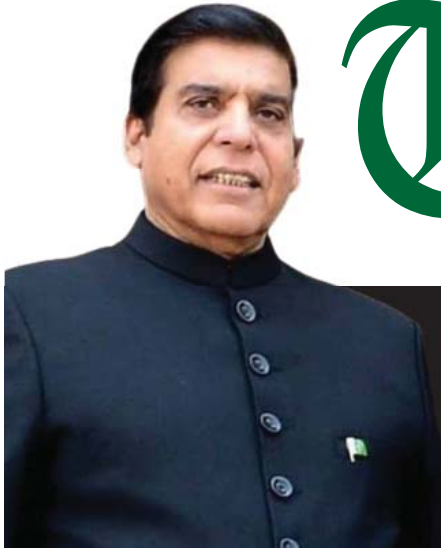


# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ایک درزی نے رسول اللہ ﷺ کو کھانسی کی دعوت دی تو انہوں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے لیے تیار کیا تھا۔ میں بھی آپ کے ساتھ گیا۔ نبی کریم ﷺ کے سامنے جوئی رہی اور شہرہ پیش کیا۔ جس میں کوہ اور خشک گوشت کے ٹکڑے تھے۔ نبی کریم ﷺ نے یہاں سے چاروں طرف کو دعاؤں کر رہے تھے۔ اسی دن سے میں بھی کوہ بند کرنے لگا۔  
(پنجگڑی: صفحہ نمبر 5436)  
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## NA Speaker condemns desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

National Assembly (NA) speaker Raja Pervaiz Asharaf has strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. In his message, the NA speaker said the painful incident has deeply hurt the sentiments of billions of Muslims. (Details on Page 3)



## Charter of Economy should be made like the Charter of Democracy: Gilani

Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani talks to the media after performing the Eid-ul-Adha prayer. Eid greetings to all the Islamic world. On this occasion, I would request everyone not to forget the families of our martyrs. On the occasion of Eid, all Muslims have one and the same emotions are also the same. This is a fact Many big leaders in the world have spent Eid in jail. (Details on Page 8)

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## Meeting

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shebaz Sharif meets Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Friday. Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Ishaq Dar was also present in the meeting.

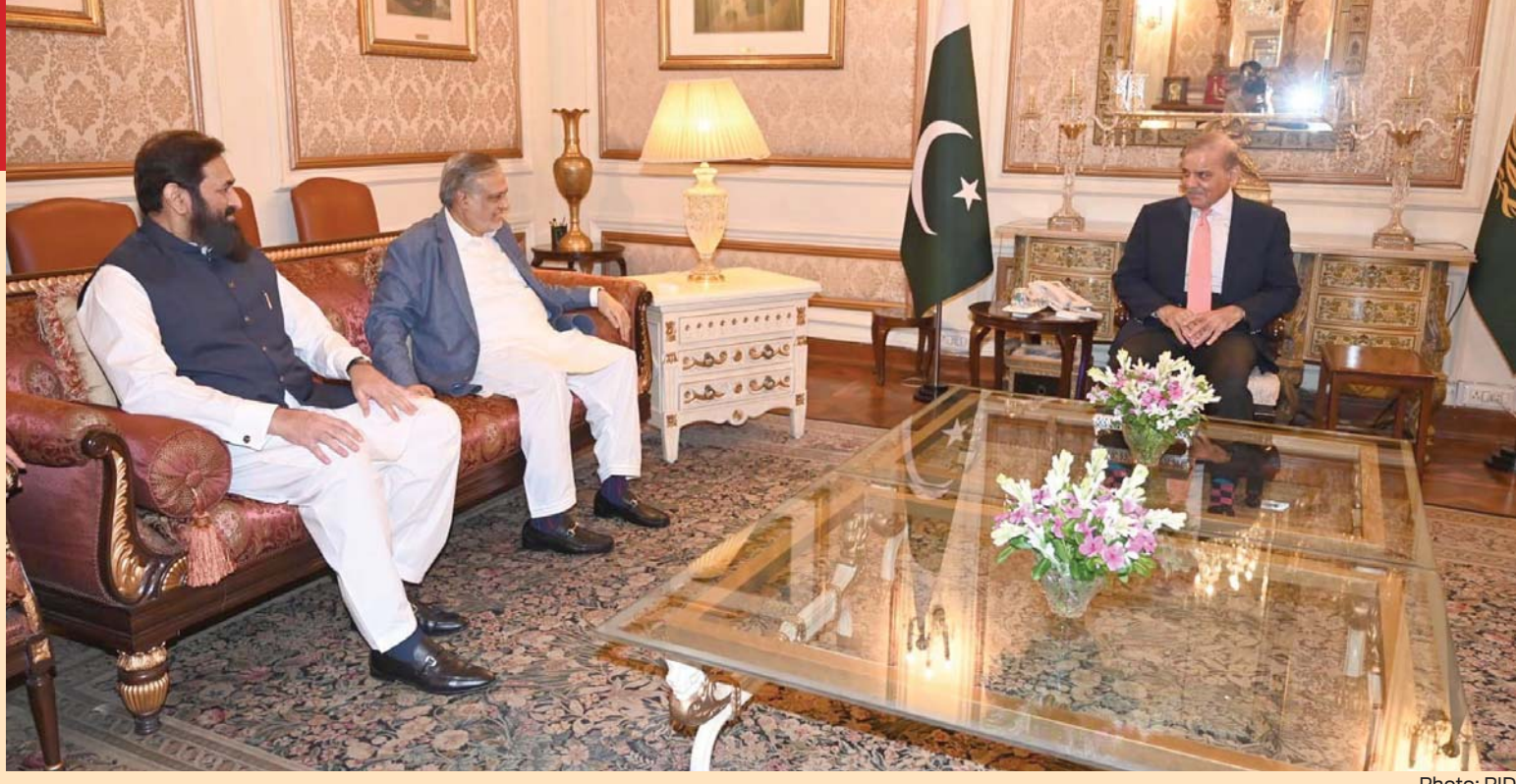


Photo: PID

## Pakistan, IMF reaches US\$3bln stand-by arrangement

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan have reached to nine-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of around US\$3 billion, according to press statement issued by the fund.

"I am pleased to announce that the IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities on a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in the amount of SDR2,250 million (about \$3 billion or 111 percent of Pakistan's IMF quota)", said Nathan Porter, who was leading IMF staff team in meetings with Pakistan.

The staff-level agreement is subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board, with its consideration expected by mid-July, the statement added.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar also

shared the agreement on his twitter Friday.

The new SBA will support the authorities' immediate efforts to stabilize the economy from recent external shocks, preserve macroeconomic stability and provide a framework for financing from multi-lateral and bilateral partners.

It would also create space for social and development spending through improved domestic revenue mobilization and careful spending execution to help address the needs of the Pakistani people.

According to the statement, steadfast policy implementation was key for Pakistan to overcome its current challenges, including through greater fiscal discipline, a market determined exchange rate to absorb external pressures, and further progress on reforms, particularly in the energy sector, to promote climate resilience, and to help improve the business climate.

## PM & COAS offered Eid prayers along with soldiers and officers at Parachinar

Adam Khan Wazir

PARACHINAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim-Munir Thursday spent the day of Eid with army jawans in Parachinar along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The prime minister was accompanied by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Defence-Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb.

The prime minister and chief of army staff offered the Eid prayer along with army officers and jawans and later exchanged Eid greetings.

The PM praised the army for its high resolve, operational preparedness and professional standards.

During the meeting with the officers and jawans, Shehbaz Sharif said he along with the army chief was spending the Eid with them so that he could pay tribute to their efforts and passion



for defending the borders of the motherland with bravery and courage.

He said the officers and jawans of Pakistan's armed forces leave their personal comfort to perform the sacred obligation of the protection, defence and security of the country.

They bear the hardships of

weather and difficult conditions, face all kinds of challenges and problems and guard the borders of the motherland and for that endeavour the nation saluted them, he added.

He said the officers and jawans individually and collectively gave priority to the security of the country whether it was any happy occasion or festival including Eid or an occasion of grief and the nation saluted them for this fervour.

He said today he was paying tribute to the officers and jawans of Pakistan army, air force, and navy for their services as they were fulfilling the sacred duty of security of borders of the country with iron determination despite the

immense obstacles.

The prime minister felicitated the whole nation including the officers and jawans of armed forces on the occasion of Eid.

He reaffirmed the resolve that there would be no place to hide for those who destroyed peace, perpetrated terrorism, or abetted or facilitated acts of terror.

The Pakistani of the Pakistani nation failed the nefarious designs of the forces who were causing chaos and mayhem in the country, he said adding those forces were defeated who wanted to create divisions and fissures in the nation for their evil agenda.

He said martyrs were the pride and precious asset of Pakistan and its nation and their honour and dignity were above everything else.

The prime minister laid a wreath at the monument of the martyrs and offered fatha.

Earlier, the chief of army staff received the prime minister. On this occasion, Commander 11 Corps and high-level officers of the provincial government were also present.

## President, Saudi Crown Prince, picture reflects close bonds between Pak-KSA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday shared a picture on his Twitter handle that showed him standing and sharing affectionate smile with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman.

On his Twitter handle, the president said that such expressions were very symbolic of great relationship between the people of two countries.

The president, in a tweet, posted "Very symbolic of the great relationship between the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. No better expression of the kinship than the beaming and affectionate smile on the faces of two brothers."

President, Saudi Crown Prince, picture reflects close bonds between Pak-KSA

The president had been to KSA for performing Hajj.

According to Saudi Press Agency, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,



King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, held an annual ceremony the other day at the Royal Court, Mina Palace for the presidents, prime ministers, senior Islamic dignitaries, guests of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, guests of government agencies, and heads of delegations and offices of pilgrims affairs who performed Hajj this year.

At the outset of the ceremony, the crown prince shook hands with King Abdullah Ri'ayatuiddin Al-Mustafa

## 206,582 pilgrims lost during Hajj season; Saudi Scouts Association

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Statistics from the public service camps of the Saudi Arabian Boy Scouts Association in Makkah and the holy sites revealed that a total of 206,582 pilgrims were reported lost during this year's Hajj, of which 12,589 were guided by the scouts to the headquarters of their countries' Hajj missions, while 193,993 of them received guidance via smart applications.

The statistics also showed that the service camp scouts carried out 3,732 missions in Makkah and the holy sites, SPA reported.

## FM arrives Japan on an official visit

Hinza Asif

TOKYO: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday arrived here for an official visit at the invitation of Japanese government.

Upon arrival, he was received by Pakistan's Ambassador to Japan Raza Bashir Tarar, officials from Japanese Foreign Ministry and a large number of Pakistan community members, a Foreign Office spokesperson said in a press release.

The foreign minister's visit signals the revival of leadership level contacts with Japan after a considerable hiatus. During the visit the foreign minister will hold delegation level talks with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi, the spokesperson, in an earlier press statement, said.

Foreign Minister Bilawal will call on Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, besides, he will also hold a meeting with the National Security



Advisor of Japan Takeo Akiba.

The foreign minister will also deliver a talk at the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), which is a renowned think tank of Japan. "Pakistan and Japan enjoy a long-standing time-tested relationship characterized by warmth, cordi-

ality and commonality of views on issues," it was added.

During his stay, he is also expected to interact with senior officials and executives representing prominent business houses and entities related to import of Pakistani manpower to Japan.

