

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابو الودیع نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے شعیب نے ان سے ہشام بن زید نے کہا کہ میں اس رخصی اللہ عنہ کے ساتھ ہمیں ایوب کے یہاں گیا، انہوں نے وہاں چھ روزوں کو یا جوڑوں کو رکھا کہ ایک مری کو بانٹ کر اس پر تیر کاٹنا لگا ہے تو انہوں نے کہا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے زکوٰۃ مانور کو بانٹ کر مرنے سے منع فرمایا ہے۔
(بخاری، صفحہ نمبر 5513)
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Protecting Holy Prophet's (PBUH) honour religious duty of every Muslim: Rana Sana

Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said it was the religious obligation of every Muslim to protect and uphold the honour of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). No compromises could be made on the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) honour as the love for him was deeply embedded in the hearts of Muslims, he said.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was the first woman PM of the Muslim world: Gilani

Former Prime Minister and Senator Yusuf Raza Gilani said in a press conference after cutting the cake on the occasion of Ms. Benazir Bhutto's birthday at the High Court Bar with People's Lawyers Forum, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto and their family sacrificed their lives for this country. He said that congratulations to the whole nation on the birthday of Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 3, Thursday, June 22, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 76

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

ECC Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

President appoints Justice Qazi Faez Isa as next Chief Justice of Pakistan



Justice Qazi Faez Isa will assume office on September 17, 2023, following the retirement of the incumbent Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial, a President House statement said.

The incumbent chief justice will reach the age of superannuation on September 16, 2023, under Article 179 of the Constitution.

The president, who appointed Justice Qazi Faez Isa under Article 175A (3) of the Constitution, would also administer the oath of office to him on September 17, 2023.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday approved the appointment of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

FM Bilawal vows to make Pakistan modern, democratic state



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday vowed to build modern and democratic nation.

Addressing an event, Bhutto-Zardari said, "The failure is not an option. There is a dire need to reject those who want to lead you astray."

At the outset of his speech, Bhutto-Zardari said, "Participating in today's event is quite an honour for me. We have always accepted the politics of reconciliation and rejected the politics of hatred. Fighting shouldn't be the focus of our politics."

"We want to build a nation that belongs to everyone. Your future is in your hands. Brotherhood must triumph over divide, and politeness must overpower our savagery," he stressed.

Bhutto-Zardari acknowledged the nation was facing economic hardships, but he vowed to provide the youth of the nation with access to the employment market. "You must choose the principles that will guide your life. Unity is necessary for stability," he continued.

"The politics of this country are belonged to the youth," he said, highlighting the significance of the younger demographic in society.

"It is time for us to control our own fate," Bhutto-Zardari added.

Earlier, Mr Bhutto-Zardari said the true way to pay tribute to former prime minister Benazir Bhutto is to follow her ideology. Bhutto's mission in Pakistan was to uphold the supremacy of law and democracy in the country's institutions, he said.

PM Shehbaz in Paris to attend New Global Financing Pact Summit

Spokesman Report

PARIS: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived in Paris on an official visit to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit, at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

As the prime minister landed at the Paris airport along with his delegation, he was warmly received by Pakistan's ambassador in France and diplomatic officials besides senior French government authorities.

Federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi are part of the prime minister's entourage.

During the visit, the prime minister will attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit being hosted by France and participated by heads of state and delegates from over 50 countries.



PM Shehbaz will also join reception hosted by the French president for the participating dignitaries. During the visit, the prime minister will also hold bilateral meetings with different heads of state.

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The Summit affords an opportunity for the leaders to discuss the contours of a new global architecture capable of meeting the challenges of financing sustainable development, environment, energy transition and climate change agenda.

In the run-up to other important international events and conferences during the next two years, the Summit aims to define the principles and steps required for a comprehensive reform of the international financial system, and pave the way for a more balanced and fair partnership between the North and the South.

Pakistan will contribute to the debate at the Summit as a leading stakeholder in the global discourse, a leader in G-77 and China and one of the largest developing countries most affected by climate change.

Pakistan Navy marks World Hydrography Day

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy has observed World Hydrography Day (WHDD) with enthusiasm and with an aim to create awareness on the importance of hydrography and its role towards blue economy and ultimately national growth.

The WHDD is celebrated worldwide on June 21 every year to appreciate the work done in the field of hydrography to support safe navigation at open seas, ports and other protected marine areas. Every year a specific theme related to contribution of hydrography in world maritime affairs is orchestrated by International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), said a news release on Wednesday.

This year, the theme of WHDD is "Hydrography - underpinning the digital twin of the ocean".

ECC approves Rs1.9bln technical supplementary grants

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In addition to approving various summaries, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, here on Wednesday approved Rs1,914.83 million technical supplementary grants for various ministries and divisions.

The cabinet committee meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

According to press statement, on Ministry of Commerce summary ECC suspended Import conditions contained in Import Policy Order 2022 related to import of Timber/Wood from the date of issuance of IPO 2022 to 31st October, 2023 with direction to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to review the import policy and come up with suggestions to settle this issue.

The ECC also approved another summary of Ministry of Commerce regarding amendment in relevant clause in the Import Policy Order

2022 to allow government agencies to import pharmaceutical raw material.

Ministry of Energy (Power Division) submitted a summary regarding Quarterly Tariff Adjustments of K-Electric and informed that as per National Electricity Policy 2021, the government may maintain a uniform consumer-end tariff for K-Electric and state owned distribution companies.

Accordingly, KE applicable uniform variable charge is required to be modified to maintain the uniform tariff across the country.

The ECC approved a surcharge of Rs.1.52/unit to be recovered from K-Electric Consumers in 12 months. The ECC further allowed release and utilization of available budget of Rs. 76 billion as payment of arrears under different heads.

The ECC considered another summary of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) regarding implementation of revised circular debt management plan and utilization of Rs. 20,726 billion to government owned power plants.

The committee after discussion authorized Power Division to utilize

one-time full amount out of assignment account in relaxation of limit of using Rs. 4 billion per month during June 2023 for the next five months and to ensure that there will be no more payment liability to IPPs for the period July 2023 to Nov, 2023.

The ECC also considered and approved another summary of Power Division regarding release of Rs. 56 billion as approved under revised CDMF against the AJ&K receivables.

The ECC approved various Technical Supplementary Grants (TSG) including Rs. 567,120 million in favour of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for its development expenditure and Rs. 40 Million in favour of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for Cadet College Hassanabdal for need based scholarships to financially challenged students.

The committee approved Rs. 14,022 million as TSG in favour of Federal Tax Ombudsman for ERE expenditure; Rs. 19,236 million as TSG in favour of Ministry of Interior for Repair & Maintenance of Helicopter by Pakistan Rangers; Rs.

JIT summons PTI chief, others in Fannah House attack case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The joint investigation team (JIT) on Wednesday summoned five accused including the PTI chairman in Corps Commander House attack case.

Others accused include PTI chief's wife Bushra Bibi, Hammad Azhar, Hassaan Niazi and Murad Saeed. The JIT summoned them to appear for investigation in a case lodged at Sarwar Road police station at 7pm today.

The summons directed SP Civil Lines and SP Model Town to ensure the appearance of all the accused before the JIT in DIG Investigation office.

Earlier, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) issued non-bailable arrest warrants of the PTI chief and other leaders including Hammad Azhar and Mian Aslam Iqbal.

SC forms nine-member bench for hearing cases against military trials of civilians

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday constituted a nine-member bench headed by CJP Umar Ata Bandial to hear cases against civilians' trials in the military courts.

The bench comprises Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik.

Earlier, prominent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, Justice Jawad S Khawaja, and others had approached the apex court in this regard through their lawyers. Ahsan's plea requested court to render civilians' trial in military courts "unconstitutional", annul sections 2 and 59 of the Army Act, and declare section 94 and rules "unconstitutional".

Holi celebrations banned in Pakistani universities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: All the universities in Pakistan have been advised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to refrain from celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi on their campuses.

The HEC, in a letter addressed to all higher education institutions (HEIs), urged them to remain distanced from activities that are incompatible with the country's customs and societal practices, while also ensuring that students and faculty engage in academic and cognitive learning, intellectual debates, and rational discourse, in addition to identifying and fostering avenues for extracurricular activities.

On June 13, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) students celebrated the Holi festival.

HEC executive director Dr Shaista Sohail wrote a letter, saying that "Unfortunately, it is sad to witness activities that portray a complete disconnect from our sociocultural values and an erosion of the country's Islamic identity."

Cake Cutting

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf cutting cake to celebrate 70th birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in WPC on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Economic Empowerment of Women at the Heart of Development in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the General Assembly of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) was held at 3:00pm in the Conference Room of WPC in the Parliament House. The General Assembly meeting was presided by Honorable Dr. Shahida Rahmani, Secretary, WPC. The meeting commenced with a cake-cutting ceremony on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary of Shaheed



Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Pervez Ashraf was invited as the chief guest in the ceremony.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Pervez Ashraf was invited as the chief guest in the ceremony. The theme for the General Assembly meeting of WPC was "Economic Empowerment of Women." The meeting involved through briefings from the representatives of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI).

The representatives from each organization delineated the strategies of

pertinent organizations to amplify the financial inclusion of women, including an increase in the ratio of female employees at banks to facilitate female clients, inclusion of financial asset management in the education system and the projects underway to boost entrepreneurship among women. Towards the end of each presentation, the Honorable Members of the General Assembly made recommendations to improve upon the on-going projects.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the first woman PM of the Muslim world: Gilani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Yusuf Raza Gilani said in a press conference after cutting the cake on the occasion of Ms. Benazir Bhutto's birthday at the High Court Bar with People's Lawyers Forum.

Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto and their family sacrificed their lives for this country. He said that congratulations to the whole nation on the birthday of Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto. Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto gave law to the country and completed other developmental projects for Pakistan besides the Heavy Mechanical Complex, Taxila Aeronautical Complex, Kamra, Miraj Rebuild Factory and Karachi Steel Mill. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto completed her father's plans during her reign. And did not bow down to dictators like Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez



Musharraf. Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto started the nuclear program and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto completed Pakistan's atomic nuclear program and Missile system in addition to the GF 17 Thunder program was also completed by her.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the first woman Prime Minister of the Muslim world. When she came to Pakistan for the first time after exile,

she was historically welcomed in Lahore. Bibi always worked for the promotion and betterment of democracy.

All stakeholders of Pakistan should sit together and negotiate for the betterment and prosperity of the nation and the country. Governments come and go in other countries, but the economy continues as it is. The people should get equal rights in all regions of Pakistan. During my government, the Saraiki region got thirty four percent of its rights from the federal and provincial budgets for four consecutive years.

