



Pakistan receives \$ 1 billion from United Arab Emirates: Dar
Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received a deposit of \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates, which would further strengthen and improve the foreign exchange reserves of the country. (Details on Page 8)



Ayaz Sadiq rules out possibility of 'banning' political party
Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms, Ayaz Sadiq, has ruled out notion of banning a political party, saying that no proposal in this regard was under consideration. Talking to journalists, Ayaz Sadiq said that the parliamentary committee's responsibility was to make electoral reforms, not to ban any political party. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of ground breaking of Shaheen Chowk Flyover in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

President asks bank to refund lost amount, apologize to fraud victim

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has rejected a representation filed by Bank Alfalah Ltd (BAFL) against the decision of Banking Mohtasib directing it to send an apology to a customer for enabling online transaction/payment system on his credit card without his consent and neglecting his timely complaint about a disputed transaction. He said that when Internet Banking Facility was provided by a bank to its customers, it was incumbent upon the bank to educate its customers about its pros and cons. He also directed BAFL to refund the lost amount of Rs 66,850 along with the profit to the customer. The President gave these remarks while deciding upon a case wherein Muhammad Yar (the complainant) had filed a complaint before the Banking Mohtasib stating that he had a Bank Alfalah Credit Card and a scam of Rs.66,850/- occurred on his Credit Card when his card was used at Noon-e-Commerce solution.



PAC directs FIA, NAB to conduct inquiry about \$ 3 billion loans

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Wednesday directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Auditor General to conduct a joint investigation to probe the matter of three billion dollars loans taken during the previous government. Currently, he said, various projects worth Rs 150 billion were in progress in Islamabad, out of them the projects of Rs 100 billion would be completed in a month time. PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi said the BaharaKahu flyover would be inaugurated on July 31. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb was also present on the occasion. The committee apprised that it would take prompt actions against those allegedly involved in corruption, irregularities and embezzlement in any government department. "We are working in the larger national interest to highlight the corruption scandals and to take actions against those looted national exchequers," Noor Alam Khan said. Meanwhile, the committee recommended that the salaries of law enforcement agencies and the Frontier Corps (FC) personnel should be increased. Officials of the relevant government institutions and PAC members attended the meeting.

PM vows to utilize all resources for country's development

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday pledged to the nation that under the leadership of its Quaid Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, if given the mandate in next general elections, would utilize all available resources to bring the country out of economic crisis and take it to the zenith of development and prosperity. State of the art technology would be introduced for development in various sectors, including agriculture, energy and industries, he said addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of a flyover here at Shaheen-Chowk on Ninth Avenue. The prime minister said the coalition government had launched a series of development

PM expresses gratitude to UAE President for \$1 bn deposit with SBP
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed gratitude to President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Mohamed Bin Zayed for the deposit of \$1 billion with the State Bank of Pakistan. In a tweet, the prime minister said that as a time-tested friend and brotherly country, the UAE had always come forward to support Pakistan. "We deeply acknowledge this kind gesture & consider it critical to our efforts to stabilize the economy," he posted in a tweet. projects in the Federal Capital to provide relief to its residents. The Capital's most important project, he said, was the BaharaKah flyover that had almost been completed and its inauguration was likely by the end of current month. The project was not only beneficial for the residents of the twin cities but it would also facilitate the people from all over the country in their

taking tough economic decisions to save the country from default, he added. Pakistan, he said, would now stand on its own feet. "We will promote agriculture, information technology and other sectors. Pakistan will not only shed the debt burden but also emerge as a powerful country very soon." He said the PTI's Imran Niazi was bent upon ruining the economy as evident from his willful deviation from the IMF agreement. He wanted the country to default, but with the blessings of Almighty and efforts of the coalition government, such an eventuality was averted, the prime minister added. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said the prime minister always did the politics of serving the people. He efficiently run the government affairs during his over a year's tenure as he kept balance among all the coalition partners. The 'politics of arrogance' had had been buried forever, he added. Capital Development Authority Chairman Noor ulAmeen-Mengal said on the prime minister's direction, the project would be completed in four months and it would cost around Rs 2 billion. Currently, he said, various projects worth Rs 150 billion were in progress in Islamabad, out of them the projects of Rs 100 billion would be completed in a month time. PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi said the BaharaKahu flyover would be inaugurated on July 31. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb was also present on the occasion.