## UN Alliance of Civilizations slams desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden as 'vile act'

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The top official for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Miguel Moratinos, has unequivocally condemned the "vile act" of burning pages of the holy Quran in front of a mosque in the center of Stockholm, Sweden, as Muslims were offering Eid al-Azha prayers.

In a statement, Moratinos, the UNAOC's High Representative, said that "such a 'vile act' is disrespectful to Muslims."

The High Representative reiterated the importance of upholding the freedom of expression as a fundamental human right.

## Sadiq Sanjrani decides to withdraw Senate chairman perks bill

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: After much criticism, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani has decided to withdraw the Senate chairman perks bill and directed the concerned senators to take back the legislation.

The government ministers had announced to oppose the 'controversial' bill moved by over 40 senators, recommending to increase perks and privileges of the former and current Senate chairmen, deputy chairmen and senators.

The bill had also recommended to provide 12-member staff and security even after retirement of the Senate chairman besides getting additional and increased perks and privileges including travel and daily allowances.

On June 25, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif had strongly opposed the proposed Senate chairman perks bill, urging his fellow parliamentarians to stand against it, citing the economic realities facing the country.

Speaking on the floor of the House, the PML-N lawmaker rejected the bill and urged the other members of the National Assembly not to support this particular legislation.

He expressed confidence that the deal will be struck with the IMF in the coming days which will bring back economic stability in the country.

Khawaja Asif also clarified that no member of the parliament had gone for Hajj pilgrimage at the expense of the government.



## Third day of Eid

KARACHI: A bull being slaughtered on the third day of Eid-ul- Azha in Korangi area on Saturday.



# Charter of Economy should be made like the Charter of Democracy: Gilani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani talks to the media after performing the Eid-ul-Adha prayer. Eid greetings to all the Islamic world On this occasion, I would request everyone not to forget the families of our martyrs. On the occasion of Eid, all Muslims have one and the emotions are also the same. This is a fact Many big leaders in the world have spent Eid in jail.

The PTI workers who are in jail are being investigated. For the upcoming general election, the leadership of PPP and



the leadership of PML-N are sitting together. He said that in order to strengthen and stabilize the country's economy, a Charter of Economy should

be made like the Charter of Democracy.

We have no problem with seats. The previous government violated the agreement

with the IMF. People had to bear the burden of inflation due to non-compliance with the agreement with the IMF. The position of Pakistan People's Party is that the general election should be held at the appointed time so that the people can choose their elected representatives. Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that We had a debate with PDM parties and other political parties on lifetime disqualification.

I was disqualified for 5 years, before that politicians were disqualified for 7 years. Lifelong disqualification in the

National Assembly and Senate has been amended that the disqualification of a member of the National Assembly will be for a maximum of 5 years. If the charge against Chairman PTI Imran Khan is proved, Prime Ministers have been going to jail before. The ideology of PTI was buried on May 9. On the incident of fire in Gillani House, former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that 1 minute before the fire started in my room, I went out and then the fire started. An investigation is underway whether the fire was caused by a short circuit or there was some other reason.

# Governor House opened front against poverty, unemployment: MQM-P convenor

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said Saturday that the Governor House has opened a front against poverty and unemployment.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori met the MQM-P leaders at the party's Bahadurabad headquarters today. The meeting was attended by Aminul Haque, Farooq Sattar, Arshad Vohra and Rabita Committee members.

The governor extended Eid greetings to the MQM-P leaders. Sources said that the political situation, voter lists and the role of the provincial election commission were also

discussed in the meeting.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Governor House, Sindh governor, Governor Kamran Tessori, MQM-P

After the meeting, the Sindh governor and the MQM-P convenor addressed a press conference.

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that MQM-P had worked efficiently for the public welfare and fulfilled its promises to the nation instead of exhibition. "By the grace of Allah Almighty, a public representative was elected for the Governor House.

"Governor House is now fighting against poverty and unemployment. The governor is not representing any political party. We don't believe



in running propaganda and responding to such tactics. We have asked the Sindh governor to distribute ration among the martyrs' families."

Governor Tessori said that he has brought 1,000 ration bags to the MQM-P headquarters. "We have to prove ourselves a public representative by staying amongst the nation. Ration bags are

being distributed without any discrimination. We have dispatched ration bags among 20,000 deserving people from the Governor House."

The governor vowed to provide rations to any political party for their martyred workers.

Regarding the skill development programmes, Tessori said that 500,000 people

have been registered for the IT courses and a computer lab was established at the Governor's House.

Responding to a question, Tessori criticised, "I haven't seen a friend of the Karachi so far. This city has no infrastructure, electricity, gas and jobs despite contributing 54% of the total country's exports. Properties of the citizens are being grabbed in an organised way across Karachi."

"Investors and business community are continuously complaining for receiving threats. I support Siddiqui's stance and announcing to establish a special cell at the Governor's House to address the complaints of the businesspersons," he announced.

Zardari directs urgent restoration of power as Larkana faces fifth day of outage

Bureau Report

LARKANA: PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari directed the provincial energy minister to supervise the power restoration work himself as the power outage continues for the fifth day in Larkana City, Sindh.

According to the details, former President Asif Zardari took notice of the non-supply of electricity in Larkana and instructed the Provincial Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh to supervise the restoration of electricity himself. On the instructions Imtiaz Sheikh Garhi reached the Garhi Yasin area of Sindh, the CEO Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) has summoned the staff and canceled their leave.

# Minister Talha raises concerns about Pakistani Hajj pilgrims

News Desk

MAKKAH MUKARMA: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Talha Mehmood has expressed his strong displeasure and disappointment regarding the challenges encountered by Pakistani hajj pilgrims during their stay in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah.

The minister contacted the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, and conveyed his displeasure with the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah over the challenges faced by Pakistani pilgrims in Mina and Arafat.

The Saudi Minister assured that a comprehensive inquiry will be conducted to determine accountability.

The hajj service providing company responsible for the mismanagement in



Mina and Arafat be identified as the cause, appropriate steps will be taken to address the grievances of Pakistani pilgrims. This will involve issuing apologies and imple-

menting suitable measures to rectify the situation. It is important to note that private companies are entrusted with the management of activities in Mina and Arafat.

# EU condemns desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

Ghazanfar Hashmi

BRUSSELS: The European Union joined numerous Muslim countries in denouncing the most recent incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden on Saturday.

The burning of the Holy Quran or any other sacred book, according to the EU's censure announced today, is "offensive, disrespectful, and a clear act of provocation."

"Manifestations of racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance have no place in Europe," said Nabila Massrali, the spokesman for the EU's foreign affairs and security policy.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation made the announcement that an emergency meeting would be held the following week to discuss the matter in line with the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

The summit, which will take place at the OIC headquarters in the Saudi city of Jeddah, was called by Saudi Arabia in its role as chair



of the Islamic Summit Conference, according to a statement from the 57-nation intergovernmental body.

The methods for handling the incident's aftermath would also be discussed during the emergency meeting, it was said.

The OIC severely denounced the incident in a previous statement, stating that it was in opposition to "international efforts to spread the values of tolerance, moderation, and renunciation of extremism."

Additionally, it reaffirmed its condemnation of the reprehensible acts that some extremists deliberately commit" and pleaded with relevant governments around the globe to take effective measures to prevent its recurrence.

# ECP seeks applications for party symbols ahead of general elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday directed political parties to submit their applications for the allotment of election symbols ahead of general elections.

The electoral watchdog had stated that up until July 19, applications can be submitted with the party leader's signature. The ECP instructed the parties to include a list of the symbols they prioritise with their applications, saying the party leader's signature is required.

According to ECP, "Every application must include the address of the political party's head office."

The electoral watchdog added that the commission will not accept applications for the symbols that were filed earlier than today. "The applications that are incomplete or submitted through fax will not be considered," it said.

The ECP stated that submissions received after July 19 will not be



accepted. Additionally, it stated the affidavit is required to be submitted with applications in accordance with Section 206 of the Election Act 2017.

Last month, the electoral watchdog prepared the lists for the appointment of returning officers ahead of the general polls.

The sources divulged a meeting about the general election preparations was held under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja.

All four provincial election commissioners, along with the ECP secretary reportedly attended the meeting and the matters in line with the preparations of elections were discussed.

# Punjab stops treatment of heart ailments at private hospitals on health cards

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Heart operations, including the placement of stents, on health cards at private hospitals in Punjab have been put on hold indefinitely.

From July 1, the insurance company has prohibited all the private hospitals in Punjab from providing medical care to the patients on the health cards.

A notice states that private institutions in the province will not provide any form of care to heart patients who have health cards. The Punjab government suggests charging all heart patients 30% of the cost of their medical care.

Cardiac services on the health

card will not be made available to anyone until the deserving residents of Punjab are selected.

Earlier, the health card scheme was reportedly restricted in Punjab with only the people registered under the Punjab Free Flour Scheme will be eligible for free treatment through the card.

From July 1, gynecological operations will be abolished on the health card and a patient will have to pay 30% for treatment of heart ailments from private hospitals.

After the provincial cabinet's approval, the Punjab Health Company wrote a letter to State Life Insurance which mentioned that only the deserving will be eligible to use the health card at private hospitals.

# Islamabad, New Delhi swap prisoners' lists under 2008 accord on Consular Access

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Consistent with the provisions of the 2008 Agreement on Consular Access, the Government of Pakistan on Saturday handed over a list of 308 Indian prisoners in Pakistan (42 civilian prisoners and 266 fishermen) to the High Commission of India in Islamabad.

The Government of India also handed over the list of Pakistani prisoners in Indian jails to Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi.

According to the list, there are a total of 417 Pakistanis in Indian jails (343 civilian prisoners and 74 fishermen).

"The Government of India has been urged to release and repatriate all those Pakistani civilian prisoners



and fishermen, who have completed their respective sentence and their national status stands confirmed," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Pakistan and India exchange the lists of prisoners in each other's custody on 1st January and 1st July, every year.

The exchange takes place in pursuance of the Agreement on Consular Access, signed on 21 May 2008.



# Elections important for strong Pakistan and economic improvement: Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistani Former Foreign Minister and Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that elections are necessary for the improvement of the country's economy. Had Ishaq Dar accepted the conditions of the IMF, the finance minister has accepted all the conditions, there is a possibility of reaching an agreement with the IMF in a few days. Talking to the media after performing the Eid prayer under the cover of Bahauddin Zakaria Shrine. He said that the talks with the IMF are going on, Ishaq Dar has accepted all the conditions, there is a possibility of reaching an agreement with the IMF in a few days.

Elections are very important for Strong Pakistan and economic improvement, we all should take the country out of uncertainty and hold elections. If there is a right choice, we can get out of this problem. He said that the economic conditions of



India were also like Pakistan, but they changed the conditions by planning. India wants to become the third largest economy in the world, Pakistan also has to think The Indian Prime Minister is saying, leave Pakistan to its current state, which is a momentary concern, we have to face the challenges together.

He said that the inflation in the country has reached a record level.

Due to inflation, people's families and businesses have been affected. Inflation has increased to 38%. Despite the increase in electricity prices, load shedding continues. Despite the good wheat harvest, wheat is being sold at Rs

4600. We have to face these challenges. It is necessary that we can be freed from IMF and external debt. When we think about ourselves and the country, we can get out of these problems. Many justice workers who are in prison are innocent, they should be released, everyone should be given a chance to come clean according to the law.