Army and civilian installations were damaged in the violent incidents of 9th may, which is very wrong and I strongly condemn it. GHQ, Jinnah House and memorials of martyrs were attacked.

A case will be filed against the attackers in the judicial court so that they do not get a chance to desecrate the forces and martyrs.

Pak, Iran pledge stronger bonds through pilgrimage, trade cooperation

Spokesman Report

MAKKAH MUKARMA: Pakistan and Iran have reiterated their resolve to further enhance cooperation in facilitating pilgrims and extending economic cooperation through border trade, aiming to create a seamless and enchanting experience for pilgrims, besides strengthening their economic ties.

In a meeting with Syed Fateh Nawab, the head of the Iranian Hajj Mission in Makkah on Wednesday, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Talha Mehmood, stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the Ziaaraat of sacred places in Iran has been sent to the Iranian Embassy in Pakistan through our representative from the Foreign Ministry.

Talha expressed his utmost desire for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to evolve into a formal agree-



ment, aiming to foster an enriching cultural exchange between the two countries.

Talha voiced his aspiration to formalize and streamline the border trade between the two countries, which currently takes place through Dubai.

Recognizing the significant potential for bilateral trade, Talha emphasized the importance of establishing regularized channels for commerce between the two nations.

Talha highlighted the importance of Iran's assistance during the 1965 war and stressed the need for a strong partnership to promote the prosperity and progress of both nations. He empha-

sized the significance of supporting each other in combating economic challenges and difficulties.

Reminiscing about his 2007 visit to Iran, Talha emphasized the deep reverence Muslims hold for the religious and sacred places in the country. He revealed his forthcoming plans to lead a delegation on a visit to Iran in the near future.

Talha emphasized the geographical proximity between Pakistan and Iran, stating that this inherent closeness cannot be altered. He expressed the belief in mutual support as neighboring countries and emphasized the need to prioritize assistance in financial matters, including the resolution of issues concerning Iran.

He emphasized his commitment to maintaining a strong collaboration with the top leadership of the State Bank of Pakistan and the Ministry of Finance to facilitate the establishment of a branch of an Iranian bank in Pakistan.

The minister announced the success-

ful accomplishment of his goal to establish an agreement with Iran, aimed at enhancing border trade and fostering economic cooperation between the two nations.

Talha claimed to have successfully accomplished the objective of establishing an agreement with Iran to bolster border trade between the two nations.

Speaking on the occasion, the head of Iran's Hajj mission has extended a heartfelt request to Senator Talha Mehmood.

The request is to kindly share their enchanting experiences and insights on food arrangements and the remarkable Road to Makkah initiative. This sharing of wisdom will allow others to be inspired and benefit from Pakistan's invaluable experiences.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Fateh Nawab, the head of the Iranian Hajj Mission in Makkah, reiterated the continued close cooperation between Pakistan and Iran.

Senate chairman stresses students to focus innovative trends

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani here Wednesday stressed upon students to focus on innovative trends to compete in the era of science and technology as the culture of innovations would help the country achieve the goal of progress and development.

He was addressing the 27th Convocation in Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute of Science and Technology at Topi, district Swabi. The convocation was attended by ambassadors, parliamentarians, educationists, vice-chancellors and parents of students.

The Senate chairman said, "We should follow the growing trend of research and innovation to prosper and explore opportunities in contemporary world that is progressing after making headways in the field of science and technology."

He reposed confidence in the capabilities of the young generation and said they should play their part to steer the country out of the economic quagmire.

He said the significance of education could not be undermined in the age of globalization and advancement, and youngsters must venture into new fields of science and technol-



ogy for the prosperity of the country.

Sadiq Sanjrani said technology should be considered as a benchmark for the progress and economic stability of the country. He said technology was the shortest and smartest way to attain the goals of progress and prosperity.

He said the Senate would sign a memorandum of understanding with GIK Institute under which foreign dignitaries would visit the institute to witness modern education facilities being provided to students.

Later, PhD scholars and undergraduate students were given medals and commending certificates for their performance.

Eleven students of various faculties were given gold medals for their excellence in the respective fields.

In age of growing global problems, countries should sit, find solutions: MoS Khar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Wednesday underlined the need for the world community to work together to find out solutions to the growing global problems like climate change and refugees.

In an interview with the Voice of America (VoA Urdu), the minister said that Pakistan had close contacts with the Western world including the institutional linkages, whether it were with the US or the Europe Union (EU).

But at the same time, Pakistan also enjoyed close strategic ties with China spanning over decades, she added.

Replying to question regarding US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to China, she said "Look at Pakistan, Pakistan has good relations with both. It is every sovereign country's right to pursue its rights, our interest is in having balanced and good relations with all the countries."

She further said that if the atmosphere of competition was intensified in the world, it would be a very good example for other countries how to preserve such like relationship and actually encourage them.

MoS Khar said the world was facing increasing issues like refugees influx and climate change problems.

"We all the US, China, EU, Pakistan or India, have to sit together to find out solution to these issues. With different blocks, these problems cannot be resolved," she stressed.

About Indian prime minister's visit to the US, Hina Khar said that Pakistan would always look positively to bilateral ties between sovereign countries and would not look negatively.

But on the other hand, she maintained, Pakistan had a very belligerent neighbour who indulged into military adventurism by sending jets during 2019 which was unprecedented and unthinkable.

She said the world must look into this factor as well whether those being propagated for their role in the regional security deserved it.

"The world have to see whether there was conflict preservation instead conflict resolution due to them (India), then it did not auger well for the region. We hope that nothing would go wrong for the region and Pakistan", she opined.

About ties with the EU, she said GSP Plus status only could not define Pakistan's relations with them as their bilateral engagements were wider and broader at all levels including the business contacts, institutional linkages, IT sector growth etc.

Concerted efforts underway to promote religious tourism: Ramesh

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Wednesday said all-out efforts were underway to promote religious tourism of Pakistan at the international level through a massive projection of heritage and religious sites.

Talking to the media during a visit to the historic Mankayala Stupa near Rawat Rawalpindi, the minister said this was the holiest site for Buddhists and had the potential to attract a large number of pilgrims from around the world.

"I have visited the archaeological sites of the Gandhara civilization,

especially the Buddhist ones, across the country," he said, adding it had been decided to start a weekly pilgrimage to the holy places of different religions.

He said Buddhists believed that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment on his birth as a sattuva prince at this Mankayala Stupa when he saw a lioness and her seven cubs starving with hunger. He sacrificed himself to save his life and became immortal forever.

According to the local population, Mankayala Stupa was named after Raja Man or Manak. Mankayala Stupa is also considered to be one of the eighty-four thousand stupas built under the orders of Ashoka the Great. Every Buddhist in the world wishes to visit the holy places of the Gandhara period in Pakistan.

Senior Minister presents a historic tax free budget worth over 232 billion

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Senior Minister Colonel (Rtd) Waqar Ahmed Noor on Wednesday presented a historic tax free budget worth over 232 billion and 47 million rupees for financial year 2023-2024 in which 42 billion rupees has been allocated for development projects.

A revised budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, worth 156.0947 billion rupees was also presented for approval. To improve the economic condition of the employees, the finance minister said that the government while keeping in view its resources will contemplate over increasing the salary and pension of the government employees on the pattern of the federal government employees.

While presenting the budget for the financial year 2023-24 in the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Senior Most Minister and Minister for Finance Colonel (R) Waqar Ahmad Noor said that the total estimated non-development expenditure for the next financial year was 190.047 billion, which included 7.5669 billion rupees for Services and



General Administration, rupees 1.672 billion for Board of Revenue, 0.044 billion rupees for Stamps, 51.300 million for Land Record and Settlement, rupees 1,992.200 million for relief and rehabilitation, rupees 35 billion for pension, rupees 379.300 million for public relations, 3.0114 billion for Judiciary, 8.1372 billion for police, 0.3269 billion for jails, 398.600 million for Civil Defense and 100.8 million rupees for Armed Services Board, 6.2067 billion rupees for Communication and Public Works department, 40.133 billion for Education and 17.526 billion rupees for

public health.

Similarly, budget estimates for Sports, Youth, Culture & Transport 183.2 millions rupees, 266.2 million for religious affairs, 746.6 million rupees for social welfare and women's affairs, Rs. 1.0616 billion for agriculture, Rs. 964.600 million for livestock and dairy development.

The finance minister said that 372.4 million rupees for food, 14.53 billion for State Trading, 1.7856 billion for Forests/ Wildlife/Fisheries, 25.5 million for Cooperative, 10.64 billion for Energy and Water Resources, 817.4 million for Local Government & Rural

Development, 278.2 million Industries, Labour & Minerals Resources, 156 million for Printing Press, 140.2 million for Sericulture, 176.9 million Tourism & Archaeology.

He said that capital expenditure worth 4 billion was also included in the budget estimates. The total revenue estimate for the next fiscal year 2023-24, he said, was 166.45 billion rupees which included rupees 44 billion from Inland Revenue, 150 million from Land Record and Settlement, Stamps 400 million, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Transport Authority 65 million, Armed Services Board 40 million, Law

and Order 145 million, Interior (Police) 240 million rupees, Jails 0.8 million rupees, Communication & Works 650 million rupees, Education 280 million rupees, Health 160 million, Food 400 million, Agriculture 11 million, Wild-Life/Fisheries 75 million, Livestock & Dairy Development 40 million, Forests 1.2 billion, Electricity 25 billion, Printing Press 100 million, Industries 45 million, Labour 5 million, Sericulture 5 million, Minerals 100 million, Tourism 12 million, Social Welfare 0.2 million, Religious Affairs 70 million, and Miscellaneous 656 million.

On development budget estimates

for the FY 2023-24, the finance minister said that an amount of 900 million rupees has been proposed for agriculture and livestock and similarly, 150 million for civil defense / SDMA, 345 million for development institutions, 4.3 billion for education, 150 million for environment, 800 million rupees for forests/watershed, 75 million for wildlife and fisheries, 3 billion rupees for public health, 520 million for industry and minerals, Rs 280 million for Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, Rs 1.035 billion for Governance/Miscellaneous, Rs. 30 million for Transport, 200 million for Information and Media Development, Rs 800 million for Information Technology, 3.7 billion for Local Government and Rural Development, 2.465 billion rupees for physical planning and housing, 4.3 billion rupees for energy and water resources, 2.4 billion rupees for research and development, 550 million rupees for land administration and management, social welfare and development of women, Social Welfare & Women Dev. 300 million, Sports, Youth & Culture 500, Tourism 700 million and Communication & Works 14.5 billion rupees.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Students of Jamia Hafsa shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at Blue area in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Appeal to the Army Chief that political workers should not be tried in military courts



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The central leadership of Pakistan People's Party workers said that the events of May 9 are condemnable, this crime is unforgivable. But political workers are always very emotional for their leadership, they should be warned. Appeal to the Army Chief that political workers should not be tried in military courts, because Pakistan cannot afford any more hatred.