Israel has no right to lecture Pakistan on HR: Musadik Malik

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Wednesday said Israel had no right to lecture any country on human rights violations as it was itself involved in the genocide of thousands of innocent Palestinians. "Israel's comments in favour of the PTI have raised eyebrows. It is pertinent to understand, who is saying what and why?" the minister said while addressing a press conference here. He said that the comments of Israel regarding human rights violations in Pakistan were tantamount to defending the desecration of the country's martyrs who laid their lives for the defence of their beloved country. Israel which was the symbol of barbarianism in the world had intervened in the internal matters of Pakistan for the very first time, the minister said and further questioned, "Why did Israel think about human rights violations in Pakistan after May 9?"



IMF approves \$3bn stand-by arrangement for Pakistan

Spokesman Report
WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved \$3 billion stand-by arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan, which was finalised last month. The IMF's executive board met and okayed the \$3 billion for the cash-strapped Pakistan. Although Pakistan wasn't originally among the subjects listed on the IMF's website, the external financing issue has been resolved after Islamabad received \$2bn deposit from Saudi Arabia and \$1bn deposit from UAE. With Pakistan managing to meet one of the key conditions, the finance ministry says the world's top lender has now accepted the plan that covers the \$8.2bn gap.

Quran burning: UN rights council to vote on Pakistan's resolution today

News Desk
GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Council is heading towards a divisive vote on Wednesday on religious hatred following recent Quran burnings, with some Western nations reluctantly feeling the draft resolution encroaches too far on free speech. Pakistan and other Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries secured an urgent debate at the UN's top rights body on Tuesday after a Quran was burnt outside Stockholm's main mosque, triggering a diplomatic backlash across the Muslim world. Pakistan's draft resolution condemns all manifestations of religious hatred, including "public and premeditated acts of desecration of the Holy Quran", and underscores the need to hold those responsible to account.

Four soldiers martyred, three terrorists bite the dust in attack on Zhob garrison: ISPR

Spokesman Report
ZHOB: Four Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom while five others were critically wounded after militants launched a "dastardly attack" on the Zhob garrison in northern Balochistan early on Wednesday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said the terrorists' initial attempt "to sneak into the facility was checked by soldiers on duty." "In ensuing heavy exchange of fire, the terrorists have been contained into a small area at the boundary," the ISPR said, adding that three "heavily armed terrorists" had been killed so far.

Assemblies to be dissolved after allies' consultation: Murtaza Abbasi

City Desk
RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Wednesday said that the dissolution of the assemblies including the National, Sindh, and Baluchistan assembly would be decided in consultation with the allies. Talking to journalists at Commissioner's office after listening to the complaints of people in an open court, he said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N) stance was clear on the issue of the conclusion of the constitutional assemblies term, and election to be held in time. Abbasi said that consultations were underway in the party over the return of Nawaz Sharif, who will lead the election campaign. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that the government's policy about Israel had not been changed and there was no U-turn on the issue of relations with Israel.

Sherry Rehman condemns Zhob Garrison attack

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on Zhob Garrison in North Balochistan. She in a statement issued here expressed solidarity with the families of the martyred soldiers who bravely thwarted the terrorist attack. She said, "I pay my respects to the martyred soldiers who embraced martyrdom in the attack. I am standing with the families of the martyred soldiers." Senator Rehman also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured soldiers in the clearance operation. "The brave soldiers of Pakistan Army thwarted a major terrorist attack. The entire country, including the Pakistan Army, is united and determined against terrorism," the minister said.

