. We are dedicated to continuing our efforts in making a meaningful impact, reinforcing our commitment to innovation ecosystem, and creating a better future for this sector", added Kevin Roepke, Regional Director South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, USSEC.

Ericsson: How is intelligence transforming telecom? Five benefits that reveal the full value of AI

By Zeljka Lemaster, Senior Director Strategic AI Engagements at Ericsson, Thomas Kinnman, AI and Automation development at Ericsson, and Andres Laya, Strategic Marketing Director for AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is beyond disruptive. Arguably the second biggest leap in the technological revolution since the widespread adoption of computers, it is already transforming industries worldwide – and even creating new ones. It seems every day our human minds are blown away by the increasingly impressive progress of this omnipotent genius, with its poetry skills, intelligent and polite customer service capabilities and astonishing artwork. Let's face it – love it or hate it, AI has arrived, and it's here to stay. So, what does that mean for networks?

As networks are expanding in both scope and areas of usage, recent and emerging services are requiring always-on performance, ultra-reliability and low latency, high levels of security plus a network with the capability to support many diverse use cases. Networks are facing ever-in-

creasing demands and requirements and rising expectations – from improving performance and capacity to lowering energy consumption.

Beyond this, the network must also deliver a great experience for each service and user. The demands being placed on service assurance, experience measurement and insights into customer expectations are enormous – and the communication service provider (CSP) will need every part of their business working together towards this goal to succeed.

At the same time, the evolution to 5G, IoT and edge computing means the mobile ecosystem and networks are becoming ever more complex. We're at a point where our networks simply must deliver value beyond just connectivity.

Fortunately, with the power of data and intelligence enabling advanced automation services, this is now possible. AI and machine learning are already proving their worth, delivering significant benefits to telecom operators in several areas.

The five key benefits of AI for telecom networks

1. Effectiveness
The niche in which AI truly thrives is in automating repetitive



tasks, acting quickly and efficiently, and freeing up staff or resources to be used in other areas. By taking over routine tasks and enhancing network efficiency, AI-driven automation can optimize network operations and reduce costs.

With decades of experience managing network systems and data, learning from trends or outages, and detecting anomalies, Ericsson has the in-depth knowledge to build and train AI models to analyze network data and traffic patterns. These algorithms can drastically improve the capacity planning and optimization of the full network. In operations, AI can more accurately pinpoint the root cause of issues, reducing the time to resolution, as well as predict and prevent degradation or outages, reducing or avoiding costly downtime. They can even

enable self-healing networks, reducing (and eventually removing) the need for human intervention.

2. Performance boosting
As networks grow increasingly complex, it can be a challenge to maintain the high network performance that customers expect. By leveraging AI, communication service providers (CSPs) can manage increased complexity, improving the customer experience while maintaining high network performance.

By analyzing network traffic patterns and optimizing resource allocation, AI can boost throughput and reliability. Through the allocation of dynamic network and computational resources to areas experiencing high service demand, and by optimizing the routing of data to reduce congest-

ion, they can improve bandwidth and latency.

3. Energy and sustainability

With energy costs rising, the implementation of net-zero targets, plus the capacity demands on networks increasing, energy usage has become of crucial importance when it comes to sustainable operations. While we may look forward to a 6G future with zero-energy devices, AI can help combat this issue today, maximizing network utilization without impacting the performance of energy-saving features. AI can also act autonomously on real-time – or even predicted – traffic, helping CSPs reduce their energy consumption and lower their carbon footprint, contributing to sustainability goals and lowering operating costs.

4. Trustworthiness and security

We always approach intelligent technology with the awareness that trust and ethics in AI are central to its success. Therefore, explainability and transparency must be built into the systems, ensuring sufficient information is always on hand to explain, improve or fix issues, as well as assurances to check that the data coming into the system is safe, not skewed towards a particular outcome that will cause AI bias, and to protect against any attacks.

Security and compliance can often be areas of concern when it comes to AI. But trustworthy AI algorithms can actually reduce security and compliance issues. By detecting and preventing security threats, such as cyberattacks and fraud, AI can help CSPs to protect their networks and their customers' data, as well as demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices. AI algorithms can also be used for fraud detection and prevention in areas like billing and subscriber management, helping CSPs reduce losses and improve their financial performance.