This was said by the central leadership of Pakistan People's Party workers, Naheed Khan, Safdar Abbasi, Ibn E Rizvi, Malik Mazhar, former Prime Minister and former chairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Benazir Bhutto during the 70th birthday ceremony. On this occasion, Chaudhry Afzal, Afzal Khan, Maqbool, Usman Hayat Abbasi Advocate, Naveed Sadiq, Ghulam Ali, Shahnaz Chaudhry, Kausar Altaf, Asia, along with a large number of workers were present. During the ceremony, Benazir Bhutto's birthday cake was cut. Later, Benazir Bhutto's martyrdom site was visited. Flower petals were showered and congregational prayers were offered.

The leaders of People's Party workers said that along with the current political leadership, the army will have to play its role. Army Chief Asim Munir is the pride of the nation. He has a very talented personality. We want to tell them that they have a great responsibility. A political worker is always very emotional. We have lost a lot and gained a lot in these 75 years of independence. But we cannot afford to lose any more. It is requested that the trail of political men, women and youngsters who have made a mistake, This should not be done in a military court. We have also faced military courts, but the result is in front of everyone.

CTO Faisalabad inaugurated Driving License branch

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Tandlianwala; Maqsood Ahmed Loan CTO Faisalabad, on his arrival at tehsil Tandlianwala, was warmly welcomed and presented with bouquets by the trade community.

Anjuman Tajran Tandlianwala was thanked including the various business communities & Media from the depths of CTO heart. President Shehzad Bakhtawar Ali Khurana said that the Institutions are our beauty.

CTO expressed that mutual trust and coordination improve the societal system & thanked also to Chairman Ameer Mushtaq Ahmed.

According to the details, Chief Traffic Officer Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmed Lone inaugurated the Learner, Renew and International Driving License branch at Tandlianwala Tehsil for the convenience of the public.

The program was started with the recitation of Holy Quran. The Chief Traffic Officer expressed his views and said that the scope of providing facilities to the citizens regarding driving license has been widened on the instructions of the Inspector General of Police Punjab. Now any citizen of Pakistan can get his license from any city of Punjab. Chairman Anjuman Tajran Registered Tandlianwala Ameer Mushtaq Ahmad said in his speech that first of all we express our heartfelt thanks to the Chief Traffic Officer Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmed Lone on behalf of our association for immediately visiting Tandlianwala on one of our requests.

Punjab govt allocates one billion rupees for Journalists Support Fund: Shakeel Anjum

Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: President Press Club Multan Shakeel Anjum and General Secretary Nisar Awan said that allocation of One Billion Rupees. It will help you to solve it in a better way. The current caretaker government has won the hearts of the journalists by fulfilling the long-standing demand of the journalists by taking special interest for which the journalist community across the Punjab province paid special thanks to the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and the caretaker Information Minister Aamir Mir. Presented Earlier, 5 crore rupees were allocated annually in the Journalist Support Fund, which was very difficult to meet the needs of journalists across the province.

But this amount has been increased to one billion rupees by the present government, which will greatly help in solving the problems of journalists

Women University Continue to Provide a platform to Students and Faculty: Dr Uzma

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the supervision of Multanian Business Incubation Centre (MBIC) Women University and Shaor Foundation for Education and Awareness, under its project Fostering Critical Thinking and Entrepreneurial Skills in Young Women for Gender Inclusive Socioeconomic Development (FCTEW), conducted two days Idea Design Competition for the students and faculty of Women University Multan concluded at Katchery

Campus. Addressing the closing ceremony Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi said that women university will continue to provide a platform to its students and faculty to commercialize their ideas. She further added that it is important that girls learn to be job creators so that they can play their role in the improvement of the society and help in increasing the economic growth of the country.

According to the results of the judges, the first position was won by Zibiah Imran, a student of the Department of Mathe-



matics, Ms. Muqadas and Ms. Farwa Nadeem from Department of IMS while among faculty members first position was

won by Dr. Irum, (IMS) second was Dr. Deeba Shahwar (Mass Communication) and third was Dr. Saima Department of Envi-

ronmental Sciences. The event ended by the closing remarks from Dr Maria Kanwal Director (MBIC) she appreciated the efforts of Shaor Foundation for providing the opportunities to the females of South Punjab. She said that such contests were very healthy activities that not only impart a sense of competitions among students but also encouraged them to think out of the box and cover extra miles at a faster pace during studies. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Malika Liaquat and other faculty members were also present.

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

City Desk

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

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

The ceremony also featured the distribution of souvenirs and shields among the winners of various sports



and co-curricular activities. The recipients were acknowledged for their outstanding performances and contri-

butions in areas such as athletics and co-curricular activities.

Addressing the closing ceremony

Haris Rauf congratulated all students for taking part in sports activities and said that such activities are vital for their career building in future.

H. E. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotabi, Worthy President of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) addressing the closing ceremony said that extracurricular activities are part of the university's vision as it's a huge platform to provide maximum opportunities to students during their academic career and all students must take part in such activities.

Prof. Dr. Samina, Vice President (Female Campus) said that extracurricular activities are a vital platform for students grooming and character building. Dr. Samina said that the spring gala is one of the major activities celebrated every year at campus where students are provided a huge platform



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:14 am
Zohr 12:09 pm
Asr 5:10 pm
Maghrib 7:21 pm
Isha 9:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

DC SW Lower visited Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana office

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan visited Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana where he inspected the studio, transmitter room and other offices in detail. The staff gave a detailed briefing to the Deputy Commissioner regarding the programs of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana. Apart from this, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir Khan participated in Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana's program "Salam Waziristan" and answered questions from the audience. He discussed the ongoing development projects in Lower South Waziristan District, including the damage caused by the recent rains and hailstorm. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir Khan said that Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana is the most effective and convenient means to keep the people of South Waziristan Lower informed about Government activities.

The Millennium Education organized Students High Achievers Ceremony 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD JUNE 21, 2023: In an awe-inspiring of an exquisite ceremony, The Millennium Education Group (TME), led by the legendary Chief Executive, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI orchestrated a truly grandiose event—the High Achievers' & Graduation Ceremony 2023 of Future World Colleges, Bahria Town Rawalpindi Campus, H-11/4 Islamabad Campus, Roots Millennium Colleges Khyber, and Hill View Mirpur Campuses in Islamabad last day says a press release. The gathering marked a joyous tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of the High Achievers and the entire graduating Class of 2023 representing Future World & Millennium Colleges. The pride and joy of hundreds of parents, and the exuberant faculty, their collective presence enhanced the ceremony with a surreal radiance, an aura of elegance, and an overwhelming sense of accomplishment.

This resplendent High Achievers' & Graduation Ceremony was graced by esteemed guests of utmost distinction. These revered guests included the honourable Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the eminent Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, a national hero and renowned nuclear physicist, adorned the event with his illustrious presence. Furthermore, the guests of honour representing The Millennium Education Group were the legendary Founder & Chief Executive of TME, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq (TI), accompanied by Executive Director Mrs. Anna Faisal. The distinguished gathering was also graced by the presence of Ms. Sabina Zakir, the Director of Communications & Outreach, Ms. Erum Atif, the Director of Teaching & Learning, and Mr. Abid Hussain, the praise-worthy Chief Operating Officer of The Millennium Education Group. As the ceremony unfolded, an



overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy permeated the ambience, captivating both the learners and the supportive parental community of The Millennium Education. Testimonials poured in from graduands who were eager to share their success stories. They alongside their proud parents expressed heartfelt appreciation for The Millennium Education &

its CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's (TI) unwavering devotion to providing transformative experiences to the youth. In his impeccable address, Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq (TI) extended his heartfelt felicitations to the graduating learners, their families, and the esteemed faculty. He bestowed

upon them his utmost admiration for their remarkable contributions, which illuminated the very essence of the school. With unwavering commitment and dedication, these exceptional learners brought immense honor to their alma mater, exemplifying excellence in every facet of their academic journey. The celebrated Chief Guest,

Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, captivated the audience while conveying his profound delight at witnessing the exemplary High Achievers' & Graduation Ceremony of the Future World & Millennium Colleges for 2023. He termed it as a momentous occasion in the lives of each and every learner in attendance. He praised the young graduates for successfully reaching the pinnacle of their high school journey and lauded them for bringing honor to their glorified educational institution. The ceremony culminated with a symphony of recognition and celebration. Awards and titles were conferred upon the CAIE Distinction-Holders, Academic High Achievers, and the entire student community of the cherished Class of 2023. This token of acknowledgement served as a poignant tribute, encapsulating their remarkable achievements, and honoring their unwavering dedication to The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan.