He also prayed for the forgiveness of Pakistani victims who lost their lives in the sinking of the Titanic. Earlier, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi accompanied his son Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi and other family members in the court of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria. Eid-ul-Adha prayer was offered. At the end of the prayer, he made a special prayer for the country's security and development.

Later, he visited the shrines of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria and Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam and laid wreaths. He recited Fatiha on the graves of his parents and elders buried in the Darbar of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria.

## Mohsin Naqvi satisfied with cleanliness arrangements on Eid

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed satisfaction over cleanliness arrangements during the Eidul Azha days.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the chief minister applauded the solid waste companies, commissioners, deputy commissioners, local government and other relevant institutions. He also directed WASA staff to remain in the field in case of rain.

Earlier, Naqvi directed the authorities to ensure proper cleanliness arrangements across the province besides timely disposal of offals.

He said that cleanliness arrangements should be better comparing to previous year.

The chief minister said that officers of the relevant departments should personally monitor ongoing cleanliness activities.



## Commissioner Amir Khattak Celebrates Eid with SOS village children

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, the divisional administration participated in the happiness of every section of the society. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak visited SOS Village and distributed clothes, gifts among children, mothers, staff, youth. He said that children deprived of parental support are the collective responsibility of the society. SOS Village is an ideal shelter and school for helpless children. Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak said that coming to SOS Village gives peace of mind. I am happy that the children are living in a good environment in SOS Village. Good education and training of the homeless children can show them the direction to move forward in life. The children of SOS Village are our pride. CO Corporation, Chaudhry Farmaish, Deputy Director Information Iram Saleemi, Director Kamran Yusuf, social personality Azhar Baloch were present.



## Four youth killed in two different incidents in Attock

Raza naqvi

ATTOCK: Four young men have lost their lives in two different road incidents in various parts of Attock district on Saturday, police and hospital sources said. In the first incident, three cousins lost their lives as their car rammmed into road side tree near Thalian interchange in the Fatehjang Police station limits. Police while quoting the family of the deceased has said that Majid Ghorri along with his cousins Shahid Ghorri and Imran Ghorri- residents of Talagang were going to Murree to celebrate the eid vacations while they met the fatal incident. Later their bodies were dispatched to their native town after fulfilling the legal requirement. Moreover, 18 years old man lost his life when the motorcycle he was going collided head on with another motorcycle on Pathargarh road in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station. Police and hospital sources said that Muhammad Noman was going from Dolian village to Hassanabdal city to celebrate eid with his uncle when he met incident. He was taken to THQ hospital from where he was shifted to Rawalpindi where he succumbed to injuries. Respective police registered two separate cases and started further investigation.

## Al-Khidmat Foundation arranges luncheon, distributes sacrificial meat among transgender, artists

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Al-Khidmat Foundation, one of Pakistan's biggest humanitarian organization, here on Saturday arranged a luncheon and also distributed sacrificial meat among the marginalized transgender community and artists.

The objective of the initiative was to involve these neglected segment of transgender into Eid celebrations by arranging a get together for them, said Noor-ul-Wahid Jadoon, Manager Media Al-Khidmat Foundation Peshawar.

Talking to newsmen, Noor-ul-Wahid said that the ceremony was held at the main office of Al-Khidmat Foundation on G. T road Peshawar. A large number of trans persons and artists from Peshawar attended the luncheon and enjoyed the symptoms feast.

"This is a very welcoming initiative taken by Al-Khidmat Foundation and has won our hearts," commented a transgender.

## Three cousins die as car rams into tree in Punjab

City Desk

TALAGANG: Three youngsters died on Saturday after their car rammmed into a roadside tree allegedly due to speeding near Thelian Interchange in Talagang, a tehsil of Potohar region.

According to Rescue 1122 officials, on being informed of the incident occurring near Thelian Interchange at the Motorway, a team of emergency service reached the scene and shifted the dead bodies to the nearby hospital.

The rescue sources said the deceased were cousins and were going to Murree.

Earlier, at least six persons were killed and over 60 others were injured in a road accident in Sindh's province of Shaheed Benazirabad.

According to police, the incident occurred near Balochpur Stop in Nawabshah, when two passenger buses collided, leaving six persons dead on the spot and over 60 injured including children and kids.

The injured were shifted to the People's Medical University Hospital.

## Viral video: Speeding car hits two youths on Lyari Expressway

News Desk

KARACHI: A video has gone viral on social media which showed a horrific road accident of a speeding car that hit two young boys on Karachi's Lyari Expressway, ARY News reported on Saturday.

The viral video showed a speeding car hit two youths on Lyari Expressway yesterday, leaving both of them injured. It showed that two youths standing on a track of the road when the car went out of control and hit them.

## Enjoyment

HYDERABAD: A large number of visitors enjoying boat riding at Almanzar Picnic Point at River Indus on the 3rd day of Eid-ul-Azha celebrations.



## Government must feel the pain: Naseer Vohra

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Naseer Yousaf Vohra, President of Cloth Board Ittehad Pakistan expressed his anger against the government for the increase in taxes/levy- 215 billion including petrol and diesel prices, property tax and interest rate.

He said that the government must feel the pain with due sense painfully.

The nation demands relief & government should provide relief at any cost to the people &

sheer pledging the country to the IMF, cannot solve the problems of the nation.

He further said that some people do as good as a mountain and get as many rewards converting into as a pebble, and some people do as much good as a pebble and get as many rewards



as a mountain, because a difference in intentions changes the rewards'

outputs.

He further expressed that, at this time, film politics with plus and minus formula has brought the country to the brink of destruction instead of uniting it.

He further said that the situation is going on in such a way that people are running to fulfill their own needs hardly instead of asking for love & passionate feelings from government side?

Vohra finally concluded that there is an urgent need of the hour to conduct transparent elections in a timely manner while respecting the democratic opinion of the people, and the people should participate in the elections by giving priority to national interests rather than caste interests, and at this time the solution of the issues lies in transparent elections, he further said & added.

## Firdous Ashiq calls IMF deal good omen for country

City Desk

LAHORE: Information Secretary of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, said on Monday that the agreement with the IMF was a victory for Pakistan.

She said her party was grateful to the Sri Lankan government for raising its voice in favor of Pakistan mentioning that the closed doors of trade would open as this agreement would be like oxygen for the Pakistani economy.

Ms Awan said that economic stability was the goal of her party adding an agreement with the IMF was the most important need of the hour for Pakistan's economy as the trust of friendly countries and international financial institutions would be restored on Pakistan.

## Successful operation conducted by security forces in North Waziristan and Tank

Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN/ TANK: According to ISPR on 30 Jun 2023, six terrorists have been sent to hell as a result of successful operations conducted by the security forces in Tank and North Waziristan District.

On night 29/30 June 2023, a fire exchange took place between its own troops and terrorists in general area Manzai, Tank District. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. Resultantly, 3x terrorists were sent to hell. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists.



In another fierce encounter between own troops and terrorists in general area Razmak, North Waziristan District, three more terrorists were sent to hell.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent citizens.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism.





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**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:17 am  
Zohr ..... 12:11 pm  
Asr ..... 5:12 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 ..... 9276044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

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Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
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MH ..... 561116  
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TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
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G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
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Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272429

**Iram Saleemi distributed Eid gifts to old age women's**



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak mingled with the elderly citizens on the occasion of visiting the old age home on Eid Al-Zhaa and congratulated them on Eid, distributed gifts among the women. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that

A solar system has been installed for the convenience of the people living in the shelter. Senior citizens are the mercy of Allah and without them our happiness is incomplete. On this occasion, an elderly citizen hugged Commissioner Multan with great love and said that you are very close to our heart. Deputy Director information Department Ms Iram Saleemi Distributed Eid Gifts to the Old Age Women's For Celebration Eid ul Azha.

**Cop injured in attack on Quetta police station**

QUETTA: At least one police officer was injured in an attack on Smart Police Station Civil Lines Quetta, police said on Saturday.

According to police, the attackers who threw the grenade escaped the site of incident.

An unidentified armed motorcyclist threw a hand grenade at the police station situated on the White Road area of Quetta, police said, adding that due to the attack, there was an intense explosion and an official on duty, Constable Abdul Saboor, was injured.

The incident was captured by CCTV cameras at the police station. The CCTV footage first shows part of the entrance of the police station. Later, the video shows the grenade falling into the building and exploding.

**NA speaker condemns desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

In his message, the NA speaker said the painful incident has deeply hurt the sentiments of billions of Muslims.

Mr. Ashraf said every state must take measures for the prevention of such Islamophobic acts. He urged the international community to work for promoting inter-faith harmony and dialogue to create tolerance for each other's religious beliefs and values.

NA speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf stressed that humanity must move away from acts of senseless hatred towards uniting the world in peace.

Earlier this week, Pakistan strongly condemned the despicable act of public



burning of the Holy Quran outside a mosque in Sweden.

The statement of Foreign Office said that the recurrence of such Islamophobic incidents during the last few months in the West calls into serious question the legal

framework which permits such hate-driven actions.

"We reiterate that the right to freedom of expression and opinion does not provide a licence to stoke hatred and sabotage inter-faith harmony," it added.

**Eid prayers**

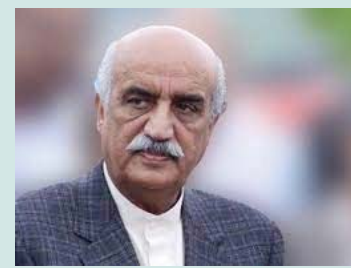
ISLAMABAD: People are offering special prayer of Eid-ul-Azha at Faisal Mosque on Thursday in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

**We intend elevation of Bilawal Bhutto as PM: Khurshid Shah**

Correspondent



SUKKUR: People's Party also wants Bilawal Bhutto to become prime minister, as every party intends to elevate its leader as the 'Leader of the House', Syed Khurshid Shah said on Saturday.

Talking to media here Khurshid Shah, a PPP veteran, claimed that the party gave its election manifesto in 2008 and implemented it. "It was the first time after Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto that a party had implemented its manifesto," Shah said.

"This time we will unveil our manifesto before the election, as the PPP will contest election with 'arrow' as its election symbol," he said. "We will try to have seat adjustment with other parties in election," he said.

Commenting on the economy, Khurshid Shah said that the situation won't come under control until all politicians get united in one-fold, he said. "The national economy has turned into a dangerous python, it is a formidable challenge to rectify it," Shah said.

"Politicians would have to take each other into confidence, we can correct this worsened economy with mutual trust," he added.

Khurshid Shah accompanied by his son Farrukh Shah MPA and provincial minister Nasir Hussain Shah earlier visited former president Asif Ali Zardari at his residence in Nawabshah.

He discussed political situation, general election and the caretaker government with Zardari, party sources said.

Zardari accepted invitation of Sukkur and Ghotki extended by the PPP leaders.

