



Turkish celebrity Engin Altan features in latest 'Dubai Presents' campaign

Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism welcomed to the city one of Turkiye's most beloved stars, Engin Altan Duzyatan, as part of the ongoing campaign 'Dubai Presents', which aims to increase visits by travellers from Dubai's international source markets, including Turkiye. (Details on Page 3)



Zil Hajj moon sighted; Eidul Azha to be celebrated on June 29

The Zil Hajj moon has been sighted in Pakistan and Eidul Azha will fall on June 29 (Thursday), Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad announced on Monday evening. A day earlier, the crescent moon for Zil Hajj was sighted in Saudi Arabia and the first day of the month is being observed today (June 19). The day of Arafah will be on Tuesday (June 27) while the first day of Eid will be celebrated on Wednesday (June 28).

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Flag tunnels

ISLAMABAD: A view of the Pakistan Flag flying half mast on the Prime Minister Secretariat, as Federal Government announces bereaved for today on the sad incident of the drown refugee boat from Libya to Italy, in which hundreds of Pakistanis are dead.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Greece ship tragedy: Pakistan observes day of mourning

Naveed Ahmad Khan
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is observing a day of mourning over the tragic deaths of its national in the ship sinking incident near the coast of Greece on Wednesday. The national flag is flying at half-mast and special prayers are being offered for the deceased of the Greece ship tragedy. At least 78 people were drowned when the ill-fated boat with reportedly 400 to 750 people onboard sank in the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek coast. Meanwhile, some 104 people were rescued and sent to Kalamata, Greece, as per to the latest media reports. On Sunday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif 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. 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. 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 underlines need to invest in young talent

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed that they had to make huge investments on the country's youth because those nations had always excelled whose youth got skills and requisite degrees in different fields. Addressing a ceremony of the Prime Minister's National Innovation Awards, the prime minister expressed his pleasure over the strides made by the country's youth in different fields by utilizing their talents and skills. The country's future was in safe hands and they had to make investments on the youth's talent as they direly deserved it, he added. The prime minister said it was a matter of satisfaction as the young people strived during their educational careers and showed their innovative skills in the information technology (IT) sector, biodiesel, traffic lights, motor-bikes etc. Under the Prime Minister's National Youth Award Programme, a total of Rs 160 million was distributed among

the 100 talented youths who had achieved innovative business projects. The ceremony was also attended by ministers, parliamentarians and foreign ambassadors. The prime minister said Pakistan was facing financial challenges, but he was confident that they would steer the country out of the issues. Such situations arose in the lives of nations, he said, stressing that the Pakistani nation had to make the determination and chart its way forward and once they had decided, then nothing could hamper it. The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to China for supporting Pakistan during the economic constraints by extending \$1 billion loan facility. During the last 75 years, he opined that foreign debts proved a hefty burden upon Pakistan whereas those nations had progressed that utilized the foreign loans and returned it on the basis of their talent, honesty and skills. Terming the achievements of young innovators as 'outstanding', the prime minister lauded the contributions of their teach-



ers and parents, saying the entire nation felt pride over them. Referring to awarding amount, the prime minister said Rs one million to each winner was not sufficient considering the current inflation, as it was less when compared with the past. In the past, he said as Khadim-e-Punjab, he introduced the Punjab Skills Development Company initiative which was first launched in the southern Punjab. He said that millions of rupees were spent not on brick and mortar type of structures, but

training was imparted to the talented youth. They gave away Rs10,000 per student and companies trained them, he added. Further elaborating his point of view, the prime minister said governments always played a catalyst role to spur activities for industries and agriculture. Whereas thousands of laptops were given to the high achievers in the Punjab province on pure merit, the same were also distributed in Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir, he added. The prime minister said during the Covid pandemic, those laptops helped the students to continue their educational activities, besides providing them with self-employment opportunities. She said Rs 100 billion business loans were dispersed in the last decade while over one million free laptops had been distributed among talented students that proved life-changing for them. On average, she said, Rs 7 billion per year business loans was distributed in last 10 years while Rs 30 billion in business loans were distributed among the youth in last one year.

IMF Board meetings schedule set without Pakistan

Commerce Desk
ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board has issued meetings scheduled till June 29 without Pakistan as the ninth review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme still remains pending. Pakistan has barely enough currency reserves to cover one month's imports. It had hoped to have \$1.1 billion of the funds released in November - but the IMF has insisted on a number of conditions before it makes any more disbursements. Sources privy to the development said the IMF had to meet for the release of \$1.1 billion tranche under the 9th review of the EFF programme which is expiring on June 30. Pakistani authorities are optimistic that the fund will complete the ninth review before the deadline and the meeting for the release of the tranche to Pakistan can be summoned at any time. It may be noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in



his telephonic conversation with the IMF chief requested for the early completion of the 9th review for the release of the loan. Last week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expressed dissatisfaction with Pakistan's recently presented budget. Policy talks are underway with Pakistan. However, the draft FY24 Budget 'misses' an opportunity to broaden the tax base in a more progressive way, Esther Perez Ruiz, the International Monetary Fund's resident representative for Pakistan said. Esther Perez Ruiz further added that the long list of new tax expenditures further reduces the fairness of the tax system and undercuts the resources needed for vulnerable recipients in the Benazir Income Support Programme.

Bilawal pledges to fulfill expectations of Karachiites

Bureau RFeport
KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Monday vowed to live up to the expectations of Karachiites. He said that Karachi was the biggest city in the country and it could take the country out of all problems. 'I will take a personal interest in the development of the city.' He stated this while talking to media persons after attending the oath-taking ceremony of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi, here at Gulshan-e-Jinnah (Polo Ground).

Sherry Rehman condoles demise of Pakistanis in Greece

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday expressed her heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Pakistanis in Greece and called for a thorough probe to investigate of the matter. The federal minister took to Twitter to share her sentiments on the tragic incident. Senator Rehman wrote, "Devastated to hear of the terrible boat tragedy. This loss of lives of men, women and children is a moment of bereavement for all of us. Prayers for all the families who lost their loved ones." She added that there was also need to investigate how this happened as well as introspect on why it happened.

IHC seeks answers in Najam Saqib audio leak case

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday asked Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Anwar to submit answers to the five questions of the court about audio leaks. Justice Babar Sattar sought answers while hearing a case of Najam Saqib, son of a former chief justice of Pakistan, about a committee formed by the National Assembly (NA) speaker for looking into the audio clips. Amicus curiae Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan was also present in court. During the hearing, the AGP said the matter was under the Supreme Court. He told the bench to wait for the answers to the questions being debated in the apex court.

Shehryar Afridi sent to Adiala jail

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehryar Afridi on Monday was sent to Rawalpindi's Adiala jail by a district and sessions court in a case related to May9 riots. Afridi was taken into custody on May16 from his residence in Islamabad under Section 3 of MPO Ordinance 1960. On May30, police arrested Mr Afridi shortly after his release from Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. He was released on completion of his "house arrest" period under the MPO, the jail administration said. On June17, police produced the jailed PTI leader in the local court in Islamabad in a case regarding to May9 vandalism. The authorities sought his five-day physical remand in the case for the PTI leader's photogrammetric and voice-matching tests.

Khawaja Asif calls strong action against illegal human trafficking

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday emphasized the need for firm action against individuals involved in the illegal transportation of people abroad. Speaking on floor of the National Assembly, the minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic deaths of Pakistani migrants in a recent boat incident near the coast of Greece. Minister Asif highlighted that numerous families in Azad Jammu Kashmir, Sialkot, Gujranwala, and Gujrat were currently enduring immense grief as a result of the incident.

Jl's Hafiz Naeem announces protest outside ECP in Islamabad

Bureau Report
KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, who was a candidate for Karachi Mayor slot, has announced protest outside the office of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in Islamabad. Addressing a press conference, the JI Karachi chief said that his party would stage a protest outside the ECP office in Islamabad on Friday (June 23) against the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) alleged use of force to win the Karachi Mayor election. "We can't accept these fake and rigged elections," Hafiz Naeem said, alleging that the PPP had "unlawfully held Karachi's mandate".

SC reserves verdict on pleas against judgements review law

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) reserved the verdict on pleas challenging the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023 after arguments were completed from both sides. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the petitions challenging the vices of the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023. Continuing his arguments, Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan said the scope of review has expanded after the scope of Article 184(3) has widened. Judges who gave decision earlier can be part of the larger bench to hear review pleas, Awan added.

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the winners of PM's National Innovation Award on Monday.



Photo: PID

Greece boat disaster: 'Pakistanis were forced below deck in refugee vessel'

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Pakistanis on board the fishing boat that capsized and sank off Peloponnese in southern Greece may have been singled out and forced below deck, with hundreds of passengers feared dead, international media reported.

According to a report published by Guardian, survivor accounts told to Greek coastguards suggest that passengers on the vessel were divided by nationality, with Pakistanis as well as women and children forced below deck into the hold.

The report, quoting leaked testimonies of survivors, stated that Pakistanis were forced below deck, with other nationalities allowed on the top deck, where they had a far greater chance of surviving a capsizing.

"The testimonies suggest women and children were effectively locked up in the hold, ostensibly to be protected by men on the overcrowded vessel," it stated.



Survivors said Pakistani nationals were mistreated by crew members when they appeared from below deck "in search of fresh water or tried to escape".

As a result of the decision to keep women and children below deck, the report stated none are believed to have survived the sinking. The report further stated that at least 298 Pakistanis died, 135 from the Pakistani side of Kashmir. "One estimate indicated about 400 Pakistanis were on board", it added. The country's ministry of foreign affairs has so far confirmed that only 12 of the 78 survivors were from Pakistan.

"Conditions on the boat were so bleak that even before it sank there had already been six deaths after it ran out

of fresh water," the report further stated.

Questions also mounted over whether the Greek coastguard "covered up" its role in the tragedy. The Greek government said no request for help was sent from the vessel because passengers had set Italy as their ideal destination, citing survivor testimony.

However, Nawal Soufi – a Moroccan-Italian activist – said some on board the boat had begged to be rescued, though it is unclear whether their requests were forwarded by the crew to the Greek coastguard.

Another controversy centers around the use of a rope to stabilise the vessel by the Greek coastguard, with allegations that it had led to the capsizing by shifting weight.

The coastguard initially denied that it had used the rope, saying it kept a "discreet distance" from the boat, but a government spokesman later retracted the claim.

Maurice Stierl of the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies said: "The Hellenic coastguard

speaks of a sudden shift in weight. So, what caused the sudden shift in weight? Was there a panic on board?"

"Did something happen during the attempt to provide them with something? Or was it towed? And due to this towing, did the boat go down?" 500 still missing, says UN

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 total of 104 passengers were rescued and sent to Kalamata, Greece.