Israel has no right to meddle in Pakistan's internal affairs: Ashrafi

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Wednesday firmly asserted that Israel had no right to meddle in Pakistan's internal affairs. Addressing a press conference Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, criticized the Israeli government for showing sympathy towards individuals allegedly responsible for the attacks on government and military installations on May 9. He warned Israel to refrain from interfering, emphasizing that the matter at hand solely concerned Pakistan.



Meeting

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Chief of the Naval Staff Pakistan Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at CM House.



Pakistan receives \$1bn from United Arab Emirates: Dar

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received a deposit of \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates, which would further strengthen and improve the foreign exchange reserves of the country.

Addressing a press conference he said that SBP as Federal Reserve Bank, has also confirmed and said that an amount of \$1 billion had been received from the brotherly United Arab Emirates as this inflow would further increase



foreign exchange reserves, held by the SBP.

He said that prior to this an amount of \$2 billion was

also received by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that would also help in enhancing the local reserves, adding that the

deposit received by both countries will accordingly be reflected in the foreign exchange reserves position released by the SBP for the week ending on July 14, 2023.

The minister said that after receiving the deposit of \$ 2 billion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and \$1 billion from United Arab Emirates, the foreign exchange reserves held by the SBP, increased by \$3 billion during the last two days.

The Finance Minister thanked the Government of United Arab Emirates on behalf of country's leadership, and the nation for their great gesture and support during

the time when the country was facing tough economic challenges and extended its support.

Ishaq Dar reaffirmed the government's commitment to put the country back on the track of fast economic growth and development, besides building foreign exchange reserves to the tune of \$15 billion by the end of current month (July).

He further said that Pakistan had started its journey towards economic growth and development, adding every coming day would be better than the passing day and soon it would regain its unique status in the comity of nations.

NDMA warns against high flood in River Sutlej

Bureau Report

LAHORE: National Disaster Management Authority has warned against expected high flood in River Sutlej in next 48 hours.

The low-lying areas along the river could be affected by the likely impact. India has discharged water from Harike and Ferozpur in River Sutlej in downstream areas on Tuesday.

National Disaster Management Authority has said that the floodwater will cause inundation in low lying areas and villages, flooding of crops along River Sutlej and overtopping of roads.

India is going to release more water into the river because of persistent rains in the catchment areas. It was in 1988 that Pakistan had witnessed worst flooding in the two eastern rivers - Ravi and Sutlej - which devastated crops and livelihoods over thousands of acres.

The NDMA has directed the authorities concerned to continuously moni-

tor the situation at Jassar a border town of Narowal district and Trimmu Barrage in Jhang district, which regulates the flow of River Chenab.

The Met Office has predicted rainfall under the influence of a westerly wave from July 13 to 17 as monsoon currents from Arabian sea likely to penetrate in upper and central parts of the country from July 12 (today) which likely to intensify by July 14th.

It said heavy rains might cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore from July 14 to 17 as well as triggering landslides in Murree, Galliat, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the period.

Rain/wind-thundershower is also expected in Barkhan, Loralai, Kalat, Khuzdar, Zhob, Lasbella, Awaran, Musakhel, D. G. Khan, Rajanpur, Multan, Bhakkar, Layyah, Kot Addu, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Nagarparkar, Tharparkar, Umerkot, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas from 14th to 16th July.

Jinnah House attack case: 50pc of suspects still at large

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The police record has revealed that 50% of suspects including the prime accused are still at large in the Jinnah House attack case.

Law enforcement agencies are yet to arrest 50% of suspects including the prime accused in the cases related to the Jinnah House attack during the May 9 riots.

According to Lahore police records, only 151 suspects were arrested who carried out vandalism inside the Jinnah House, whereas, only 425 out of 1400 suspects were arrested who spread chaos outside the building.

The records stated that the identification of 185 persons is still unknown who carried out vandalism inside the building, whereas, the authorities managed to identify 915 suspects who held protests outside the Jinnah House.