5. New business opportunities

By using AI in their networks to gain insights from the data and behavioral patterns at play, CSPs have a unique opportunity

to gain a deeper understanding of their customers and their needs. It enables them to identify new business opportunities and offer targeted, personalized services to their customers, as well as to act proactively to meet their consumers' demand based on their intent. When employed effectively, these services can increase revenue and provide a competitive edge in the market.

Value that grows over time

AI can bring impressive benefits and outcomes, but it can also introduce other complexities into how you manage, maintain, and extract that value. MLOps environments will be key to scale AI from innovation to industrialized operation, increasing productivity, and reducing time to value. It's important to remember that AI is not a 'one-and-done' project – as the saying goes, you'll only get out as much as you put in.

But the value AI brings is not just immediate. If you maintain it properly, you'll see value growing with the system. The model will continue to learn and gain more data as it goes. With proper feedback, systems that are built to self-train and continuously improve will continue to deliver better results, and greater business value, over time

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,301.29	41,369.16
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,612.67	41,280.16
Index Value	Change
2,809,512,966	-67.87
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	16 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,642.72	+14.46
Percentage	Time
+0.19%	16 Jun, 4:45 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,458.44	+50.38
Percentage	Time
+0.15%	16 Jun, 1:15 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,706.08	+220.59
Percentage	Time
+0.66%	16 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	763.18	771.81
Canadian Dollar	226	228
China Yuan	40.27	40.67
Danish Krone	42.13	42.53
Euro	316	319
Hong Kong Dollar	36.72	37.07
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2	2.08
Kuwaiti Dinar	935.86	944.86
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	178.97	180.97
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	745.89	753.89
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	77.7	78.5
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	321.66	324.16
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	81.3	82
UK Pound Sterling	371	375
US Dollar	294	297

Governor lauds launching of cash awards for major crops breeders

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman Sunday hailed the launching of the first-ever Rs30 million cash awards for breeders evolving the best quality high-yield seeds of rice, cotton and wheat. Congratulating Shahzad Ali Malik Chairman Rice Research and Development Board, the Government of Punjab, he said it first time in the history of the private sector that encouraging bold initiative has been taken to fully recognise the contribution of ignored plant breeders in Pakistan.

He said the announcement of huge cash awards will definitely boost the morale of plant breeders across the country and help conduct results-oriented research leading to evolving the best quality seeds. Governor stressed the need for immediate



steps to increase yield per acre of field crops through the best varieties which is possible by rewarding breeders through a lucrative incentive package/scheme. He highlighted that out of five major field

crops rice, maize, cotton, wheat and sugar cane, only two crops, rice and maize performed well due to high-yield varieties with the main contribution of the private sector. He said rice and Maize helped Pakistan

achieve local demand, export earnings and import substitution.

Governor Baligh Ur Rehman said Pakistan is currently importing cotton, wheat, edible oil, pulses and other agro-commodities to the tune of approximately 14-15b\$ annually.

The introduction of higher-yielding varieties in these crops through incentivizing breeders will result in import substitution and help in substantially reducing trade.

Shahzad Ali Malik thanked Governor for his appreciation and assured him of full support to the government for attaining food autarky.

He informed the Governor that on his special direction, Guard Agricultural Research and Services will also further extend the scope of research with the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics Punjab University headed by leading scientist Prof Dr Muhammad Arshad Javed in collaboration with the Chinese company.

Beverages for summer

KARACHI: A vendor is selling beverages along the road side in Liaqatabad area as people like such drinks during summers in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

2nd Quetta Int'l Property Expo and Convention concluded



A large number of different business community participated

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of the 2nd Quetta International Property Expo and Convention organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was held yesterday in Islamabad Serena Hotel, in which members related to housing and construction sector, government officials and tourism. A large number of different business community associated with the industry participated. Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi participated as a special guest. In his special address, he said that the government is focusing on the development of construction and housing sector. Because it has played an important role in creat-

ing employment opportunities in the country, promoting growth and economic development and meeting the housing needs of the growing population.

