



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Pakistan reacts to Biden-Modi joint statement

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## PM Shehbaz, Premier Li agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success. (Details on Page 8)

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## Meeting

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris on Friday.



Photo: PID

## SBP lifts all restrictions on imports to fulfil IMF condition

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has lifted all restrictions on imports to fulfil one more condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The central bank issued a circular to end all restrictions on imports in order to fulfil another IMF condition.

The federal government granted permission to banks for providing remittances to release more than 6,000 containers. The SBP stated in the circular that remittances will be provided for all imports after the enforcement of the latest order.

The authorised dealers have been given instructions to provide remittances following the recommendations of the stakeholders, said the central bank.

Yesterday, it was learnt that



Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are facing challenges in reviving a loan program, leading to conflicts between the IMF and the Ministry of Finance.

Sources revealed that the plan to bridge the external financing gap included the funds received from the donor conference held in Geneva.

The conference aimed to gather support and contributions for Pakistan's financial needs. As part of the plan, the IMF was given a target to secure \$500 million by June through the Geneva Donor Conference.

# PM urges international community to deliver commitments made at COP27

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the international community to deliver the commitments made at COP 27 in Sharm al-Sheikh and also operationalise Loss and Damage Fund on the principle of equity.

"The international community should deliver on the commitments they made at COP 27 in Sharm al-Sheikh, including the operationalisation of Loss & Damage Fund on the principle of equity; provision of grants that don't increase indebtedness of developing countries; enabling climate-vulnerable countries to access the Fund on the basis of a climate vulnerability index," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister is currently visiting Paris, France to attend the

## PM hopeful of agreement with IMF

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday said Pakistan was hopeful of its agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as it had met all conditions of the financial institution.

Talking to media here, he said the IMF board should approve the programme for Pakistan.

The prime minister said he was in touch with the IMF team and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and everybody should pray for an early agreement with the IMF.

He had a meeting with the Managing Director IMF in Paris in a friendly atmosphere, he told.

two-day Summit for New Global Financing Pact. French President Emmanuel Macron is chairing the Summit which is attended by over 50 heads of states.

Shehbaz Sharif said as part of his interactions during the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, he drew world leaders' attention to the exogenous shocks that created polycrisis for developing countries like Pakistan.

These shocks, he said resulted in stalling growth, supply chain disruptions caused commodity prices to soar, leading to back-breaking inflation and then extreme weather events precipitated unprecedented floods that cost Pakistan \$30 billion in losses.

"The inability to bridge the financing gaps to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



coupled with the cost of realising climate goals is inflicting a heavy cost on the world, running into trillions of dollars annually," he added.

The prime minister said the world should use present economic and climate turbulence as an opportunity for course correction. The starting point

could be rethinking the global financial architecture where IFIs design their programs to be pro-growth and aligned with SDGs and climate justice goals.

"The world faces a moment of truth. Let us all vow to rise to the challenge hand in hand in a spirit of solidarity and compassion," he added.

## Greece shipwreck: Rana Sanaullah says at least 350 Pakistanis were on board

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah reiterated on Friday that the government will take a firm action against those involved in the illegal business of human trafficking.

The interior minister made these remarks during the National Assembly session today.

There were at least 350 Pakistani victims on an overloaded boat that capsized and sank in open seas off Greece last week, said Sanaullah, adding that 82 bodies of those aboard the boat have so far been recovered.

He said 82 bodies of those aboard the boat have so far been recovered and their identification process is underway with the help of the forensic and NADRA data.

## Expatriates are 'pride of Pakistan': Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said being a precious asset, the overseas Pakistanis were 'pride of Pakistan' as they were playing a major role in its economic development.

"It is the foremost priority of the government to resolve the issues of expatriates," the minister said in a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in France.

She extended gratitude to the Pakistani community for according a warm welcome to the Pakistani delegation on their arrival in Paris for a summit on New Global Financing Pact.

Marriyum said the journey of progress and development would continue in Pakistan under the visionary leadership of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif.

## Military courts trial: SC likely to announce verdict on Tuesday

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) likely to announce verdict on pleas challenging trials of civilians in military courts, on Tuesday.

A seven-member bench — comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi, is hearing a set of petitions against military trials after a nine-member bench was dissolved as Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Tariq Masood recused themselves from the hearing.

We desire to get the results by Tuesday, CJP was quoted as saying while hearing the case. The apex court also directed to avoid harassing lawyers and journalists. "Don't want to pass judicial order on the issue."

During the hearing, CJP Bandial remarked that the army can request the anti-terrorism courts to get the custody of civilians for their trial under military laws. "It's common sense that crimes



under the Official Secrets Act are to be determined by the army itself and it can request anti-terrorism courts seeking the custody of civilians for trials under army laws," the top judge remarked.

However, he noted that there was no solid reasoning provided by the military. "We will ask this from Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan."

The further hearing on the case has been adjourned until Monday at 9:30 in the morning.

### Punjab gov't report

The Punjab government submitted a report to the SC regarding arrests of suspects 'involved' in the May 9 riots.

The top court had asked the authorities to provide details

during the hearing of pleas challenging the trials of civilians in military court.

According to the report submitted by the Punjab AG, a total of 6,088 people, including 81 women, were arrested following the May 9 violence.

The report further said 1,888 people were arrested in the May 9 riots under the Terrorism Act. 108 accused are currently on physical and 1,247 are on the judicial remand.

As many as 500 people were released as innocent after the investigation.

The report added that there are 247 cases under other laws are registered against the accused involved in the May 9 incidents. So far, 1,201 people have been acquitted and 3012 have been released on bail in various cases.

The Punjab government also submitted data about the arrests of females in the May 9 riots. According to the report, 81 women were detained out of these, 42 were released on bail, while 39 women are currently imprisoned on judicial remand.

## Titanic submersible: victims' families can still sue Ocean Gate

Reuters

USA: Liability waivers signed by passengers on Titan submersible lost at sea during a dive to the Titanic wreck may not shield the vessel's owner from potential lawsuits by the victims' families, legal experts said.

The Titan submersible vanished on Sunday roughly two hours into its dive and was found in pieces on the ocean floor after what the U.S. Coast Guard said on Thursday was a "catastrophic implosion" of its pressure chamber.

The passengers, who paid as much as \$250,000 each for the journey to 12,500 feet (3,810 meters) below the surface, are believed to have signed liability waivers. A CBS reporter who made the trip with OceanGate Expeditions in July 2022 reported that the waiver he signed mentioned the possibility of death three times on the first page alone.

Reuters could not inde-



pendently confirm the terms of OceanGate's waivers. OceanGate did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Thursday.

Waivers are not always ironclad, and it is not uncommon for judges to reject them if there is evidence of gross negligence or hazards that were not fully disclosed.

"If there were aspects of the design or construction of this vessel that were kept from the passengers or it was knowingly operated despite information

that it was not suitable for this dive, that would absolutely go against the validity of the waiver," said personal injury attorney and maritime law expert Matthew D. Shaffer, who is based in Texas.

OceanGate could argue it was not grossly negligent and that the waivers apply because they fully described the dangers inherent in plumbing the deepest reaches of the ocean in a submersible the size of a minivan.

The degree of any potential negligence and how that might

impact the applicability of the waivers will depend on the causes of the disaster, which are still under investigation.

"There are so many different examples of what families might still have claims for despite the waivers, but until we know the cause we can't determine whether the waivers apply," said personal injury lawyer Joseph Low of California.

The families could not be reached on Thursday. It is possible none of them will sue.

OceanGate is a small company based in Everett, Washington, and it is unclear whether it has the assets to pay significant damages, were any to be awarded, but families could collect from the company's insurance policy if it has one.

Families could also seek damages from any outside parties that designed, helped build or made components for the Titan if they were found to be negligent and a cause of the implosion.

## 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 Friday.



Photo: PID

## President for enhancing economic, cultural cooperation with Korea, Sri Lanka

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for further promoting bilateral economic, trade and cultural cooperation with the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka to further cement bilateral ties.

The president expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, and the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice Admiral (r) Mohan Wijewickrama, who made separate calls on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its multidimensional relationship with Korea, which involved collaborations in various fields such as political, economic, scientific, cultural and people-to-people relations.

President for enhancing



economic, cultural cooperation with Korea, Sri Lanka

He highlighted that Pakistan was open for business and investment for all its friends and partners, and would especially welcome Korean investment in various sectors.

He stated that Pakistan wanted to increase cooperation with Korea, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Agriculture. The president also called for further promoting cultural cooperation

with Korea, adding that Pakistan offered some of the most exotic mountaineering and religious tourism sites and would welcome tourists from Korea to visit Buddhist sites.

He remarked that Pakistan was home to the Gandhara Civilization and some of the most sacred relics in Buddhism, which could be a source of attraction for Korean tourists.

Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, the President said that Pakistan



attached great importance to its long-standing friendship and cooperative ties with Sri Lanka, which was its second-largest trading partner in South Asia.

He added that Pakistan wanted to further expand economic cooperation and trade relations with Sri Lanka under the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

He stated that both countries should explore ways to rejuvenate SAARC and work together to fight poverty and promote

peace, economic growth, and development for the benefit of the entire region.

He also recalled Pakistan and Sri Lanka's support for each other at the UN and other international bodies and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue at international fora.

The president appreciated the role of outgoing envoys in improving bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all areas of mutual interest.

## Pakistan reacts to Biden-Modi joint statement

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday hit back at United States (US) and India for mentioning Pakistan in a joint statement after a meeting of President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Taking to Twitter, the federal minister pointed out that "the irony of this statement coming during the visit of someone who was banned entry to the US for overseeing a pogrom of



Muslims when he was CM Gujarat". Lambasting the Indian PM, Khawaja

Asif said that Narendra Modi leads yet another campaign of state sponsored terrorism in Kashmir, which includes routinely maiming and blinding the local population.

"Across the rest of the country, Modi's acolytes lynch Muslims, Christians, and other minorities, with impunity," the minister wrote.

The defence minister also stressed that "Pakistan has lost countless lives, and has been continuously at war with terrorism for decades now, owing to failed American interventions in the

region".

"Perhaps President Biden should consider these facts the next time he fetes the Butcher of Gujarat," Asif said.