It further showed that only 38% of suspects were arrested who damaged the property after entering the building, whereas, only 30% of suspects were arrested who attacked the building from outside.

Prominent politicians including Hammad Azhar, Zubair Niazi, Hassaan Niazi and others were not arrested yet despite being nominated as prime suspects in the incident. Moreover, the trials of 28 suspects have been shifted to military courts.

MoU Signed between Infra Zamin & Public Private Partnership Unit

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Public Private Partnership Unit, Government of Sindh (PPPU) and InfraZamin Pakistan Limited (IZP), are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide local currency guarantee solutions for infrastructure projects in Sindh under the Public-Private Partnership Mode. The aim of this collaboration is to foster economic and social development activities by offering a Credit Guarantee facility.

The signing ceremony, chaired by Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, Special Assistant to CM Sindh for Investment Department and PPP Projects, was attended by officials and dignitaries from the

public and private sectors. Mr. Assad Zamin, Director General of PPPU and Ms. Maheen Rehman, CEO of IZP, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

InfraZamin is an innovative credit enhancement Company, conceived and designed by the Private Infrastructure Development Group to issue credit guarantees for promoting private sector and public/private partnership infrastructure projects.

Focus sectors are Renewable Energy, Water Sewage & Sanitation, Bulk Storage/Logistic Facilities, Digital Communications & Infrastructure, Affordable Housing, Health & Education, and Agricultural Infrastructure.

Restoration of Mohenjo Daro Express

Bureau Report

LAHORE: On the instruction of Federal Minister Pakistan Railway Khawaja Saad Rafiq Pakistan Railway has decided to restore Mohenjo Daro Express from

20th July. The train will consist on 8 economy Coaches which will travel via Dadu to Habib Court and the train will run away from Rohri at 7 Am morning while from 8.25 the train will depart from Kotri.

More than 40 kidnapped for ransom in Kashmir

Correspondent

THATTA: More than 40 cases of kidnapping for ransom have been registered in different areas of Sindh's Kashmir district as the law-and-order situation continues to deteriorate.

According to details, the Kashmir police have failed to maintain law-and-order situation in the district as more than 40 cases of kidnapping for ransom were registered so far. Meanwhile, heavily armed gangsters on Tuesday evening kidnapped Medical Superintendent (MS) of Wapda Hospital Guddu from his private clinic within the limits of

Guddu police station.

Eyewitnesses claimed that MS Dr Munir Ahmad Naich was abducted by four armed gangster who came on motorcycles when the former was sitting in his private clinic.

The kidnapers held all the staff and patients present in the clinic hostage. However, they only took away the medical superintendent Dr Munir Ahmad Naich to an unknown place at gunpoint. After the incident, the locals staged a protest against the incident and blocked the Indus Highway for commuters. The traffic to and from Sindh, Punjab, and Balochistan was suspended due to the blocking of the Indus Highway.

Martyred troops are nation's pride: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday terming martyred soldiers the "pride of the nation" said their invaluable sacrifices of lives could never be forgotten.

The prime minister expressed these remarks in a statement issued after four soldiers of the Pakistan army lost their lives in a terrorist attack in the Zhob garrison of Balochistan.



He paid tribute to the martyred soldiers and said that their sacrifice for the homeland would be remembered forever.

Mariyum Aurangzeb announces launch of regional transmission by PTV Peshawar Center



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that she was glad to announce launch of regional transmission by Pakistan Television.

In a tweet, she said that PTV Peshawar Centre would run its transmission seven day a week round the

clock.

She said the transmission was available in all local languages and dialects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and was also available on satellite to make it accessible for overseas Pakistanis.

The minister said start of this initiative marked the fulfillment of a long standing demand of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since the inception of PTV National.

She said this transmission provided a platform for information, education and infotainment content addressing local issues and celebrating rich and vibrant culture and heritage of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It would also help develop a local media ecosystem which would better serve the interests of local communities, she maintained.