Mirza Muhammad Afridi said that Chairman Khurshid Barlas praised Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and management for organizing exhibitions, seminars and conferences in all parts of Pakistan and around the world. Addressing the event, Pakistan International Property Expo and Convention.

Founder Chairman Khurshid Barlas said that Pakistan International Property Expo and Convention is making efforts to promote Pakistan, improve the reputation of Pakistan and increase trade and investment in the country.

PIAF holds reception to honour volunteers to build 500 homes for flood victims



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman PIAF Fahimur Rehman Saigol has arranged a reception in honor of its team which made special efforts to help the flood victims. A special function was organized in which Patron Chief PIAF Mian Anjum Nisar also took a special part. On this occasion, Fahimur Rahman Sehgal, Mian Anjum Nisar, Muhammad Ali Mian, Mian Abu Zarshad, Nasrullah Mughal, PIAF volunteers including Babar Mehmood, Malik Muhammad Khalid Gujjar, Umar Sarfraz Sheikh, Naem Hanif, Mudassar Masood Chaudhary, Malik Mohammad Nadeem, Salim Asghar Bhatti, Zeeshan Sohail Malik, Ali Afzal, Tayyab Sajid, Shaaban Akhtar were

awarded with shields for helping the flood victims.

On this occasion, Fahimur Rahman Sehgal, chairman of PIAF, was also presented with special shields for his services. Fahimur Rahman Sehgal paid tribute to PIAF's volunteer team for distributing houses for the flood victims and ensuring all possible assistance.

In relation to providing roofs to the flood victims on behalf of PIAF, under the leadership of Mian Anjum Nisar, Chairman PIAF Fahimur Rehman Sehgal and Babar Mehmood along with the dedicated members of the service around 500 houses were constructed in Rajanpur, Taunsa and other adjacent areas, necessities of life, ration, cash and other basic items were distributed among the victims and cash was collected for the construction of another 200 houses.

On this occasion, PIAF leaders paid tribute to the President Hall Road Babar Mahmood for his service to the suffering humanity and especially the hard work for the flood victims and declared him the Edlhi of Lahore.

Other participants of the event include Senior Vice Chairman PIAF Nasrullah Mughal, Former Chairman PIAF FPCCI Muhammad Ali Mian, Vice President Lahore Chamber Adnan Khalid Butt, President Hall Road Babar Mehmood, Chairman Faraya Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, Mudassar Masood, Shaaban Akhtar, Naem Hanif, Malik Muhammad Khalid, Zeeshan Sohail Malik, Tayyab Sajid, Malik Nadeem, Muhammad Azam, Mozam Ali Khan, Abu Bakr, Aamir Bhandar, Ali Afzal, Arshad Baig, Zahid Baig, Rana Nadeem Abbas, Secretary PIAF Abd al-Saboer Sheikh.

Automakers are responsible for their heavy losses

Tariq Khattak



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hanif Mughal, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Sunday that automakers are themselves responsible for their business losses

to the tune of billions of rupees.

Greed, incompetence, dishonesty, and ignoring competition brought these companies to the brink of collapse, he added.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said that import restrictions have damaged this sector because these companies continued to rely on imports and ignored local manufacturing for decades.

These companies don't deserve to be called automakers, as they are merely auto assemblers that import parts worth billions of dollars from different countries to assemble cars locally that are substandard in quality.

Hanif Mughal said that these irresponsible companies have continuously violated the principles of honesty and competition, forcing people to buy substandard and unsafe vehicles at high prices and not allowing other popular brands to survive in Pakistan.

The quality of their products is such that the Japan-assembled old models cost more in Pakistan than their newer models, and they are more popular among the public because they are more comfortable, safer, reliable, and better in every way.

He said that according to a company that has been assembling vehicles in Pakistan since the eighties, due to import restrictions, it has lost nineteen billion rupees in the first quarter of the last financial year, while according to another company, its net profit has decreased by 89%.