Meanwhile, Khawaja Asif - while addressing the National Assembly (NA) floor - said that Narendra Modi oversaw the killings of thousands of Muslims and rape of Muslim women in Gujarat during his tenure as the Chief Minister and in recognition of those atrocities, the US, at that time, had imposed ban on issuing a visa to him.

## PM Shehbaz, Premier Li agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success

## News Desk

PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success.

The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year.

Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on CPEC's centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative



Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including CPEC as well as economic cooperation.

Reiterating support to China on its core issues, the prime minister appre-

ciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

PM Shehbaz, Premier Li agree to celebrate Decade of CPEC this year to showcase success

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the

disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir was a vivid reflection of China's principled stance for upholding international law and the United Nations resolutions.

In his remarks, Premier Li said the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of the two nations.

He added that as a close neighbour and iron-brother, Pakistan occupied a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue its efforts for safeguarding Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosperity of its people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Premier Li Qiang agreed to continue the momentum of high level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

The prime minister invited the Chinese premier to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience which the latter accepted.

## ECC allows mills to export 32,000 tonnes of sugar

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has allowed the mills in Sindh to export 32,000 tonnes of sugar till August 12 'under the verdict of the Sindh High Court (SHC).

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar chaired the ECC session and took major decisions today.

The ECC also approved a Rs2.5 billion grant for the Pakistan Railways, Rs3.6 billion grant for the housing ministry and Rs1.2 billion for its 16 schemes and Rs1.2 billion for Reko Diq project.

Earlier, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a surcharge of Rs.1.52/unit to be recovered from K-Electric (KE) consumers in 12 months.

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.

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 Rs1.52/unit to be recovered from K-Electric Consumers in 12 months. The ECC further allowed release and utilization of available budget of Rs76 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 Rs20.726 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 Rs4 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 CDMP against the AJ&K receivables.

The committee approved Rs1,914.83 million technical supplementary grants for various ministries and divisions.

## NDMA advises provincial authorities to take preventive steps in wake of heavy pre-monsoon falls

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday advised all the relevant federal and provincial authorities to ensure preventive measures in the wake of forecast for pre-monsoon wind-thundershower with heavy falls causing risk of urban flooding and landslides in the north of country.

The NDMA, in its advisory, said the pre-monsoon rains with dust-thunderstorms were predicted from June 25-30 as an intruding weather system was bringing moist currents from the Arabian Sea which was penetrating upper and central parts of the country along with a westerly wave which was likely to enter upper parts on June 25.

"Under the influence of this weather system", it said, "the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted rain and wind-thundershowers with few heavy falls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) from June 24 (night) to 30, and rain and wind-thundershowers with isolated heavy falls in Punjab, KP, Balochistan, and ICT from June 26 to 29. However, from June 27 to 28 rain and wind-thundershowers with isolated heavy falls are expected in Sindh.

The NDMA said in light of the above weather system forecast, "following impacts are expected in aforesaid parts of Pakistan: prevailing heatwave conditions are likely

to subside, while heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in low lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore from June 26-27, and trigger landslides in the vulnerable areas of Murree, Gallyyat and other hilly areas of KP, Gilgit Baltistan and AJK."

Heavy rainfall might also cause flash flooding in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and adjoining areas of north-east Balochistan on June 27, it added.

Dust storms and wind-thunderstorms and heavy falls might cause damage to loose structures such as electrical poles, solar panels, hoardings, tall trees and under construction buildings, the NDMA warned.

It also demanded to conduct mass public awareness campaigns to educate residents in vulnerable areas about the risks of landslides, urban flooding, flash flooding and hill torrents, and take precautionary measures to forewarn travellers and visitors about risks posed at landslide, flash flood and hill torrents in vulnerable locations and provide guidance and assistance in case of emergencies through local administration, police and rescue services.

The NDMA underlined the need to advise farmers to take necessary mitigative and precautionary measures to safeguard their crops, such as timely harvesting, safe storage, or any other precautions from adverse effects of dust-wind-thunderstorms and hailstorms.

## US delegation meets Khadija Shah in Kot Lakhpat Jail

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: A US delegation has met Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Khadija Shah in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail, citing sources.

Sources told that the US delegation met Khadija Shah in Kot Lakhpat Jail and reviewed the legal options for her release. The US consul general has been given access to the prisoner as she is holding dual nationality.

Shah is accused of participating in May 9 riots including the arson and attack on Jinnah House.

Yesterday, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore rejected the bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Yasmin Rashid and an activist Khadija Shah in a case related to the May 9 riots.

A single-member bench of ATC - chaired by Judge Ejaz Ahmed - heard the bail pleas of the 13 accused nominated in the burning of Askari Tower situated in Lahore.

During the hearing, the court rejected the bail plea of 6 accused



including Yasmin and Khadija. However, seven other co-accused were granted bail.

A few days ago, PTI activist Khadija Shah, who is under custody in May 9 vandalism case, filed an application seeking an upgrade in prison facilities.

In the letter written to Inspector General (IG) Prisons, Shah demanded authorities concerned provide B-class facilities in jail.

Khadija, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and former finance minister Dr Salman Shah's daughter, is currently in jail on judicial remand in the Jinnah House attack case.

Last month, police arrested the daughter of former finance minister Salman Shah and fashion designer Khadija in the Jinnah House attack case on May 09.

# Gillani says killers of Shaheed Zulfiqar, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto must be brought

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the killers of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto should be brought to justice as soon as possible. She always took steps to make Pakistan a welfare state where the rights of women, children and all backward classes are protected. This is the reason why Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is still alive in the hearts of people.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto faced very difficult situations with great bravery and courage. She always took care of the sanctity of Pakistani institutions. What happened on May 9 is the most terrible event in the country's history. History is a witness that the leaders of the PPP were imprisoned. I myself was jailed, our workers were flogged, but the leadership and workers of the PPP never let the security of Pakistan be compromised and always



raised the slogan of Pakistan Zindabad, as on May 9, the Martyr's Memorial and the Jinnah House was attacked

City President Malik Naseem Labar, District General Secretary Rao Sajid Ali, City General Secretary AD Khan Baloch, Khalid Hanif Lodhi, Former Member Provincial Assembly Punjab Dr. Javed Siddiqui, Former Member Punjab Assembly Usman Bhatti,

Khawaja Imran, Chaudhry Yasin, Raees Qureshi, Farhan Khan Dreshak, Mirza Nazir Baig, Abida Bukhari, Zia Ansari, Haji Khalil Ran, Haji Amin Sajid. Former city councilor Kamran Bhutta and other party officials and workers cut the birthday cake of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

In the ceremony, PTI leader Malik Abid Tahim, Aqeel Ijaz Ansari, former

nazim Malik Salim Bhutta, former deputy nazim Sheikh Altaf, former deputy nazim Amjad Bhatti, former vice chairman Haji Ghafoor, former chairman Yusuf Rongha, former councilor from provincial constituency 216 were present in the ceremony. Kamran Bhutta announced to join the PPP and on this occasion Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani put the party flag around his neck.



Islamabad: Raja Muhammad Sarim Khawar won the second position in I-CATS International Painting Competition 2023. Raja Muhammad Sarim Khawar is a student of Class IV at Army Public School Ordnance Road Rawalpindi. For his superior performance, he was awarded a certificate and a bronze medal by I-CATS International.

## CM Punjab surprise visit at Cardiology and Children Complex Hospital Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Multan, visited Children's Hospital and Cardiology Institute. Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the patients under treatment in various wards and reviewed the treatment facilities. Mohsin Naqvi inquired about the treatment facilities from the relatives of the children admitted in the emergency ward

4 children treated on one bed in the Children's Hospital, the doctors complained about the lack of medical facilities. Mohsin Naqvi's order to increase the number of beds in the children's hospital Every sick child should be treated in a separate bed. The medical facilities in the hospital should be improved.

Mohsin Naqvi also inspected the waiting rooms for the attendants, instructed to install fans and air coolers in the waiting rooms. He sat with the attendants of the patients in the waiting room, listened to their problems and gave instructions for solution. People accompanying patients should be provided with better facilities in the waiting rooms. Children's Hospital Multan will ensure the provision of modern facilities for the treatment of children under public-private partnership.

## Jamaat-e-Islami, protest in front of Multan Election Commission



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami Multan and Islamic Lawyers Movement, a symbolic sit-in was held in front of the Multan Election Commission office against the rigging and racketeering of the mandate of the People's Party in Karachi. Speaking on this occasion, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that the Election Commission should now write its name as Selection Commission, whether it is the election of 2018 or the mayoral elections in Karachi, this national body is working as a selector. The Election Commission should correct its Qibla

Otherwise, the upcoming election will also be suspicious. Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that by giving victory to the minority over the majority in Karachi, if the People's Party and the Election Commission think that they will remain the elected mayor by showing thuggery and bullying, then this is not possible. On this occasion, the workers raised slogans against the Election Commission and the People's Party. On this occasion, President ILM South Punjab Athar Aziz Advocate said that preparations are being made to bring a selected government in Pakistan once again.

We are peaceful people, but if someone puts obstacles in our way, we also have to overcome these obstacles. A heavy contingent of police was also present on the occasion of the sit-in. Candidate Provincial Assembly Hafiz Aslam, Mehr Amjad Nawaz Jota Naib Amir District Dr. Khalid Rasheed, Amir North Region Asad Munir and others were also present in the sit-in.

## Fake spiritual healer arrested

Raza Naqvi

HASSANABDAL: The Hassanabdul Police on Friday arrested a fake spiritual healer fooling masses treating them with spiritual power and black magic. Police sources said that acting upon complaints from the public that Peer Amjad Hussain Shah fooling masses especially women folk with black magic in Mehmoodabad area, a team of police raided at his center and arrested red handed while treating women. Magic and other tools were also confiscated during the raid. A case was registered against the suspect under section 419, 420, 500, 508 Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and launched further investigation.

## On behalf of Comnet, arranged a one-day orientation session for journalists

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Unicef (COMNET) arranged a journalist orientation session and an awareness session program regarding the role of media in public awareness in eradicating polio from Pakistan. In a briefing was given to the journalists and social media activists of District Press Club Wana on the occasion of the awareness session program for journalists regarding polio.