**Zulfiqar Chauhan and Kashif Zulfiqar attended the graduation ceremony**

Arif Chaudhary

LONDON: Taha Rafiq Chauhan, grandson of Pakistan's ex-filmmaker, lawyer, accountant Muhammad Rafiq Chauhan, the only son of international entrepreneur and social personality Zulfiqar Chauhan, graduated from Dharam University UK with top honors in law. Taha Rafiq Chauhan's parents Zulfiqar Chauhan and Kashifa Zulfiqar came from Pakistan to participate in the special graduation ceremony. Expressing his happiness on his son's graduation in law with high marks, he said that the success of children is more important for parents than anything else in the world. We are proud of Taha for fulfilling our expectations. He further said that we request all the parents to pay attention to the education of their children so that they become architects of the future with a positive role in the society. Zulfiqar Chauhan's close brothers from childhood such as Arif Chaudhry and his wife Rubina Chaudhry also participated in the certificate distribution ceremony and congratulated Taha Rafiq Chauhan for his remarkable success in the field of education and expressed good wishes for his bright future. Taha Rafiq Chauhan said that during his education he had to face many difficulties and sufferings, but the perfect guidance and encouragement of his parents never let his courage break down. I will try to leave no stone unturned to meet the expectations of my parents in my professional life. Lord Mayor Yasmin Dar Mayor Oldham Dr. Zahid Chauhan Mayor Blackburn Parvez Akhtar Mayor Bolton Raja Ayub Senior Journalist Muzamil Suhrawardy-Chaudhry Ishaq Chaudhry Fayyaz Bashir-Sohail Anjum Malik-Ijaz Afzal Shaikh-Business personality Mall One-Tenth Avenue Chief Executive Rana Imtiaz Ahmed-Muhammad Ishaq Aziz-Former Chief Counselor Zazar Afzal Malik-Fawad Afzal Malik-Muhammad Arifin congratulated Zulfiqar Ali Chauhan and his family on getting Taha Rafiq Chauhan a law degree with top marks.

**WHO's cancer research agency to say aspartame sweetener a possible carcinogen**

News Desk

LONDON: One of the world's most common artificial sweeteners is set to be declared a possible carcinogen next month by a leading global health body, according to two sources with knowledge of the process, pitting it against the food industry and regulators.

Aspartame, used in products from Coca-Cola diet sodas to Mars' Extra chewing gum and some Snapple drinks, will be listed in July as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" for the first time by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the World Health Organization's (WHO) cancer research arm, the sources told Reuters.

The IARC ruling, finalized earlier this month after a meeting of the group's external experts, is intended to assess whether something is a potential hazard or not, based on all the published evidence.

It does not take into account how much of a product a person can safely consume. This advice for individuals comes from a separate WHO expert committee on food additives, known as JECFA (the Joint WHO and Food and Agriculture Organization's Expert Committee on Food Additives), alongside determinations from national regulators.

However, similar IARC rulings in the past for different substances have raised concerns among consumers about their use, led to lawsuits, and pressured manufacturers to recreate recipes and swap to alternatives. That has led to criticism that the IARC's assessments can be confusing to the public.

JECFA, the WHO committee on additives, is also reviewing aspartame use this year. Its meeting began at the end of June and it is due to announce its findings on the same day that the IARC makes public its decision - on July 14.

Since 1981, JECFA has said aspartame is safe to consume within accepted daily limits. For example, an adult weighing 60 kg (132 pounds) would have to drink between 12 and 36 cans of diet



**Products That Contain Aspartame**



soda - depending on the amount of aspartame in the beverage - every day to be at risk. Its view has been widely shared by national regulators, including in the United States and Europe.

An IARC spokesperson said both the IARC and JECFA committees' findings were confidential until July, but added they were "complementary", with IARC's conclusion representing "the first fundamental step to understand carcinogenicity". The additives committee "conducts a risk assessment, which determines the probability of a specific type of harm (e.g. cancer) to occur under

certain conditions and levels of exposure."

However, industry and regulators fear that holding both processes at around the same time could be confusing, according to letters from U.S. and Japanese regulators seen by Reuters.

"We kindly ask both bodies to coordinate their efforts in reviewing aspartame to avoid any confusion or concerns among the public," Nozomi Tomita, an official from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, wrote in a letter dated March 27 to WHO's deputy director general, Zsuzsanna Jakab.

The letter also called for the conclusions of both bodies to be released on the same day, as is now happening. The Japanese mission in Geneva, where the WHO is based, did not respond to a request for comment.

The IARC's rulings can have huge impact. In 2015, its committee concluded that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic". Years later, even as other bodies like the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) contested this, companies were still feeling the effects of the decision. Germany's Bayer in 2021 lost its third appeal against U.S. court verdicts that awarded

damages to customers blaming their cancers on use of its glyphosate-based weedkillers.

The IARC's decisions have also faced criticism for sparking needless alarm over hard to avoid substances or situations. It has four different levels of classification - carcinogenic, probably carcinogenic, possibly carcinogenic and not classifiable. The levels are based on the strength of the evidence, rather than how dangerous a substance is.

The first group includes substances from processed meat to asbestos, which all have convincing evidence showing they cause cancer, IARC says.

Working overnight and consuming red meat are in the "probable" class, which means that there is limited evidence these substances or situations can cause cancer in humans and either better evidence showing they cause cancer in animals, or strong evidence showing that they have similar characteristics as other human carcinogens.

The "radiofrequency electromagnetic fields" associated with using mobile phones are "possibly cancer-causing". Like aspartame, this means there is either limited evidence they can cause cancer in humans, sufficient evidence in animals, or strong evidence about the characteristics.

The final group - "not classifiable" - means there is not enough evidence.

"IARC is not a food safety body and their review of aspartame is not scientifically comprehensive and is based heavily on widely discredited research," Frances Hunt-Wood, secretary general of the International Sweeteners Association (ISA), said.

The body, whose members include Mars Wrigley, a Coca-Cola unit and Cargill, said it had "serious concerns with the IARC review, which may mislead consumers".

The International Council of Beverages Associations' executive director Kate Loatman said public health authorities should be "deeply concerned" by the "leaked opinion", and also warned it "could

needlessly mislead consumers into consuming more sugar rather than choosing safe no- and low-sugar options."

Aspartame has been extensively studied for years. Last year, an observational study in France among 100,000 adults showed that people who consumed larger amounts of artificial sweeteners - including aspartame - had a slightly higher cancer risk.

It followed a study from the Ramazzini Institute in Italy in the early 2000s, which reported that some cancers in mice and rats were linked to aspartame.

However, the first study could not prove that aspartame caused the increased cancer risk, and questions have been raised about the methodology of the second study, including by EFSA, which assessed it.

Aspartame is authorised for use globally by regulators who have reviewed all the available evidence, and major food and beverage makers have for decades defended their use of the ingredient. The IARC said it had assessed 1,300 studies in its June review.

Recent recipe tweaks by soft drinks giant PepsiCo demonstrate the struggle the industry has when it comes to balancing taste preferences with health concerns. PepsiCo removed aspartame from sodas in 2015, bringing it back a year later, only to remove it again in 2020.

Listing aspartame as a possible carcinogen is intended to motivate more research, said the sources close to the IARC, which will help agencies, consumers and manufacturers draw firmer conclusions. But it will also likely ignite debate once again over the IARC's role, as well as the safety of sweeteners more generally.

Last month, the WHO published guidelines advising consumers not to use non-sugar sweeteners for weight control. The guidelines caused a furore in the food industry, which argues they can be helpful for consumers wanting to reduce the amount of sugar in their diet.



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# India's belligerence designs, unmatched war-crimes reach climax in IIOJK

**Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali**

Experts on Sunday termed India's belligerence as the biggest threat to peace and stability in the region, which is creating war hysteria and deflecting the world attention from serious human rights and war crime situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

They said the dire political and human rights situation in the occupied territory had left India exposed at the international level. Lauding the sacrifices of people living at the Line of Control (LoC), experts said that Kashmiris had been braving the brunt of firing at the LoC with the utmost courage.

On June 24, the Indian Army, in a display of usual inhuman approach towards innocent Kashmiris, opened indiscriminate fire on a group of shepherds in Sattwal sector, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

"In sequel to Indian Army unprovoked firing today, while adopting an inhuman approach towards innocent Kashmiris at Sattwal sector, one more civilian embraced shahadat while another was critically injured. (Total two martyred and one critically injured)," ISPR statement said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq condemned the Indian forces' unprovoked firing in the Sattwal sector of the Line of Control. In a statement issued here, he regrettably noted that on the one hand, the Indian forces had been committing war crimes in Kashmir, while on the other, they had been brazenly violating the ceasefire agreement by targeting innocent civilians along the LoC.

He said that despite Indian shelling,

Kashmiri people living near LoC stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Army in their fight to defend the country's territorial integrity. The AJK PM also hailed the supreme sacrifices rendered by the Pakistani forces. He also paid homage to those who embraced martyrdom and directed the authorities concerned to provide the best medical facilities for the injured in the incident.

He also appealed to the United Nations, Security Council and international organisations to take notice of India's naked aggression.

The Foreign Office (FO), in this connection, summoned the Indian charge d' affaires to register Pakistan's protest and condemn the incident. "It was underscored that such senseless acts were in clear violation of the 2003 ceasefire understanding, reaffirmed in February 2021.

It was further underscored that targeting of civilians was contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws. "The Indian side was urged to respect the ceasefire understanding, investigate the incident, and maintain peace along the Line of Control," the FO said in the release.

Earlier, last month, Indian troops shot dead a 25-year-old inadvertent crosser from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Likewise on May 15, Parveen Fatima, a 65-year-old widow from the Pandu sector of AJK in Jhelum valley district, was also killed by the Indian army, after she had strayed across the LoC while picking some medicinal plants.

The development comes days after the United States (US) and India issued a joint statement on June 22, that was issued as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Joe Biden during his visit to the US.

Responding to the statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a media talk that India

habitually used terrorism bogey to deflect attention from its brutal repression of Kashmiri people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and maltreatment of its minorities.

Responding to media queries regarding the US-India joint statement, the foreign office spokesperson said: "We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the Joint Statement from the United States and India, issued on 22 June 2023, as unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading. The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. "We are surprised that it has been added despite Pakistan's close counter-terrorism cooperation with the US." She said, "Pakistan has rendered unmatched sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

"In laying down their lives, our law enforcement agencies and armed forces have set an example. People of Pakistan are the real heroes in this fight," she added.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, while speaking in National Assembly, said he was extremely annoyed over the inclusion of Pakistan in the joint statement issued after the meeting between US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In fact, he noted that during Narendra Modi's time as Gujarat's chief minister, thousands of Muslims were killed and raped, and the US at the time had banned Narendra Modi from receiving a visa in retaliation for those atrocities.

Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Mushaal Hussein Mullick told APP that the RSS-inspired 'Hindutva' ideology was being pursued by the BJP-led Modi government, which was a major threat to 'foreign investment' in India.

She urged the people of IIOJK to observe a complete strike on Monday, to register their protest against the holding of G20 meeting in Srinagar by Narendra

Modi-led Indian government.

Mushaal Mullick said fascist Modi and the Indian Army are turning Kashmiris into a minority in the valley by issuing domiciles to Indian citizens. In IIOJK, over 100,000 Kashmiris had been killed by Indian forces since 1989, while more than 7,200 people were murdered in custodial torture by the Indian army.

The Kashmir Media Service (KMS), in its recent report, revealed that nearly 11,000 women were raped by Indian soldiers and over 110,000 children became orphan, whereas around 23,000 women were made widows by the Indian troops.