Art

ISLAMABAD: A skilled person is making designs on the sacrificial camels in temporary animal market at Sector I-15 ahead of Eid-ul-Adha in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Govt likely to get 364 billion in tax on cigarettes due to current tax rates

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Increasing Federal Excise Duty (FED) on tobacco products has helped stabilizing Pakistan's economy. This decision may put government in bad books of tobacco manufacturers but it will produce great dividends for national economy and public health infrastructure. These views were shared by health activists in an event organized by Society for the Protection of the Rights (SPARC) and Sustainable Development Organization (SSDO). According to the activists, if government remains steadfast on his February 2023 decision of increasing FED on cigarettes, it can generate 364 billion rupees in fiscal year 2023-24. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC



expressed his gratitude thanking Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for increasing FED after an SRO was released on 14th February, 2023. He mentioned that it is heartening to see that our government cares about the lives of our citizens and is not afraid to take bold steps to save them from harms. Khalil added that the good work done by the govern-

ment 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 pay attention to the deceptive campaign of tobacco industry. Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said tobacco products are non-essential and hazard-

ous items which cause 170,000 deaths every year in Pakistan. On an average, Pakistani smokers spend 10% of their average monthly income on cigarettes. Due to cheap and easy affordability nearly 1200 children begin smoking every day in the country. Sophia Mansoori, Communication and Program Coordinator, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), said that tobacco induced disease causes an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP. Although tobacco industry is one of the major tax payers but the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is 120 billion. Therefore the industry can't claim that it is fulfilling the duty. Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive Director, SSDO, said that given the financially turbu-

Pakistan National Heart Association organized a meeting with key stakeholders

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Cardiovascular and related non-communicable diseases are increasing rapidly in Pakistan. To stem the tide of these non-communicable diseases, the Pakistan National Heart Association organized a meeting of think tank by bringing together key stakeholders from across Pakistan, which met at a local hotel in Islamabad. The chief guest of the meeting was the president of PANAH, Major General (ret'd) Masood ur Rehman Kiani. Among the participants were General (Rtd) Ashraf Khan CEO Hearts International Hospital, Prof. Dr. Abdul Basit, Secretary General Diabetes Association of Pakistan, Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Azhar Rashi ex- Surgeon General Pakistan Army & Principal Rafah Islamic International University, Prof. Dr. Anjum Jalal, Executive Director Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, Gen. (Rtd.) Kamal Akbar Former Surgeon General Pakistan Army, Professor Dr. Wajid Ali Specialist in Non-Communicable Diseases, Dr. Abrar President Endocrinology Society, Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan Vice Chancellor Health Services Academy, Dr. Imran Pasha Director General University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan health professional, Dr. Nisar Cheema Member National Assembly, Dr. Fayyaz Ahmed Ranjha ex-D. G Health Punjab, Ahmed Farooq Former Federal Secretary, Miss Sarwat Tahira Habib Former Member of F B R, Afshan Tahseen Bajwa Chairperson Child Rights Commission of Pakistan, Zummurad Khan Chairman Sweet Homes, Noreen Arshad UNICEF Representative, Saba Amjad Heart File, Mr. Minhas Researcher, Mufti Iqbal Rizvi Chairman Peace Committee, DSP Tahir Sikandar Punjab Police, Afzal Butt President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, Chaudhry Shehzad Director Competition Commission of Pakistan, Munawar Hussain Consultant Global Health Advocacy International, Amjad Yousafzai Senior Journalist, Sqn. Leader (Ret'd) Ghulam Abbas Secretary General Kidney Patients Welfare Association, Dr. Khawaja Masood Ahmed Director Nutrition Ministry of Health, Rana Shahid Director Social Welfare Association, Chairman Ruet Hilal Committee Mufti Abdul Khahir Azad were included. The event was hosted by Panah Secretary General Sanaullah Ghumman.

General Masood ur Rehman Kiani explained how PANAH is trying to save his countrymen from heart and related diseases. He said that we want people like you to come forward and all of us together try to reduce NCDs which are the main cause of death. Dr. Wajid Ali, while describing the objectives of the think tank, said that the platform advocate for evidence based policies to reducing the risk factors of non-communicable diseases and also provide a platform to share knowledge, strengthen coordination and provide technical advice to government for reduction of NCDs. All the participants appreciated the work of PANAH and assured to play their part to reduce NCDs. They gave suggestions that we need to do our outreach work more effectively and reach our voice to every section of the society. We also need to work with law and policy makers to develop policies based on proven practices around the world that have reduced disease. It was decided that the forum would continue its meetings and carry out its work effectively.

Rocket attack on DC's residence in Miranshah



Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: In Tehsil Mir Ali of North Waziristan, a policeman was martyred by firing by unknown persons, while the driver was injured when a rocket fell on the residence of the Deputy Commissioner NW in Miranshah. According to media reports, unknown persons opened fire on policeman Akbar Khan in Mubarak Shahi area of Mir Ali, killing him on the spot. According to the police, his body has been shifted to Mir Ali Hospital, the reason for the killing of the policeman is not yet known, however, target killings often take place in Mir Ali, against which the local people have protested several times. On the other hand, two rockets were fired at Miranshah army camp from an unknown side, one of which fell outside the camp while the other fell on the residence of the Deputy Commissioner, injuring the driver of the Deputy Commissioner who has been given medical aid. The residence was partially damaged by the rocket attack, while Deputy Commissioner Gul Rehan Khattak remained safe because he was in the office. Earlier, two soldiers of Pakistan Army were martyred in a landmine explosion in North Waziristan area spinwam yesterday. According to ISPR, the IED blast took place in the area of Spinwam and the martyrs of the explosion include 29-year-old Sepoy Gul Rauf and 23-year-old Sepoy Abid Ullah.

Job fair was organized at the Comsats University Abbottabad Campus

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A job fair was organized at the Comsats University Islamabad Abbottabad Campus, where 70 national and international companies and organizations participated. Graduates of Comsats participated in the event and gave interviews to companies for job opportunities and internships. The special guest at the event was Vice Chancellor of Pak-Austria University, Professor Dr. Muhammad Mujahid. Director of Comsats University Abbottabad Campus, Professor Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah, professors, and heads of departments along with students were also present. During his speech at the opening ceremony, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Mujahid said that this event provides an opportunity for



Comsats students to secure their future, which is commendable. The students of the eighth semester will have immediate job prospects after completing their education, which will eliminate unemployment.

Director of Comsats University, Professor Dr. Syed Muhammad Maroof Shah, stated in his speech that the Comsats university is among the best universities not only in Pakistan but also in the world. Apart from provid-

ing quality education, the university has organized the job fair to provide job opportunities to the students. Representatives of participating companies in the job fair stated that it is the best idea to provide internships and employment opportunities to the students. Companies have had the opportunity to choose candidates according to their standards. During the event, VC of Pakistan Austria University was also presented with a souvenir on behalf of the institution. This event was made possible because of untiring consistent efforts of Dr Aziz Ullah Sayal, Head of Management sciences Department and convener of The Job Fair committee and Syed Ghias udin Shah, Incharge Students Development center and Coordinator of the Job Fair event along with their teams.

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Defense Budget at lowest level

Pakistan faces a serious threat from India. Since its inception, Pakistan has faced perpetual threats from the east. Kashmir has been the major cause of the dispute between the two neighboring countries. There have been three major wars between Pakistan and India over Kashmir. India is also responsible for the dismemberment of Pakistan in 1971, and Bangladesh was created. The Kargil war in 1999 and the misadventure by India in February 2019, compel Pakistan to have a strong army to the deterrence of Indian threats. Afghanistan have also been hosting and facilitating the terrorists in past which have been using their land to carry on their activities against Pakistan. A strong military helps Pakistan to preserve its hard-earned independence and sovereignty. Without a strong military, Pakistan would have never been a free state. Moreover, Pakistan is facing the threat of terrorism since the war on terror started by the US in 2001. To deal with the menace of terrorism, the Pakistan army had to launch large military operations in tribal areas and Swat. Despite meager resources at its disposal, the Pakistan army defeated terrorism. To cope with the threats of terrorism, Pakistan requires a strong army to ensure the safety of its citizens and sovereignty. The contemporary new wave of terrorism requires a strong army to deal with it with an iron hand.

role in the time of national emergencies. Indeed, Pakistan Army has always safeguarded the nation in times of both man-made and natural crises. These are just few reasons among many other which multiplies the need of having a well equipped and professional army for Pakistan.

Propaganda machines of our enemies says that a heavy debt burden, rising inflation and a nation starving for development mark the economy of Pakistan, but it continues to focus on an ever-increasing defense expenditure. They say that Pakistan has always accorded priority to territorial security as compared to social and economic security, using the argument that it is military strength and stability that can ensure the overall security of the country.

Readers, these were baseless and false propaganda from our enemies and Anti-State elements. Now come to the real picture. I have got the exact details from reliable sources and some media reports. The budget document showed that defense outlay for 2023-24 would be Rs. 1,804 billion compared to the revised defense spending of Rs. 1,591 billion earmarked for the outgoing fiscal year. Observers believe 15.7 per cent increase is justified given a record inflation and devaluation of rupee against the dollar in the last year. According to the budget document 2023-24, out of Rs1,804 billion, Rs705 billion have been allocated for employees related expenses, Rs442 billion for operating expenses, Rs461 billion for local purchases and import of arms and ammunition and Rs195 billion for civil works. Interestingly, all three services—

the army, navy and air force—were given an equal increase in the budget, although the army takes the major share given its size and the role.

Pakistan's defense spending is now 1.7 per cent of its GDP, showing a decline compared to last year. The defense spending in 2022-23 was around 2 per cent of the country's GDP, the size of which has grown due to the rebasing of the economy.

On an average Pakistan spends \$13,400 per soldier, India \$42,000, Saudi Arabia \$371,000, Iran \$23,000 while the United States allocates \$392,000 per soldier annually. Pakistan spends less on defense in comparison to other regional states. Arch rival of Pakistan, India spent \$72.6 billion on its defense. Likewise, Saudi Arabia spends \$55 billion on its defense. China spends \$293 and Iran \$24 billion. In comparison to all these countries, Pakistan spends only \$11 billion on its defense.

It is again to answer to propaganda machines of our enemies and Anti-State elements that Pakistan's defense budget as a percentage of GDP and total national budget has fallen to its lowest level in decades. The defense budget for the new fiscal year 2023-24 has come down to 1.7 percent of GDP from 6.5 percent in the 70s. Pakistan's defense expenditure is 22% less than the global average rate. Enemy country India has allocated 72 billion dollars annually for its defense, compared to this; Pakistan has allocated 6.3 billion dollars in the new financial year, which is 1.7% of the GDP. If we look at the defense expenditure of the last 6 years, Pakistan's defense budget

has decreased from 10.2 billion dollars to 6.3 billion dollars in terms of dollars, while India has increased by 35% in the same 6 years.

These facts and figures explain that Pakistan spends very less on its military. The difference, however, between Pakistan and other countries is that the size of their economies is far bigger than Pakistan. Defense spending has always been the subject of discussions with some seeking greater transparency and open debate about the military's budget. In recent years, the government provides more details about the defense budget. However, there has never been open debate within the parliament on the subject due to sensitiveness of the issue. Observers believe that the increase in the defense budget is justified given the impending external and internal security challenges. Despite the US troops withdrawal from neighboring Afghanistan, Pakistan still deploys thousands of troops along the western border as well as in the erstwhile tribal areas to deal with the threat of terrorism. Similarly, the tensions between Pakistan and India still persist, although restoration of ceasefire has brought some respite.

Readers, the substantial reduction in Pakistan's defense budget is alarming, but despite this, Pakistan's armed forces are facing the biggest challenge, demonstrating their full potential with limited resources. All propaganda and speculations about a huge defense budget is totally wrong and baseless. Whole nation is proud to say that Pakistani Army is tackling with all internal and external threats. Undoubtedly, our armed forces are providing best and professional defense services to the country at nominal expenses.