DHCSO Aamir Abbas Wazir, DSO Mohammad Munir Wazir, District Coordinator Dr. Asmat Wazir, Immunization Officer Dr. Naveed Khattak, DASS Surveillance Officer Dr. Riyaz Ahmed Wazir from WHO and on behalf of health, EPI coordinator Dr. Hidayatullah expressed, that what did you think? for the success of polio campaigns, journalists should be involved regularly so that the rumors found in the society can be effectively dispelled.

## Visit

QUETTA: Chief Organizer of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Maryam Nawaz posing for a group photo along with the Leadership of Balochistan, during her visit of Quetta.



Photo: Online

## Women in Kashmir worst victims of Indian state terrorism: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the international community must take effective cognisance of the war crimes committed by the Indian occupation forces in the held territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

While highlighting the woeful plight of Kashmiri widows, the PM said that women in Kashmir have been the worst victims of Indian state terrorism.

India, he said, has been using women as weapons of war in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which he said amounted to war

crime.

He regrettably noted that sexual violence being leveraged as a weapon of war by the Indian forces in the region has been grossly overlooked at the international level.

Referring to the Indian brutalities in the region, the PM said that 22960 Kashmiri women have been widowed since 1989.

"More than 2000 women known as half widows are the silent victims of the long-drawn conflict", the PM said, adding that these women whose partners have been subjected to enforced disappearance were living a miserable life.

He said that the level of Indian oppression could be gauged by the fact that the husbands of 200 women were subjected to enforced disappearance by the occupation forces in the village of Dardapora in Occupied Kashmir.

He said that Indian barbarism and brutalities have not only affected women in the IoK but a number of women have become widows due to firing by Indian forces on LoC.

He said that while the world was celebrating widow's day, today, it was high time that the civilized nations across the globe should come forward

and play their much needed role to alleviate the sufferings of the Kashmiri widows who have been bearing the brunt of India's oppression and brutality.

The PM said that his government would take appropriate measures for permanent rehabilitation of widows who were living in difficult conditions.

He said that sustainable and lasting measures would be taken in the next financial year for the care and rehabilitation of widows and disabled persons.

He said that it was our collective and shared responsibility to help the poor and deserving people.

## Driver burnt to death as oil tanker catches fire in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: An oil tanker driver burnt to death while his cleaner was injured critically when the tanker skied of the road and turned turtle after the driver loses control due to over speeding near Kharappa interchange in Shahbazpur area in the limits of Pindigheb police station of Attock on early hours of Friday.

Police and rescue 1122 sources said that the tanker was carrying oil from local oil field to Kohat KP when the driver later identified as 35 years old Khurshid Alam trapped in to wreckage and burnt to death while his cleaner identified as 25 years old Altaf Hussain received serious burn injuries and shifted to THQ hospital from where he was moved to Rawalpindi due to his critical burn injuries.

## Regional Information Office Bannu dated 23 June 2023, handout no 423

Adam Khan Wazir

BANNU: Regional Police Officer Qasim Ali Khan, Commander 116 Brigade Muhammad Tayyab, Deputy Commissioner Bannu Manzoor Ahmad Afridi, Colonel FC Muhammad Salim and elected local representatives and other relevant officials were also present on this occasion.

Commissioner Bannu division Parwaiz Sabat khel has said in his speech that Chapari Syed Khel Duryoba Wazir Sub-Division's backwardness and deprivation should be eliminated and will try to bring it same to the settled areas of Bannu. So that the people of the area can also get out of the difficulties and live a life full of development, prosperity and facilities like other developed parts of the



district. Commissioner Bannu expressed these views on Friday while addressing the elders of the area and a large number of participants in the open session (Khuli Kachehri) held in Chapari area of sub division Wazir.

He said that all available resources should be used for the development of in particular Chapri Syed Khel and in

general the entire Duryoba wazir sub division. So that the masses of the area will join the race of development like other developed areas of the bannu district.

Commissioner Bannu Division also said that district administration, education and Health facilities centers should be made active immediately, which will help in providing basic facilities to the

people of the area. He said that some of among other big challenges of the area are providing clean drinking water and the strengthening of the communication system.

Commissioner Bannu Division Parwaiz Sabatkhel said that he felt happy to come to Chapari, Duryoba area Wazir sub-division Bannu and they will focus all their attention to facilitate and improve the lives standards of the people of the area.

In this connection, he will visit here in the future as well, so that the promises made to the people here can be fulfilled, he said.

Meanwhile, Regional Police Officer Qasim Ali Khan said in his short speech that he is present day and night to resolve any problem related to the police department.

Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:14 am  
Zohr ..... 12:10 pm  
Asr ..... 5:10 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:22 pm  
Isha ..... 9:06 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

**Faysal Bank Leading the Financial Sector towards an Inclusive and Diverse Work Culture**

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Faysal Bank in collaboration with ConnectHear, launched Persons with Disabilities (Persons with Special Needs, PSN) Model Branch in Johar Town, Lahore. The objective being to revolutionize the banking experience for individuals with hearing impairments.

Faysal Bank has partnered with ConnectHear to support its inclusivity drive in sync with its values of Khidmat and Jiddat. The branch will offer assistance to the hearing-impaired community and ConnectHear will also provide training and sensitivity workshops to assist the bank staff in a better understanding of the Virtual Sign Language Interpretation application.

The Chief Guest Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder, Akhawat Foundation graced the occasion and reiterated that these DEI initiatives are tiny steps towards bigger achievements and that inclusion is the right of every individual. He took a tour of the branch specially designed for people with disabilities and appreciated Faysal Bank's initiative to make financial services accessible for all.

In true synchronization with the Islamic ethos, Faysal Bank is committed to providing financial services for all. Mohammad Rizwan-ul-Haq, Head of Branch Distributions, reinforcing Faysal Bank's commitment to an inclusive banking experience for all customers, said, "Prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work helps our organization attract and retain the best of talent."

**Business community pinning high hopes on the COAS**

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Friday that Army has agreed to play a role in boosting the economy, which is very encouraging for the business community.

The government has announced an Economic Revival Plan to address economic issues and promote prosperity, and the business community is pinning high hope on the plan and the COAS amid the economic downturn, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement that the Special Investment Facilitation Council has been established to attract investment and the Army's contribution in it will be significant.

The economic revival plan recognises the importance of domestic development and foreign investment while the Army has assured to support these initiatives, which has gone down very well with the business community, he added.

The business leader said that the Army's commitment was very essential for the success of the plan and the plan require a secure and stable environment which the Army can provide.

In order to maintain stability and nation-



al security, the Army can help protect domestic and foreign assets which will be favourable for the commercial activity and encourage local and foreign investors, he added.

The plan emphasises the value of cooperation between civilian and military leadership which will encourage good decision-making, optimise use of available resources, and accelerate investment and execution, he observed.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that one of the industries targeted for expansion and development is the production of defence equipment, which will have a substantial

economic impact.

He noted that human resource development and job creation are essential for a healthy economy, which has been stressed in the plan. This will help people become more independent, promote economic inclusion, and lower unemployment rates through providing vocational training, encouraging entrepreneurship, and job creation.

Building infrastructure is essential for boosting the economy and luring investors and this plan will help improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and bolstering the general investment climate by constructing roads, bridges, dams etc.

The economy can be adversely impacted by catastrophes, and the Army plays a crucial role in reducing the negative impact of such occurrences because of its well-established disaster response and relief capabilities.

It also helps to restore economic activity in impacted areas, fostering resilience and stability, by offering immediate assistance, relief supplies, and rehabilitation support, he said.

It is impossible to overestimate the contribution of the Army to the development of the national economy, he concluded.

**Free drinks**

RAWALPINDI: People are drinking free lemon water from volunteers due to hot weather at Bohar Bazaar in the city.



Photo: Online

**Pakistanis, Kashmiris in US should welcome Modi with 'Butcher of Kashmir' banners: Mushaal**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Husseini Mullick, the Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader, Muhammad Yasin Malik urged the Pakistani and Kashmiris diasporas to welcome notorious Narendra Modi with banners of 'Butcher of Kashmir', for unleashing a reign of terror and committing world's worst war crimes in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal, a wife of incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, on Friday praised the large group of people who protested outside the UN building in New York and raised anti-Modi slogans, calling



him "butcher of Gujarat," besides accusing him of pursuing anti-minority policies to marginalize them and make India Hindu State.

The chairperson said that the US President Geo Biden being a champion of human rights should take Modi to task for turning the scenic Kashmir valley into a world largest torture cell and open pris-

on and even women and children were not being spared.

Mushaal stated that the most influential leader of Kashmir Yasin Malik, who was an icon of resistance and sacrificed everything for the freedom of Kashmir, was facing the threat of judicial murder. She said that it was right time, the International community, human rights organisations and Kashmiris diaspora should raise voice for Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri detainees during Modi's visit to the US to save their lives.

The Chairperson said that the UN bodies and world powers should shun the duplicity and resolve the Kashmir dispute as per the UN agreed formula and according to aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

**Naseer Wahra expresses deep sorrow over the Titan submarine accident**

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: The business community & Alhaj Naseer Yousef Vohra, President Cloth Board Ittehad Pakistan expressed great sorrows on the Titan submarine which has raised numerous questions in the minds of all Pakistanis as well as the whole world. He informed that, in view of 2-Pakistanis, Prince Dawood & his son Suleman are also the prey in this Submarine became out of sight in deep Sea.



Shahzada Dawood was born in Rawalpindi in 1975. He attained his LLB degree from Buckingham University in 1998. He was the Vice Chairman of Engro Corporation. Under the Dawood Foundation, he used to arrange education for underprivileged children in Pakistan and his services were prominent in countless hospitals. There are two companies in Karachi that employ about 6,000 people. \$860 million was the revenue of just one company in 2020. He was rich as he was and provided employment opportunities in Pakistan. He was doing business in Pakistan. He did not run away because he was a Pakistani just like us. The passport was Pakistani. Just as our father fulfilled our wishes, he must have fulfilled the wishes of his son, but what the Lord (God) had written was that, a child should die in front of a father, and the father dying in front of his children like this makes the soul tremble. Vohra expressed May Allah Almighty make the next place easier. Amen

**Pakistan makes progress on Global Gender Gap Report 2023**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has shown significant improvement in its performance on the Global Gender Gap Report 2023, according to the latest findings released today by the World Economic Forum. The annual report, which assesses gender equality across various sectors, highlights achievements as well as areas for further improvement.