He said that at present all the big companies have to stop the production process again and again, due to which they incur huge losses, but they still want to import parts instead of importing technology to start local manufacturing.

In this situation, even the bank employees have found it difficult to meet the auto financing targets as the purchasing power of the public has been depleted.

Pakistan has become a hunting ground for elites

Commerce desk



ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Sunday Pakistan has been made a hunting ground for the elites.

Influential people consider Pakistan a gold mine that is being robbed mercilessly to fill their coffers, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that no serious attempt has ever been made to expand the scope of taxes in any budget.

Tax evaders have always enjoyed a free ride while taxpayers have been broken by continuously increasing the burden on them, and this process is still going on with full force, he added.

The business leader said that the elite have been devouring the country's resources for decades, but

there is no end to their rent seeking and greed.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that we have been made into a nation where basic needs are impossible to meet, justice, equality, and prosperity are nowhere to be found, and the country's survival is linked to begging.

The policymakers have only one goal in mind, to serve the elite; therefore, they don't correct the direction of the economy.

Taxes are always imposed on those who are already taxed, which increases the burden on the document economy, while no effort is made to tax those who do not pay taxes, he observed.

Hydropower project of CPEC to generate clean-green energy

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: Ali Adnan, a 36-year-old engineer, inspects Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Project located in Western Himalayas in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province almost every day to ensure that health, safety, and environment protection protocols are followed properly.

Adnan, a health, safety, and environmental engineer at SK, who has been part of this biggest hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework since the beginning of the construction in 2017, said the work has been completed at a faster pace than standard time despite uncountable odds.

SK is a diversion-type hydropower project featuring a high head and long tunnel. The main structures of the project include a dam, spillway, power

intake, headrace tunnel, surge shaft, penstock, underground powerhouse, tailrace tunnel, and access tunnel.

The project is equipped with four pelton turbine generator units with a capacity of 221 megawatts each, together with a total installed capacity of 873.5 megawatts.

The state-of-the-art infrastructure has been designed to ensure maximum safety, cost-effectiveness and generation of clean-green energy.

For the first time in Pakistan, a rock-fill dam has been built using local boulders and mud, said Jafar Kazmi, a site engineer at the dam. This technology has significantly helped in reducing the overall cost while enhancing safety, he added.

In a concrete dam, the water stoppers have to be put which generally creates seepage. However, he said a drainage body in a rockfill dam in

the downstream area serves as a safety wall.

"If any seepage or a crack appears, that may enter the control section and asphalt. It's not going to affect the dam because if any water flows from them, it would go into the drainage body area," according to Kazmi.

The project is expected to generate 3.212 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. Once put into operation, it would help save 1.28 million tons of standard coal and 3.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Apart from building a hydropower plant for clean-green energy, the Chinese company has been planting a lot of trees in the surrounding area and taking special measures to ensure that the project remains environment-friendly, which is a core component of the Green CPEC.

To prevent the contamination of

river water, sedimentation tanks were installed at the batching plants, and filtration plants on the crush plants, Adnan said, adding that "the filtration plant is of the latest technology which has never been used in Pakistan before."

He said the Chinese company is collaborating with the local authorities in tree plantation, especially for preserving wildlife and species. They have also been developing fish ponds for marine life.

The Chinese company aims to plant 100,000 trees by the end of the project's construction.

On top of everything, SK has made an important contribution to the socio-economic development of the local area and the entire country. It will provide affordable and clean-green energy to over 1 million Pakistani families.

At the peak of its construction, it had provided employment to more than 6,000 locals.

Tauqueer, a 24-year-old local who works as a laborer at the dam site, said that the project benefited the local people a lot. He said those who were unemployed earlier in this area got jobs from it.

"Chinese are good teachers, and they have taught us the technical skills required for work," he added.

The SK has also substantially contributed to the development of small and medium-sized businesses, particularly in the area's tourism industry.

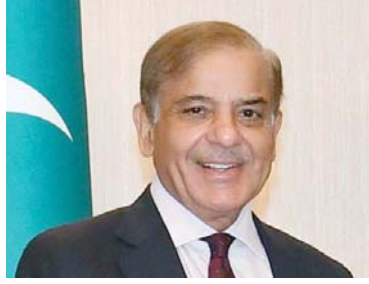
The dam's construction boosted the tourism industry here by providing accessibility through roads and other infrastructure, Kashan Ali, who works in the administration department of SK, told Xinhua.