Write is senior defense analyst



Abdul Basit Alvi

PTA urges safe, responsible use of social media

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has released guidelines highlighting the significance of safe and responsible use of social media due to its increasing popularity and the potential risks it poses to public convenience.

In an article titled "Principles, Responsibilities, and Ethics of Social Media," Director Muhammad Farooq emphasizes the profound impact of social media on society, both positive and negative. While these platforms offer numerous benefits such as digital literacy, access to local content, business opportunities, and instant information, they also have the capacity to undermine our social and moral values.

One of the primary concerns highlighted in the article is the challenge of addressing false, defamatory, misleading, inappropriate, and hate-inducing content, as it threatens cultural and ethical values.

Moreover, the online platforms themselves are vulnerable to various risks. Users who are unaware of local laws and community guidelines often fall victim to financial fraud, encounter online predators, or engage in illegal activities that can lead to legal consequences.

To ensure public convenience and safety, the article stresses the importance of following the necessary guidelines for the responsible use of social media.

Users are advised to exercise caution when sharing content and protect personal information. It emphasized that while sharing information on social media may only take seconds, once uploaded, it becomes a permanent part of our digital footprint and can be exploited for negative purposes.

Law enforcement agencies can utilize illegal material to trace the original uploader, even deleted content, and initiate legal action if necessary.

Therefore, the article underscores the need to be cautious when posting or sharing personal or family information. While nothing on the internet is entirely private, it is crucial to keep personal information confidential to prevent potential misuse.

Users are encouraged to share online content only when confident it will not compromise privacy or safety.

Most social media platforms offer security features that can be adjusted according to individual needs, and users are advised to familiarize themselves with these features and regularly review privacy settings.

The article also highlights the importance of understanding and mitigating online risks such as cyberbullying, sexual harassment, scams, and phishing emails.

It recommends keeping personal profiles private and confidential, using strong passwords, and keeping antivirus software up to date. It further advises against making sensitive information, including family pictures, phone numbers, credit card images, email addresses, and date of birth, public unless necessary.

In addition to individual responsibilities, the article addresses the role of parents in monitoring and restricting their children's online activities. It suggests the use of private parental control software to ensure appropriate levels of access and safety.

Lastly, the article emphasizes the significance of respecting other beliefs and exercising politeness, tolerance, patience, and



Amjad Rasmi

Drowning Greece boat demands urgent call to Intl' Media?

The United Nations Organization (UNO), human rights organizations around the world and especially the international Media should conduct an impartial investigation and bring home out the facts regarding the sinking of the boat & drowning of precious lives, on the shores of Greece. Who, how & when was behind it & why it was done on whose responsibility?

Pakistan demands quick response by those from where it started its journey & drowned territorial waters end.

In this regard, terms & conditions for the immediate issuance of visas shall be totally waived announcing along with this certain supports around the world.

Pakistan and other countries should formulate a policy to ensure all kinds of support to the Media to look into the matter from various backgrounds, sources & eagle eyes.

From 310 to 400 Pakistanis, only 12 young people have survived, that too nature has given them a miracle to bring out for showing more facts behind this terrible sinking & drowning of majority youths.

These miraculously saved Pakistanis have been hidden for some reason why? Bring them immediately before the international Media.

In the presence of a nation or a national government in Pakistan, a national day of mourning and a day of reckoning would have been announced?

But alas! now mourning ceremonies are also celebrated here by someone's will.

Who will stop them? Who will employ them? Who will explain them? Who will embrace them?

We shall remain determined to trace the hidden factors whether in the lines of air, space, earth or sea.

Film Dunya Ke Mela, song writer Nisar Bazmi and voice Rona Laila: [They have come to lay down what was left, come to sing the last song]

We who have gone like a criminal, These days destiny has shown. Who broke this scale of loyalty? Who left who? Now double the greeting. Be a stranger and take a look. The guests are lost, they have come to sing the last song.

The last hope is to hold you to my chest, decorate you in my eyelids. Millions of worlds have returned us,

Your relationship is not small. Father says you are mine, Uncle, Taya says the blood is mine. Who should I make my companion?

Where will this age be understood?

But will it understand my language? Look where destiny has brought you.

This view of yours is disgraceful. Ask those who oppress them, That's why mothers are squeezed. Talk to someone else's lap, Get up. Look, it opened my blood. I have a desire to die in my heart. The last dance is the butterfly.

There is no destiny in your way now, No more chains on the feet. [The Poet of East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal said: [I want the end of love, I want to see

dead simplicity Be it irony, be it a promise of hijab, I want to be patient, May this heaven be blessed for the ascetics

that I want to face you I have a little heart, but I want to listen to the same Lin Tarani,

I am a long-time campaigner; O people of the party, I am a lamp of magic, I want to extinguish it,

I said the secret in full of pride, I am very rude, I want to be punished.]

HERE! There is need to investigate impartially without any resistance to collect the actuality & factuality behind the boat sinking losing the lives.

Determining the facts from each and every corner is need of hour.

There might be a conspiracy means an international conspiracy behind it?

"When the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power, we see peace"

Our need is peace and our priority is security from all aspects & end in smoke the outlaw threats.

Wonderfully, Someone lost his life in terror schema or economic fears & many are those who sacrificed for tasting the luxury moment's enjoying.

For example, according to the sources, the Prince Dawood and his son Salman, who is a billionaire Pakistani businessman who is the owner of Dawood Hercules and Engro Pakistan and is living in the United Kingdom, here people are struggling for two meals a day and sometimes,

because of the abundance of wealth. Having new experiences and adventures 5- people, including the father and son, went two miles under the sea depth in a submarine to see the wreckage of the Titanic.

This marine has 96-hours of oxygen.

Each passenger on the missing submarine has paid \$250,000, and searching agencies are not so optimistic.

This is an example of the breadth of human thought and the curiosity of new experiences that man is a unique living being when huge wealth comes in his hands & he ignores its real expenditure under the commands of Allah Almighty.

Write is senior journalist and analyst based at Faisalabad



Mian Rashid Asghar



Bilal Shafi

Road Accidents and Traffic Issues in Pakistan - I

Pakistan is a country that has been facing significant road accidents and traffic issues for many years. The country has one of the highest rates of road accidents in the world, with thousands of people losing their lives every year due to traffic accidents. The major causes of these accidents include reckless driving, poor road conditions, and inadequate traffic management.

This article aims at discussing road accidents and traffic issues in Pakistan and the measures that can be taken to reduce them.

Roads are crowded, drivers are often aggressive and poorly trained, and many vehicles, particularly large trucks and buses, are badly maintained. Donkeys, cattle, horse carts, and even the occasional camel can pose roadside hazards in some areas.

Reckless driving is one of the leading causes of road accidents in Pakistan. Many drivers in the country are often seen driving at high speeds, dangerously overtaking other vehicles, and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The lack of awareness about traffic rules and regulations is also a significant factor contributing to these accidents. To address this issue, there is a need for strict enforcement of traffic laws and regulations, along with proper driver education and training.

Poor road conditions are another major cause of road accidents in Pakistan. Many roads in the country are poorly maintained, with potholes and cracks that make driving dangerous. Additionally, many roads lack proper lighting, making it difficult for drivers to see at night. The government needs

to invest in the maintenance and improvement of the country's road infrastructure to ensure that the roads are safe for drivers and pedestrians.

The roads need to be durable and strong for the smooth functioning of means of transportation especially the delivery of food items and other essential goods in the country. However, the dilapidated condition of roads not only affects the means of transportation but also poses a serious danger to new drivers and their vehicles.

With the provision of the Internet, where the passion for sports has gained acceptance among people, the trend of speeding has also been seen in the taste of people. Race

is the only sport in which the driver rushes towards his destination for victory without caring about his life and the car, but in this game, there are safety measures for the life of the driver as well as for the car. But due to a lack of awareness among the public, they do wheel and racing without fear of death and safety measures on the road where they pose a danger to other drivers and vehicles as well as pedestrians and sometimes also cause death.

Although numerous issues cause traffic problems in Pakistan, some of them demand the utmost attention. In this respect, lack of road awareness especially that of traffic rules is considered the major cause behind road accidents. Construction of roads and men working on the roads in the daytime with improper safety measures and signs also cause accidents. Moreover, the absence of parking facilities, pedestrians and an increased number of vehicles are some other factors behind road accidents.

To be Continued

French entrepreneur defends Chinese system as better at providing stability, prosperity, freedom

Xinhua
 BEIJING: The Chinese system, a product of China's unique history, fits China's specific reality and is better at offering stability, prosperity and freedom to its people, French entrepreneur Arnaud Bertrand has said.
 During a heated online debate titled "Is the Chinese System Better than the American System?" Bertrand stressed that the Chinese model "plays uniquely to China" and is a product of the country's very long and unique history.
 "It also fits the very particular context that China is in today," said the Frenchman who had lived in China.
 The debate, organized by American nonprofit educational organization the Intercollegiate Studies Institute earlier in April, has drawn nearly 1,200 comments on YouTube, mostly supporting Bertrand.
 "As a Singaporean, I welcome China's growth any day over Ameri-

cans' gunboat diplomacy," said a netizen named bummers.
 While the West and its values have done a lot to provide freedom, prosperity and stability for people over many decades, Bertrand said "there are little doubts that it's increasingly losing its way."
 In comparison, "the Chinese system has become better in many ways at providing stability, prosperity and even freedom for its people," he said.
 The entrepreneur also mentioned China's remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation, saying that led to the largest and fastest reduction of poverty in the world and provided personal freedom for many as a result.
 In 2021, China declared the elimination of absolute poverty, having lifted nearly 100 million rural poor out of poverty over the previous eight years.
 Between 2014 and 2021, China invested 14 trillion yuan (about 2.1 trillion U.S. dollars) into lifting



people out of poverty, while the United States spent that amount on wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, Bertrand said.
 "The Chinese system with its emphasis on critical freedom, long-term stability and unwavering investment in itself has demonstrated its ability to provide a more holistic approach to societal wellbeing. The Chinese system provides greater overall stability, prosperity and even freedom," he emphasized.
 Bertrand also rebutted accusations about human rights violations in Xinjiang as untrue, saying the U.S. ban on exports from the region only hurts Uyghur people more.
 Not a single Muslim-majority country has backed the West's claim against China over Xinjiang, he said. In fact, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation made a statement after visiting Xinjiang that praised China's care for its Muslim citizens.