The people rescued so far included 43 Egyptian nationals, 47 Syrian nationals, 12 Pakistani nationals, and two Palestinians, the Hellenic Coast Guard were quoted by international media outlets. Eight of those rescued were minors.

Dar chairs CCoIGCT meeting

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT) here on Monday.

According to a press statement issued by the finance ministry, the cabinet committee considered a summary of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs about the management of operations of Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT).

The committee was



informed that Abu Dhabi Arab Emirates (UAE) has shown interest in operating the Container Terminal. The CCoIGT after deliberation decided to constitute a committee to negotiate the

draft Framework Agreement between the governments of UAE and Pakistan under Inter-Governmental Commercial Transaction Act 2022, to further strengthen the relations between the two countries in the Maritime sector.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Power, Khuram Dastagir Khan; Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar; SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Pasha; Attorney General for Pakistan, Secretaries of Finance, Maritime Affairs and Law & Justice.

MQM wants ECP to withdraw decision of freezing electoral rolls

Bureau Report

KARACHI: (Dunya News) MQM on Monday wrote to the ECP to withdraw its decision of freezing voters' lists ahead of general elections.

MQM convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui wrote a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja wherein he requested the election chief to continue the process of updating electoral rolls. "We have to ensure the addition of people over 18 years of age to the rolls," he wrote.

The freezing of the rolls would be akin to depriving people of the right to vote, he wrote. "It is a question mark on the fairness of elections," he added.

North Korea says botched satellite launch was 'gravest failure'

Spokesman Report

SEOUL: North Korea has said its botched military satellite launch last month was the "gravest failure" at the ruling party's latest key meeting, state media KCNA reported on Monday.

The enlarged plenary meeting was held between Friday and Sunday, ordering workers and researchers to analyze the failed military satellite launch and prepare for another in the near future.

Those in charge of the satellite launch were "heavily criticized," the report said.

It marked the eight enlarged plenary meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the country's ruling party.

The North Korean rock-



et plunged into the sea "after losing thrust due to the abnormal starting of the second-stage engine," Pyongyang said after the launch failure in an unusually candid admission of a technical problem.

North Korea also vowed it will continue to develop its nuclear capability and strengthen solidarity with other countries that oppose what it called the "U. S. strategy for world supremacy."

The isolated country is under

President directs Information Ministry to pay retirement benefits to Radio Pakistan employees



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) to pay pensionary benefits to 38 employees of Radio Pakistan within three months as their families were facing hardships due to delayed payments.

The president noted with grave concern that a revenue-generating institution, such as Pakistan Broad-

casting Corporation (PBC), was facing an acute shortage of financial resources.

He emphasized taking up the matter of providing funds to PBC at the highest level and directed the Secretary MoIB to seek approval of the competent authority to obtain funds for payment in lieu of pension, gratuity, and commutation within three months and report compliance to Wafaqi Mohtasib.

The president gave these remarks while disposing of a representation filed by PBC against a decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing it to make the payment to the aggrieved employees.

The act of non-payment of benefits to employees under the garb of financial constraints amounted to maladministration, he added.

Khadijah Shah sent to jail on judicial remand



Bureau Report

LAHORE: In connection with the Gulberg plaza arson case, Fashion designer Khadijah Shah on Monday was sent to jail on judicial remand by the Anti-Terrorism Court of Lahore.

Gulberg police station had registered a case in arson and vandalism on a plaza in Gulberg, Lahore.

The PTI's incarcerated women activists, including Shah, Sanam Javed, and Aliya Hamza, had filed

bail pleas in the court in the Jinnah House attack case on June 10.

The court had issued notices to the prosecution, rescheduling the hearing for June 12.

The court also ordered the police to bring the record of the case on the upcoming hearing.

As against the claim of the prosecution, the suspects held that they were wrongly implicated in the case and that they may be released on bail.

People's service hallmark of PML-N: Rana Tanvir

Bureau Report

SHEIKHUPURA: Federal Minister for Education & Professional Training Rana Tanvir Hussain said on Monday that people's welfare and their service was the hallmark of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of passport office at Sharqpur near here, he said that it was need of the hours to provide all basic ameni-

ties of life to the masses at their doorsteps. He said that construction and up-gradation of schools together with setting up universities and colleges for students was going on.

He said that literacy rate in the country had improved to a great extent. Owing to hardworking of the incumbent government and teachers, the education standard was improving in Pakistan on daily basis, he added.

Pakistan, Russia to hold 5th round of Bilateral Political Consultations on Tuesday

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Russian Federation will hold the 5th round of Bilateral Political Consultations on Tuesday in Islamabad.

The Russian delegation will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko who will visit Islamabad on 20-21 June 2023. Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation.

The two sides will review the state of bilateral relations, identify areas of mutual interest for further cooperation, and exchange views on important regional and global developments.

Pakistan and Russia enjoy friendly relations marked by mutual respect, trust and understanding. The two countries are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

Pakistan, Iran agree to further enhance collaboration in security, counter terrorism measures



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have agreed to further enhance collaboration in various areas of common interest, including security, joint counter terrorism measures and ensuring regional economic connectivity. The agreement to this effect was reached during the visit of Secretary Defence Lieutenant General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan along with a delegation to Islamic Republic of Iran, a news release said.

The Iranian Deputy Defence Minister welcomed the delegation and expressed best wishes for Pakistan's political and military leadership. The Secretary Defence emphasized the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran. He expressed the hope that bilateral relations would continue to evolve on principles of mutual respect and shared common interests.

Former Azad Kashmir PM Majeed expresses deep grief over Yunan boats tragedy

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Abdul Majeed has said that the entire nation is saddened by the loss of the loved ones of the Yunan boat sinking tragedy and especially the parents belonging to Wadi Bana Bundli Khoirta who died and went missing in this tragic tragedy. The families of the people are equally involved in the grief. The leadership of the People's Party has announced a three-day mourning



period for this tragedy.

The government of Pakistan should crack down on the enemies of humanity involved in human trafficking on a war footing and make a lesson to all the involved characters so that no such heart-wrenching incident happens in the future.

He expressed satisfaction over the inclusion of the top police officer of Azad Kashmir in the members of the committee set up to investigate the tragedy, saying that the traffickers who play with human lives do not deserve

any concessions by making them into criminals.

The incident should be punished. Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Abdul Majeed expressed his heartfelt sorrow and grief to the families of the martyrs and the missing persons and said that the entire nation is saddened by this tragedy.

I am an equal participant. I pray to Allah Almighty to give patience to the parents whose beloved children separated from them.

Six Cattle markets established in Multan District for Eid ul Azha: Umar Jahangir

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, 6 cattle markets have been established in the Multan district by the district administration in connection with Eid-ul-Adha, where exemplary arrangements have been made for the citizens in the cattle markets on the instructions of the Punjab government.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir. He said that markets have been established in Jaswant Nagar, Fatima Jinnah Town, Matital, Shujaabad and Jalapur Pirwala. The Deputy Commissioner said that parking, security and water will also be provided in the markets along with vaccines for animals. While the camps of the district departments including health department, live-stock will also be established. The deputy commissioner clarified that the sale and purchase of cattle has been banned in the city. Will not do.

A grand Pashto literary Festival held



Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: A grand Pashto literary Festival for poets hailing from North Waziristan was held in Tochi Hall, North Waziristan today. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of more than 51 (15 from Miranshah and Mir Ali, 7 from Spinwam, 5 from Ghulam Khan, 17 from Datta Khel, 4 from Dossali and 2 from Shewa) esteemed poets, 12 to 75 years, including individuals with special abilities. The diverse representation underscored the rich tapestry of Pashto literature and the vibrant fabric of cultural heritage.

Major General Muhammad Naeem Akhtar graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Chief Guest gave away prizes to the winners of the events.

The festival received tremendous appreciation from both the participants and the community of the area. Attendees expressed their gratitude towards security forces for organizing such a remarkable event. They also expressed their desire for such events to be a regular occurrence, serving as a platform for Pashto poets contributing to the literary landscape.

AAA Associates unveiled its iconic Project "AAA OCTA 2" in the presence of renowned Celebrities



News Desk

KARACHI: Over the weekend, AAA Associates unveiled its most ambitious project to date—the AAA Octa 2 Karachi. This state-of-the-art development, located on the strategic M9 Karachi Motorway, was launched in a grand event including a dazzling array of celebrities from the entertainment industry. These celebrities included Mehvish Hayat, Mikal Zulfiqar, Faisal Qureshi, Bushra Ansari, Yunas Khan, Sheharyar Munwar, Ijaz Aslam, Hira Mani, Shehroz Sabzwari, Jannat Mirza, Ahmed Ali Akbar, Nida Yasir, Syed Jibran, Muneeb Butt, Momal Sheikh and Fatima Hassan. The shows were hosted by Ayesha Omer, Syed Shafat, Amna Malik, Ahmed Ali Butt, Zainab Abbas and Dino. The launching event had performances by Pakistan's globally renowned names as Ali Azmat, Ahmed Jahanzaib, Hadia Hashmi, Aima Baig & Faisal Kapadia.

AAA Octa 2 Karachi brand ambassador Shahid Khan Afridi was also spotted on both days. Apart from the celebrities of tinsel town, it was attended by a diverse mix of people from all walks of life. The files were given to the nominees by their favourite actors who also interacted with the attendees at the event.

"We are proud to announce the launch of AAA Octa 2 Karachi, a testament to our commitment to not only enhance the living standards of the people but also contribute to the economy of our beloved city." Chairman AAA Associates Sheikh Fawad Bashir expressed his gratitude to the attendees and assured that AAA Octa 2 Karachi will redefine premium living standards in Pakistan. "Karachi is the vein of Pakistan, a city that pulses with life and contributes significantly to the nation's GDP. Our goal with AAA Octa 2 Karachi is to reflect that energy and contribute to the city's prosperity," he quoted. "We assure you that AAA Octa 2 Karachi will be the best premium project you will see in Pakistan."

Performance awards

ISLAMABAD: Photo Journalist of Online International News Network Sultan Bashir receiving best performance awards from Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam, on his best coverage of "Sakafti Mela" at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

KMU senate approves Rs. 628.136 million surplus annual budgets for 2023-24

News Desk

PESHAWAR: The Rs. 628.136 million surplus annual budget 2023-24 consisting of 2987,906 million expenditure and 3616,043 million income of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar was approved. This approval was given in the 16th meeting of the KMU Senate, held under the chairmanship of the caretaker provincial minister for higher education; Justice (Rtd) Irshad Qaiser, at Governor House Peshawar. Besides, acting vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Rubina Nazli and Registrar Inamullah Khan, Secretary to Governor Mazhar Irshad Khan, Secretary Higher Education Department Dr. Aneela Mahfooz Durrani, Additional Secretary Waseem Riaz said that the credit for the university's surplus budget goes to the



Establishment Muhammad Saeedullah, Additional Secretary Finance Wasif Rehman., Director General Finance HEC Ghulam Nabi, and other members attended the meeting.