PM thumbs up national athletes competing in Special Olympics World Games

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his best wishes to the 87-member delegation of country's differently-abled athletes who are taking part in Special Olympics World Games 2023 being held in Germany from June 17 to June 25.

"I am confident that our special and



privileged athletes will use the mega opportunity to bring laurels to the motherland through their talent and determination," the prime minister posted on his Twitter handle.

He further said that in 87-member delegation consisting of both male and female sportspeople, Pakistan has a strong representation in the global event. "Now is the time to reap the fruit of hard work they put in while preparing

for 11 games," he added.

The prime minister said that the delegation have the prayers of the whole nation with them.

From 17 - 25 June 2023, Berlin, Germany will host 7,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners from approximately 190 countries to compete in 26 sports. The athletes will be supported by more than 3,000 coaches and 20,000 volunteers.

Zenab Mansoor determined to complete Seven Summits mission to inspire Pak women

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's US-based woman climber Zenab Mansoor, who successfully attempted Mount Everest last month, said on Sunday that she was committed to ascending Seven Summits, the seven highest peaks in seven continents.

"I've the incredible fortune to climb the highest peaks in five continents. These include Kilimanjaro in Africa, Elbrus in Europe, Denali in North America, Vinson in Antarctica and Everest in Asia. I am hoping to complete the list with Aconcagua in South America and Carstenz Pyramid in Oceania/Australia by the end of this year or early 2024," Zenab told APP on phone.

A pediatric ICU physician, Zenab moved to USA in 2008 to pursue her career in medicine. Currently, she resides in Seattle, Washing-



ton.

On May 17, she reached atop Everest (8,849-metre), the world's highest peak, located in Nepal.

"That was an incredible moment for me as I got to raise my country's flag on the highest point on the planet.

"My journey to the top of the world was achieved that day but my love for climbing began in my childhood, as I had always felt a sense of awe and wonder when visiting the northern areas

of Pakistan and dreamt of scaling high peaks of the world.

"That childhood dream was shelved for many years as I pursued a very demanding career in medicine.

"Then in 2013, I heard about Pakistani mountaineer, Samina Baig, who had summited Everest and thus, become the first ever Pakistani female to do so. Her trailblazing achievement reignited the fire in me and she has been a source of inspiration ever since," she

added.

However, it took several more years to Zenab to start realizing her dream. "In December 2016, a devastating family tragedy left me feeling heartbroken and despondent," Zenab said while referring to a PIA plane crash, near Havelian area of Abbottabad wherein she lost her younger brother, the 26-year-old co-pilot Ahmed Mansoor Janjua. All 47 people on board had died in the incident.

"To help me cope with the grief, I decided to take a trip to Tanzania and Mount Kilimanjaro became my first climb. At 5,895 meters, it is the highest point in Africa.

It was a gruelling climb, but watching the sunrise over the clouds from the top of the mountain was a site I will not forget. The feeling of reaching the summit was indescribable, and it fueled my desire to climb higher and more challenging peaks," she said.

Brazilian national team wears all-black kit in anti-racism campaign



In a historic move, the Brazilian men's national team sported an all-black kit for the first time in its 109-year history during a friendly match against Guinea in Spain on Saturday as part of their anti-racism campaign.

Before the match in Barcelona's Espanyol stadium, players from both teams demonstrated their solidarity by either taking a knee or sitting down on the pitch, observing a minute's silence.

For the first 45 minutes of the game, Brazil played wearing black shirts, shorts, and socks, before switching back to their traditional yellow jersey after halftime. The front of the shirts featured the campaign's slogan, "Com Racismo nao tem jogo," which translates to "With racism, there is no game."

The campaign, endorsed by FIFA, the sport's world governing body, is an initiative by the Brazilian Federation to combat racism in soccer and society. The Federation issued a statement on Saturday, emphasizing their commitment to ending racism.