Greek Shipwreck Incident: Red Crescent extends support to grief-stricken families

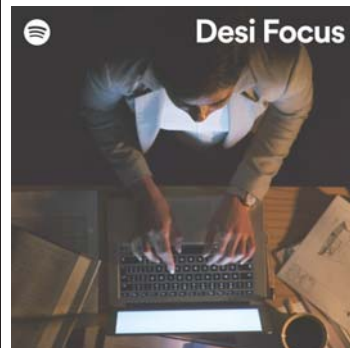
Spokesman Report
 ISLAMABAD: Expressing deep sadness over the tragic shipwreck incident in Greece and the resulting loss of precious lives, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari stated that the PRCS stands in solidarity with the affected families during this challenging period. The Restoring Family Link (RFL) Program of the National Society is actively engaged in providing psychological support and all possible assistance to these families.
 The Chairman further emphasized that the loss of valuable lives was a heart-wrenching tragedy, and he extended con-



lences to the bereaved families. The dedicated staff and volunteers of the Restoring Family Link program at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society are maintaining regular communication with the affected families who have sought assistance from the Red Crescent.
 To date, the Red Crescent has received 35 requests for tracing missing individuals, and the relevant information has been shared with the Hellenic Red Cross. Approximately 70 families affected by

the incident are in continuous contact with the staff and volunteers of the Pakistan Red Crescent. These families have unfortunately lost contact with their loved ones as a result of this incident.
 Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari urged all the affected families who have lost contact with their family members in the incident, to reach out to the Red Crescent's helpline number, 1030, for further assistance. He reiterated the commitment of PRCS to provide ongoing support to the affected families and collaborate with relevant authorities to ensure their well-being and facilitate any necessary reunification processes.

The Muse and the Mood are Mellow on Spotify Pakistan



City Desk
 ISLAMABAD: While the world celebrates the day that is set aside for honoring music, Spotify reveals that love, romance, and heart are some of the themes that listeners are enjoying the most on Spotify. Pulling away gently at the chords of the soul and setting a soft aura is what the younger generation continues to gravitate towards. Spotify classifies these categories of tracks as mellow music and the recently released insights from the streaming service show some interesting consumption trends of "love songs", "romantic music", "lo-fi", and "chill vibe" music.
 The data reveals that Kaifi Khalil's Kahani Suno 2.0, the national mellow anthem, stands as the most streamed track in this category. And although Atif Aslam reigns supreme as the most streamed artist on Mellow playlists, other notable additions to the top five artists include Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Talha Anjum, Asim Azhar and Rovalio completing the list.

Wondering what the other leading tracks are? In second and third place are "Iraaday" and "Bikhra" by Abdul Hannan and Rovalio, followed by "Jo Tu Na Mila" by Asim Azhar, and finally "Siyah" by Abdul Hannan and Baig. Among the most popular playlists of mellow tracks, "Chill Hits" has the highest number of streams and is listeners' favorite, while Desi Lo-fi, Strictly Chill and Desi Focus are the playlists that also feature the top mellow tracks.
 And that's not all! Thanks to Spotify, we also know which times are the most preferable for listeners to enjoy mellow music. Well, turns out the highest volume of streaming happens between 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. However, the largest difference in plays of mellow music in comparison to other tracks happens at 9:00 PM during the night. As the clock strikes 6:00 PM, streaming begins to grow, staying strong up until 11:00 PM at night.

Muhammad Asad emerges victorious in the PakAsia Constructionist

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: In an exhilarating display of legal acumen and eloquence, Muhammad Asad emerged triumphant in the highly anticipated The PakAsia Constructionist (D013) Intra-Faculty Moot Court Competition 2023.
 The event, held at International Islamic University Islamabad, witnessed a fierce competition among law students, however, Asad outshone all other contenders, securing a resounding victory.
 The highlight of this prestigious competition was the opportunity for participants to present their arguments before an esteemed panel of judges, comprising influential figures in the legal realm.
 One such luminary was Adv Supreme Court Ahmer Bilal Soofi, a prominent legal expert who has inspired countless individuals in the field.
 Having served as the former Minister of Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs, and Human Rights of Pakistan, Adv Soofi brought invaluable expertise and insight to the proceedings. Asad dedicated his success to his parents and teachers.

Abhi awarded Technology Pioneer 2023 by World Economic Forum



News Desk

ABU DHABI: ABHI, a growing embedded finance platform, was selected among hundreds of companies as one of the World Economic Forum's "Technology Pioneers". Providing innovative finance solutions to over 450 businesses and their employees, ABHI is the first in the business from the MENAP region to receive the recognition.
 The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers program recognizes early-stage companies from around the world that are driving innovation and shaping the future of their respective industries. ABHI has been acknowledged for its exceptional contributions in the realm of embedded finance, empowering businesses and their employees with groundbreaking financial solutions. Verena Kuhn, Head of Innovator Communities at the World Economic Forum, said: "We're excited to welcome ABHI to our 2023 cohort of Technology Pioneers." She added: "ABHI and its fellow pioneers are at the forefront of innovation and disruption needed to help us solve the world's most pressing issues."
 As a Technology Pioneer, ABHI's Group CEO and Co-Founder Omair Ansari will be invited to engage with the World Economic Forum, working with global leaders to help address key industry and societal issues.
 Ansari stated: "We are incredibly honored to be recognized as a Technology Pioneer by the World Economic Forum. This acknowledgment validates our mission to transform the financial landscape by leveraging technology to create meaningful change."

177th meeting of the PEMRA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 177th Authority meeting held today at PEMRA Headquarters. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Muhammad Saleem Baig.
 The Authority has approved amendments in PEMRA (Distribution Service Operations) Regulations, 2011 as amended up to 2022 regarding notification of new tariff in the official gazette. Authority constituted committees for the amendments in Rule 13 of PEMRA Rules 2009 regarding LRP (Landing Rights Permission) and for inclusion of WEB TV and OTT content service in definition of Broadcast Media.
 Authority also approved the revised fee structure for the change in management of Satellite TV Licenses.
 Authority also approved request for the change of ownership of satellite TV Channel "Herald Enter-



tainment "from M/s Aroura Broadcasting Service to M/s JAAG Broadcasting System (Pvt) limited. Moreover, authority approved transfer of shares, change of management of M/s HB Media (Pvt) Limited/" Capital TV" subject to legal formalities.
 Furthermore, Authority approved proposal for FM Radio Licensing in the merged districts of Ex-FA-

Agriculture cooperation between Pakistan and China paving way for future growth

TDI

ISLAMABAD: The agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is thriving, showcasing remarkable developments and innovative practices that have led to increased yields, disease-free crops and capacity building of agricultural institutions and system in Pakistan. In the face of formidable challenges, including climate change, energy crises, and security issues, both nations remain steadfast in their commitment to fostering agricultural collaboration in the years ahead. Speakers echoed these sentiments at the highly anticipated webinar "China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation under CPEC: Achievements and

Challenges," organized by the Centre for BRI and China Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies. Distinguished participants, including industrialists, agriculturalists, entrepreneurs, and educationalists from Pakistan and China, lent their expertise to the event.
 Dr. Farhat Asif, from the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, set the stage with her enlightening remarks about the vision and mission of the Centre for BRI and China Studies, emphasizing the significance of the agriculture sector for Pakistan. Senior Agronomist Ms. Julie Zhu Xiaobo shared about her company, Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed CO. Ltd contribution and latest development in the progress of various agriculture products like hybrid rice and cano-

la technology for Pakistan's agriculture sector. She highlighted her company's substantial investments and training initiatives, which have significantly contributed to the development of the agriculture sector in Pakistan.
 Dr. M. Rizwan Hamid, a Senior Scientist at China's Hunan University, added to the fruitful discussion by presenting impressive yield improvements in cotton and corn cultivation in Southern Pakistan. He stressed the need to enhance research and development collaboration between China and Pakistan to foster innovation in the agriculture sector. Peter Huang, Commercial Head, LTEC International Agriculture Development Co.(Pvt) Ltd, proposed a comprehensive framework to facilitate the global branding of

Pakistani companies, enabling them to export Halal food products to the Middle East and other regions. Huang also emphasized the significance of collaboration between Pakistan and China in the agriculture and food sectors, where China's expertise and Pakistan's abundant resources can mutually benefit both nations. Associate Professor Dr. Tahir Usman College of Veterinary Sciences, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, shed light on the challenges posed by stunted growth in Pakistan, contributing to lower economic development and a sluggish GDP. He called for a joint effort between China and Pakistan to address the energy crisis and explore the immense solarization potential in Pakistan. The speakers showcased their companies'



valuable contributions to Pakistan throughout the event, highlighting the immense potential for economic growth and agricultural development. They emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the two friendly nations, offering training opportunities, investments, advanced farming techniques, and innovative technologies as solutions to drive progress. The webinar was attended by more students, faculty members, media persons, and civil society leaders.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,220.79	40,653.03
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,804.87	40,191.24
Index Value	Change
3,044,570,679	-432.24
Percentage	Time
-1.06%	21 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,559.18	-10.13
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	21 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
34,042.91	-10.96
Percentage	Time
-0.032%	21 Jun, 12:53 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
33,575.14	+186.23
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	21 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	764.41	772.41
Canadian Dollar	224	226
China Yuan	40.14	40.54
Danish Krone	42.14	42.54
Euro	317	320
Hong Kong Dollar	36.72	37.07
Indian Rupee	3.51	3.62
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	935.84	944.84
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
NewZealand \$	179.06	181.06
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	746.1	754.1
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	76.1	76.8
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	321.81	324.31
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42
U.A.E Dirham	80.4	81
UK Pound Sterling	365	369
US Dollar	288.5	291

COAS has assured full cooperation: 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 on Wednesday welcomed announcement of economic recovery plan by Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif. The implementation of this project is expected to attract foreign investment of 100 billion dollars and this project can be a game changer for Pakistan, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the presence of the Army Chief, four provincial chief ministers, senior federal and provincial ministers and senior officers at the time of the project announcement shows that it has the full support of all partners and the army, which is very encouraging.



Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that a Special Investment Facilitation Council under the Prime

Minister has been set up to implement the decisions so that the investment projects can be realized smoothly to boost the declining economy.

He said that according to the plan, special attention will be given to the development of defence production, agriculture, livestock, minerals, and energy sectors and investment from friendly countries will be attracted.

Foreign direct investment will also be attracted, and investment projects will not be suspended due to various legal and administrative issues, he added.

The business leader said that an executive committee will also be formed under the council to speed up development projects and facilitate investors so that decisions of the council can be effectively implemented and investors do not have to waste time in various offices.

According to the plan, communication,

and coordination between the Center and the provinces will be increased so that the speed of implementation of investment projects can be increased without interruption.