With an overall ranking of 142nd out of 146 economies, Pakistan has reached its highest score since 2006, achieving 57.5% gender parity. Notably, the country has made considerable progress in the Economic Participation and Opportunity subindex, with a 5.1 percentage point increase in the last decade, bringing parity to 36.2%. Although this level of parity remains one of the lowest globally, Pakistan has shown broad progress across all indicators in this subindex, particularly in the representation of women in technical roles and wage equality for similar work.

Pakistan's performance on the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 reflects a mix of progress and persistent challenges. While the country has made notable improvements in certain areas, such as education and health, there are still significant gender disparities that need to be addressed in economic and political empowerment. Pakistan has achieved its highest overall score since 2006, indicating a commitment to advancing gender equality. However, continued efforts are necessary to bridge the gender gap, particularly in economic participation, political representation, and senior leadership roles. Pakistan recognizes the importance of empowering women and creating an inclusive society that ensures equal opportunities for all.

**Memories**

May her soul rest in peace,  
Though in our hearts she is immortal,

But had to leave this world like everyone mortal.  
She went away without any fortell,

Left behind her dear ones,  
Whom she could not part for even moments

Why has she left us alone?  
With bleeding hearts and tearful eyes,  
Alas! Some hounds turned the joyful melodies  
Into horrifying shrieks and lamenting sighs.  
A brutal blast created panic and death picture to be hated.  
Life ceased for some minutes ahead,  
The show of the Big Day (qiyamat) was seen.  
Alas, It was not her time to go.

She was and still is a guiding Twinkling star in heaven,  
Lets promise to work on her cognition,  
Though bibi is not with us but we can achieve our mile stones by her ideology, vision, motives and notions.  
May her soul rest in peace, she is immortal in our hearts. Amen

By: Nighat wadood

Senior Vice president  
PPP, Women Wing, Islamabad.



**Fashion brands acknowledge Pakistan**



**News Desk**

LAHORE: General Secretary, Pakistan Footwear Association, Ahmad Fawad Farooq as the keynote speaker at the International Summit on Consumer Trends and Supply Chain, held at Expo Riva del Garda in Italy on June 18, 2023, highlighted the strength and potential of Pakistan as a prime sourcing destination for leather footwear.

His presentation captivated industry leaders, who enthusiastically expressed their intention to visit Pakistan this year for further exploration and collaboration opportunities. With a dynamic and rapidly growing economy, Pakistan has emerged as a powerhouse in the manufacturing sector, particularly in the realm of quality footwear.

Ahmed Fawad Farooq emphasized two key factors contributing to Pakistan's appeal as a sourcing destination: low labour costs and the abundant availability of raw materials.

He said that the cost advantage offered by Pakistan's labour market has garnered significant attention from international brands. The country's skilled workforce is capable of producing high-quality footwear at competitive prices, making it an attractive option for fashion brands seeking cost-effective manufacturing solutions without compromising on quality.

The visit of these renowned fashion brands to Pakistan will not only open new avenues for collaboration but also provide an opportunity for knowledge exchange, fostering innovation, and driving sustainable growth in the footwear industry. Pakistan's manufacturing sector stands ready to embrace this influx of interest and deliver excellence in quality and efficiency to meet the needs of global fashion brands.

**Mastercard and SimpliFi join forces to enable innovative B2B payment solutions**

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Mastercard has partnered with SimpliFi, the leading regional Cards as a Service (CaaS) platform, to enhance digital payment adoption in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). CaaS is an up-and-coming card-issuing model that enables companies to easily develop and launch card services as part of their business offering.

With demand for digital payments rapidly accelerating in the region, along with the shift towards cost-effective payment solutions, this strategic partnership will empower businesses to bring to market Mastercard-enabled payment products and services in



record time. SimpliFi empowers businesses to have financial ownership by enabling them to issue payment cards to stream-

line business operations and drive new revenue streams. They serve as a single API for fintech companies, telcos, retailers, SaaS platforms and merchants who can integrate with SimpliFi and launch and run a card payments program with ease. In addition to enablement of card products, SimpliFi is rapidly expanding its product suite into other payment services in line with its strategy to offer a wide spectrum of payment solutions.

With operations in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt, and with additional markets to follow, SimpliFi can fast track launch of payment products for businesses across multiple markets simultaneously with one integration and a seamless journey.

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# Federal budget 2023-24, a deficient and defensive document

There is no denying the fact that the federal budget launched for the fiscal year 2023-24 has been formulated during multi-dimensional difficulties. First and foremost problem is the subjugation of IMF which is a political motivated agency sponsored by the power who is opposed to Pakistan for their political objectives. The second difficulty is obvious in shape of political instability due to elements that are believed to be following objectives detrimental to our security and survival.

It is well known fact that the budget proposals are initiated and completed mathematically by celebrated principles of budget procedures. At the same time the government in power has to come out with inspiration, vision, priorities and political will. The present budget presented by the coalition government is devoid of any input by member political parties. Total responsibility has been placed on the Finance Minister who is already in defensive position due to price hike and deterioration of our currency. The Minister was handed over charge of Finance Ministry with over confidence and treating him as an expert of financial matters. No doubt, he had bright record in the past but this time he seems baffled and his faulty decisions are self speaking.

One conspicuous aspect of the budget is the unprecedented and fallacious decision is the unreasonable increase in salary of government employees which is also to be followed by provinces as well. It has two pronged drawbacks.

On the one hand when we are already

short of funds and are in grip of heavy loans and over drafts, there was no sense in announcing so high increase as 35%, 30% and pension 17.5%. This decision has foolishly created disparities and discrimination when the calamity is the same and equal for all employees. The decision is also antagonistic to the provisions of fundamental rights ensured under the constitution. Equality before law and equal protection of law are the guarantees under the constitution. In nutshell the Finance Minister and his aides have proved an utter failure at this juncture of political turmoil.

The budget proposals are bound to result in political problems for future government at would come in power after general elections. For the bureaucracy civil, military or otherwise only 10% increase in their salaries could be plausible for all grade of service and for pensioners. The Administrative services group in civil service has already created disparities in salary structure and some employees are agitating their cases before the judiciary. The Finance Minister has no legal or constitutional authority to create this discrimination in services, and create thereby distrust among the bureaucracy which is the backbone of state. The government is giving too much and in return earning rift among the classes of employees and uncalled for financial burden. The present government has

at its discredit the waste of 89 billion of rupees in shape of free atta scheme. The Atta scheme was also launched without proper planning. The present budget is another attempt to usher in gloomy panorama in the succeeding years. The reason being that pay once increased cannot be reduced in future under law. So the liability has been created for no justifiable cause.

The budget has failed to devise means of frugality which could serve as earning by saving. The nonsense order of closing of business concerns by or before 8pm should be changed by order of opening business centers by or before 9 am. It would save energy and inculcate habit of early rising. The shops not open by 9 am should be penalized. Similarly there should be one holiday in a week and six work days by starting at 8 am and closing by 2 pm. That would again save energy and encourage getting up early by our princely elite of bureaucracy who have the authority even to supersede the order of the government. In fact they are the real decision makers at the federal secretariat. The budget has also been rejected by the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

As a positive measure, the government could curtail protocol privileges which exploit our police force and the public is left at the mercy of dacoits. There should be inspiration and hope in the

budget speech. The government could change the pattern of annual tree plantation tradition and could under take construction of artificial lakes in all forest enclosures so that trees could survive and also could be saved from fatal forest fires. There is a big fire in Canada these days and earlier a similar mishap was witnessed in Australia. If there are several lakes in forest enclosures the forest fires could be easily controlled without colossal loss of wild life and property.

The government could also undertake schemes of saving every drop of rain water. In France, as reported by Ch. Zulfikar Langrial from Paris, each house is bound to conserve roof rain water for their vegetation and vegetables. In India solar panels are placed on water canals thereby saving space and also saving 30% water of canals due to control of evaporation. In our brother country Turkey the government has decided to cultivate fruit gardens in territories lying as fallow land. Unfortunately, the current budget is devoid of any visionary idea or scheme. Another important point missed by the learned Finance Minister is that coalition government has made some achievements and also which should have been highlighted budget could be defended effectively. The government is struggling hard to purchase petroleum, energy, and food items at cheaper rates from neighboring countries which is a positive initiative.

*The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary and Advocate Supreme Court of A7K.*



Analysis  
Ch. Muhammad Latif

## Extreme weather hits China

Many cities in China continued to issue heat and rainfall response warnings on Friday, as residents in many areas are experiencing weather extremes that could go down in history in the last few days.

According to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), weather observations from Wednesday to Thursday showed that a total of 2,830 stations across the country recorded high temperatures above 40 C, while 2,130 stations recorded heavy rainfall.

On Friday morning, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) continued to issue high temperature orange warnings, the second highest across China's four-level weather warning system, as the highest temperature in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong on Friday is expected to reach 40 C.

The CMA has started its level IV emergency response for high temperatures starting 9 am of Friday.

Beijing, the capital city located in North China, was one of the cities hit hardest by the heat wave. On Thursday, Beijing recorded a temperature of 41.1 C, breaking the all-time June temperature record of 40.6 C recorded in 1961. Also on Thursday, the same weather station recorded a ground surface temperature of 71.8 C in the afternoon, also the second highest on record.

On Thursday, most areas of Beijing saw high temperatures of 39 C or above. Weather forecasts indicate that such high temperatures will continue in the coming days.

On Friday morning, the Beijing Meteorological Station issued a red warning signal for high temperatures, the highest of China's four-level weather warning system. The last time Beijing issued such a warning was back in 2014.

On Friday afternoon, Beijing again recorded high temperatures above 40 C. Zhang Yingxin, chief forecaster from the Beijing Meteorological Station, said this is the first time since the establishment of meteorological observation stations in Beijing that high temperatures above 40 C were recorded for two consecutive days.