One of Brazil's star players, Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr., has been a victim of persistent racist abuse, with Spain's La Liga reporting ten incidents involving the Brazilian forward to prosecutors during the 2022-2023 season. FIFA President Gianni Infantino recently visited the Brazilian delegation and expressed his full support for the anti-racism campaign.

In the match against Guinea, Brazil emerged victorious with a 4-1 win, with goals scored by Joellinton, Rodrygo, Eder Militao, and Vinicius. Guinea's sole goal was netted by Guirassy.

Vinicius had the honour of wearing the iconic No. 10 jersey, historically associated with the legendary Pele, marking the first time he had donned the number, as confirmed by the Brazilian Federation. Infantino invited Vinicius to join a FIFA anti-racism committee comprising players who will contribute to developing strategies to address discriminatory behaviour in football. Brazil's next friendly match is scheduled for Tuesday against Senegal in Lisbon, Portugal, where the team will continue to champion their anti-racism campaign. This significant moment in Brazilian football history underscores their determination to combat racism and promote inclusivity within the sport.

Zimbabwe, West Indies off to winning start in CWC Qualifier

A Sports

Home side Zimbabwe outlasted inspired Nepal before West Indies edged USA in the opening day of the Cricket World Cup (CWC) Qualifier.

In the first match of the CWC Qualifier, hosts Zimbabwe handed a thrashing eight-wicket defeat to Nepal, who raised 290/8 after being put into bat first.

Nepal openers Kushal Bhurtel and Aasif Sheikh scripted a flying start for the Asian side with an opening 171-run partnership.

Aasif Sheikh scored 66 off 100 deliveries before Wellington Masakadza got the much-needed breakthrough for his side in the 32nd over.

In his next over, Masakadza then got the prized wicket of Kushal Bhurtel, who had a heartbreaking end to his brilliant knock as he fell just one short of his century.

Kushal Bhurtel top-scored 99 off just 95 deliveries, laced up with 13 boundaries and two sixes.

Kushal Malla (41) and skipper Rohit Paudel (31) added valuable runs to the

team's total.

Richard Ngarava led the bowling attack for Zimbabwe with 4/43, followed by Masakadza's 2/42.

Set to chase 291, Craig Ervine and Sean Williams scored centuries which paved the way for a comfortable pursuit.

Ervine top-scored with a 128-ball 121 which featured 15 boundaries and a six.

Williams made a brisk 102 from 70 balls with the help of 13 boundaries and a six.

In another CWC Qualifier match, West Indies edged the spirited USA by 39 runs.

Johnson Charles, Shai Hope, Roston Chase and Jason Holder all scored half-centuries and powered West Indies to 297 before bundling out in the final over.

Set to chase 298, USA could only raise 258/7 in the allotted 50 overs despite a fighting century from Gajanan Singh.

Singh smashed eight boundaries and two sixes on his way to a 109-ball 101.

Alzarri Joseph and Kyle Mayers bagged two wickets each while Jason Holder and Roston Chase made one scalp each.

West Indies, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka head into qualifier undefeated

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: West Indies, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka went two from two in their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifier warm-up matches with comfortable victories over UAE, Scotland and USA respectively.

Netherlands and Nepal will also both enter the group stages on the back of victories, with the Netherlands overcoming Ireland while Nepal beat Oman, according to the details shared by ICC on its official website on Friday.

Rovman Powell's rapid century helped the West Indies regain composure after they slipped to 198-7 midway through their innings against UAE.

Nicholas Pooran's 74 had helped the Windies to a commanding position before three wickets in nine balls saw his side stutter.

But Powell combined with Keemo Paul to put on 139 for the eighth wicket, the former eventually dismissed for 105 from just 55 balls as the Windies posted 374 for nine.

The UAE had a century of their own in the form of Basil Hameed, who batted valiantly to reach 122 not out as his side fell 114 runs short.

Yannic Cariah was again the star of the West Indies attack as he took four for 58 to back up his four-wicket haul in the first warm-up game.