The Chief of Army Staff has also assured full cooperation in the success of this project, which is fundamental in ensuring the country's development and prosperity.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that economic development is a means of improving the condition of the people and giving them employment, and we need to harness the talents of our youth and women.

The most uncertainty is in the production sector, so the initiation of such a project needs time, but it will take at least a year to show its initial results.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that along with this plan, we also need to reduce business costs so that exports can increase.

Animal feed

ISLAMABAD: Live stock dealers are buying animal feed from vendor for their herds of animals at temporary animal market at Sector I-15, ahead of Eid-ul-Adha in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Faysal Bank collaborates with PICG for Environment Social Governance (ESG)

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Faysal Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks of Pakistan collaborates with the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG) to reinforce that they care for the environmental, social, and governance (ESG).

Climate change is a reality and Pakistan stands as a frontline state in that regard. It is but our collective responsibility of the private sector to play a stronger role by adopting sustainable practices to create an environmentally sustainable Pakistan for tomorrow.

We are always trying to create a positive impact including our recent focus on the environment. Understanding



and subsequent implementation of ESG standards with core focus on environment will be the foundation of the future for our country and our next generation. We are proud to partner with PICG and PSX to help bring about this positive change leading to the establishment of ESG Scorecard" mentioned Yousaf

Hussain President and CEO, Faysal Bank.

Dr Shamshad Akhtar Chairman PICG & PSX, reiterated her stance on the vital integration of corporate and sustainability with an accountability procedure that creates a transparent system of evaluation. "Businesses need to adopt and implement ESG standards and

reporting."

PICG is taking the center stage in developing the ESG ecosystem in Pakistan with the help of key partners. The collaboration with FBL will provide the necessary technical capability to PICG enabling it to translate its ESG mission into an action plan for the financial sector and the corporate sector at large. Through its strategic interventions, PICG will be able to carry out research and provide corporate advisory and capacity building towards ESG strategy and implementation. FBL, like its conversion, plans on making ESG adoption an equally important contribution to the financial sector for addressing the needs of its customers across the landscape.

SECP invites comments to amendments in AML/CFT Regulations 2020

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed significant amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terror-

ism (AML/CFT) Regulations, 2020. These amendments aim to enhance the scope of regulations to effectively combat proliferation financing and strengthen the country's financial integrity framework. SECP has invited the stakeholders

to provide their comments and/ suggestions on proposed amendments within the next 14 days.

Proliferation financing, which refers to the financial support provided for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruc-

tion (WMD) or their delivery systems, has emerged as a significant global concern. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to address this issue, SECP has taken proactive steps to strengthen the existing AML/CFT Regulations.

WMFP stands in solidarity with Switzerland's women journalists

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan women journalists stand in All members of IFJ's Women Media Forum, Pakistan (WMFP) stand in solidarity with their colleagues in Switzerland. Members of WMFP also shared #Nowomennonews2023 with women journalists

Women journalists all over the world work in bad conditions without speaking up, it is time for us all to unite and demand better working conditions at least.

With the increase in broadcast channels over the last 22 years, more women have joined the media, but little has changed, women are still targeted and face harassment both

online and offline. There are only a few women in decision-making positions in the media and they are still made less for the same work compared to male colleagues.

Few women hold decision-making positions in media organizations, unions, and press clubs. Farzana Ali has held her fort as bureau chief in Aaj News Peshawar and Bushra Qamar was the first bureau chief in Quetta – both regions are sensitive and tough. Sheher Bano was the first woman vice president of the Pakistan Union of Journalists (PFUJ). Shazia Hasan is the former vice president of the Karachi Press Club (KPC); Kulsoom Jahan is currently governing body member of KPC. Myra Imran is the vice president of

the National Press Club Islamabad; Sehrish Khokar is the secretary of finance (treasurer) of the Sukkur Press Club in Sindh.

Many women are members of the governing bodies of different media associations and unions, but this number needs to increase.

WMFP is a network of working journalists in Pakistan that emerged after IFJ-AP launched the gender component IFJ-NED Project-Promoting Labour Rights, Gender Equality, and Freedom of Association in Pakistan's Media in 2021. Several events – both online and offline – were organized under the gender component including consultative meetings between the stakeholders in the media and affiliates like civil soci-

ety, human and labour rights defenders, organization working providing skills and training workshops for journalists and legal experts.

A series of Gender Equality, Equity and Safety workshops were conducted in different cities in coloration with the press clubs. Apart from this, a mentoring program was also conducted in two phases under which more than 50 women journalists across Pakistan were mentored by partner organizations working with IFJ. Gender mapping in Pakistan was also conducted under this programme.

As the number of women journalists connected with each other across the country, it was only natural a network would emerge – WMFP was this network. WMFP has five region-

al coordinators in major cities of all provinces who connect with the local journalists – Romisa Shah, Quetta, Balochistan (Tweets @ShahRomisa); Rooba Urooj, Lahore, Punjab (Tweets @roobaquotes); Sheema Siddiqi, Karachi, Sindh (Tweets @sheema); Rashida Shoaib, Islamabad Capital Territory (Tweets @rashidakianigeo) and Farzana Ali, Peshawar, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (Tweets @farzanaalispark).

IFJ's Pakistan Gender Coordinator – Lubna Jerar Naqvi (Tweets @raiseqalām – coordinates and facilitates the WMFP coordinators. WMFP conducts a fortnightly Twitter Space @WMFFPAK in which different issues faced by the media are discussed with experts.

Baluchistan is rich in minerals: Mir Behrooz Regi



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ambassador to Sudan Mir Behrooz Regi has said that Balochistan is a province rich in gold, gas and mineral resources. By utilizing these resources in a better way, the destiny of Balochistan as well as Pakistan can be changed.

We need to work together to improve the security situation of Pakistan and take the country on the path of development and prosperity.

He expressed these views yesterday while meeting President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari on the occasion of his visit to the chamber. He said that the civil war of Sudan is causing the destruction of a very sad and important African country. Within the city of Khartoum, thousands of innocent civilians have fallen victim to this war. We need to abandon the

politics of division, hypocrisy and chaos in Pakistan and adopt the path of brotherhood, tolerance and dialogue. So that the country can move on the path of development and prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that Balochistan is the future of Pakistan. After the completion of Gwadar Port, Pakistan will be able to gain new importance in the entire region. This is the reason why anti-Pakistan forces are obstructing the way to bring peace and tranquility in Balochistan and Gwadar.

We expect that Pakistan will soon come out of its current economic crisis and move on to the path of development and prosperity. He said that Sudan has great importance in the African region and the civil war there is very sad.

PPL distributes ration bags worth Rs. 100 million among underprivileged communities



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In line with the government's efforts to help underprivileged communities, Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has recently organized a national-level ration distribution drive worth Rs. 100 million. To this end, the company distributed over 12000 ration bags to deserving households around its operational areas.

The ration bags, containing flour, rice, sugar, milk, pulses and cooking oil, weighing 20 kg each, have

been handed over to local administration for distribution among the deserving residents in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab. As such, the company has always supported government's efforts during challenging national situations, including natural disasters and epidemics.

Apart from obligatory CSR initiatives, PPL has been contributing for welfare measures in education, healthcare, livelihood generation, infrastructure development and community transformation projects.

Tracking Invests in Ozoned Digital for Saudi Arabia Expansion

Commerce Desk

RIYADH: Ozoned Digital today announced an investment by Tracking, to help strategically expand its operations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Ozoned Digital will work with Tracking, along with other stakeholders in KSA, to launch various digital insurance initiatives for the Insurance Industry including IoT driven Telematics Insurance Solutions.

"The Insurance Industry is fast entering into an era of customer convenience, transparency and value addition using disruptive digital technologies. Having successfully launched various digital initiatives for all the largest Insurers in Pakistan, Ozoned Digital envisions introducing all these digital solutions, and many more, in the KSA Insurance Industry. In complete alignment with Saudi Vision 2030, Ozoned Digital will be providing an end-to-end digital insurance ecosystem in the Kingdom", Mr. Nomaan Bin Bashir, CEO Ozoned Digital commented.

Tracking(www.tracking.me) is an IoT-based company specializing in equipping the automotive and logistics industry with cutting-edge technological tools and equipment. Our core focus is on leveraging AI-based data analytics to empower businesses with actionable insights, revolutionizing their decision-making processes. As part of the Pak-Saudi Corridor and Saudi Vision 2030, Tracking aims to revolutionize the telematics insurance technology in KSA.

Ozoned Digital(www.ozoneddigital.com) is an InsurTech company, utilizing a mix of new technologies and disruptive business models to create efficiencies, value additions and customer satisfaction in the insurance industry. Ozoned Digital has provided digital solutions to some of the largest names in the Pakistan Insurance Industry including State Life Insurance Company, Jubilee Life Insurance Company, Adamjee Insurance and many others. These solutions include Digital Claims Management, Health Wellness Programs, Motor Telematics Programs, Agency Management solutions, Digital Broker Solutions, Warranty Programs, and Digital Health Ecosystems.

Pakistan's Usman Qamar wins Gold in Cycling event of Special Olympics

Sports Desk

BERLIN, (GERMANY): Usman Qamar of Pakistan won the gold medal in the cycling event of the ongoing 16th Special Olympic World Games here.

Usman Qamar completed the distance of a 5 km road race in 7 minutes 21.59 seconds. After the great triumph, Usman

Qamar said that I had prepared hard for the World Games and I hoped that I would reach the victory stand but winning the gold medal is a dream come true. And I am also grateful to Special Olympic Pakistan who helped me a lot in my training and preparations.

I am thankful to Allah Almighty who guided me to success. I am also thankful to

my head coach Maham Tariq for training me commendably.

Usman Qamar, who belongs to Islamabad, further said that he has been cycling since 2016 and attended two campuses for the World Games.

Usman's head coach Maham Tariq said that Usman's participation in the World Games was at the last minute and Usman's visa was applied just



one day before the departure of the national team. I hope that Usman will continue his perfor-

mance in more races and fetch more laurels for the country, Maham said.

Zaka Ashraf set to become PCB chief before Eid

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zaka Ashraf is all set to take over the reins of Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) stewardship before Eid-ul-Azha as Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari said on Wednesday that the government did not want to delay his appointment.

Talking to media along with Zaka Ashraf here at a cake-cutting ceremony on the birthday anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, the minister said that the PCB Election Commissioner would be looking after the affairs of the board till the election of the new PCB chief. "Every effort will be made to hold the elections before Eid. It is clear that Zaka Ashraf will be the new chairman of the board, following its elections," he said.