While presenting the revised budget for 2022-23 as well as the budget estimates for 2023-24 before the Senate, KMU Treasurer Waseem Riaz said that the credit for the university's surplus budget goes to the

year 2022-23 in addition to the surplus budget of Rs. 628.136 million for the new fiscal year 2023-24. He said that in the new financial year, the university has decided to establish some new institutes and to pay attention to the stability of already established institutions and ongoing educational programs for which a significant amount has been allocated in the budget.

He told the senate that according to the vision of the vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, the university is making revolutionary reforms in view of bringing more transparency in the examination system and prompt release of results, under which the entire examination system is being computerized and adequate amount has been allocated in the budget for this purpose.

Raja Saqib condemns Indian arrest of pre-school principal

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The chief organizer of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Raja Saqib Majeed Advocate has said that the arrest of the pre-school principal and teacher for wearing hijab in India is condemnable. The international community should play a role in protecting the rights of minorities in India. Indian Muslim students. He said that the sacrifices of Kashmir martyrs will not be allowed to go in vain. It will not be allowed. And the people of Kashmir will continue the mission of these martyrs in any case.

He said that Tehreek Azadi is with the heirs of martyrs who were martyred in Kashmir. He condemned the Indian army's firing on innocent and innocent Kashmiris and the martyrdom of innocent Kashmiris. There is a lodge of sacrifices. He said that now the Kashmiri people, elders, youths, journalists, lawyers, journalists also have to fight for the rights of the Kashmiri people beyond all political expediency because today the Kashmiri nationality is fighting for its survival.

Mushaal pens letter to UN chief seeking his intervention to save Yasin Malik's life

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick penned a letter to Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations requesting his immediate intervention to save Mohammd Yasin Malik Chairman JKLF's life from Indian judicial murder.

Mushaal, a wife of Yasin Malik, on Monday wrote a letter to UN chief and appealed him to play his role to avert a judicial murder of her husband.

"I am Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the distraught wife of an unlawfully incarcerated husband and mother of an 11 year old girl who has been denied a fathers hug for almost 9

years. I am writing to you at a time when words fall me, yet with great hope in the office you hold and the principles you represent," she added.

She said that help me articulate the right sentences to explain to an 11 year old that her father is on death row for demanding what the UN has mandated as our right, or should I just tell her justice is dead?

"My husband Yasin Malik 57, is the face of Kashmir's non-violent political struggle, which stems from a resolution of the very organisation you head today," she maintained.

Mushaal stated that he has given away his youth, his family, his health in belief that the people of Kashmir deserve, as the most basic of human rights, the right to self-determina-



tion: all so with the most non-belligerent, orthodox political death for that he currently rots in a death cell of the notorious Tihar Jail in India since 7 May 2019 with no rights of a fair trial.

She said that Yasin has spent 25 such years in multiple Indian jails. Are we waiting for him to die and crown him Kashmir's Mandela?

"I am practically a widow, but does

the English language have a word to describe a child whose father she has not met in almost a decade? I am no legal expert and nor do I have the luxury of time to engage one, but it should not take a law degree for me to appeal to your sense of basic human dignity," she added.

Mushaal stated let me bring to your notice Yasin Malik's plight, adding he was last arrested from our residence in Srinagar on 22 Feb 2019 under Public Safety Act (PSA), A law, whose business end is borne by "out of line, rights demanding Kashmiris"; A law which many an expert has labeled as a draconian and oppressive legal instrument.

Since then, he is in perpetual mental and physical torture, solitary

confinement in a death cell with an open toilet. He is frail in health with multiple ailments.

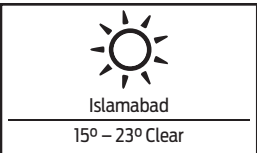
"Our daughter and I have been deprived of meeting Yasin Malik in a safe environment for the past 8 and a half years because each time we visit Srinagar and Delhi we are harassed, attacked, assaulted by radical goons of RSS, abused and humiliated by the Indian authorities and my husband gets jailed for indefinite periods or goes into hiding for leading processions of Kashmiris against gross human rights violations committed by Indian forces," MUSAAL lamented.

She said that Indian Government has created an atmosphere of horror and panic, thus making it impossible for a wife and daughter to meet

her jailed husband and father, adding that how much more is the world willing to watch him endure before they intervene?

"Let me explain more and beseech your mercy. My husband lives in extremely unsanitary conditions, unworthy of any human, with ailing kidneys and an artificial heart valve, which require specialised medical care and life saving drugs," she requested.

"Does it make sense to you that the Indian government will give him all that while not allowing his 11-year-old to meet him without the risk of being mistreated by the Indian Authorities? Or are we all just waiting for him to meet his end and call it a medical related death," she asked.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:21 pm
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Motorway Police	9270601-20

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MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
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Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Turkish celebrity Engin Altan features in latest 'Dubai Presents' campaign

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism welcomed to the city one of Turkiye's most beloved stars, Engin Altan Duzyatan, as part of the ongoing campaign 'Dubai Presents', which aims to increase visits by travellers from Dubai's international source markets, including Turkiye.

During his stay, Engin Altan had a fun-filled holiday while enjoying the different adrenaline-pumping experiences, including walking along the edge of a building 219.5 meters above ground at Sky Views Observatory while admiring the iconic landmarks of Dubai, horse riding by the beach in Jumeirah with Aayan Equestrian Club, and exploring Dubai's newest attractions. He also marvelled at the 360-degree panorama of the world-re-



nowned Palm Jumeirah, Dubai skyline, and the Arabian Gulf from 'The View at The Palm'.

Captivated by his first visit, Engin returned to Dubai again, this time bringing along his family, as they ticked off more things to do on their bucket list. They spent quality time together while visiting The Green Planet, Dubai's indoor rainforest featuring more than 3,000 flora and fauna species, and Oli Oli, Dubai's top-rated experiential play museum.

Commenting on his holidays in Dubai, Engin Altan, said: "Dubai is a destination that you must explore over and over again. The city never fails to amaze with new attractions and experiences, as we always seem to add more on our Dubai bucket list with each visit."

His Excellency, Issam Kazim, CEO, Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, said: "Driven by the resolute vision of our leadership to transform our city into the ultimate global destination, renowned for its unparalleled liveability and opportunities, we are making huge strides in introducing our city to an ever-expanding audience throughout the Middle East."

Engin Altan Duzyatan is a well-known Turkish actor who gained international fame for his role as Ertugrul in the popular Turkish television series "Dirilis: Ertugrul".

Pakistan's inflation has created wave of despair among its youth: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: All those, who are responsible for the Greece boat accident, should be severely punished under the international human rights laws.

Because of the tight inflation, our young people are more willing to go abroad and earn their living. The economic system of Pakistan has created a wave of despair among the youth and they are busy in trying to find livelihood in foreign countries: Allama Tahir-Ul-Hassan.

According to the details, Allama Tahirul Hasan, Central Deputy General Secretary of Pakistan Ulema Council and Member of Provincial Ittehad-e-Been-Muslimin Committee, Government of Punjab, said in his special statement that the Greece boat accident has saddened the entire Pakistani nation. Plundering with murder by the agents snatched the life & property & deprived of their species for life.

He further said that this accident is not uncommon, many houses have been destroyed due to this accident and the Pakistani system should punish those responsible for this incident to death so that future generations can be protected.

He further expressed that the accident would not have happened if the People were not worried about inflation.

Every young person has his own situation & he wants to go abroad for improvement, but it is unfortunate that Pakistan is dominated by a certain economic policymakers who have no specific role to play for the prosperity of the people and the end of inflation.

He said to take effective action against those who are fed up with inflation.

Youth age has been forced to compromise, but the politicians do not take the name of ending their differences. He elaborated that, the e government should release a relief package for the people of Pakistan by ending the political confrontation, so that the people do not entrust their generations to the seas until political stability comes. Until then, economic stability is also impossible.

He further said that the system in which the young people of this country are forced to stumble from door to door for their livelihood passing in dark seas, this system has no right to remain.

Nation wants each & everything here in Pakistan but why it is shown as a white elephant?



Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: As a token of appreciation and to thank the people and Government of Azerbaijan for hosting Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation last week, the Prime Minister is holding hand of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov during a ceremony in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

14 years old Afghan refugee burnt to death

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: 14 years old Afghan refugee burnt to death while over two dozen huts of Afghan families burnt to ashes in Nartoppa village near Chach motorway interchange in the limits of Hazro town of Attock, police and rescue sources said on Monday.

According to sources, an Afghan family was making food at its hut when all of the sudden LPG stove burst.

The 4 years old Abdullah who was sleeping in the haunt could not be saved and burnt to death while two dozen haunts turned in to ashes when the Rescue-1122 fire tenders reached at the site and extinguished the fire.

Their belongings including house hold items worth thousands of rupees of the families were also burnt in the fire and they rendered under the open sky, police said.

English translation of Diwan Abu Talib was held at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: An English translation of Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry collection "Diwan Abu Talib" book launching ceremony was held in Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Central Imam Hussain Council. Diwan Abu Talib has been translated by Syed Altaf Hussain Shah, former controller of Radio Pakistan. The ceremony was presided over by prominent scholar Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi, Chairman of the Central Imam Hussain Council, while former Chairman of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, Dr. Yusuf Kuskh, attended as a special guest. Ms. Kausar Parveen performed the duties of host of the event. Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi said that the main point of Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry is monotheism and prophethood.

It is important to enlight-



en the new generation with the achievements of Hazrat Abu Talib.

Former Chairman Academy of letters Pakistan, Dr. Yousuf Khokh said that the translation of Diwan Abu Talib has led to an increase in our literary heritage. Translation of Diwan Abu Talib from Arabic to English was a difficult task, which Altaf Ahmad Shah has done beautifully. The author of the book,

Dr. Altaf Ahmad Shah, said that he has expressed his love for Abu Talib by translating Diwan Abu Talib into English. Hazrat Abu Talib's praise and naat is the golden chapter of our religious studies. Prominent jurist Kokab Iqbal Advocate said that Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry collection is a clear expression of his faith. Director Rawalpindi Arts Council Waqar Ahmed thanked the partici-

pants. At the end of the ceremony, the well-known intellectual Sufi Salman Hashmi passed a resolution in which all the political and religious parties and national institutions of the country were appealed to adopt a common plan of action to get the people out of the atmosphere of uncertainty. Finally, A special prayer was also offered for the martyrs of Pakistan.