The Indian forces are using rape, molestation and sexual violence against women and children as a weapon of war, besides awarding collective punishment, in a bid to suppress the legitimate freedom movement in the occupied valley," former senator from Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sehar Kamran (TI) told APP.

Kashmiris have been stating for decades that India intended to settle paramilitary families and military settlements there, as well as establishment of semi-permanent military colonies in Kashmir, she said and urged the G20 member countries to boycott the meeting in the occupied territory and ask India to give Kashmiris their fundamental right to self-determination.

The Indian occupational forces' state terrorism, war crimes and human rights violations had made life a nightmare for over one million oppressed Kashmiris, especially women, senior citizens and children in IIOJK, she added.

Violating all fundamental rights, India had imposed military siege on some 10 million Kashmiris in IIOJK, by converting the territory into biggest jail on earth, where over 900,000 Indian forces had been deployed with no regard for human rights, Sehar Kamran lamented.

## PAK-IMF agreement to help strengthen economy, attract foreign investment: Experts

Economics and diplomatic experts here Friday welcomed the reaching of an agreement between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that would significantly help strengthen the national economy and attract foreign investment.

Professor Dr Muhammad Naeem of the Swabi University told APP that the staff-level nine months stand by agreement (SBA) of around USD 3 billion was a landmark development that would give an upward positive push to the economy of Pakistan besides tackling an issue of balance of payments and foreign loans burden.

He said the new agreement would not only help in the stabilization of the economy from recent external shocks but would also preserve macroeconomic stability and provide a framework for financing from multilateral and bilateral partners.

Dr Naeem said the value of the rupee against the dollar would improve and infant industries would grow in Pakistan.

Former Ambassador, Manzoor ul Haq also hailed the agreement and declared it significant.

Talking to APP, he said the agreement would encourage international monetary institutions to invest in Pakistan in diverse fields besides creating space for social and development spending through improved domestic revenue mobilization.

Yousaf Sarwar, former President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) termed the Pakistan-IMF agreement as a positive development in the wake of economic issues of the former.

He said this would definitely increase the confidence of businessmen, commercial markets and investors besides accelerating the pace of economic and industrial development.

He said the bilateral and multilateral donors would speed up dealings with Pakistan.

He said, "The agreement will ensure overall stability and bring down inflation and price in the country."

PML-N spokesman in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ikhtair Wali said that Prime Minister (PM) Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar deserved full credit and appreciation for the agreement.



## Exploitation of Pensioners in Law and Justice

It is a bitter truth that the law and justice in the country is different for the elite and for the poor. The old pensioners in the country are forced to live a painful life. It is not difficult but impossible to pull the car of life in the current meager pension. But till date no government has done practically anything to solve the problems of pensioners. While the pensioners live only on this limited pension. Inflation has increased several hundred times and what is the significance of only 17.5% increase in the current budget. Retired people from financial institutions still get a few hundred and a few thousand rupees pension, while all the institutions are silent spectators. This aged oppressed class cannot even protest. The survival of poor and especially pensioners in Pakistan is nothing less than a miracle. Celebrated on June 15 every year. The day is meant to raise the voice of caring elders. Abuse of the elderly should be highlighted as a global social issue because the health and human rights of millions of elderly people around the world and especially in the country are being affected.

According to a review and report: Last year, the University of Southampton, with the help of the United Nations, published a report on the World Day of Older Persons, which was created by evaluating the quali-

ty of life of the elderly in 91 countries of the world. Sweden was the best country for the elderly, while the United States was ranked 8th and the United Kingdom 13th, on the contrary, Afghanistan was ranked 1st and Pakistan 3rd among the worst countries for the elderly. The number of elderly people in Pakistan is increasing rapidly, while the attention towards them is negligible. If this situation continues, in the next few decades, Pakistan is feared to be ranked tenth in the world. Where this will lead to various problems, issues like pension due to retired senior employees will be a challenge for the government.

The problems of pensioners in the country have been unresolved for many years. Like other institutions, an example of this is the retired employees of Allied Bank. The Court of Pakistan gave judgments in favor of the retired employees of Allied Bank. In which it was said that pension and dues should be paid to the retired employees of the bank based on their last salary. Because the bank did not pay pension and dues based on the last salary. The said bank is ignoring all these high court decisions. Nor is it

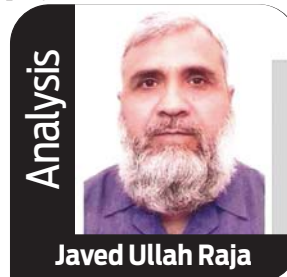
being followed by the government in favor of the retired employees. The bank, according to its self-made circular, paid pensions and dues to the retired employees from its institution as on June 30, 2002.

It is said that thousands of bank pensioners and widow family pensioners are becoming dear to Allah while waiting for their legitimate rights. No one has paid attention to the violation of rights, injustice and abuse. How long will our rulers abuse the elderly pensioners? The government should take immediate steps to give the retired employees their legitimate rights. The retired employees are the senior citizens of the society whose human rights are being violated. Regarding the retired employees of Allied Bank, the clear decisions of the High Court and the Supreme Court of Pakistan, which are in favor of our senior citizens, the government agencies are failing to implement. It is a pity that the human rights organizations also do not raise their voice to get the rights of pensioners who retire from various departments.

A large number of weak, thin and elderly pensioners demonstrated

in front of the Lahore Press Club in favor of their demands, which was organized by the ABREWA organization, the president of the organization, Muhammad Arshad, Riaz Masood, Ifikhar Hussain Mir, Maqsood Ahmed Chaghtai, Qaim Kazmi, Hanif Chaghtai and hundreds of other members and representatives from distant areas of Punjab participated. Ifikhar Mir and Maqsood Chaghtai while talking to the media on this occasion said that the courts heard the cases of sick, weak and weak pensioners daily. Make their decisions on humanitarian basis as soon as possible, if the pensioners or their families fall ill, they do not have money to buy medicine, on 17 January 2020, the case of Muhammad Zafar and others in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Allied Bank. In favor of the pensioners, but it has not been implemented till date, the oppressive society and the tyrants of the times have trampled it, many pensioners have left the mortal world during this time, on this occasion, the pensioners have made their demands. They also raised slogans in favor. There is a dire need for the country's high courts to take suo motu and make the government institutions implement them.

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



**Javed Ullah Raja**

## Pak Labor Challenges and Strategies for Skilled Workforce Development

**Shoaib Aijaz / Amna Khan**

Labor is the lifeblood of any economy, representing the physical and mental effort people put into their jobs. In Pakistan, however, a high rate of unskilled or low-skilled labor poses significant challenges to the country's economic growth. This is primarily attributed to a lack of investment in education and vocational training, restricted access to quality education, and limited opportunities for skill development. As a result, many workers are confined to industries such as agriculture, construction, and manufacturing, where physical labor or low-wage professions that require minimal specialized skills are prevalent.

The implications of this high rate of unskilled labor are manifold. On one hand, it leads to lower productivity levels, reduced wages, and limited career advancement opportunities. On the other hand, it can also serve as a source of competitive advantage in certain industries such as textiles and garments, making Pakistan an attractive destination for foreign investors.

When comparing labor rates in Pakistan with its neighboring countries, significant disparities become apparent. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), India's average hourly wage rate as of 2021 is INR 241 (equal to USD 3.23), while Pakistan's minimum wage rate stands at PKR 20,000 per month (around USD 130). Similarly, in China, the average hourly wage rate is CNY 48.7 (equal to USD 7.57), highlighting the wage gap between Pakistan and its regional counterparts. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's minimum salary is AFN 6,000 per month (about USD 78), further underscoring the need for improvement in labor conditions and wages in Pakistan. In terms of skilled labor, Pakistan faces stiff

competition from its South Asian neighbors. India boasts a vast and well-educated workforce, particularly in the IT sector. China, with the world's largest labor force, has made substantial investments in education and training programs to cultivate talented workers across various industries. Bangladesh, in recent years, has made remarkable strides in improving its skilled labor force, particularly in the garment and textile sectors. Despite ongoing conflict and political instability, Afghanistan has made some progress in education, particularly for girls and women. Iran stands out with its highly educated workforce, particularly in fields like engineering and medicine, thanks to significant investments in education and training.

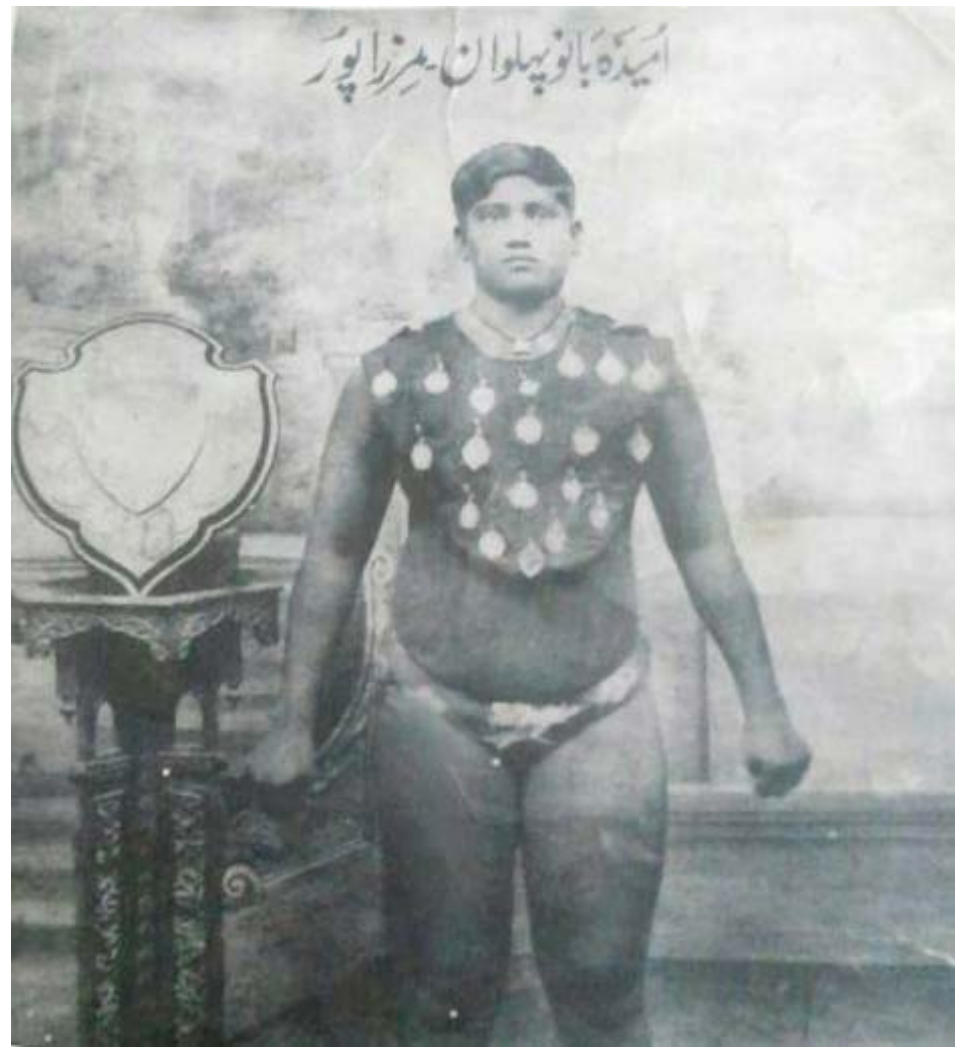
One notable example of a neighboring country capitalizing on skilled labor opportunities in Bangladesh. In 2019, the Bangladeshi and Qatari governments signed an agreement to send skilled labor to Qatar for infrastructure projects related to the 2022 FIFA World Cup. This agreement not only provided employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in a high-paying sector but also increased their foreign remittance earnings. To ensure the safety and well-being of Bangladeshi workers in Qatar, both governments established a joint committee to oversee the recruitment and employment processes.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's labor market is predominantly informal, with approximately 72% of non-agricultural employees engaged in the informal sector, which contributes to low wages and abysmal working conditions, especially for those with limited skills or education.