Prime Minister Office on Tuesday in a notification said that the prime minister had nominated Zaka and Supreme Court advocate Mustafa Ramday as PCB's Board of Governors (BoG).



According to the minister, the leadership of Pakistan People's Party wanted to see Zaka as the PCB chief. "I had sent the summary to the Prime Minister's House [for Zaka and Ramday's appointment]. I am thankful to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for approving that," he said.

To a question, he said India was politicizing cricket by not allowing its team to visit Pakistan. "India should

leave its stubbornness and play cricket in Pakistan. Personally, I believe that if India does not come to Pakistan, then Pakistan should also not visit them. If India chose to play at the neutral venue then Pakistan should also do the same," he added. "India always plays politics on cricket. If Indian teams from other disciplines can visit Pakistan, then why not its cricket team," he asked.

To another question, the minister said that the PCB management committee's term had ended on the night of June 19, and the decisions taken by it after that had no status.

Talking on the occasion, Zaka said: "I am deeply grateful to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Co-Chairman of PPP Asif Ali Zardari and IPC minister Ehsan Mazari for reposing trusting in me."

Donna Vekic ousts Wimbledon champion, advances to German Open quarter-finals



Donna Vekic displayed remarkable skill and determination as she secured a spot in the quarter-finals of German Open by defeating Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

Facing an opponent renowned for her powerful serves, Vekic showcased her strategic prowess, staying focused and seizing her chances when they arose.

Vekic, visibly delighted with her victory, acknowledged the challenge posed by her opponent's formidable serve. She commended her adversary, describing her as the best server on the women's tour at present. The Kazakh player unleashed an impressive 15 aces during the match, highlighting her formidable ability on the court.

"I'm really happy to not only beat her, but to be in the quarter-finals here," said Vekic. "I stayed in the moment. I was just trying to play the next point, the next game. She was serving unbelievably today. She's definitely, I think, the best server on the women's tour right now. She was serving really big, so I was like, 'Just stay with her; your chances will come,' and they did."

Sunil Chhetri-led India thrash Pakistan in SAFF Championship

A Sports

BENGALURU: India skipper Sunil Chhetri was unstoppable in the high-octane SAFF Championship clash against Pakistan as he led his side to a dominating 4-0 victory.

The star Indian footballer decimated Pakistan's defence and scored a hat-trick in his side's thumping 4-0 victory over Pakistan.

Sunil Chhetri scripted a perfect start for the hosts as he capitalised on a costly error by the Pakistan goalkeeper Saqib Hanif, who lost control of a regulation pass and left the room for Chhetri to slot the ball into the nets.

India were then awarded a penalty just five minutes later as Anirudh Thapa kicked the ball from the left-hand corner of the box which caught the hand of a Pakistan defender.

Sunil Chhetri opted to go for the



penalty himself and he made no mistake in firing his second goal with utter composure.

Briefly, ahead of the break, things

got heated up on the field when Indian coach Igor Stimac knocked the ball from Abdullah Iqbal's hands who was ready for a throw-in.

Following the offence, the Indian coach was given a send-off while Pakistan's Rahis Nabi and Sandesh Jhingan were given a Yellow card for their involvement in the altercation.

At the halftime mark, India had a healthy 2-0 lead over clueless Pakistan.

Sunil Chhetri then completed his hat trick in the 74th minute as he converted another penalty after he was fouled in the box by Mohammad Sufyan.

Udanta Singh Kumam then joined the party for India as he registered himself on the scoresheet with a fine field goal in the 81st minute.

With their dominant 4-0 victory over Pakistan, India registered their seventh consecutive clean sheet.

Pakistan's schedule in SAFF Championship
June 24 - Kuwait
June 27 - Nepal

Arshad Nadeem ruled out of Asian Athletics Championship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistan Javelin thrower and Olympian Arshad Nadeem has been ruled out of the Asian Athletics Championship, the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP)'s president Akram Sahi shared on Wednesday.

President Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) Akram Sahi, alongside the athlete, held a press conference here and announced that the latter will not be available for the Asian championship due to an injury to his left knee.

"Arshad is not fit to participate in the Asian Athletics Championship," shared Sahi.

Sahi also held WAPDA accountable for Arshad Nadeem's injury and alleged that the department forced him to participate in the recently-held National Games where he returned with a gold medal.

"Arshad was forced to participate in the National Games. We had warned WAPDA from taking any risk in Arshad's case as he just recovered from a knee injury," Sahi said.

Akram Sahi went on to assert that the track used during the National Games in Quetta was not up to the mark and played a major role in Arshad Nadeem sustaining the injury.

"Just for a medal, Arshad was forced to participate in the event in Quetta where the track is also not up to the mark," Sahi claimed.

The AFP President further requested WAPDA's high-ups to take care of their national heroes.

"Questions should be asked from higher authorities. We need to take care of our players," he reiterated.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan's Commonwealth Games hero Arshad Nadeem recently competed in the National Games.

He outpowered his opponents to get his hands on the gold medal in the ongoing 34th edition of the tournament.

Arshad showcased his potential and proved his mettle once again as he recorded the longest throw of 78.02m in his third attempt. His attempt was unmatched by any of his competitors and consequently clinched the gold medal.

In a first, Pakistan becomes U-21 Asian Snooker Champion



Sports Desk

TEHRAN: Pakistan's young snooker sensation Ahsan Ramzan added another feather to his cap when he won the Asian U21 Snooker Championship in Iran.

Ramzan defeated Iran's Milad Pourali Darehchi 5-2 to become the first-ever Pakistani to clinch the Asian U21 Snooker title.

The young Pakistani cueist looked favourite from the start as he took lead of 4-0 by winning the first four frames convincingly.

His Iranian opponent made a comeback in the 5th and 6th frames but couldn't go beyond that as Ramzan outclassed him in the 7th frame to complete his win. He won the match with frame scores of 48-46, 70-5, 61-6, 62-29, 30-71, 55-67, 101-27.

Earlier today, Ramzan defeated another Irani cueist Tirdad Azadipour in the semi-final by winning the Best of Seven 4-2 to secure his place in the final. In the quarter-final, Ramzan defeated India's Digvijay Kadyan 4-3 on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old won the match with scores of 19-76, 36-76, 67-35, 63-31, 72-55, 27-65 and 9-70 as he came back from a three-two deficit to win the match.

In the group stage matches, Ramzan contested two group matches against Iran's Arshia Tehrani and Ali Lelegani and defeated both of them.

In his first group match, the teenager beat Tehrani by the score of 3-0 in the Best of Five

Tehrani was faced with humiliation as the Pakistani player dominated all three sets. He won the first frame by a score of 55-21 while in the second frame, Ramzan displayed an all-round performance as he defeated the Iranian by 93-15. He also comfortably won the third frame by maintaining his dominance.

Before Ramzan, three Pakistanis — Farhan Mirza, Majid Ali, and Haris Tahir — on four occasions played in the final of the Asian U21 championship, but none could win the title.

Oman stun UAE, Scotland edge Ireland in CWC Qualifier

A Sports

BULAWAYO: A combined bowling and batting effort lifted Oman to a stunning five-wicket victory over the UAE before Scotland edged Ireland in a last-ball CWC Qualifier thriller on Wednesday.

In the eighth match of the CWC Qualifier, spirited Oman continued their dream campaign as they thumped the UAE by five wickets and 24 balls to spare at the back of Jay Odedra's three wickets and fifties from Shoaib Khan and Aqib Ilyas.

Put into bat first, UAE batters coped with a tight bowling effort from Oman and could only accumulate 227 for the loss of eight wickets in the allotted 50 overs.

The UAE had a dismal start to their innings as the side slipped to 16/2 in the fourth over as both

openers perished after scoring eight each.

Wicketkeeper batter Vriitya Aravind and Rameez Shahzad anchored UAE's innings with a gutsy 87-run partnership for the third wicket.

The pair took their past the 100-run mark but remained a touch too slow as Oman bowlers gave no room to them to score freely.

The dire need for some quick runs forced Shahzad to make a costly error against Odedra and threw his wicket at a crucial stage.

He struck five boundaries on his way to a 51-ball 38.

Aravind soon followed the footsteps of Shahzad as he was too, castled by Odedra in the span of 23 deliveries and fell just one short of his fighting half-century. He scored 49 off 84 balls with the help of three boundaries.

The UAE then began to lose wickets at an alarming rate and soon slipped to 194/8 in the 46th over but an unbeaten half-century knock by Aayan Afzal Khan at the backend bolstered the side to finish at 227/8.

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Khan top-scored for UAE with 58 from 52 deliveries, featuring 10 boundaries.

Jay Odedra led the bowling attack for Oman with 3/31, followed by Bilal Khan and Fayyaz Khan, who took two wickets each.

Set to chase a modest 228, Oman completed the calculated pursuit for the loss of just five wickets and 24 balls to spare thanks to brilliant fifties from Shoaib Khan and Aqib Ilyas.

Oman had an alike start to their innings as they were two

down for just 14 runs in five overs.

Following the slump, Shoaib and Aqib anchored the run chase with a sensible 100-run partnership for the third wicket, which ended when the latter fell in the 28th over briefly after amassing his half-century. He top-scored for Oman with a 75-ball 53, hitting three boundaries and a six.

Following his dismissal, Muhammad Nadeem and Shoaib Khan stood up and guided their side through the run chase.

Shoaib Khan, who got retired hurt in the middle overs, returned to finish the proceeding and played an unbeaten match-winning knock of 52 off 70 deliveries.

Nadeem, on the other hand, scored 50 not out from 57 deliveries, laced up with five boundaries.

In the seventh match of the



CWC Qualifier, Scotland edged Ireland by just one wicket after Michael Leask's gritty 91-run knock.

Put into bat first, Ireland

recovered from a disappointing start, courtesy of Curtis Campher's century and piled 286/8 in 50 overs.

Campher top-scored for

Ireland with 120 off 108 balls with the help of nine boundaries and four sixes.

George Dockrell played a supporting role in Ireland's recovery with Campher with a cautious 69. He faced 93 deliveries and smashed four boundaries and a six.

Opening batter Andy McBrine was the other valuable contributor to Ireland's total with a 39-run knock.

Set to chase 287, Scotland completed the run chase on the final delivery as Michael Leask stood tall in the tense run chase.

He top-scored for Ireland with an unbeaten 91 off 61 deliveries, smashing nine boundaries and four sixes.

Opener Christopher McBride (56) and all-rounder Mark Watt (47) contributed significantly in the tense run chase for Scotland.