According to the Beijing Meteorological Station, hot weather will continue in Beijing from Friday to Sunday, with high temperatures reaching 37 to 40 degrees in most areas. By Monday, Beijing's high temperature is expected to drop back to 34 C.

This round of heat is strong, long-lasting and widespread, said Zhao Wei, chief forecaster of Beijing Meteorological Station.

"The reason for this situation is that the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region is under the control of a stronger warm air mass from Wednesday and the influence lasts long. Under the control of the high-pressure ridge situation, the sky is clear and with no cloud cover, which makes radiation warming more favorable and promotes warming," Zhao told China Youth Daily.

"In addition, the prolonged sunshine is conducive to the maintenance of high temperatures, while low air humidity and dry weather are also conducive to rising temperatures," Zhao said.

Since 1951, Beijing has recorded a maximum of 11 high temperature days above 35 C in June in a single year, in 1952 and 2000 respectively, and a maximum of 5 high temperature days above 37 C, in 1952. As of Thursday, Beijing has recorded nine high temperature days above 35 C and five days of high temperature days above 37 C in June 2023.

In the meantime, Tianjin and Hebei, also located in North China, are also experiencing extreme heat.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

## Are you with Pakistan or against Pakistan?

Javed Ullah Raja  
 Such a situation has never happened to the beloved country as it is today. Until we sacrifice our decisions of our own will, the matter will not move forward. Politicians knowing everything are closing their eyes. Today, the countries of the world do not agree with us because of our policies. And they are not even ready to give aid and concessions. Now our honor is neither in the country nor in the world. Today we only want to save ourselves. Making difficult decisions that will cause this country to face more crises in the future and everyone will have to bear the consequences. As long as there is power, everything and every organization is under control.

If we are not able to do anything despite the power, then obviously we are failing to do everything. Our own members and allies are angry with us. Today, if we deal with the people with force, will it be possible to change the opinion of the majority of the people? Absolutely not, the current of force can change the situation, the inner voice of a person cannot be suppressed. The power belongs to the people by the command of Allah. When the government coalition cannot do anything, they try to divert

the attention of the people by putting all the debris in the past. Today's politics consists of lies, deceit and deception. We should not forget that today's inflation and economic crisis will be written in history.

Not only this, but the wrong policies of the current politicians will also be counted. The process of putting the country in the right direction should be started by taking the nails. Political differences are political and temporary. In the past, we have been hearing that the politicians are all united from the inside and fight each other to shine their politics outwardly. Reconciliation is the only way through which the hearts of the people can be won by removing the differences and doubts through mutual understanding. Sensible people say that no politics is successful without it, nor is there force, but it only breeds more hatred and benefits the opponent.

Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has given a few words which have been published in different newspapers which indicate

our shortcomings. These are the experiences and essence of his life and the guarantee of our better future. He said;

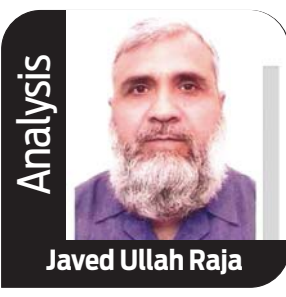
"Now the question is, where do we go from here? I urge everyone to take a cool, deep breath. As I have learned from both experience and history, I have no qualms about saying that none of today's political parties has ever been anti-Pakistan nor is it made up of traitors. Due to desperation and deprivation, abuses have been committed by everyone in our history and that includes the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD). When all avenues are closed, expressing anger in various ways seems to be the only option and it paints the national landscape in a deadly red color.

I urge all stakeholders to "think again". Many people have also been given a book on the same topic by Adam Grant. A great contemporary example is the extraordinary peace between Iran and Saudi Arabia. This is a major achievement of his leadership and on that, Mohammed bin Salman, the Iranian leader

and our friend China are commendable. This move marks an extraordinary change in thinking by these great leaders and they will be remembered in history for ending decades of enmity. Will our leadership also do so? Can I demonstrate such greatness? I personally know many people of this caliber in powerful and political circles. However, everyday events and the harsh rhetoric between them cloud their thinking. Even unrealistic questions are raised that "Are you with Pakistan or against Pakistan?" What our elders say first and last is to show patience, learn from the past, and save the family.

Our friend Malik is also urging us to do the same. Nations achieve greatness that learn from history and those that do not are forgotten like grains in the sands of time. I have been stressing to everyone that we urgently need to find a solution to the current situation. I am sure that Inshah Allah, the best way will prevail and we will eventually be able to resolve our differences. We still have a lot of work to do and many golden chapters to write. Long live Pakistan."

Writer is senior analyst and can be reached at [javedullah-rajaj@gmail.com](mailto:javedullah-rajaj@gmail.com)



Analysis  
Javed Ullah Raja

## Huawei concludes 7th edition of ICT competition

Dr. Faheem Yar Khan

My name is Dr. Faheem YarKuhawar, and I am working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Telecommunication at Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan. My expertise are in the field of communication and computer networks within the realm of ICT. Back in 2017, I attended a short ICT training organized by Huawei to prepare instructors for the ICT Academy to be established at various universities in Pakistan. Since then, I have been providing training to undergraduate and graduate students to obtain Huawei's Certification in Routing and Switching / Datacom Track.

In 2019, 2020, and 2021, Pakistani students reached the Middle-East and Global Finals and secured top positions in the competition. Most recently, Pakistani students achieved second and third positions in Huawei's ICT Competition 2022-Middle East and Global Finals, which concluded in May 2023.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Huawei for organizing and managing the Huawei ICT Skill Competition with such excellence.

I highly appreciate Huawei for introducing this ICT competition to promote the ICT Talent Eco System, and I feel honored to be part of it.

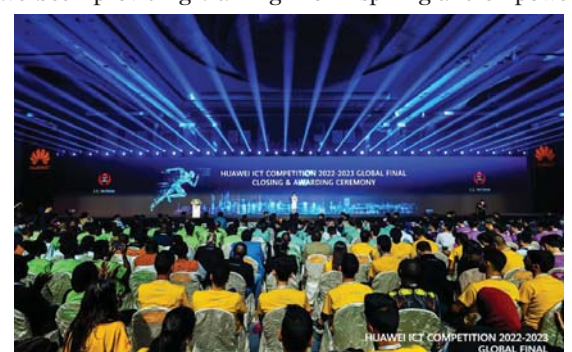
The competition has truly served as an exceptional platform for students globally, nurturing talent,

and providing a positive ICT experience. Huawei's meticulous planning and dedicated efforts have ensured a remarkable competition, offering incentives, diverse training opportunities, and exceptional facilities. The warm hospitality extended throughout the competition has created an encouraging environment that motivates participants to strive for greatness. The Huawei ICT Competition serves as a testament to Huawei's steadfast dedication to promoting excellence in ICT. It highlights the vast potential of aspiring students, offering them invaluable experience, opportunities for knowledge expansion, and a platform to foster innovation. This competition serves as a catalyst for inspiring and empowering future industry

leaders, reflecting Huawei's unwavering commitment to the advancement of ICT and the nurturing of talent.

I highly appreciate and am thankful to Huawei for the continuous support throughout this journey of achieving the height of success. I would like to extend a special acknowledgment and appreciation to Ms. Fatima, Mr. Farooq, and Mr. Hamza for their wonderful coordination and management of Huawei's ICT Competition every year. Their cooperative gestures and professionalism in resolving issues that ICT academy instructors/students face from all over Pakistan are worth mentioning. Their tireless efforts and dedication have contributed to the success of Huawei's ICT competition throughout these years.

Wishing Huawei continued success in the years to come.



# US Consul General visited South Punjab

Asim Tanveer

**RAHIM YAR KHAN/MUZAFFARGARH:** US Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole visited various districts across South Punjab including Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Multan and Vehari. His visits aims to support the robust partnership in different fields including economic development, education and cultural preservation between the United States and Pakistan. But most importantly his engagements underscore the importance of strengthening and expanding people to people ties between the two-nations.

While touring South Punjab, Consul General Makaneole also hailed Pakistan's efforts for interfaith harmony. He visited the Sakina tul Sughra mosque in Muzaffargarh, the Jamia Mosque and Siddhi Vinayak Temple in Rahim Yar Khan and the shrine of famous Sufi poet Khawaja Ghulam Farid in Rajanpur.

He praised the efforts of the local business community during his visits to the thal jute mills, fazilpur livestock farm and PARCO mid-country refinery to continue promoting the strong trade and investment relationship between the United States and Pakistan. In a meeting with Rahim Yar Khan Chamber



of Commerce Mr. Makaneole said "Over the past 75 years of bilateral relations, we have worked to develop trade and investment ties, encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and support women's economic empowerment." The United States continues to be Pakistan's top export destination and Punjab is a center for trade between the two countries. In the last year alone, U.S direct investment in Pakistan increased by 50 Percent and now the highest it has been in over a decade.

Mr Makaneole also visited the Ali Pur Pomegranate fields, the famous Rasoolpur model village in Rajanpur, Khawaja Farid university and attend-

ed a locally organized education conference in Rahim Yar Khan. He lauded the efforts of the local communities to promote economic growth and education in South Punjab. He also met with Deputy Commissioners of Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur. The consul General thanked them for hosting the delegation and making the tour a success. The United States has a broad, deep and long term partnership with the people of Punjab Province Spanning the education, economic, health and rule of law sectors and beyond U.S Consulate Lahore looks forward to deepening and expanding these relationships over the coming years.

# Roundtable Discussion to Mark International Day of Women in Diplomacy

Spokesman Report

**ISLAMABAD:** The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion to mark the 'International Day of Women Diplomacy' on June 23, 2023. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, shared a special message on the occasion.

The discussion was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; H. E. Nyambura Kamau, High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan; Dr. Noor Khan, Minister Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway in Islamabad; Ms. Alice Courlander, Second Secretary at the British High Commission in Islamabad; Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS; Ambassador Shah Jamal, Former Ambassador to Iraq; Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Former Ambassador to Poland; Ambassador Riffat Masood, Former Ambassador to Iran, Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Professor, QAU; Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor, QAU; Ms. Iqra Ashraf, Director Spokesperson Office/Strat-Com, MoFA; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director of CSP, and the research team of ISSI were also present.