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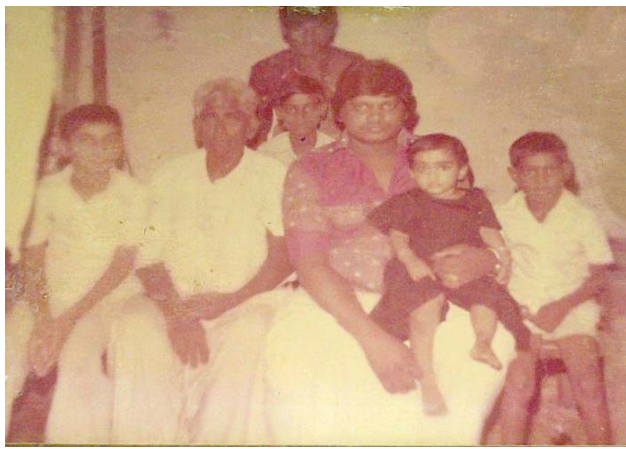


'India's first woman wrestler was Muslim'



HISAR: Tejpal Dalal, wrestling historian-cum-mathematics teacher, has penned a book documenting the rise of women wrestling in Haryana.

Indian woman wrestler Hamida Banu rose to stardom in the 1940s and 50s, when the sport was still a male bastion. Her spectacular feats and larger-than-life persona brought her global fame but then she disappeared from the scene. BBC Urdu's Neyaz Farooquee traced Banu's story to find out what happened to the woman whom many call India's first professional woman wrestler.



That was the unusual challenge that Banu—then in her early 30s—issued to male wrestlers in February 1954, according to news reports from the time. Soon after the announcement, Banu defeated two male wrestling champions—one from Patiala in northern Punjab state and the other from Kolkata (then Calcutta) in the eastern West Bengal state. In May, she reached Vadodara (then Baroda) in the western state of Gujarat for her third fight of the year. Banu's visit had the city in a frenzy, recalls Vadodara resident Sudhir Parab, who was a child at the time. Her arrival was advertised through banners and posters on lorries and other vehicles, recalls Mr Parab, who later became a feted kho-kho player. Mr Parab says Banu was supposed to fight Chhote Gama Pahalwan, a wrestler patronised by the Maharajah of Baroda (wrestlers are often called Pahal-

wan. Accounts from Banu's surviving family members suggest that her strength, combined with the conservative attitudes of the time, made her leave her hometown of Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh for Aligarh. There, she trained under a local wrestler named Salam Pahalwan.

In a 1987 book, author Maheshwar Dayal wrote that Banu's fame attracted people from far and wide as she fought several bouts in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

"She used to fight exactly like a male wrestler," he wrote. "However, a few said that Hamida Pahalwan and male wrestlers would make a secret pact, and the opponent would deliberately lose."

Banu also faced challenges from people who were infuriated by her public performances.

In Maharashtra's Pune city, a bout with male wrestler Ramchandra Salunke had to be cancelled because the local wrestling federation objected, The Times of India reported.

Another time, Banu was booed and stoned by fans after she defeated a male opponent. The police had to step in and control the crowds, according to the newspaper.

In his book Nation At Play: A History of Sport in India, academic Ronjoy Sen examined how Banu's presence complicated the sport.

"The blurring of sports and entertainment in these events is illustrated by the fact that Banu's bout was to be followed by a bout between two wrestlers, one lame and the other blind," he wrote.

Mr Sen writes that Banu complained to Morarji Desai, then chief minister of Maharashtra state, about an unofficial "ban" on her wrestling bouts. Desai responded that the bouts had not been banned on grounds of her gender "but because of several complaints about the promoters, who were apparently putting up 'dummies' to challenge Banu'.

Even as men mocked her accomplishments and questioned her credentials, Urdu feminist writer Qurratulain Hyder paints a different picture of Banu. In her short story Daalan Wala, Hyder writes of her domestic helper Faqira going to watch a wrestling match in Mumbai and returning to say no one had been able to defeat "the lioness".

According to reports, in 1954, Banu defeated Vera Chistilin, known as Russia's "female bear", in less than a minute in a bout in Mumbai. The same year, she announced she would go to Europe to fight wrestlers there.

But not long after these heavily promoted fights, Banu appeared to vanish from the wrestling scene.

Banu (wearing a pink shirt) with some of her family members. This was the point where her life changed, according to accounts from people who knew her.

By then, Banu and Salam Pahalwan had begun traveling regularly between Aligarh, Mumbai, and Kalyan, a town on the outskirts of Mumbai, where they had a dairy business.

Banu's grandson, Feroz Shaikh, says Salam Pahalwan, Banu's coach, did not like the idea of her going to Europe (Mr Shaikh's father was Banu's adopted son).

Sahara, Salam Pahalwan's daughter, says that he had married Banu, whom she considered her stepmother.

But Mr Shaikh, who lived with Banu until her death in 1986, disagrees. "She indeed stayed with him, but never married him," he says.

"To stop her [from going to Europe], he beat her with sticks, breaking her hands," says Mr Shaikh.

This account is supported by her neighbour Rahil Khan, who says her legs were also fractured in the attack.

"I remember it well," he says. "She was unable to stand. It healed later, but she could not walk properly for years without a lathi [stick]."

Sahara, however, maintains that the relationship was cordial. Eventually, Salam Pahalwan returned to Aligarh while Banu stayed on in Kalyan. Ms Sahara says Banu visited him once in Aligarh when he was on his deathbed.

Banu made a living from selling milk and renting out some buildings. When she ran out of money, she would sell homemade snacks by the roadside.

"Her last days were difficult," says Mr Shaikh, about the little-known athlete who fought fiercely against the norms of her times.

(Courtesy BBC)

France must 'seriously address' police racism: UN rights office

UNITED NATIONS: Following days of riots and protests across France over the police shooting of a teenager of Algerian and Moroccan descent, the UN rights office (OHCHR) said in Geneva that it was time for the country to reckon with its history of racism in policing.

In a statement released in Geneva on Friday, OHCHR Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani expressed concern over the death of 17-year-old Nahel, on Tuesday, after he was shot dead driving away from a traffic stop in the Parisian suburb of Nanterre.

According to news reports, at least 875 people were arrested in major cities around the country on Thursday night, after around 40,000 police officers were deployed to quell protests and rioting over the killing.

President Emmanuel Macron has urged parents to keep their children off the streets, while in Paris, shops have been ransacked



and cars set alight, despite the heavy police presence.

The officer who shot the youth has reportedly apologized to the family and has been officially charged with voluntary homicide.

Ms. Shamdasani noted that an investigation has been launched into the alleged voluntary homicide. "This is a moment for the country to seriously address

the deep issues of racism and discrimination in law enforcement", she said.

"We also emphasize the importance of peaceful assembly. We call on the authorities to ensure the use of force by police to address

violent elements in demonstrations always respects the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, non-discrimination, precaution and

accountability."

Ms. Shamdasani called for any allegations of disproportionate use of force by people exercising their rights to protest, to be swiftly investigated.

According to the latest figures released by France's police regulator, there were 37 deaths during police operations recorded in 2021, of whom ten were shot dead.

Flag raising ceremony, reception held to mark 26th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China

BEIJING: The government of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Saturday held a flag-raising ceremony and a reception to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Leung Chun-ying, Chief Executive of the HKSAR John Lee, and Zheng Yanxiong, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, attended the flag-raising ceremony at the Golden Bauhinia Square Saturday morning, CGTN reported.

As China's national flag and the flag of the HKSAR were hoisted, helicopters of the Government Flying Service flew over Victoria Harbor to display the national flag and flag of the HKSAR.

Following the ceremony, a reception was hosted by the HKSAR government at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Before the reception began, a film was shown summarizing the HKSAR government's work over the past year.

In his speech at the reception, Lee said that over the past year, Hong Kong emerged from the shadow of economic contraction and returned to positive economic growth.

Lee said policies on attracting talents



and enterprises as proposed in his policy address last October are gradually delivering results.

"In the coming year, my team and I will continue to actively visit the mainland and overseas, leading strong delegations representing different sectors to tell the world the good stories of Hong Kong and create more opportunities for our city," said the HKSAR chief executive.

Hong Kong will continue its efforts to proactively and actively integrate into the overall development of the country, including participating in and promoting

the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative, according to him.

On Saturday morning, central government agencies in Hong Kong, including the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, and the Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR, also held flag-raising ceremonies.

China enacts law on foreign relations

ISLAMABAD: China has enacted its new foreign relations law reiterating its commitment to promoting world peace and development and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The law on Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress on June 28, came into force on July 1, 2023, according to Chinese embassy in Islamabad.

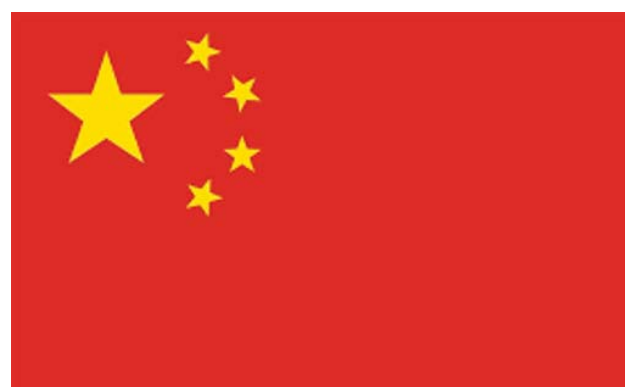
According to the text of the law, "China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace, and observes the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. China keeps to a path of peaceful development and adheres to the fundamental policy of opening to the outside world and a strategy of opening-up for mutual benefit."

The law further stated, "China worked to promote coordination and sound interaction with other major countries and grow relations with its neighboring countries in accordance with the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness and the policy of enhancing friendship and partnership with its neighbors.

China stays true to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable global security, and endeavors to

strengthen international security cooperation and its participation in mechanisms of global security governance.

China fulfills its responsibilities as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council; it is committed to safeguarding international peace and security and upholding the authority and stature of the United Nations Security Council. China supports and participates in peacekeeping operations mandated by the United Nations



Security Council, observes the basic principles of the peacekeeping operations, respects the territorial integrity and political independence of sovereign countries concerned, and maintains a position of fairness."

In the regional context, China had been willing to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Pakistan and to jointly push forward the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan.



*Shell's renewables boss to leave after CEO strategy shift*



**News Desk**

LONDON: Shell's (SHEL.L) head of renewable generation Thomas Brostrom is leaving the company, a spokesperson said on Friday, weeks after CEO Wael Sawan scaled back its energy transition plans.