All Filtration Plants should be commissioned within 15 days: Rana Ikhlag

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: On the instructions of Secretary Housing South Punjab Kaiser Salim, a meeting was held regarding water filtration It was presided over by Additional Secretary Housing Rana Akhlaq.

MD Wasa, Superintendent Engineering and Executive Engineering PHE were present.

Orders issued for immediate shutdown of all filtration plants. Connections closed due to non-payment of bills should be restored immediately by ensuring contact with CBOs.

All filtration plants should be commissioned within 15 days. Additional Secretary Housing

Filters of active plants should be changed timely. Rana Akhlaq Ahmed

Ordering the Revenue officers to achieve recovery Targets: Amir Khattak

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak while ordering the revenue officers to achieve the recovery targets said that Recovery of ownership, irrigation and water rates, government dues should be expedited. Ownership transfer, stamp duty dues should also be cleared. These views were expressed by Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak while presiding over the revenue review meeting of the division. Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak said to speed up the anti-encroachment operations and hand over the government land.

Revenue Officers upload the declarations online to Land Record Centres. Corruption will not be tolerated, I will make a lesson for the corrupt mafia. Take action against the patwari, law-goers who are in possession of government records under the Pedda Act and give an official advertisement in the newspaper about their suspension so that they cannot register wrongly. Action was also taken against the sub-registrar in charge of the record

He said that the process of obtaining individual ownership and inheritance should be made easy for the public. Revenue officers should upload the cases online to land record centers. Judicial cases including cases of overseas Pakistanis should be fully followed. DCs, ACs Set up regular courts to resolve revenue cases. Justice should be ensured along with speedy resolution of cases in courts.

Notices should be issued on the names and property records of defaulters. Pending cases in revenue courts should be completed immediately. Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Land Record Officers were present while the Deputy Commissioners of the division gave a briefing on revenue performance in the meeting.



AIOU's Academic Council approves new Matric Tech program

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A joint meeting of the 49th Academic Planning and Development/Research and Educational Technology Committee (APD/RET) and 65th Academic Council and of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) was held yesterday. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood chaired the meeting, Registrar, Raja Umar Yunus organizing and supporting the meeting. The department heads, principal officers, and external members attended as well.

The meeting unanimously approved the new programs/courses of BS, MS/MPhil, and PhD. The meeting approved providing 2 reappear chances to the students, i.e., in case of failure in any subject, the students will



be provided 2 chances of examination. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood directed that the failed students will be given 6 weeks' time for re-enrollment in the examination. Meeting also approved the change of

title of certain courses. The meeting provided exemption in quiz component to the students of spring/autumn 2022 semester in the revised assessment policy and approved the launch of Matric Tech program. The meet-

ing unanimously declared the courses of 'civilization, culture, language and literature' of all provinces as an integral part of the BS programs.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood directed the faculty members and deans to keep in mind the policy of the University and Higher Education Commission in designing the courses and preparing the teaching materials and not to offer a single program that does not meet the standards and directed to rationalize the courses. The Vice-Chancellor also directed the deans of the four faculties and the heads of the departments to complete the course development work by December. The Supreme Body of the University (Executive Council) will approve these decisions in the next meeting.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable disease: Dr Daud

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: District Coordinator TB DOTS Program Attock Dr Daud Malik while briefing the media persons here on Monday has said that Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable disease but preventive measures are paramount as a single patient can transmit this disease to ten of his/her contacts. Responding different questions of the media persons dr. Daud Malik further said that across the world 1.5 million people die every year because of this disease while in Pakistan almost 46 thousand people died in 2020 because of this disease. He said in Attock district, under TB Directly Observed Treatment System, more than 1,400 registered TB patients are being given all medical facilities free of cost and said that those suffering from this disease completely recover after completion of six months course. He said that the symptoms of TB are continuous cough, fever, loss of weight and appetite and those having weak immune system are more vulnerable to this disease and said that good diet helps prevent this disease. Dr Daud said there are 11 diagnostic centers across the district where all type of TB tests are conducted free of cost while X Ray, genes test facility and treatment preventive therapy facility also being provided free of cost. Dr Daud said there is a follow up system available under which all under-treatment TB patients are being observed closely and it is ensured that all these patients are taking medicines regularly and in this context LHWs are playing vital role who go door to door and refer TB suspect patients to nearest health center for different tests, he added.

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Pak Army on target

Planned attempts against Pak Army have been seen from few elements. The propaganda machines are running at their peak and spread false and baseless allegations against Pak Army. PTI Leadership and its few workers are among the top that have raised their guns towards Pak Army. These evil elements miss no chance to defame the armed forces of Pakistan.

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has escalated his criticism of the country's army, accusing the head of the army of harboring a "personal grudge" against him and ordering his arrest and a crackdown on his party. "It is personal. It's got nothing to do with national interest," Khan told the Guardian in an interview at his home in Lahore, after a dramatic week in which he was arrested at Islamabad's high court and held in police custody, in connection with a land corruption case. "Without any doubt, the military is behind my arrest," he said. "Pakistan is now being run by the army chief. The crackdown on us is by the army chief."

This is not the first time when Khan blamed Pak Army. In Past, Imran Khan accused Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and Major General Faisal for the attack at his rally in Wazirabad. Imran Khan received bullet injuries in his legs after two men opened gunfire during his long march. "A short while ago, Imran Khan told us to issue this statement on his behalf. He believes there are three people on whose behalf this was done-Shehbaz Sharif, Rana Sanaullah and Major General Faisal. He said he was

receiving information and is saying this on that basis," PTI's Asad Umar & Mian Aslam Iqbal said soon after this attack.

Imran Khan has been putting baseless and false allegations on Army and its Officers without any proves and has been allegedly using the PTI workers as human shield. He is just making an anti-army narrative for his political interests and is playing with the emotions of his party workers.

Then there is another wave of propaganda where multiple social media posts claim that the Germany-based Transparency International, a global civil society organization dedicated to tackling corruption, has ranked the Pakistan army as the most corrupt institution in the country. An image that is being shared online on Facebook & Twitter has been captioned: "Pak army tops the list of most corrupt institutions of Pakistan: Transparency International." Several Twitter users also shared the image, with similar claims. The Karachi-based Transparency International Pakistan, a local chapter of the Transparency International, issued a press release on February 15 clarifying that it has not released any such report or findings. "Transparency International (TI) Pakistan categorically rejects such propaganda and disinformation," the statement reads, "It clarifies that no such report has been released by Transparency International and/or TI Pakistan." Despite the TI Pakistan's clarification, online posts have continued to share the false image.

In fact, in the Transparency International Pakistan's annual National Corruption Perception Survey 2022, which was released on December 9, majority of the respondents voted police as the most corrupt sector in the country, followed by government contracts and judiciary. The Pakistan army was not listed as an option. While in its 2021 National Corruption Perception Survey, released on December 8 that year, the police was again voted as the most corrupt sector, followed by the judiciary. Again the Pakistani military was not listed as an option for the respondents. Neither the Transparency International nor the Transparency International Pakistan has released any report which ranks the Pakistan army as the most corrupt institution in the country. Again, the possibility of the connection of PTI elements needs to be investigated behind this false propaganda.

In Fact Pak Army has a strict and organized check & balance system which fully eliminates the chances of corruption or leakages. According to the website, Military Accounts Department is an attached Department of Ministry of Defense. As a sequel to transfer of Indian Administration from East India Company to the British Crown in 1858, an Imperial Military Accounts Department was organized in 1861. Since then the department has been operating as paying authority for the Armed Forces. Main Functions Of this department are: Maintenance of

Accounts of Defense Services, Payment of Pay & Allowances to Commissioned Officers, JCOs / ORs and civilians paid from Defense Services Estimates, Audit and Payment of Stores indigenous and imported, Audit and Payment relating to the Works of Defense Services, Internal Audit, Compilation of Defense Services receipts / Expenditures, Preparation of Appropriation Accounts, Payment of Railway and PIA Claims relating to the Defense Side. The P. M.A. D is performing dual duties i.e. accounting as well as internal auditing. The quality of P. M.A. D's functioning is judged through various reports submitted on fortnightly/monthly/quarterly/half yearly and yearly basis. The reports are prepared at sub office level and submitted to the Controller Office for scrutiny and consolidation. These reports are then submitted by the Controller to the M. A.G and then in certain cases sent to the Ministry of Defense. The accuracy and correctness of these reports is judged through inspection of sub-offices as well as by cross checking with reference to the reports submitted by Services Headquarters to the Ministry of Defense as the working of the Department is monitored by the Ministry of Defense. No other Accounts Department faces the channels of accountability like the P. M.A. D. The M. A.G's accountability is a threefold activity. The principal accountability/activity is done by the Ministry of Defense through financial reporting. The accountability activity is also done by the Defense Audit Department on behalf of the Auditor General.

To be 9Continued



Abdul Basit Alvi

'Saqfti Mela' concludes

A"Saqfti Mela" concluded here on Monday at Shakarparian with a prestigious and colourful closing ceremony along with shield and certificate distributions.

Ameer Muqam adviser of cultural heritage was the chief guest on the occasion, said a news release.

Lok Virsa Executive Director, Muzaffar Ali Burki thanked all heads of cultural departments, craftspeople, folk artists, and musicians for their cooperation with Lok Virsa for making the national event a great success.

Adviser Ameer Muqam addressing the audience said, "I am extremely happy that the National Institute of Folk Heritage, Lok Virsais always striving to promote the culture of Pakistan.

It also introduces eminent talents and folk artists from across the country at national and international levels through its various programs. All these artisans and artists, I attach great importance to their role in the national development."

This Mela also became a means to show the real face of the Pakistani nation to the world. which is based on peace and it has the imprint of our centuries-old culture and knowledge, he added.

Amir Muqam said, "We are proud that because of artisans and artists the Civilization is kept alive. Pakistan has modern educated talent but the skilled people here are second to none and Pakistani handicrafts have their own unique reach all over the world. I Congratulate the Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division Fareena Mazhar and the LokVirsa team for their hard work day and night to be held the festival successfully."

During the closing ceremony, a number of certificates and shields were given to the most authentic craftsmen and craftswomen on the recommendation of a jury constituted by Lok Virsa comprising knowledgeable experts in the field of art and culture.

The five-day Mela pulled a big crowd throughout and featured artisans-at-work, folkloric song and dance performances, a craft bazaar, theatre performances and many other attractions.