In her introductory remarks, Dr. Neelum Nigar said that celebrating this important day today serves as a

powerful reminder of the significant contributions women have made and continue to make in the field of diplomacy. It provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and aspirations of women diplomats worldwide.

In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that the UNGA resolution of 20 June 2022 that proclaimed 24 June to be the 'International Day of Women in Diplomacy' calls upon member states to observe this Day annually, promoting women's equal participation in diplomacy through education and awareness-raising activities.

In her message, MoS for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar said that the significance of June 24 as the 'International Day of Women in Diplomacy' is self-evident, symbolizing global recognition of and admiration for women's accomplishments in the diplomatic realm. Having the great honour of being the first woman Foreign Minister of Pakistan, this Day holds great meaning and significance for me personally.

In her remarks, Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, who has had the distinction of being the first woman Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, emphasized that women constitute a crucial component of strategic perspectives. The United Nations deserves praise for its commitment to commemorating this significant Day.

H. E. High Commissioner Kamau, in her remarks, said that celebrating women in diplomacy acknowledges the progress that has been made



while also highlighting the work that still needs to be done. It encourages thoughtful consideration of the obstacles faced by women in this realm, igniting initiatives aimed at overcoming barriers and promoting gender equality. In her elaboration about the Kenyan foreign service, the High Commissioner highlighted the significant strides made by women over the past decade. Women in the Kenyan foreign service have witnessed positive developments and improvements.

During the interactive session, the other participating diplomats

and academics shared their experiences and perspectives with regard to women's role in the field of diplomacy. Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen noted that the civil service reforms of 1972 opened the way for Pakistani women to enter the foreign service. She herself went on to become the first-ever career foreign service officer rising to the level of Ambassador.

Dr. Salma Malik underscored the substantial impact of women diplomats in diverse arenas, surpassing barriers to effectively engage in diplomatic and security issues.

Ms. Alice spoke about the advance-

ments made by women diplomats in the United Kingdom, highlighting their remarkable contributions particularly over the past two decades.

Ambassador Riffat Masood shared her views and highlighted the importance of recognizing and valuing the contributions of women diplomats, as their diverse experiences and approaches contribute to more comprehensive and holistic decision-making processes.

Ms. Iqra Ashraf and Dr. Noor Khan, both young diplomats, acknowledged and highlighted the pioneering contributions of their senior colleagues,

expressing gratitude for how these trailblazers have paved the way and made their own journeys in diplomacy more accessible and smooth.

Dr. Shabana Fayyaz expressed appreciation for the ISSI in providing a platform that facilitated interface between women diplomats and academics focused on gender studies, recognizing the value of bringing together practitioners and scholars in a meaningful dialogue.

The Roundtable discussion was concluded with remarks by Chairman BoG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.

# Maha Yusuf honored of PhD in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University

Main Rashid Asghar

**FAISALABAD:** Jhang ; Miss Maha Yusuf, a native of Jhang, Punjab province, Pakistan, received the honor of PhD in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University, proved the first woman who has the honor of this achievement.

According to details, a Bio on the university's website, Miss Maha has conducted research on understanding the failure mechanisms of lithium-ion batteries during ultra-fast charging (XFC).



According to more details, Maha confirmed the news on Twitter, thanking synchrotron-based material X-ray characterization expert

Johanna Wicker and University of Colorado Boulder faculty member Mike Toney for suggesting the research. Maha specifically used

high-resolution neutron and X-ray imaging to investigate the Li plating characteristics on graphite anodes during XFC.

In addition, he holds an MS in Chemical Engineering from Stanford (2017) and a BE from National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan (2013).

Prior to Stanford, Miss Maha worked on oil and gas rigs as a drilling engineer in the Amazon rainforest in Colombia. To date, she has published seven journal articles.

## Meeting

**ISLAMABAD:** Ambassador of Azerbaijan Mr. Khazar Farhadov calls on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Aminul Haque on Friday.



Photo: PID

# Providing clean and hygienic and food to citizens is a responsibility of all of us, Ahsan Bakhtawari

Tariq Khattak

**ISLAMABAD:** President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that cleanliness is a part of our faith and the identity of any developed society. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders, including food authorities, restaurants, to ensure the provision of healthy food to citizens in a clean environment. The establishment of Food Authority is a very welcome step for the federal capital. The authority has excellent and professional officers, Islamabad Chamber will provide full support to the authority and restaurants in the implementation of food standards. Will manage the training of the staff related to the food sector.

He expressed these views yesterday while addressing a training workshop for the staff of hotels and restaurants in Islamabad organized by Islamabad Chamber and Food Authority. He said that Islamabad as the federal capital has global recognition, ambassadors, guests and other people from



all over the world are constantly coming to this city, so we need to focus on improving the quality here at every level. The food sector is very important to the identity of any city. I am glad that the government has taken the best step to set up a functioning Food Authority which will ensure enforcement of food standards. All hotel and restaurant Ensure their cooperation with the Authority.

Cleanliness, hygiene and quality can be improved only if we all work together. He said that the

Islamabad Chamber will organize staff training in collaboration with the Food Authority. In this regard, short-term training will be given to the staff by the Punjab Food Authority. All hotels and restaurants should ensure the participation of their staff. He said that I am aware that the authority lacks funds, we demand from the government that the funding of this most important institution should be ensured in any case. He said that taking photos during the raids of hotels and restaurants by

the Food Authority and sharing them on social media is tantamount to defaming the name of the respective brand. It should be banned. Speaking on the occasion, Director Food Authority Dr. Tahira Siddique said that as a regulator, the main task of Food Authority is to ensure the implementation of SOPs. If the staff of hotels and restaurants pay attention to some basic points, this problem can be solved. He said that the authority has prepared 24-point SOPs which will be provided to all

hotels and restaurants. Mosquito repellent spray should be ensured after closing the outlet concerned. The medical tests of the staff should be done in a timely and continuous manner, the quality of the food should be ensured. The staff should also take special care of their cleanliness.

He said that photos and videos are taken during raids only to improve the efficiency of the authority and for records. The authority does not release them to social media or the media. Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar ul Islam said that the aim of this awareness workshop is to provide basic training to the staff associated with the food sector, Islamabad Chamber will continue this series. He said that I am grateful to the Food Authority for its participation and provision of awareness. Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, President Anjum Tajran Ajmal Baloch, Executive Member Muhammad Naeem and others also addressed the workshop.

# SM Tanveer presides over 7th meeting of SEZA

News Desk

**LAHORE:** The seventh meeting of the Special Economic Zone Authority was held in the committee room of New Minister Block under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer.

During the meeting, 5 points agenda was discussed. Expressing indignation at the slowness in the colonization process of the industrial zones, the minister said that Concerned departments should focus on colonization, instead of thinking to make profit by buying and selling plots.

The provincial minister said that by providing facilities to investors, the new investment of billions of dollars can

be brought in the province. The Minister directed to ensure provision of industrial infrastructure for setting up industries in industrial zones. SEZA accepted the proposal to give an opportunity to set up factories on void plots in Special Economic Zones.

The meeting was informed during the briefing that 10 Special Economic Zones are operational in Punjab, 3 are in progress while 5 more Special Economic Zones have been approved. Kashif Anwar, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lahore, Additional Secretary Commerce, CEO PIEDMC and FIEDMC and officers of concerned departments participated in the meeting.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,065.32	40,152.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,235.57	39,894.42
Index Value	Change
2,781,091,859	-86.73
Percentage	Time
-0.22%	23 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,461.87	-40.16
Percentage	Time
-0.54%	23 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,705.34	-241.37
Percentage	Time
-0.71%	23 Jun, 2:50 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,781.54	-483.34
Percentage	Time
-1.45%	23 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	763.27	771.27
Canadian Dollar	224	226
China Yuan	40.01	40.41
Danish Krone	42.24	42.64
Euro	317	320
Hong Kong Dollar	36.7	37.05
Indian Rupee	3.5	3.61
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.42	942.42
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	177.74	179.74
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	745.86	753.86
Qatari Riyal	78.21	78.91
Saudi Riyal	76	76.75
Singapore Dollar	218	220
Swedish Korona	26.57	26.87
Swiss Franc	320.87	323.37
Thai Bhat	8.27	8.42
U.A.E Dirham	8.07	80.8
UK Pound Sterling	368	371
US Dollar	289.5	292

# Two-day 'Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions Symposium' begins in Islamabad

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is hosting the Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions on June 23-24. The first day of the symposium saw notable members of the judiciary take the stage and address on key challenges and opportunities pertaining to the corporate sector of Pakistan.

SECP Chairman Akif Saeed, in his welcome address, said, "We aim to build a strong and growing corporate sector that is attractive to both domestic and foreign investors, ensuring economic stability and prosperity for our nation". He added, "In this crucial mission, we are fortunate to be assisted by our esteemed partners at the World Bank, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable support in creating a conducive corporate environment in Pakistan".

Honorable Justice Shahid Karim, Honorable Justice (R) Mr. Hamid Ali Shah, and Barrister Iftikharuddin Riaz highlighted the developments in Company Law, the need for upgrading the procedures under Company Law, and discussed new concepts. IHC Advocates Syed Bulent Sohail and Umer Ejaz Gilani presented a case study on the empirical analysis of Company Court judgements and also shared recommendations on the subject.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (R) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani also delivered keynote address at the symposium and gave a presentation on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its reforms in Pakistan.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (R) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry spoke on the role of judiciary in economic development, regional integration and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). He said that a well-functioning judiciary has a pivotal role in governance, democracy, constitutionalism, and economic growth.



Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan gave a keynote address on "Evolution of Company Law Jurisprudence and role of Company Benches of the Hon'ble High Court". He accentuated on Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Companies Act, 2017.

Mr. Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed spoke on "Reflective Loss and the Derivative Action". He said that owning a company's shares do not offer a right to shareholders over the assets of the company.

Chief Prosecutor and SECP Prosecution & Legal Affairs Division Head-Executive Director Muzaffar A. Mirza gave a presentation on "Laws Governed by SECP with special reference to supervision and regulatory actions".