Brostrom joined Shell from offshore wind giant Orsted in August 2021 to head offshore wind as the company planned to rapidly grow its wind and solar operations as part of a strategy to cut greenhouse gas emissions under previous CEO Ben van Beurden.

Brostrom quickly became head of renewables in February 2022 after Elisabeth Brinton stepped down less than two years after taking the reins.

Chief Executive Sawan, who took office in January, announced on June 14 a shift back to oil and gas production while paring back investments in renewables following investor pressure to focus on the most profitable businesses.

Sawan also introduced a new structure to the company's top leadership that eliminated Brostrom's role and split it into regions.

"Thomas Brostrom has elected to leave Shell to pursue an external opportunity," the company said.

He will be succeeded by Greg Joiner, currently VP Shell Energy Australia, as head Shell Energy Europe and Emerging Markets Power. Ajay Shah will lead renewable generation in Asia while Mike Parker will head offshore wind engineering.

*Abu Dhabi's ADNOC awards Petrofac \$700 mln contract*



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Petrofac said on Friday that Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) had awarded the London-listed oilfield services firm a \$700 million contract to undertake work at the state oil giant's Habshan Complex.

Petrofac Emirates won the contract, which involves the engineering, procurement and construction of a new gas compressor plant.

Last year, Russia delivered less gas to Europe on Wednesday in a further escalation of an energy stand-off between Moscow and the European Union that will make it harder, and costlier, for the bloc to fill up storage ahead of the winter heating season.

The cut in supplies, flagged by Gazprom earlier this week, has reduced the capacity of Nord Stream 1 pipeline - the major delivery route to Europe for Russian gas - to a mere fifth of its total capacity.

Nord Stream 1 accounts for around a third of all Russian gas exports to Europe.

*Karachi dairy farmers hike milk rate by Rs20 per litre*



**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Karachi Dairy and Cattle Farmers Association has jacked up milk prices by Rs20 per litre.

As per details, the milk is already being sold at Rs210/kg in Karachi against the official rate of Rs180 and now the Karachi dairy farmers have further increased the price by Rs20 per litre.

In his statement, Derry Farmers leader Shakir Umar Gujjar said that the commissioner had twice convened a meeting for milk prices but he himself remained absent.

"We told the additional commissioner that if prices were not immediately raised, we would announce raise ourselves."

He said the rise in milk prices was announced in conjunction with stakeholders. From July 1, the x-farm rate will increase by Rs600 per 40kg of milk.

Recently, Commissioner Karachi ordered to carry out operations and seal dairy shops selling milk at higher prices.

**Govt praised for clinching crucial \$3 billion IMF bailout**

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Saturday lauded the government for finalising a critical deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) hours before expiry of the current programme.

The IMF has reached a stand-level pact with Pakistan on a \$3 billion stand-by arrangement, for which Pakistan was trying since months to avoid a default, he said.

The deal offers some breather to the government, which is battling an acute balance of payments crisis and falling foreign exchange reserves, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that the funding, spread over nine months, is higher than expected for Pakistan.

Pandemic, political struggle, devastating floods, commodity price hikes following, and policy missteps pushed Pakistan to the brink, stalled economic growth and inflation broke all the previous records making live of the masses a living hell, he added.



The business leader said that despite efforts to reduce imports and the trade deficit, reserves have declined to very low levels, power sector deteriorated and confidence of the business community touch the lowest levels.

However, he added, now the recent arrangement with IMF would provide an opportunity to get loans from others multilateral and bilateral partners as country needs at least 24 billion dollars in the next fiscal to repay loans, he observed.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) will support efforts of the government to stabilise the economy from recent external shocks, preserve macroeconomic stability and provide a framework for further loans.

SBA will also create space for social and development spending through improved domestic revenue mobilization and careful spending execution to help address the needs of the people.

Dedicated policy implementation is key to overcome its current challenges, including fiscal discipline, a market-determined exchange rate, and further progress on reforms, particularly in the energy sector, to promote climate resilience.

The parliament had approved the FY24 budget in line with the goals supporting fiscal sustainability and mobilising revenue; this which will enable greater social and develop-

ment spending, but steps are required to broaden the tax base and increase tax collection from untaxed and under taxed sectors.

It will be very important that the budget is executed as planned, and the authorities resist pressures for budgeted spending or tax exemptions in the period ahead, he emphasised.

The State Bank of Pakistan has withdrawn the guidance on import prioritisation and is committed to ensuring the full market determination of the exchange rate, which will improve the economy and the confidence of the business community.

SBP should continue to reduce inflation, maintain a foreign exchange framework free of restrictions and support businesses.

Now the government will be able to meet the external debt repayments due in the next few months; however, it will need to negotiate another long-term programme with the IMF after the elections so that it can tackle balance of payments and external debt repayment problems.

IMF support lifts the immediate risk of default and provides much-needed liquidity to support an aggressive reform agenda.

**IMF bailout package to stabilize economy, improve long-term prospects: Iftikhar Malik**

**Commerce Report**

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Saturday said much needed International Monetary Fund (IMF) bail-out package will help implement structural reforms, reduce fiscal deficits, control inflation, and facilitate the balance of payments besides stabilizing the economy and improve its long-term prospects.

In a news statement issued here, he congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for making the best possible efforts to secure the much-delayed IMF program aims to address economic imbalances, strengthen the fragile economy, and restore investors' confidence.

He said increased foreign exchange



reserves provide a boost to Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves which he added can help restore confidence in the country's ability to meet its international obligations and provide a buffer against external shocks.

He said IMF programs will help implement structural reforms in areas such as taxation, public expenditure, the financial sector, and governance. These reforms aim to address deep-rooted economic issues and can have long-term benefits for the

economy, he added.

An octogenarian trade leader of South Asia Iftikhar Ali Malik also expressed his highest degree of gratitude to our time-tested friends of all seasons China, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Islamic Development Fund help steer Pakistan out of turmoil at the time of massive economic challenges.

He said Prime Minister's visionary approach and wisdom played a key role in mustering the support from friendly countries to get through the IMF deal.

He said now it's high time the "PM Economic Revival Plan" must focus on unlocking their strategic potential in agriculture, mine and minerals, defence production and information technology in addition to attracting foreign investments of billions of dollars and creating job opportunities for millions of people.

**IMF deal spares nation from severe consequences**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Saturday said the country has been saved from bankruptcy.

The country and 220 million people have been saved from the serious repercussions that would have resulted in unprecedented price hike of essential items and all other things, he added.

He said that in case of a default, the people would have starved, and the country would have plunged into chaos.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today said that the public and the business community are happy that the country has survived, hoping for an improvement in the country's global ranking and general economic conditions.

However, he said, the news of a deal with the lender has struck a rogue party and self-serving politicians like lightning.



The business leader said that the central leaders of a party were predicting the bankruptcy of Pakistan very frequently since fifteen months, who are now mourning.

The seditionists were waiting for the bankruptcy of the country and were constantly spreading frustration among the people, but they have failed miserably in their unholy designs, he remarked.

A rejected gang wanted a civil war in the country, but their plans have been thwarted, he said.

Some politicians are objecting to the agreement with the IMF, but they are mum over the fact that the former government set a record by taking foreign loans of fifty-eight billion dollars in their few years.

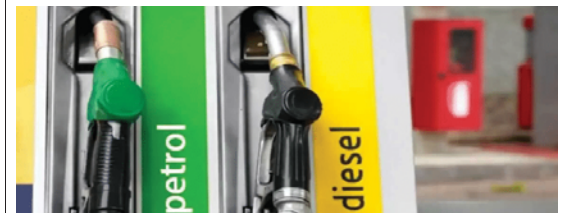
**Animals skins**

RAWALPINDI: Butchers are collecting animals' skins at their shops on Jamia Masjid Road in City.



Photo: Online

**No change in petrol prices**



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday kept unchanged the prices of petrol at Rs.262 per liter for next fifteen days, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar announced here.

However, the prices of per liter diesel have been enhanced by Rs.7.5 per liter keeping in view increasing

prices of petroleum products in the international market during the past couple of days. Diesel would be now sold at Rs.260.5 per liter against its sale at Rs.253 per liter.

Announcing the petroleum prices, the minister said, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) did its best to pass on minimum possible burden of increasing prices to people.

**LCCI president hails govt for securing IMF deal**

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kashif Anwar extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the Ministry of Finance for their successful negotiation of a \$3 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Kashif Anwar emphasized that while the funds may not be disbursed all at once, the agreement would dispel speculations of a potential default, thereby putting an end to the detrimental effects of rupee devaluation, brain drain and Capital drain.

In light of this positive development, Kashif Anwar urged the authorities to focus on two key areas for economic reform. Firstly, he called for efforts to expand the

tax base, which would increase the government's revenue and contribute to overall economic stability. Secondly, he stressed the need to address the disparity between the rates of the US dollar in the open market and the interbank market. This discrepancy has created challenges for businesses and has had a negative impact on the economy.

Expressing his opinion on the ideal exchange rate, Kashif Anwar suggested a range of 175 to 200 rupees per dollar. He argued that such a rate would have multiple benefits for the economy. Firstly, it would help to reduce inflation, which has been a pressing concern in Pakistan. Secondly, it would contribute to lowering the high interest rates, which currently stand among the highest in the world. This reduction would not only alleviate the burden



on borrowers but also make the cost of doing business more affordable.

Kashif Anwar further elaborated on the potential positive outcomes of this exchange rate adjustment. He explained that it would lead to a decrease in the cost of imported goods, particularly fuels and raw materials. This, in turn, would have a cascading effect on the prices of finished goods, resulting in a more affordable and competitive market.

Moreover, Kashif Anwar highlighted that a favorable exchange rate would alleviate the strain on busi-

nesses by reducing their dependence on imported resources and increasing their ability to rely on domestic alternatives.

President LCCI also emphasised that the successful IMF deal would enhance the trust and confidence of other donor agencies and financial institutions. This, in turn, would open up opportunities for increased funding for Pakistan's development projects.

Kashif Anwar noted that the inflow of funds from these institutions would play a significant role in accelerating the country's economic growth and development.

In light of these significant developments, Kashif Anwar called upon all political parties in Pakistan to set aside their differences and sign a charter of economy. He underscored the urgency of this action, emphasiz-

ing that it was crucial to break free from the recurring financial challenges that have hindered the country's progress.

Kashif Anwar urged political leaders to unite in their commitment to long-term economic stability and growth, transcending party lines for the greater benefit of the nation.

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry remains optimistic about the potential for Pakistan's economic stability and growth in the wake of the successful IMF deal. Kashif Anwar reiterated the importance of implementing necessary economic reforms, addressing the exchange rate disparity, expanding the tax base, and fostering unity among political parties to navigate the country towards sustainable economic development.



# Saudi Arabia is being considered by the women's tennis tour for possible business

**Sports Desk**

LONDON: Like other sports, women's tennis is looking into the possibility of getting into business with Saudi Arabia. And while holding a tournament there is not imminent, WTA Chairman and CEO Steve Simon said Friday that he visited that country with some players in February as part of the evaluation process.

"It's a very difficult and very challenging topic that's being, obviously, measured by many, many different groups right now," Simon said at an event in London to mark the 50th anniversary of the meeting that led to the founding of the WTA.

"I think where we are right now (is): We've had conversations. We'll continue to have conversations," Simon said.