The craftsman & folk arts have fully participated in the Mela by way of presenting their beautiful indigenous culture, arts, crafts, music and cuisine in specially designed pavilions symbolizing their respective historical monuments, contributing art, music and entertainment activities.

The chief guest gave away the shields and certificates to the participating cultural departments, print and electronic media, and ICT administration. Cultural and musical performances were also presented during the ceremony, which was greatly enjoyed by the audience. A large number of art, craft and music lovers cultural personalities, media persons and the general public attended the event and enjoyed a lot.



Amjad Rasmi

Is Gwadar a game-changer for Pakistan?-II

Through trade on this route, China will save 20 billion dollars annually, while Pakistan will be able to earn 5 billion dollars from this trade corridor. Moreover, the presence of US naval bases in the Straits of Malacca is also a concern for China and China needs an alternative route in view of the closure of this route or any possible war in the future. Gwadar port is the best alternative in this regard. Due to its strategic location, the sea adjacent to Gwadar is also very important from a defensive point of view. Some experts also believe that in the future, China also wants to build its own naval base in Gwadar, which will help protect its maritime interests in the region. However, it has not been officially confirmed by any of the countries.

Besides, the earnings from the port will also be very profitable for China. According to the agreement between the two countries, a state-owned Chinese company China Overseas Port Holding Company will take over the operations of Gwadar port for a period of 40 years. This company has also been building port infrastructure since 2013. Under the agreement, the company will retain 90 percent of the revenue from Gwadar's marine operations and 85 percent of the revenue from the management of the Gwadar Tax Free Zone. Apart from this, they will also benefit from

tax exemptions that Pakistan has given to Chinese companies for projects related to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which are building transport infrastructure from Gwadar to the Chinese border. Gwadar Development Projects. Gwadar has always been a backward area and most of the population here is based on fishing. There is severe lack of electricity, drinking water, internet, and basic infrastructure. Therefore, along with the establishment of Gwadar port, it is also important to ensure numerous other facilities here to attract foreign investors. As soon as the Gwadar port became functional, various development projects have been started here. A modern-style smart city for citizens' accommodation is also part of the Gwadar master plan, under which provision of electricity, water, gas and other needs will be ensured in the city. A 300 MW coal power project has been approved to meet the power demand, while clean drinking water will be provided through a desalination plant. Apart from this, the latest optical fiber is being laid to provide high speed internet. Pakistan's largest airport is also under construction at Gwadar, which is expected to open

in September 2023. Construction of a 19 km long central highway named Gwadar East Bay Expressway has also been completed. It aims to connect the port with the national highway network for easy movement of import, export, and transit goods. To attract foreign investors, the government has also introduced the Gwadar Free Zone where investors will have full tax exemption in business, and buyers and sellers can trade directly without any middlemen. Phase one of Gwadar Free Zone was spread over 60 acres which has been completed while its phase two is spread over two thousand acres and is under construction. High-tech industries, science and technology parks, hospitals, educational institutions, training institutes, shopping centers, cinemas, theaters and five-star hotels will be built in Gwadar Free Zone. According to an estimate, Gwadar Free Zone is expected to generate economic activity worth 10 billion dollars annually and thousands of new jobs will also be created through it. By 2030, the annual per capita income of Gwadar citizens is expected to be around twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars, which is ten times more than the average per capita income of Pakistan.

Tourism Gwadar city will not only become an important commercial center in the future due to its port but also a tourist center due to its beauty. Surrounded by the sea on three sides, this city is one of the most beautiful coastal cities in the world due to its blue water, rocky cliffs, scenic beauty, and historical heritage. In short, the establishment of Gwadar port will speed up business and economic activities at the regional and national levels, which will not only be beneficial for Gwadar city, but will also play an important role in the economic development of Pakistan.

Overall, the expected financial benefits of Gwadar Port for Pakistan are significant. According to an estimate, through Gwadar port, Pakistan can earn up to 10 to 15 billion dollars annually in terms of services and rent alone. While the income from other business activities related to this sport will be in addition to this. Undoubtedly, this port has the potential to transform Gwadar city into a Dubai and Singapore style city. However, it is very important to note that the success of this port will depend on factors like political stability, law and order, foreign investment, and international geopolitics.

Concluded
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Sami ul Haq

May 9 – a Black Day in Pakistan's History

Dr. Jumma Marri

May 9 will go down in the history of Pakistan as a Black Day. On that fateful day, PTI party workers and their supporters attacked sensitive military installations and important public buildings, chanting anti-military slogans. They also vandalized sacred symbols of war victories.

What happened in Pakistan on May 9 was unprecedented in its history. Mobs misled and misguided by their leaders ran amok and engaged in activities that endangered Pakistan's sovereignty, security, and integrity. Jinnah House in Lahore and Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar were attacked and damaged by frenzied mobs—an act which would gladden the hearts of Pakistan's worst enemies. The assaults on GHQ in Rawalpindi and intelligence offices in several cities were pre-planned. Most provocative was the desecration and destruction of the memorials of the valiant heroes and martyrs of various wars with India.

The nation stood aghast as news of the shameful exploits of rampaging mobs spread across the land. But in the face of grave provocations, the civil and military authorities kept their cool and handled the situation in a most judicious manner. They did not use force which they could not fire a shot to quell the riots. In order to avoid bloodshed they let the storm blow over. The military high command showed extraordinary patience and tact in order to avoid a bloody showdown with the enraged and misguided youth.

Above all, the sinister events of May 9 were a vile attempt to sow discord between the people of Pakistan and the Pakistan army. But the perpetrators of violence failed in their nefarious

designs as the public in general kept aloof from the miscreants, giving them a cold shoulder.

May 9 serves as a wake-up call for the entire nation, urging us to remain steadfast in our commitment to the greater interests of Pakistan. The message of May 9 is that the enemies of Pakistan and their agents are hiding in our ranks and it is our collective responsibility to identify any elements that pose a threat to Pakistan's integrity. We must remain vigilant and united against those who seek to harm us from within or without.

May 9 serves as a turning point in our history from which we as a nation have emerged stronger, more resilient, and determined to preserve the unity and integrity of Pakistan. It is our duty to preserve unity in our ranks and honor the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives to protect our sovereignty.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has rightly called the tragic events of May 9 as a clarion call and asked the nation to identify and expose the anti-state groups who are working behind the scenes to sabotage and weaken the foundations of the Pakistani state. He said that by targeting the monuments of Shuhada, and attacking the very symbols of our brave army, the miscreants attacked the very idea and concept of Pakistan. He also said that ransacking of the civil properties and defence installations on May 9 exposed the real political agenda of PTI and vowed to take strict action against attackers, abettors and planners under the relevant laws.

Our armed forces are the guardians of national security and a symbol of the stability and honour of Pakistan. The army jawans and officers lay down their lives fighting for the defence of the motherland. They fight the enemy on the snow-capped mountains, in the plains and deserts and the high seas. It is thanks to their sacrifices that Pakistan is in safe hands and we sleep peacefully at night.

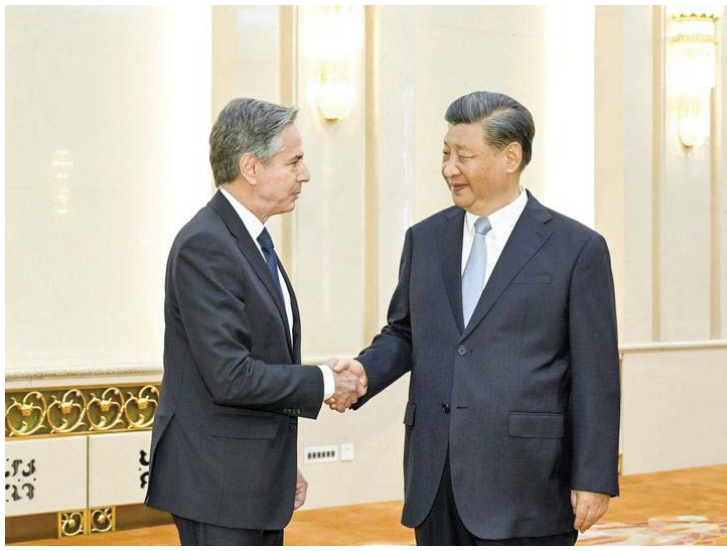
Xi meets Blinken in Beijing

Xinhua

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with U. S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Great Hall of the People on Monday.

Xi pointed out that the world needs a generally stable China-U. S. relationship, and whether the two countries can find the right way to get along bears on the future of humanity. The Chinese, like the Americans, are dignified, confident and self-reliant people, and they both have the right to pursue a better life, he said.

Xi stressed that major-country competition does not represent the trend of the times, still less can it solve America's own problems or the challenges facing the world. China respects U. S. interests and does not seek to challenge or displace the United States. In



the same vein, the United States needs to respect China and must not hurt

China's legitimate rights and interests. Neither side should try to shape the other side by its own will, still less deprive the other side of its legitimate right to development.

Xi said China always hopes to see a sound and steady China-U. S. relationship and believes that the two major countries can overcome various difficulties and find the right way to get along based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, calling on the U. S. side to adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude and work with China in the same direction.

Xi pointed out that the two sides need to remain committed to the common understandings he and President Biden reached in Bali, and translate the positive statements into actions so as to stabilize and improve China-U. S. relations.

Senior Chinese official Wang Yi meets Blinken

Xinhua

BELJING: Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with visiting U. S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing on Monday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, noted that Blinken's visit comes at a critical juncture in China-U. S. relations, and a choice needs to be made between dialogue and confrontation as well as between cooperation and conflict.

History always moves forward, and China-U. S. relations will also move on. "Reversing the wheels of history will lead nowhere, and overturning what has been achieved is even less desirable," Wang said.

"We need to shoulder our responsibilities to the people, history and the world, avert the downward spiral of the relationship, bring it back to the track of sound and steady development, and jointly explore the right way for China and the United States to get along with each other in the new era," he said.

Noting that relations between China and the United States are at a low point,



Wang underscored that the root cause is U. S. misperceptions toward China, which have led to misguided China policies.

China-U. S. relations have gone through ups and downs, and it is necessary for the United States to reflect upon itself, and work with China to jointly manage differences and avoid

strategic surprises, Wang said.

He pointed out that in order to stabilize China-U. S. relations, the most urgent task is to act on the common understandings reached between the two presidents with real actions.

In order to ensure the steady and long-term growth of China-U. S. relations, the most critical task is to follow

the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation put forward by President Xi Jinping as the fundamental guidance, he said.

He stressed that safeguarding national unity has always been the core of China's core interests. It is where the future of the Chinese nation lies and the abiding historical mission of the CPC.

On the Taiwan question, China has no room for compromise or concession, Wang said.