Mr. Badiuddin Akber, CEO of Central Depository Company (CDC) of Pakistan Limited, gave a presentation on CDC procedures, including Automated Securities Settlement Process.

The Senior Puisne Judge Mr. Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, from the High Court of Sindh, addressed the symposium on "Implementation of Sections 5 & 6 of Companies Act, 2017, Issues and Challenges".

Mr. Sergio Ariel Muro, World Bank (WB) Senior Financial Sector Specialist, delivered a presentation on the subject of "Towards Efficient Business Restructuring and Exit: Lessons from International Experience". He underlined

the importance of establishing a robust insolvency system.

Advocate Supreme Court Asma Hamid took the stage to speak on Admissibility of evidence and related issues in corporate matters. She outlined the rights and responsibilities of company benches and processes of relevant jurisprudence under Companies Act, 2017.

Honorable Mr. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan IHC gave the final address of Day 1 of the Symposium on Corporate Supervision and Regulatory Actions: Challenges and Reforms, on "Company Bench and Conduct of Liquidation."

The Honorable Justice Mian Gul Aurangzeb gave the concluding speech of the day. He built upon the points raised by Justice Ejaz and said, "SECP should give us a panel of liquidators who are qualified".

SECP's Chief Prosecutor, Mr. Muzaffar A. Mirza, gave a comprehensive presentation on the laws governed by SECP with special reference to supervision and regulatory actions. SECP Executive Director Imran Inayat Butt spoke on Transformation of Corporate Supervision, and shed light on the aims and details of the supervision process, as applicable under SECP's ambit.

SECP's Chairman Akif Saeed distributed shields among the Honorable Justices who presented keynote addresses.

Tomorrow stakeholder consultations will be also held to suggest way forward for expeditious disposal of matters relating to mergers & amalgamation, liquidation and adoption of ADRs.

Honorable members of the superior judiciary, Registrars, prominent advocates, key adjudication officers of the regulated sectors of SECP and related professionals participated in the symposium.

## Govt should take people into confidence about its Plan B: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the current EFF program of IMF is ending in a week and now the chances of a tranche are slim.

As a result of Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with IMF MD, if the suspended loan is granted, then both the international organization and Pakistan will have to take special measures to do so, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF will have to withdraw from some of its conditions and Pakistan will also have to make changes in the federal budget.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the finance minister Ishaq Dar has already said that the IMF is looking at the issue of Pakistan geopolitically, which seems to be correct to some extent.



The business leader said that apart from Prime Minister, the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is also meeting the ambassadors of America and important countries in a bid to restore the program.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has fulfilled most of the conditions of the IMF, but compared to the financial requirements of six billion dollars,

4 billion dollars have been arranged.

The finance minister has also clarified that national interests cannot be sacrificed for the IMF, in which case the IMF's inflexible attitude makes it impossible to revive the program.

He said that due to the IMF, Pakistan has increased the interest rate to 21 percent, the petroleum levy has been increased to 50 rupees per litre, the value of the rupee has also been reduced; but the lender is still not satisfied.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that ten months have passed since the suspension of the IMF programme, our foreign exchange reserves are touching the lowest level and the imports are also being stopped due to shortage of foreign exchange.

Now that all hopes for the restoration of the IMF program seem to be fading, the government should take the people and the business community into confidence on its Plan B to save the country from default and restore the economy so that the market uncertainty can be addressed, he demanded.

## ACCA's Pakistan organised its 4th edition of the Virtual Careers Fair

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) successfully organised its 4th edition of the Virtual Careers Fair, featuring 200+ top organizations and 600+ job opportunities. The event also included exclusive sessions conducted by industry experts to enhance participants' employability skills.

The event garnered overwhelmingly positive feedback from both participating employers and attendees, who highly valued the overall experience. The presence of prominent employers

and the caliber of job opportunities showcased through ACCA Careers (online jobs portal) further emphasised the significance of the accountancy profession. Employers expressed their satisfaction with the exceptional pool of highly motivated and qualified individuals, recognising their potential in building resilient and future-ready organisations.

Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, warmly welcomed all attendees and expressed his thoughts on the event, stating, "The growth and impact of the Pakistan careers fair are truly remarkable."

## Zong 4G and PAGE Join Forces to Empower Girls' Education in Pakistan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications provider, is proud to announce a strategic partnership with PAGE (Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education), an esteemed organization dedicated to creating an enabling environment for gender equity in education, employment, rights, and leadership.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony took place on Wednesday, 21st June, solidifying the commitment of both organizations to collaborate and empower girls' education in Pakistan. The ceremony was attended by representatives from both Zong 4G and PAGE.

Under this MoU, Zong 4G and PAGE will work together to achieve their shared goal of transforming the environment of girls' education in Pakistan. The cooperation will encompass a range of activities, including workshops conducted by trainers, the provision of internet devices in



areas with limited access, career training initiatives, rehabilitation of flood-affected schools, and workshops in women's vocational centers.

## Alibaba.com joins 'Made in Pakistan' Expo Lahore

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading global B2B e-commerce platform, is slated to participate in the "Made in Pakistan" exhibition to be held at the Lahore International Expo Center from 24-25 June, in celebration of the immense talent and craftsmanship of sellers in Pakistan.

During the exhibition, sellers visiting the Alibaba.com showcase on-site will have access to personalized consultations with Alibaba.com experts to acquire knowledge of B2B e-commerce, as well as insights on how to kickstart their global export journey using the

platform's digital tools and value-added services.

Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate Pakistan's wealth of products and innovations as well as learn about Alibaba.com's offerings at the "Made in Pakistan" Expo. Join us at the Lahore International Expo Center from 24-25 June at Booth G-4, Exhibition Hall 2 and embark on a potentially transformative journey that will redefine the possibilities for Pakistan's artisans and manufacturers.



## Dollars being smuggled to Afghanistan and Iran

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Friday that a large number of dollars are being smuggled from the country to Afghanistan and Iran.

Pakistan's economy is getting weak due to continuous smuggling of dollars, while the economy of both the neighbouring countries is getting stable, he said.

There is no corruption in the

government machinery in Afghanistan due to which their economy is flourishing despite the sanctions, he added.

In a statement issued here today, Aslam Khan said that immediately after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, one US dollar was available at 124 Afghanis, while now one US dollar is available at 86 Afghanis.

In contrast, at the time of the American withdrawal from Afghanistan, one US dollar in Pakistan was

worth about 176 rupees, which is now available at almost 300 rupees.

He noted that despite the wishes of dozens of countries, the dollars smuggled from Pakistan helped Afghanistan to remain afloat.

The rulers in Afghanistan are not inclined to create assets and prefer personal welfare over national interest.

Aslam Khan said that resources are not being plundered in Afghanistan but distributed properly, which is promoting economic develop-

ment.

In Pakistan, rupee is continuously devalued for the sake of exporters, which makes imports more expensive which the poor people have to bear.

Frequent changes in key policies, non-taxation of the sectors that contribute 60% of GDP and other issues affects the confidence of consumers and investors, which weakens the economy.

Neighbouring countries are taxing rich to benefit poor, but here poor

are taxed to promote elitism, he observed.

Pakistan has often been described as an elitist state. The national economy has been captured by a small elite class, which manipulates the market and control the state, resulting in an inefficient resource allocation and an inequitable income distribution.

The elite have been so powerful that no one dares to challenge their dominations, which has pushed the country to the brink.

## Emirates to ramp up flights ahead of Hajj and Eid Al Adha surge



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: With the commencement of the Hajj season and upcoming Eid Al Adha celebrations, Emirates is layering on additional flights to key regional destinations to meet significant travel demand during this special period.

As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia lifts all Hajj travel restrictions for the first time in three years, Emirates has deployed additional flights for pilgrims to embark on their journey to and from the Holy City of Makkah.

Ten flights have been added to and from Jeddah.

All flights will be operated on Boeing 777 aircraft dedicated for Hajj pilgrims until 7 July.

The Hajj flights to Jeddah will run in parallel to Emirates' existing schedule to the Kingdom and are open to travellers holding a valid Hajj visa and, if above the age of 12, have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Medina will also be served with daily flights during this time.

This year, the Kingdom's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah anticipates 2.6 million pilgrims, reaching pre-pandemic numbers and the additional flights aim to help seamlessly carry pilgrims. Emirates has already seen strong bookings for Hajj travel from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Mauritius and South Africa.

# Lahore Qalandars, Zimbabwe Cricket, T10 Global Sports join hands to discover emerging talent hands

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Zimbabwe Cricket on Friday announced its collaboration with T10 Global Sports and Lahore Qalandars in a groundbreaking initiative to discover and nurture emerging cricketing talent.

As part of this exciting collaboration, Zimbabwe Cricket will be conducting its inaugural player development programme (PDP) in Zimbabwe with the aim of identifying promising players who have the potential to become future stars of the game, said a press release.

The trials will provide a unique platform for aspiring cricketers in Zimbabwe to showcase their skills and compete for a chance to feature in inaugural Zim Afro



T10 league. Country's first white ball cricket tournament with the franchise model promises to be an electrifying showcase of fast-paced cricket, offering an incredible platform for these talented individuals to gain invaluable exposure and enhance their skills.

The tournament will see five privately owned teams in the mix, namely, Hara-

re Hurricanes, Durban Qalandars, Cape Town Samp Army, Bulawayo Braves and the Joburg Lions. The Zim Afro T10 will get underway on July 20 with a grand final scheduled for July 29, with all the games being played in Harare.

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

T10 Global Sports, will be working closely with Zimbabwe Cricket and Lahore Qalandars to ensure the smooth execution of the trials and provide comprehensive support to the selected players throughout their journey.

Sameen Rana, Chief Operating Officer Lahore Qalandars: "We are delighted to join hands with T10 Global Sports and Zimbabwe Cricket in our quest to

unearth exceptional cricketing talent. Lahore Qalandars has always been committed to nurturing young players and providing them with the opportunities they need to succeed. We believe this collaboration will pave a clear pathway for the aspiring cricketers of Zimbabwe to represent their country at the highest level as our PDP brought Shaheen Afridi, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf and Zaman Khan made their way into the Pakistan Cricket Team.