Zimbabwe go two from two after dominant Scotland victory Brandon McMullen fell one run short of a half-century as Scotland were bowled out for 163 having been put into bat by hosts Zimbabwe.

The right-hander put on an innings-high partnership of 47 runs with Matthew Cross for the second wicket before the latter was bowled by Brad Evans for 32.

McMullen was unable to build another partnership before he was dismissed by Ryan Burl for 49, with late cameos from Jack Jarvis (26) and Christopher McBride (20) pushing Scotland past 150.

In response, Zimbabwe chased the modest total down inside 25 overs with six wickets to spare.

Sikandar Raza top scored with 44 from 28 balls while Joylord Gumbie and Craig Ervine both made 37, with Micheal Leask's two quick wickets only providing temporary resistance.

Karunaratne century sets up big win for Sri Lanka Dimuth

Karunaratne made a sparkling century as Sri Lanka posted 392 for five from their 50 overs against the USA.

Karunaratne was joined at the crease by Kusal Mendis in the seventh over with Sri Lanka 39 for one, before the pair combined for a 191-run partnership to power the Lions to a huge total.

Mendis departed for 105 from 91 before Karunaratne retired not out on 111 from 100 balls to leave time for strong middle-order striking from Charith Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka, who added 112 for the fifth wicket.

After losing both openers for just 10 runs to begin their response, the USA rebuilt through Monank Patel who scored 68 before becoming one of three wickets in an over for Matheesha Pathirana to leave USA on 106 for seven.

Shayan Jahangir was left stranded on 63 not out as Usman Rafiq was run out with USA falling 198 runs short.

Barresi guides Netherlands to win Ireland were bowled out for 193 in the 40th over with Harry Tector, who made a century against USA earlier in the week, one of seven players



to score single figures against Netherlands as Scott Edward's side shared the wickets around.

Lorcan Tucker rebuilt from 58 for five in the 20th over, helped by a quickfire 46 from 25 balls from Gareth Delany, who became Shariz Ahmad's second wicket.

Tucker was stumped by Edwards for 74 off the bowling of Clayton Floyd before Craig Young fell three balls later to Saqib Zulfiqar to bring Ireland's innings to a premature close.

Wesley Barresi's 90 helped see the Netherlands home, with Barresi and Max O'Dowd putting on 89 for the second

wicket, though Ireland did not go down without a fight.

Three balls after O'Dowd departed, Noah Croes was also dismissed by Ben White, who returned figures of five for 61 as Ireland reduced Netherlands to 114 for six in the 19th over.

Barresi was dismissed 10 runs short of a century but Aryan Dutt and Logan van Beek calmly knocked off the remaining runs to see the Netherlands home by two wickets.

Nepal hold on to defeat Oman Captain Zeeshan Maqsood rescued Oman after they slipped to seven for four, going on to make a run-a-ball century.

Special Olympics kick off with a spectacular opening ceremony; Pak athlete Sana was among the torch-bearer



Sports Desk

BERLIN (GERMANY): The opening of the 16th Special Olympic World Games in Olympia Stadium Berlin was held with a colourful ceremony.

In the opening ceremony, the players of all the countries involved in the games participated in the athlete parade. When the national team arrived at the Olympia Stadium, thousands of fans in the stadium greeted the Pakistani team with warm applause and encouraged the players.

On this occasion, the Olympia Stadium echoed the slogans of Pakistan Zindabad. The male athletes of Pakistan wore cultural clothing, shalwar-kameez and vest, while the female athletes and officials wore different culturally coloured dresses, due to which they were the centre of attention in the ceremony.

The athletes looked very excited about the opening ceremony and took pictures and selfies with each other.

At the World Games, Pakistani athlete Sana was honoured to be among the torchbearers of the opening ceremony.

She walked around the ground with the torch. Sana called it a great honour for Pakistan and herself.

On this occasion, the official opening of the World Games was announced by waiving the flag of the Special Olympics.

The President of Special Olympics, Timothy Shriver, the President of Germany Frank Walters, and the Head of Delegation of the Pakistani contingent, Ronak Lakhani, were present at the ceremony. Special Olympic Pakistan Ambassador Sarwat Gilani and Advisor Yasmin Haider also participated.