He said the United States must earnestly abide by the one-China principle set out in the three China-U. S. joint communiques, respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and unequivocally oppose "Taiwan independence."

Blinken said that the U. S. side is committed to going back to the agenda set by the two presidents during their summit in Bali and looks forward to enhancing communication with China, managing differences responsibly and cooperating in areas of common interests.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prominent educationist Mr. Khalid Khan from KP held a meeting with H.E Mr. Borhene El Kamel Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia in the presence of Mr. Ammad Rasheed Honorary Consul of Tunisia (KP Chapter) at the Tunisian Embassy Islamabad.



Grand opening ceremony of Travels 786

Arif Chaudhary

ROCKDALE: At the grand opening ceremony of Travels 786 Rochdale, a spiritual gathering was held in conjunction with Milad-ul-Nabi (peace be upon him). Apart from local businessmen, prominent Sana Khawan Qari Sabtain Hussain and Maulana Haji Zafar Ahmed and business personality Zahid Iqbal from the UK and Europe were also present.

The ribbon of participation was also cut on this occasion, Qari Sabatin Hussain said that Travel 786 is a very good news for the community of Rochdale, they will get cheap travel tickets and money exchange facility at good rates from here, the community will benefit from it. The administration of 786 Travel has proved itself as a lover of Rasool by holding a spiritual gathering in its opening ceremony today. May Allah give further development to his business.



Prominent religious scholar Haji Zafar said that Zeeshan bhai celebrated his birthday today at the opening of his travel agency. It's done a great job by organizing, hopefully it will benefit the community of Rochdale, because of their business, Pakistan will also benefit in terms of foreign exchange," Travel 786 Chief Executive.

Zeeshan first thanked all the friends who came to the

opening ceremony of Travel 786 and said that our travel agency will provide superior service to the community, attractive packages for Hajj and Umrah will be provided, facility of remittance at good rates worldwide and Cheap air tickets of all airlines will be available to travel around the world. Finally, special prayers were offered for the success of Maulana Haji Zafar's business and

the security of Pakistan. All the guests were treated with local food.

Zeeshan, CEO of Travel 786 and his team organized a Milad party on the opening ceremony of their business Travel 786. The participation of the young generation and children is proof that the young generation is moving towards following the path shown by the Lord of the Universe.

Women's University Multan hosts Ideas Design Competitions

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women's University Multan will host ideas design competitions on Tuesday. According to the spokesperson, the Department of Multan Business Incubation Center of Women's University Multan is organizing a two-day idea design competition with the support of social organization Shaor Foundation for Education and Awareness. The students have been given targets to design innovative ideas and projects on themes including economic empowerment of women, combating gender-based violence, raising the voice of women's rights, said the host director of the event. On the first day, the competition will start at 10 am and will continue till 3 pm, while on the second day, the competition will be held from 10 am to 1 pm, after which the closing ceremony will be held.

Israel's ongoing aggression against Jenin is a dangerous escalation that will drag the region into more bloodshed



News Desk

The State of Palestine calls on the international community to immediately and urgently intervene to stop Israel's massive military campaigns against the undefended Palestinian people under its illegal occupation;

Israel, the occupying Power, and its officials must be held accountable and the culture of impunity it has thus far enjoyed must be combated; Israel's deliberate killing of 5 Palestinians, including 15 year-old child Ahmad Saqer, the trapping, targeting and injury of journalists, expose the occupier's consistent criminal conduct, including the international and willful targeting of civilians with full impunity;

In this connection, we call on the United Nations Secretary-General to immediately add Israel to the list of parties that commit violations against and affecting children without any further delays or politicized excuses;

Likewise, the Prosecutor of the ICC must uphold his mandate and actively seek necessary evidence to hold Israeli officials accountable for their ongoing, systemic, and widespread crimes;

The Palestinian people will not watch as their homes are being bombed, lands stolen, and children killed. They will continue to defend themselves against Israel's illegal colonial occupation, its military campaigns, and systematic targeting of the Palestinian people and nation.

IFAD and Govt of Pakistan invest in rural transformation

Spokesman Report

SKARDU: With the goal to foster sustainable and inclusive rural development, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Pakistan organised a two-day workshop in Ghanche, Gilgit-Baltistan recently (16-17 June 2023).



Held on 16-17 June, the workshop reviewed and assessed the progress and impacts of ongoing IFAD/GoP-financed projects and discussed implementation challenges. Participants included Arnoud Hameleers, IFAD Country Director for Pakistan, the IFAD country team, government representatives, implementing partners and project management staff. Participants from across Pakistan identified how these interventions could be scaled-up and better integrate nutrition, youth, gender, as well as the impacts of climate change into project, aligned to IFAD's mainstreaming themes and national priorities.

The workshop also discussed the potential of rural transformation as an effective means of addressing rural poverty and building the resilience of small-scale farmers, rural women and youth, and the landless.

"Expanding successful models through improved project monitoring and evaluation, with a specific emphasis on nutrition, food security, and climate change, is crucial," said Arnoud Hameleers, IFAD Country Director for Pakistan in his closing remarks. He also emphasised the importance of evidence-based policymaking and getting more involved at the provincial level. Lauding the longstanding collaboration of IFAD and Pakistan, he also said, "Innovation and private sector engagement should be promoted and interventions with expected outcomes should be replicated to ensure the economic transformation of rural Pakistan."

Workshop participants visited different project sites of the Economic Transformation Initiative-Gilgit Baltistan (ETI-GB), a programme co-financed by IFAD and Italian International Development Corporation Agency (AICS). The Village Agriculture Cooperative Societies (VACS) established through ETI-GB also showcased their agriculture products during the visit.

Including ETI-GB, IFAD's current portfolio in Pakistan is comprised five projects across the country that aim to support vulnerable groups to access housing and asset security, as well as resources and capacity building financial services, and to develop value chain and enterprises.

Parliamentary delegation visits Karot Hydropower Project

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A Parliamentary Delegation visited the Karot Hydropower Project, to commemorate its 1st Anniversary and celebrate the 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the 10 Years of BRI. The Delegation was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, and Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute. This was the first Cross Party Parliamentary delegation that visited the Karot Hydropower Project, including Senator Waleed Iqbal, Senator Taj Haider, Senator Sadia Abbasi, Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, and Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo. Moreover, journalists, bloggers, and students were also a part of this delegation.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Wang Minsheng, CEO of CSAIL, who emphasized the significance of the Karot Project and the operations under-



way to boost Pakistan's energy sector. Explaining the project benefits he said, "With an annual generating capacity of about 3.2 billion kWh, the project is expected to save about 1.4 million tons of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3.5 million tons each year, meeting the electricity needs of 5 million people in Pakistan".

The Head of the Parliamentary Delegation, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed appreciated the project team on the effective operation and maintenance of the Karot Hydropower Project. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of CPEC as the backbone of Pakistan's economic growth - voic-

ing optimism regarding the project. Senator Waleed Iqbal, another delegation member, stated that the Karot Hydropower Project is the first large-scale hydropower project under the Belt and Road Initiative, emphasizing that its significance is not only for Pakistan but also for the regional development of Green Energy.

Counsellor Bao Zhong from the Chinese embassy stated that with the joint efforts of people from all walks of life in the two countries, the Karot Hydropower Project has made remarkable achievements, which strongly resonates with the spirit of the "Belt and Road" initiative of joint consultation,

joint construction and shared benefits.

The delegation had the opportunity to examine key project components such as the spillway, dam structure, and power house during their visit. China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGO) professionals presented technical briefings on project elements and environmental protection measures implemented in the project region.

The Karot Project, with a capacity of 720 MW, has been developed and sponsored by the China Three Gorges South Asian Investment Limited (CSAIL), the investment arm of China Three Gorges Corporation managing investments in Pakistan.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,621.21	41,301.29
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,484.32	40,610.27
Index Value	Change
4,793,869,537	-680.08
Percentage	Time
-1.65%	19 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,588.48	-54.24
Percentage	Time
-0.71%	19 Jun, 4:45 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,299.12	-108.94
Percentage	Time
-0.32%	16 Jun, 5:08 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,370.42	-335.66
Percentage	Time
-1.00%	19 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	763.79	771.79
Canadian Dollar	226	228
China Yuan	40.3	40.7
Danish Krone	42.19	42.59
Euro	317	320
Hong Kong Dollar	36.72	37.07
Indian Rupee	3.51	3.62
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.03	942.03
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	179.06	181.06
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	745.74	753.74
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	77.7	78.5
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	321.26	323.76
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42
U.A.E Dirham	81.3	82
UK Pound Sterling	372	376
US Dollar	294.5	297.5

Misleading international institutions can be very damaging: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that it is impossible to increase investment, employment, and revenue without reducing the burden on the tax-paying sectors of the economy.

Constantly increasing the tax burden on tax-paying sectors is tantamount to driving them out of the country, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the country's GDP, agriculture accounts for 23%, while wholesale, retail accounts for 18%, construction and transport account for 19%.

The burden of direct taxes in these sectors is negligible, which does not happen anywhere



in the world.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that due to non-collec-

tion of tax from important sectors, the entire burden of tax falls on manufacturing, other tax-paying sectors and the public, which will result in serious economic problems.

The business leader said that the situation of the country's economy is troubling and the non-cooperation of international organizations in these circumstances can prove to be very harmful.

Due to the non-cooperation of the IMF, it has become impossible to obtain cheap loans from international institutions and other sources as well and as a result our foreign exchange reserves continue to decrease, he added.

He said that it is very critical for Pakistan to finalise a deal with the IMF as soon as possible.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the advice of the countries and institutions that want to lend to Pakistan should be given importance. If the country goes bankrupt, a

long and painful period will begin, the situation will become more difficult and the people will become uncontrollable.

Our country can better deal with the current economic situation provided that the cost of doing business is brought down to par with other countries in the region so that exports can increase.

The government should establish a cost accounting authority which can determine the cost of doing business for Pakistani producers and bring the prices of gas and electricity to the level of competing nations, he suggested.

We are not required to repeat the mistakes of the past, stop making empty claims and political parties have to decide to prioritize the interests of the country above everything else and stick to it; otherwise the worst economic crisis in the country's history will destroy everything, he warned.

Federal Minister directs for a thorough report on Jmshoro Coal Mines incident

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "We will ensure that those responsible for the incident are brought to justice," said the Federal Minister.

It should be noted that two laborers, who belonged to a tribe hailing from the district of Karam Shehar in Sindh, lost their lives due to suffocation in Jmshoro Coal Mines during work. According to rescue officials, the incident occurred because of a rope breaking while they were working in the mine.