"Our journey to unearth the talented cricketers of Pakistan started eight years ago and now is the time to launch its second phase in Zimbabwe. Lahore Qalandars is committed to continuing its hunt to provide new talent to the world of sports."

## Pakistan's Faiza and Naheen win Gold in Badminton Doubles; Noshiwan and Arif grab Silver in Men's Double

**Sports Desk**

BERLIN (GERMANY): Pakistan's Faiza Nasir and Naheen Khan won the gold medal in the Badminton Women's Doubles Unified event of the ongoing 16th Special Olympic World Games.

In the badminton event played at Messe Berlin, Pakistani players won the gold medal by defeating Uzbekistan by 21-5 and 21-17 points, Malaysia by 21-14 and 21-6 and Kyrgyz Republic by 21-12 and 21-13.

On this occasion, Faiza Nasir and Naheen Khan said that we are very happy that our hard work paid off and we were able to win a gold medal for our country. Our coaches played an important role in our success.

We will try our best to maintain this streak of success in future events as well. Head coach Mutahir



Sohail and coach Qamar Ali Mona of Faiza Nasir and Naheen Khan from Lahore said that both players have been preparing for the World Games for the past two years. They stayed busy in this regard, they

also participated fully in the training camps organized by Special Olympics Pakistan in Karachi and Islamabad.

Meanwhile, in the men's unified doubles event of Badminton, Pakistan's Noshiwan Arif Raja and

Talha Asif won the silver medal after defeating Paraguay 21-18 and 21-12 and Macau by 21-12 and 21-16.

However, Pakistan suffered a defeat against Hong Kong by the margin of 16-21 and 18-21.

## 'Not too close' Ronaldo's light-hearted moment with cameraman

Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portuguese football star, created a lighthearted moment with a cameraman following Portugal's 1-0 victory against Ireland. After the match, Ronaldo, who scored the winning goal, jokingly asked the cameraman not to get too close, saying, "Too many wrinkles." His remark brought a smile to the faces of those present and added a touch of humour to the post-match media scrum.

Ronaldo's goal in the 89th minute secured the victory for Portugal in the European Championship qualifying match against Iceland. This milestone goal came as he made his 200th appearance for the Portuguese national team, becoming the first male player to achieve this feat. The Guinness World Records honoured the 38-year-old superstar before the game, recognising his remarkable accomplishment nearly 20 years after his international debut.

The match was a cause for double celebration as Ronaldo not only marked his 200th appearance but also scored his 123rd international goal, further extending his record. The victory propelled Portugal to maintain a perfect record of four wins in four games in Group J, solidifying their path towards qualifying for Euro 2024.

Expressing his joy, Ronaldo described the achievement as "unbelievable" and emphasised the special significance of scoring the winning goal.

## Pakistan foreign office 'evaluating aspects' of WC participation in India

**A Sports**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday, stated that it is "evaluating all aspects" of the national team's participation in the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup in India this year.

Following the conclusion of the Asia Cup tie, Pakistan's participation in this year's World Cup in India still remains uncertain after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) declared that it must abide by the federal government's instructions.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of the foreign ministry Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan was

of the view that "politics should not be mixed with sports".

"Pakistan is of the view that politics should not be mixed with sports. India's policy of not playing cricket in Pakistan is disappointing," said Baloch.

"We are observing and evaluating all aspects relating to our participation in the World Cup including the security situation for Pakistani cricketers and we will offer our views to PCB in due course," she added.

The World Cup dates and locations are still up in the air with just over three months till the tournament's commencement since Pakistan's participation in the mega event is still a



matter of debate.

Notably, India had already decided against travelling to Pakistan for this year's Asia

Cup and consequently, the PCB threatened to boycott the World Cup.

The two cricket boards then

gradually moved towards a compromise and as a result, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) accepted the PCB-proposed 'hybrid model', according to which Pakistan will host four matches of the continental event while the rest will be played in Sri Lanka.

It is worth mentioning here that due to ongoing political tensions between Pakistan and India, the two sides have not competed in a bilateral series since 2012.

Pakistan team last travelled to India in 2016 for the T20 World Cup, while India last travelled to Pakistan back in 2008 for the Asia Cup.

## Schedule for Asian Hockey Champions Trophy announced

**News Desk**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) on Friday, unveiled the schedule of the upcoming Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.

As per the statement released by the AHF, the six-team tournament will run from August 3 to 12 in Chennai.

The tournament will begin with Korea and Japan playing the first game, while hosts, India will play the third game of the opening day when they take on China.

The six-team tournament will see Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, China, and India battle it out for top honours. All the participating teams are placed in one pool and the



positions on the points table will be decided by a league system.

Pakistan will start their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy campaign against Malaysia on August 3 before

taking on Korea on August 4, Japan on August 6 and China on August 7.

The green shirts will then lock horns with arch-rivals India in their last round fixture on August 9.

The final of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy will be held on August 12.

Notably, Pakistan and India are the most successful sides of the tournament, having won the title thrice each while Korea will participate in the upcoming edition as the defending champions, who won the previous edition in 2021.

Notably, the training camp of the shortlisted players for the national team to participate in the upcoming edition of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy is currently underway at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore.

Earlier, the junior national hockey team participated in the Asia Cup where they reached the final. Pakistan finished as

the runners-up of the Junior Hockey Asia Cup after falling to a 1-2 defeat against arch-rivals India in the blockbuster final.

Heading into the blockbuster final, both India and Pakistan were unbeaten in the continental event.

The arch-rivals have so far come face to face in four Junior Hockey Asia Cup finals with India winning on three occasions - 2004, 08 and 23 - while the green shirts emerged victorious once in 1996.

Furthermore, before this year's tournament both Pakistan were level as the joint-most title-winning sides (3) but India's latest title victory propelled them to the record title holder of the Asian event.

## Haris to captain Shaheens in ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Haris will captain Pakistan Shaheens in the eight-team 15-match ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup 2023, which is scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka from 14 to 23 July. The squad will assemble at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore following Eid Al Adha holidays on Monday, 3 July, for a week-long training camp before the team's arrival in Colombo on 12 July.

Shaheens, who are the defending champions, are clubbed with India A, Nepal and Sri Lanka A in Group A, while Group B includes Afghanistan A, Bangladesh A, Oman and United Arab Emirates. The top-two sides from each group will progress to the semifinals, followed by the final.

Shaheens will open their campaign against Nepal on 14 July, followed by matches against India A on 16 July and Sri Lanka A on 18 July.

22-year-old Haris has represented Pakistan in five ODIs and nine T20Is, and will lead Shaheens for the first time. Other international players in the squad are: Arshad Iqbal (1 T20I), Kamran Ghulam (1 ODI), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (2 Tests, 14 ODIs, 27 T20Is), Sahibzada Farhan (3 T20Is), Saim Ayub (8 T20Is), Shah Nawaz Dahani (2 ODIs, 11 T20Is) and Tayyab Tahir (3 T20Is).

**Squad:**

Mohammad Haris (captain, wicketkeeper) (Peshawar), Omair Bin Yousuf (vice-captain) (Karachi), Amad Butt (Sialkot), Arshad Iqbal (Swabi), Haseebullah (Quetta), Kamran Ghulam (Peshawar), Mehran Mumtaz (Rawalpindi), Mubasir Khan (Islamabad), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (North Waziristan), Qasim Akram (Lahore), Sahibzada Farhan (Charsadda), Saim Ayub (Karachi), Shah Nawaz Dahani (Larkana), Sufiyan Muqem (AJK) and Tayyab Tahir (Gujrat)

Non-traveling reserves - Abdul Wahid Bangalzai, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Junaid and Rohail Nazir

**Pakistan's fixtures in ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup**

Group A:

v Nepal, 14 July

v India A, 16 July

v Sri Lanka A, 18 July

## Kyokushin Karate Belt promotion test and prize distribution ceremony



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Kyokushin karate Belt promotion test and Prize distribution ceremony was held at Pakistan karate organisation Kyokushin kai kan IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan, Hq Atta Butt Dojo Railway stadium Garhi Shahoo Lahore. At the belt promotion test and awarding ceremony, Chief guest was Dr Rabia Mush-taq a renowned surgeon from UK, former karate kaz and one of the champions of Hq Atta Butt Dojo. She honour the occasion and applaud the training of young karate kaz. She was awarded with beautiful Kyokushin karate souvenirs. All successful karate Kaz were awarded with certificates and promotion belts. Sensie M Amjad, Sensie Saima Batool, Miss Zoela Fatima, Miss Alizay Gulshan former Kyokushin national champion, Ali Sabir Hussain Butt former Kyokushin karate champion were the examiners. It was announced by the chief guest that it is need of time to arrange more sports events for the young generation to improve their health. Healthy mind needs healthy body and refrain from any drugs.

All members are informed to prepare their self for All Punjab Kyokushin karate IKO-MATSUSHIMA championships to be held at Lahore next month. For more details contact Shihan Atta Hussain Butt International karate master instructor IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan.

## AHF announces match schedule for Asian Champions Trophy

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) has announced the match schedule for the upcoming edition of the Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023.

The event will begin on August 3 and go on till August 12.

The six-team tournament will see Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, China, and India battle it out for top honours. All the teams are part of one pool and the positions on the points table will be decided by a league system.

The defending Champions at the Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy is South Korea, who won the 2021 edition of the tournament.

The tournament will begin with Korea and Japan playing the first game at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai.

Pakistan will take on Malaysia on August 3 in their opening match. In their second match, they will face Korea on August 4. In the third match, they will meet Japan on August 6. On August 7, they will compete against China. In their last pool match, they will vie against traditional rivals India on August 9. The semifinals and 5th/6th place match will take place on August 11. The final and 3rd/4th place fixture will be held on August 12.

India (2011, 2016 & 2018) and Pakistan (2012, 2013 & 2018) have both won three titles each, and are the most decorated nations in the history of the tournament. The president of AHF Dato Fumio Ogura said, "It is my great pleasure to announce the eagerly awaited match schedule for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023. This prestigious tournament promises to be an extraordinary celebration of hockey, showcasing the exceptional talent and unity of Asian hockey. Our vision for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 is to create an unforgettable experience for players, fans, and stakeholders alike."