Simon's comments came a few days after the St. Petersburg, Florida-based



WTA announced it was setting up a "pathway to equal prize money" so women earn the same as men at certain tournaments by 2027 and others by

2033. Simon said Tuesday additional money would come from incremental boosts by the events themselves and from revenue projected to arrive from

broadcast, data and sponsorship rights via WTA Ventures, the tour's commercial enterprise that launched in March.

"I'm not saying that Saudi is a place we should be doing business with or not yet. It's still being evaluated," he said Friday.

The men's tennis tour, the ATP, has been in contact with the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, officially named the Public Investment Fund. The PGA Tour, European tour and the fund, which backed the LIV Golf series, said on June 6 they would combine their commercial businesses. Saudi soccer clubs have been bringing in top players from Europe.

Billie Jean King, the International Tennis Hall of Fame member and equal rights champion, said during a panel discussion at Friday's event: "I'm a huge believer in engagement. I don't think you really change unless you engage.... How are we going to change things if we don't engage?"

## New Zealand spinner Eden Carson bowls 11 overs in Women's ODI

**A Sports**

LAHORE: In a bizarre and one-of-a-kind incident, New Zealand spinner Eden Carson ended up bowling 11 overs in a Women's ODI match against Sri Lanka in the ICC Championship in Galle on Friday.

The on-field umpires and the match officials did not notice the error as Carson went on to give 41 runs in her 11 overs and bagged two important wickets.

New Zealand star bowled the 45th over during Sri Lanka's 330-run chase and thereby finished her quota of 10 overs with figures of two for 40.

However, she returned back to bowl the 47th over as the on-field umpires failed to maintain the over count of the 21-year-old Otago-born



cricketer.

Eden Carson's 11th over, however, went for just a single run and she returned with figures of 2/41 in 11 overs.

Since New Zealand was already almost certain to win at that point, it was fortunate for the officials that the counting blunder did not drastically change after that over.

With that, 21-year-old

Eden Carson bagged a bizarre record by becoming the first female New Zealand bowler to bowl more than 10 overs in an ODI since 1993.

Additionally, since the last 55-overs-a-side match in ODIs in 1995, it was the fifth instance - across men's & women's ODIs - where a bowler has bowled beyond 10 overs.

Speaking of the match,

New Zealand levelled the series with a dominant 116-run win and forced the decider.

After opting to bat, New Zealand posted a mammoth total of 329/7 in 50 overs, thanks to centuries from captain Sophie Devine and Amelia Kerr.

Lea Tahuu led the bowling attack for New Zealand as she grabbed four wickets, followed by Eden Carson, who picked up two in her 11 overs.

In the run chase, Sri Lanka ran into a batting collapse and lost half of their side inside 13 overs for just 76 runs. Kavisha Dilhari waged a lone battle, hitting 84 off 98 before departing.

The touring side could only accumulate 213 runs in response before being bundled out in the 49th over.

## Three Pakistan players to participate in CPL 2023



The upcoming edition of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2023 will feature three Pakistan players Azam Khan, Imad Wasim and Mohammad Amir.

The players' draft for the upcoming 11th edition of the CPL took place on Friday, June 30.

Left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir and his Karachi Kings' teammate and captain Imad Wasim, who represented Jamaica Tallaws in the previous edition of the league will reunite again for the defending champions.

Meanwhile, Azam Khan, who represented Barbados Royals in the last edition, will represent Guyana Amazon Warriors.

Warriors roped in Azam Khan for a \$120,000 deal, making him the highest-paid Pakistan cricketer in the league.

## Day ten; Global Chess League: From the bottom to the top

**Sports Desk**

DUBAI: With a four-streak winning run in the last four matches, including a dominating victory over tournament favourites Ganges Grandmasters, the squad of Triveni Continental Kings have become the first team to qualify for the big final of the inaugural edition of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League.

In the other match earlier today, SG Alpine Warriors suffered a defeat to Chingari Gulf Titans putting a big question mark on which team will get the second place in the finals.

Triveni Continental Kings vs Ganges Grandmasters (11:6)

This match was the last chance for Triveni - if they had lost, they would have been out of the tournament. For Ganges, this was their final chance to score points and secure the top place in the round-robin.

While a draw was enough for team Ganges, Triveni had to win and that put them in a psychological mindset to do it.

In the Caro-Kann defence, Aronian gained more initiative and posed serious threats to Anand. Unphased, the former World Champion got his knight and rook to the bottom of the board and found a perpetual check to hold a draw.

In the meantime, Sara Khadem scored a huge victory for her team as she defeated Bella Khotenashvili in a sharp game. By this point, the Triveni team was dominating on three of the four remaining boards. Wei Yi struck on board three against Leinier Dominguez. Despite being in a weaker position, Kateryna Lagno managed to draw the game with Hou Yifan. Triveni was on the edge of a historic victory.

In a complete twist - Yu



Yangyi of Triveni lost against Rapport despite dominating the game from the beginning. The result was 8:5 for Triveni - Ganges had to win on the prodigy board to take the win. However, Espenko was losing to Jonas Bjerre who took the initiative early on and forced a winning rook endgame. Espenko tried and delayed resigning, but he couldn't escape defeat. The final result was 11:6, for Triveni.

A crushing loss for the Ganges and an amazing step up by Triveni. With this victory, they have taken the top of the scoreboard with 18 match points and have become the first team to reach the finals. Triveni, who have been struggling since the outset and had to replace a player, have won four of their last matches to reach the top. A spectacular success!

"We came back from the dead. We've gone so far and we have one more match to go. We were just focused and playing for a win", said icon player Levon Aronian.

The team also praised Sara Khadem who came in as a replacement after Nana Dzagnidze left the tournament for personal reasons. "Sara really changed the atmosphere in the team - she helped team morale and here we are", said Levon Aronian.

Team manager Loek van Wely said that he was proud of his team, "We don't care much about the results, we feel we had a slight psychological advantage as they were in a much comfortable position (with the wins in a row) and we were in an upswing position. Most important for us was to get the first win after the round of losses to get a sweet taste of victory once again and get it going from there. We have to wait and see who we play in the finals first, I think we lost twice to upGrad and Alpine looks strong on paper but in the finals it's anybody's game so we will prepare accordingly."

SG Alpine Warriors vs Chingari Gulf Titans (7:8)

The Warriors and the Titans were the only remaining teams

to play two matches on the final day. SG Alpine Warriors have been in strong contention for first place since the start of the league. Given the open race for the top, the outcome of this match could prove crucial (or fatal) for either teams' ambitions to reach the finals on Sunday.

The Warriors started with white pieces. Both sides played cautiously and steadily - avoiding risk but after about 45 minutes of play, the positions began to unravel.

Magnus Carlsen won his game after Jan-Krzysztof Duda misplayed approaching the endgame, overlooking a piece. Team Chingari struck back on board two when Shakhriyar Mamedyarov got the upper hand against Gukesh D in the endgame.

An unusual game took place between Irina Krush and Titans' player and former Women's World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk. While Kosteniuk got more initiative in the opening, she misplayed in the middle-

game, allowing white to take over the advantage. In a game which saw a lot of twists and turns, Kosteniuk managed to get a significant material advantage, but Krush found a way for a perpetual check and save a draw. With two more games ending in a draw the result was: 7:6 for the Titans.

Everything was hanging on the last remaining game, between Warriors' Elisabeth Paeltz and Titans' Polina Shuvalova. In the Sicilian, White gained more initiative early on but then overforced allowing Black to counter. The two transpired into an even rook endgame but Shuvalova made a mistake that brought White to the crisp of victory. However, Paeltz dropped the advantage and it was even. Paeltz knew her team needed her to win so she was desperate to complicate things and score but it was futile. In the end, having exhausted all the options, Paeltz agreed to a draw.

Having the world's highest rated player in the team isn't always enough for victory. Despite winning the last three games, Magnus Carlsen's team lost the last three matches.

A minimal but important victory for Chingari Gulf Titans which, with 13 points, are still holding on in the race for the top, while SG Alpine Warriors remain on 15.

Match results-1 July 2023

Match 27  
SG Alpine Warriors 7-8 Chingari Gulf Titans

Queen of the match - Irina Krush

King of the match - Shakhriyar Mamedyarov

Match 28

Triveni Continental Kings 11-6 Ganges Grandmasters

Queen of the match - Sara Khadem

King of the match - Wei Yi

## David Lappartient elected new president of France's Olympic Committee



**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: He replaces Brigitte Henriques, who resigned unexpectedly last month. Lappartient has held the position of president of the International Cycling Union since 2017 and became a member of the International Olympic Committee last year. Syed Azhar Ali Shah, the President of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, extends his heartfelt congratulations to Mr. David Lappartient on his election as the President of the National Olympic Committee of France. Mr. Lappartient's leadership will be instrumental in overseeing the organization of the Olympic Games in Paris 2024.

## PCB to send security team to assess World Cup arrangements in India



**A Sports**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is likely to send a security team to India to assess the arrangements ahead of the ICC Men's World Cup 2023.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the anticipated schedule of the Men's World Cup 2023 last week, creating a buzz around the highly anticipated Pakistan vs India clash.

The arch-rivals are set to face each other on October 15 at the renowned Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, which happens to be the largest cricket stadium in the world.

However, unlike the other nine participating teams, Pakistan will only play matches at five venues across the country, while the remaining teams will compete across the ten venues selected for the tournament.

In a recent development, it has been reported that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is likely to send a security team to India to assess the arrangements ahead of the World Cup.

The Pakistani government intends to approve Babar Azam and his team's participation only after the security team has visited all the venues and submitted a report to the board.

The security team from PCB is scheduled to visit all five venues including Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan had initially expressed reservations about playing matches at specific venues and they had raised this concern with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

This delay in announcing the schedule was attributed to the discussions and negotiations regarding venue preferences. However, the schedule was finally revealed on June 27 with key BCCI and ICC office-bearers in attendance along with legends Virender Sehwag and Muttiah Muralitharan.

The former PCB chief Najam Sethi had previously highlighted the board's request to the ICC regarding Pakistan vs India match being held at the Narendra Modi Stadium. However, the request was denied, and the schedule allocated the same venue for this much-anticipated match.

It is worth noting that after months of deliberation, the PCB agreed to forego hosting the Asia Cup, which was originally intended to include matches against India. The Pakistani board has expressed mixed feelings about the tournament being played in a hybrid model.

## West Indies out of World Cup qualification race as Scotland prevail



HARARE: Two-time champions West Indies have failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time ever following their shocking defeat against Scotland in the Cricket World Cup (CWC) Qualifier.

Put into bat first, the West Indian batting lineup faltered and could only pile a meagre total of 181 on the scoreboard before bundling out in the 44th over.

West Indies got off to a dismal start to their innings as the side lost wickets at an alarming rate right from the start and was soon reduced to 81/6 in the 21st over.

Veteran all-rounder Jason Holder and Romario Shepherd attempted to anchor their side's batting charge by putting on a gutsy partnership for the seventh wicket.

Both Holder and Shepherd appeared to have settled down and were ticking the scoreboard relatively easier until both perished in the span of just three deliveries.

Their 77-run partnership ended with Safyaan Sharif taking a blinder off Mark Watt's bowling to remove Shepherd, who scored 36 off 43 deliveries, hitting five boundaries.