Initial investigations revealed that the incident occurred on a disputed land



belonging to the Goharullah Off Fath Group, which has been in dispute for a long time. The owners were previously stopped from working on the land, and the case is currently under investigation by the Sindh High Court, NAB, and other government

agencies.

The Federal Minister added that it is entirely wrong to give coal mines leases to inexperienced individuals. The continuous violation of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, by exploiting poor laborers will not be tolerated.

Expressing his condolences to the affected families, the Federal Minister said that the provocation of grief-stricken families is estimated, and justice will be served to the widows and children of the deceased as soon as possible. Relevant institutions have been directed to conduct a complete investigation and submit a report.

Govt. can earn 364 billion from tobacco sector in FY 2023-24

News desk

ISLAMABAD: Govt. of Pakistan can earn 364 billion from tobacco sector in fiscal year 2023-24. However for this, the government must remain steadfast on his February 2023 decision of increasing FED on cigarettes if it wants to safeguard our youth from harms of tobacco. These views were shared by health activists in a press release by Society for the Protection of the Rights (SPARC). According to the activists, this additional revenue can be utilized for strengthening public health infrastructure.

Mr. Malik Imran, Country head of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) higher tobacco taxes are a win-win situation for government. This decision helps the country in generating revenue and decrease tobacco consumption at same time. It is also recommended by World Health Organization. He added that Tobacco Industry is leaving no stone unturned to undo the great work done by the government of Pakistan in current year



to safeguard children and low income group from the harms of tobacco.

Imran added that the good work done by the government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif must not be lost. The government can stabilize economy and provide relief to citizens as long as it doesn't get sidetracked by the deceptive campaign of tobacco industry.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said that despite spending millions on misinformation campaign, the lies of tobacco industry are now fully exposed. This year tobacco industry has practiced tactics, such as front-loading

and abrupt changes in production, to avoid tax hikes and influence tax policy. Tobacco industry has also presented overblown figures of illicit trade, to pressurize government into withdrawing FED in budget. He mentioned that tobacco is the largest silent killer in Pakistan as above 170,000 people die due to tobacco use each year. This pandemic also causes an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC said that the tobacco industry has caused billions of loss to the national exchequer. He mentioned that on average Pakistani smokers spend 10% of their monthly income on cigarettes. Around 1200 Pakistani children between ages of 6-15 years start smoking every day. The sale of cigarettes to minors and near educational institutions remains a constant worry in the country. Therefore increasing the FED will make cigarettes out of reach for low income citizens and children and thus putting them out of harm.

To make country self-sufficient in food, there is a need to improve storage system, Ahsan Bakhtawari

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan needs to improve its storage system to make it self-sufficient in food, especially wheat. Government should provide interest-free loans to flour mill owners to improve storage system. Every year millions of tons of wheat are wasted due to lack of storage system while wheat has to be imported to meet the country's needs. Access to cheap and quality flour to citizens is a joint responsibility of the Food Department and flour mills. Pakistan has produced more than 27 million tonnes of wheat this year, which is a record, due to the Prime Minister Kisan Package. The government and related institutions should ensure timely measures to deliver the fruits of the best harvest to the industry and the people.

He expressed these views on Monday while talking to Deputy Director Food Department Rawalpindi Division Maher Ghulam Abbas and Flour accused Alkan. On this occasion, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, former Senior Vice President Chaudhry Mukhtar, District Food Controller Muhammad Zaman and members of the Executive Committee were also present.

President Islamabad Chamber said that Pakistan is primarily an agricultural country, it is very worrying that we have to import food every year to meet our requirement, which consumes huge national capital. Paki-



stan's farmers and industry have all the capabilities to make us self-sufficient in food. He said that the Food Department in collaboration with the flour mills industry should take such steps to ensure that we do not have to install cheap flour points.

He said that Deputy Director Food Department Maher Ghulam Abbas has rendered valuable services for the improvement of the system of the department.

He has very diligently and dutifully implemented the policy of equality and treated all flour mill owners equally which is commendable. The presence of 95% flour mill owners of Islamabad present in this hall today proves that they have full faith in their policy of equality and inclusiveness of all stakeholders. Islamabad Chamber stands with him in this regard. He said that the Food Department has done an excellent job to prevent the smuggling of wheat.

Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Director Food Department Pindi Division Meher

Ghulam Abbas said that the main work of the Food Department is the implementation of government policy. As a regulator, we have done an excellent job this year for procurement of wheat, elimination of smuggling and distribution of subsidy.

Talking on this occasion, Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar Islam said that Food Department is the most important government institution, Islamabad Chamber will make efforts to solve the problems together with them Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that the steps taken by the Food Department to reduce the shortage of flour are commendable. Pakistan's wheat production can be further improved by taking some basic steps. He said that like sugar mill owners, flour mill owners should also provide facilities to the farmers. The government, business community and related institutions should form a comprehensive policy to improve the wheat storage system.

The groundbreaking rice varieties will help uplift farmers and enhance rice productivity: Chairman PARC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rice Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) meeting at the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Headquarters in Islamabad was led by Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member of PARC's Plant Sciences Division. During the meeting, Dr. Hussain underscored PARC's dedication to assisting both public and private sector institutes as well as seed companies in the evaluation and introduction of rice hybrids and varieties. Attendees included representatives from the Federal Seed Certification, national and multinational seed companies, provincial seed councils, as well as rice scientists from research institutes at the provincial and federal levels.

The committee members were provided with a comprehensive overview of fifty-one proposals for rice hybrids/varieties by Dr. Muhammad Yousuf, National Coordinator Rice of PARC. Following thorough discussions and careful considerations, the VEC recommended 14 high-yielding rice hybrids from private seed companies for the cultivation in Pakistan. Furthermore, the National Institute of Genomics and Biotechnology (NIGAB) of PARC intro-

duced four fine rice varieties that demonstrated significantly higher grain yield compared to the currently grown varieties.

In addition to the above recommendations, the VEC also suggested the cultivation of Sona Super Basmati, a long-grain variety measuring 9.5 mm, and Vital Super Basmati developed by RRI, Kala Shah Kaku, Vital Super Basmati is notable for its high levels of zinc and iron enrichment.

During a meeting with rice scientists, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, expressed his confidence in the positive impact that the introduction of these high-yielding rice varieties would have on rice productivity and the profitability of farmers across the country. Dr. Waseem ul Hassan, representing the Ministry of Food Security and Research applauded the efforts of rice scientists in Pakistan for their achievement in releasing the biofortified Basmati rice variety, along with the four high-yielding fine rice varieties. Furthermore, representatives from seed companies lauded PARC for establishing a transparent testing procedure for evaluating rice hybrids and varieties, recognizing the subsequent benefits it brings to farmers and the rice sector in Pakistan.

Pak-Qatar Group signs MoU with ICMAP



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Group, Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, has recently signed an MoU with Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP). The MoU has been signed by Mr. Kamran Ali Khan, Head of Human Resource and Training - Pak-Qatar and Mr. Aamir Ijaz Khan, Executive Director - ICMAP. Ms. Sataish Asim, Joint Director, Placements and Industrial Linkages - ICMAP and Mr. Faizan Ul Latif Khan, Manager Human Resource, Pak-Qatar were also present at the occasion.

The MoU aims to build and maintain a productive collaborative relationship between Pak-Qatar Group and ICMAP for continuous quality enhancement and promotion of education, training and career opportunities for financial professionals.

This partnership is a testament of Pak-Qatar Group's

commitment to recruit the top talent from the best institutes in the country. ICMAP plays a significant role in developing competent financial professionals.

On the occasion, Mr. Kamran Ali Khan said, "We are delighted to partner with one of the top institutes that is developing financial professionals in the country. Being a financial services group, this is a great opportunity for Pak-Qatar Group to recruit qualified professionals to further strengthen our human resources in providing excellence to our customers."

Mr. Aamir Ijaz added, "Pak-Qatar Group has been associated with ICMAP for a very long time, but this MoU will further strengthen our partnership in the long term. Every year we have developed 500 students across all our 11 campuses and these students have contributed to Pakistan's financial industry tremendously. We are looking forward to achieving great heights through this partnership."

Struggling beverages industry pleads for the reduction of 7% FED to the Senate Committee

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The aerated beverages industry's representatives appeared before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue and Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to seek a reduction in Federal Excise Duty (FED).

The industry presented their negative growth figures to the committee, highlighting how the imposition of 7% FED has impacted their business and led to an approximately 40% decrease in volume.

The industry's representatives underlined that the aerated beverages industry has been a reliable contributor to the national economy, bolstering the country's beleaguered forex reserves by an estimated US\$200 million during a challenging economic period.

However, recent tax measures have hindered the industry's potential for growth, leading to a decrease in investment and revenue.

Banks to observe normal timings on Saturday to facilitate tax collection

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has announced that those commercial bank branches that remain open on Saturday will observe normal banking hours on June 24 (Saturday) until 5:30pm to facilitate the collection of taxes through Alternate Delivery Channels (ADC's) over-the-counter (OTC) facility.

In a statement on Monday, the central bank advised all commercial banks to ensure round-the-clock availability of their online payment facilities including internet banking, mobile apps and others to facilitate the taxpayers in online payment of government duties/taxes.

Pakistan through to five-nation Basketball C'ship semifinal

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will face Bangladesh on Tuesday in the semifinal of five-nation international basketball championship at Male, Maldives.

According to information received here, the semifinal lineup of the championship has been completed after the last league round match between Nepal and Maldives.

The host country crashed out of the event after being defeated by Nepal by



75-68 points.

Pakistan basketball team won the last three matches by showing excellent performance.

Pakistan defeated Maldives by 65-63 points, Bhutan by 76-53 points and Bangladesh by 84-66 points respectively. However, they had conceded defeat in the first match against Nepal by 66-62 points.

In the other semifinal, Nepal will take on Bhutan on Tuesday.

Pakistan team is participating in any international event after seven years.

Pakistan squad: Muhammad Shahbaz Ali (captain), Abdul Wahab, Muhammad Umair Jan, Zain ul Hassan Khan, Muhammad Shahid, Imad Ahmed, Zia Ur Rehman, Saqib Ullah Mahsood, Mahtab Akram and Sheraz Aslam.

Officials: Malik Muhammad Riaz (head coach), Umer Mehmood (coach), Ahmed Ali Tipu (manager).



A group photo of former vice president Punjab Football Association and Convener Restoration of Football Sardar Naveed Hyder with Senior Journalist Rafiq Khan Iqbal Harper, Muhammad Babar, and Abdul Qayyum.