On this occasion, the live performance of the artists and the laser light show filled the stadium to the delight of the special children.

The cartoon characters welcomed the children and the fireworks at the end of the ceremony showered the stadium with colour and light.

Five-nation basketball tournament: Pakistan thump Bangladesh to qualify for semis

Pakistan basketball team on Sunday thrashed the Bangladesh side 84-66 in their last group match during the ongoing five-nation tournament in Maldives.

With the victory, Pakistan have also secured their place in the semi-finals.

Pakistan dominated Bangladesh from the very first moment of the game scoring 20 points against 15 in the first quarter. However, Bangladesh showed resistance in the second quarter as they finished by a score of 37-34 in their favour.

In the third quarter, Pakistan pushed Bangladesh against the wall as they only managed to score seven points while Pakistan scored 22 points to extend their lead to 56-44.

Pakistan continued their dominance in the last quarter as well and won the match by 84-66 and secured a place in the semi-finals.

Pakistan's Zain ul Hasan Khan and Muhammad Umair Jan scored 19 and 19 points respectively. Abdul Wahab scored 16 points and Ziaur Rahman scored 11 points. Pakistan's Shehbaz Ali, Umeer and Zia scored three 3-points each.

The win against Bangladesh was the men in green's third successive victory as they had earlier defeated the teams of Bhutan and Maldives.

Maqsood combined with Shoaib Khan to steady Oman, putting on 84 runs for the fifth wicket before compiling an 115-run partnership with Ayaan Khan.

The left-hander was dismissed for 109 as Sompal Kami struck twice in the penultimate over before Khan departed in the final over for 56, Kami claiming figures of five for 57 to leave Oman 267 all out.

In reply, Nepal made a strong start as opener Kushal Bhurtel scored 101 before retiring as he and Bhim Sharki added 115 runs for the second wicket.

With Nepal needing just one run to win, Oman hit back with three quick wickets as Aqib Ilyas took four for 42 before Sandeep Lamichhane hit a six from his first ball to secure the win.

Scores in brief West Indies beat UAE at Takashinga, Harare by 114 runs West Indies 374/9 in 50 overs (Rovman Powell 105, Nicholas Pooran 74; Muhammad Jawadullah 3/50, Karthik Meiyappan 2/51) UAE 260/9 in 50 overs (Basil Hameed 122 not out, Vriitya Aravind 54; Yannic Cariah 4/58, Jason Holder 2/26)

Zimbabwe beat Scotland at Old Hararians, Harare by six wickets Scotland 163 all out in

38.2 overs (Brandon McMullen 49, Matt Cross 32; Sean Williams 2/14, Luke Jongwe 2/17) Zimbabwe 166/4 in 24.5 overs (Sikandar Raza 44, Joylord Gumbie 37; Michael Leask 2/30, Chris Greaves 1/24) Sri Lanka beat USA at Bulawayo Athletics Club, Bulawayo by 198 runs Sri Lanka 392/5 in 50 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 111 not out, Kusal Mendis 105; Saurabh Netravalkar 2/60, Usman Rafiq 1/57) USA 194 all out in 33.2 overs (Monank Patel 68, Shayan Jahangir 63 not out; Matheesha Pathirana 4/23, Kasun Rajitha 2/28) Netherlands beat Ireland at Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo by two wickets Ireland 193 all out in 39.2 overs (Lorcan Tucker 74, Gareth Delany 46; Logan van Beek 2/23, Aryan Dutt 2/27) Netherlands 196/8 in 37.3 overs (Wesley Barresi 90, Max O'Dowd 35; Ben White 5/61, Harry Tector 1/6) Nepal beat Oman at Harare Sports Club, Harare by three wickets Oman 267 all out in 49.2 overs (Zeeshan Maqsood 109, Ayaan Khan 56; Sompal Kami 5/57, Sandeep Lamichhane 3/66) Nepal 274/7 in 44.5 overs (Kushal Bhurtel 101 not out, Bhim Sharki 56; Aqib Ilyas 4/42, Fayyaz Butt 2/66).