General Council meeting of Gilgit-Baltistan Alpine Association (GBAA) held

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit-Baltistan Alpine Association (GBAA) held a General Council meeting in a local hotel at Gilgit. The representatives of different districts participated in it. The districts from where the representatives could not reach were available online:

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Prof. Arfan, Brig. (R) Saleem Mehmood, Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq, President Alpine Club of Pakistan and Mr. Rehmatullah Qureshi, Mr. Yasir, Director, GB Tourism & Sports Departments were present at the occasion. They expressed their views. The district representatives also highlighted challenges being faced by them.

The elections of Executive board of GBAA were held the following office bearers were elected:

Brig. (R) Saleem Mehmood, as President, Mr. Rehmatullah, as Secretary General, Mr. Shah Jehan, Mr. Ayaz Ahmed Shigri, Mr. Abdul Bari, Raj Wali elected as Vice Presidents. Whereas Mr. Nazir Shigri as Press Secretary, Mr. Anwar Ali as Finance Secretary and Mr. Hidayat Hussain, Liver Khan, Wahid Ali, Syed Zuhra, Col (R) Amjad, Shah Rahim were elected as Executive Members.

At the end Brig. (R) Saleem Mehmood thanked the house for posing trust on him and elected President of GBAA. He assured that he would take every possible step to promote, mountaineering, trekking, sport climbing and mountain Tourism, in GB.

Necessary amendments in the Constitutes of GBAA was approved unanimously.

Pakistan A V/S Bangladesh A Semi-Final Moved to Tuesday

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The second semi-final of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 between Pakistan A and Bangladesh A will now take place on Tuesday, reserve day, after today's encounter was washed out without a ball bowled due to rain at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Hong Kong on Monday. The match will begin at 1030PST.

Pakistan A, led by Fatima Sana, qualified for the semi-final after bagging four points from three matches, as two group games were washed out due to rain.

Oman stun Ireland, Sri Lanka thump UAE in CWC Qualifier

A Sports

BULAWAYO: A collective effort from the batters before Wanindu Hasaranga's six-for lifted Sri Lanka to thrash UAE by 175 runs before Oman registered the first upset of the Cricket World Cup (CWC) Qualifier by defeating Ireland by five wickets.

In the fourth match of the CWC Qualifiers, Oman put on a remarkable show with the bat against Ireland as the associate nation outclassed their opponents by five wickets as they chased down a 282-run total with 11 balls to spare.

Put into bat first, Ireland raised 281/7 in their set of 50 overs with middle-order batter George Dockrell leading the charge with a brilliant 91-run knock.

Dockrell put on a defiant 79-run partnership with Harry Tector, who continued his rich form to score an 82-ball 52 which featured five boundaries.

Ireland struggled in the early phase of the innings as their top-order made modest contributions, leaving the side four down for 107 runs in the 21st over.

However, the fifth-wicket partnership between Tector and Dockrell made sure the side accumulated a commendable total.

Friendship through Sports

ISLAMABAD: Corps Of Service Attache and Representative of FTS (Friendship Through Sports) Cricket Teams posing for group photograph before starting Friendly Cricket Match at Shalimar Cricket Ground F-6, In Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Pakistan team receives visa to participate in SAFF Championship in India



Spots desk

LAHORE: Pakistan men's football team on Monday, received the Visas to participate in the upcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship in India, scheduled to take place from June 21 to July 4.

According to the details, the Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius issued the Visas to the Pakistan football team, which will now travel to India via the first available flight.

Notably, the Pakistan team received a two-day delay in the issuance of the Visas due to which they could not depart for Bengaluru as per schedule on Sunday.

Pakistan will start their SAFF Championship campaign against arch-rivals India on June 21 before taking on Nepal and invitee Kuwait.

Notably, the Pakistan football team are currently in Mauritius where they participated in the four-nation tournament.

The national team failed to impress in the four-nation tournament as they remained winless in the entire competition, losing to Mauritius, Kenya and Djibouti respectively.

After concluding their campaign in the four-nation tournament, the Pakistan men's football team will mark their return to the SAFF Championship after missing the last two out of the 13 editions held since 1993.

The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) could not send its men's team for the 2015 edition held in India due to the lack of funds.

The national side then missed the 2021 edition as they were serving a suspension from FIFA, which was lifted last year in June.

Sri Lanka will not be participating in the tournament as they are serving a suspension from the football governing body FIFA, while Afghanistan left SAFF and joined the Central Asian Football Federation.

Rumanza Golf Course stirs up Golf for Caddies

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Rumanza Caddy Golf Tournament 2023 will commence at the world class par -72, 18 holes Rumanza Golf Course, DHA, Multan from 20th June and for three days from 20th to 22nd June a vehement golf competition among golf caddies will be all stirred up. These caddies represent the golfing community who have converged to this golf playing arena after earning selection from the Provincial Golf Associations namely Baluchistan, Sind, KPK, Federal and Punjab. Participating number add to 105 and the eligibility is based on a rule that required 20 players per Golf Association adopted through a trials selection process.

This championship was initiated by the Rumanza Golf Course Management on an idea that such selected ones have served the cause of golf as allied stalwarts and



their involvement as participants would bring to the fore a couple of talent loaded golf players who could transcend to the professional ranks and carve out a lucrative golf career as golf players of caliber and distinction. And already during the course of selection trials, noticeable are remarkable performances by some caddies.

Distinctive attributes of this Championship are several, the striking ones being the Prize Money for the championship which is Rs 2.5

million and a cash reward of Rupees one million for the one who does a hole in one. Top forty achievers will acquire cash winnings that they have never tasted before.

The occasion will be a significant one for the caddies ranks as it opens a window of opportunity for them and enables them to achieve a flaming desire plus ambition of becoming a golf professional.

Competing at the most engaging Sir Nick Faldo designed first signature

golf course of Pakistan, the Rumanza Golf Course, DHA, Multan will be likeable and appealing for these golf career seeking caddies who managed to surface as capable golf players during the selection trials. In the course of three days of golf playing rounds they will be completely enchanted by striking features like 270 acres golf course spread, three zones, the desert zone, the wetland zone and the woodland zone. Additionally impressive will be its lush green meadows, fruit filled orchards, classy fairways and 51 Eco Bunkers. And whether they win or not the overall experience will leave unfading impressions on their golf related experience and enhance their profile.

The championship Tournament Director is Brig Fayyaz Ahmed Khan Sial (Retd), Chief Referee is Salman Abbasi and to lend operational support will be Sam Clayton and Syed Raza Ali.

PSL Champions Lahore Qalandars acquire Durban franchise in Zim Afro T10

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Super League Champions Lahore Qalandars have acquired the Durban franchise in the Zim Afro T10, and it will be called the Durban Qalandars.

The franchise is owned by the Pakistani businessmen Atif Naem Rana and Sameen Naem Rana, said a press release. The Lahore Qalandars have won two titles (2022 & 2023) in the Pakistan Super League.

Along expected lines, the Qalandars franchise will look to replicate their success with the Durban team in Zim Afro T10.

The Zim Afro T10 represents franchise cricket's first foray in Zimbabwe and the tournament will have five privately owned teams battling it out for the top prize. The other four teams will be Harare Hurricanes, CapeTown Samp Army, Bulawayo Braves and the Joburg Lions.

The Zim Afro T10, in association with T Ten Global Sports, will get underway on 20 July, with a grand final scheduled for 29 July, with all the games being played in Harare.

The players' draft is slated to take place on the 2nd of July at a grand ceremony in Harare.



Zimbabwe Cricket Managing Director Mr Givemore Makoni said, "We are elated to welcome the Qalandars to the Zim Afro T10 and Zimbabwe Cricket family. They have been very successful in Pakistan and we hope that they can bring their entertaining brand of cricket for the local fans here as well. They come with a tradition of attracting the best players, and we hope to see more of that."

"After winning two consecutive seasons in the PSL, we want to expand our footprint and Zimbabwe is a great chance for us to make a mark.

The Zim Afro T10 is surely going to be a very exciting tournament – it is the fastest format in the game after all, and

we cannot wait to connect with the fans there and create a strong fanbase for ourselves," Sameen Naem Rana, Owner & CEO of Durban Qalandars said.

The T Ten Global Sports Founder and Chairman Nawab Shaji Ul Mulik said, "It is great to have the champions from the Pakistan Super League join us in the Zim Afro T10 as the Durban Qalandars. They have had a long-lasting effect in the PSL and we hope to see them play a similar kind of role in the Zim Afro T10. I expect stiff competition and some entertaining cricket from the Durban Qalandars from the very first ball. The fans are eagerly awaiting for this festival of cricket to begin."

British-Pakistani Enaam Ahmed's impressive start diminished by tyre problems, settles for 17th

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: British Pakistani racer Enaam Ahmed finished 17th in the 2023 IndyNXT by Firestone race at Road America due to tyre issues, despite starting from the rear and battling for a top-10 position.

Nevertheless, as a determined rookie, Enaam remains focused on achieving further success and breaking records in his racing career for the remainder of the season.

Enaam Ahmed competed in the sixth round of the 2023 IndyNXT by Firestone this past weekend, taking on the historic Road America racing circuit.

The track is one of the most famous and challenging race tracks in America, and has hosted many of the top American racing series over the past 68 years.

Ahmed was forced to start near the rear of the field due to troubles with his car's performance during qualifying. He was not worried by the tough task ahead of him, however, and the 23-year-old put his considerable skills to work as soon as the race started.

After just two laps around the four-mile course, the Pakistani Panther had muscled his way past four drivers. Ahmed went wheel to wheel with



Matteo Nannini on the opening lap, and was even able to complete the pass around the outside of the Carousel, the fastest and most difficult corner on the track.

He was on a mission to get the most from his car and was already well ahead of his Cape Motorsports team-mate.

When he was battling with Danial Frost for a position inside the top 10, Ahmed's car suffered a flat spot on his

front tyre. Ahmed attempted to drive through the problem, but he pushed so hard that the tyre started to come apart while he was racing at over 170 miles per hour. He was forced to back off to prevent a catastrophic failure and ended the race in 17th.

"Had a really good start, got into the top 10," said Ahmed after the race. "Car was fast. But unfortunately while fighting with Frost, I flat-spotted my front left tyre. It just delaminated as the race went on and was completely down to the cords, which is why I went from the top 10 to the back. I'm lucky it didn't explode. I could just see it delaminating as I drove. So, very unfortunate weekend all around."

With Ahmed racing against some of the most talented racers in the world, he knows that he cannot fight for the win every single weekend. The former British Formula 3 champion was still disappointed with the results and vowed to come back even stronger for the remainder of the season.

So far this year, despite competing as a rookie in the series, the British-Pakistani racer has logged two top-five finishes. Even though he is the most accomplished racer to come from Pakistan, Ahmed has his sights on breaking many more records in his racing career.