Conspiracies against country can only be thwarted through transparent elections: Javed Latif



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif on Wednesday said the threats and conspiracies against the country could only be thwarted through transparent and timely elections.

Addressing a press conference here, he said the vision of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) regarding the upcoming general elections was very clear as people and institutions of the country agreed

that only Nawaz Sharif could steer out the country from the prevailing crises.

The minister said that decision regarding the upcoming government would be taken by people of the country.

He said that if efforts had been made to stop threats, blackmailing and attacks in 2014, the incident of 9th May would not have happened.

"Facilitators are equally complicit with the main culprit. Today, Israel is talking about going to the United Nations. When such a game (played in Pakistan) takes place in these countries, do other states try to protect these criminals," he questioned.

Javed Latif observed that foreign funding was given to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) chief from India and Israel with the aim to destabilize Pakistan.

He was of the view the objectives which our enemy could not achieve by army, it achieved on 9th May by investing in the PTI chairman.

Ayaz Sadiq rules out possibility of 'banning' political party

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms, Ayaz Sadiq, has ruled out notion of banning a political party, saying that no proposal in this regard was under consideration.

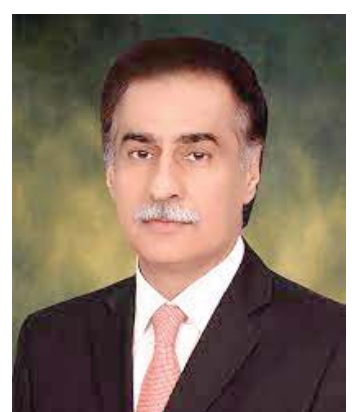
Talking to journalists, Ayaz Sadiq said that the parliamentary committee's responsibility was to make electoral reforms, not to ban any political party.

The PML-N leader pointed out that the recommendations on electoral reforms tabled before the committee will be finalised next week. "Effective proposals for transparent elections were taken into consideration," he noted.

"We are trying to amend the decisions related to election made during former chief justice Saqib Nisar's tenure," he added.

The government is likely to introduce a number of amendments to the Election Act, 2017 to ensure timely submission of election results.

Earlier in the day, it was reported that the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms will also meet today on proposed amendments to



the election law.

The committee, chaired by Ayaz Sadiq will submit its report on proposed electoral reforms to the Parliament within 10 days.

Sources said the body completed a preliminary review of 70 of the 73 amendment proposals in election law suggested by different political parties.

At the meeting, some political parties expressed serious reservations over the delay in announcement of election results. They suggested not to accept the results submitted after a delay.

Governor Sindh visits SSU headquarters

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori on Wednesday visited the Special Security Unit (SSU) Headquarters and lauded the Unit's professionalism in administrative, security, and counter-terrorism functions by paying tribute to martyrs of Sindh Police.

He said the Police were playing a key role to restore peace in the province, according to a news release.

Upon his arrival at the SSU headquarters, Governor Sindh was welcomed by the DIGP Security and Emergency Services Division Dr. Maqsood Ahmed. He was presented a guard of honor by a special contingent of SSU.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori accompanied by DIGP Security visited the armory, firing range, and different sections of SSU.

Dr. Maqsood Ahmed briefed the Governor about the journey of SSU since its establishment to a state-of-the-art and modernized unit.

He also informed about the foundation of the Special Weapons and



Tactics Team (S. W. A. T), the first ever in the country, comprising highly trained commandos and lady commandos equipped with modern tactical weapons, capable to challenge any emergency situation, round the clock.

The Pakistan Army was also providing training to further enhance the professional techniques of commandos including lady commandos at its

different training institutes, he added.

The DIGP Security and Emergency Services Division further briefed about the up-gradation and advancement made in Madadgar-15 which was one of the sub-units of Sindh Police as the response time of the Madadgar had been reduced to 7 to 10 minutes from 30 to 40 minutes in any emergency situation.

Governor Sindh on the occasion also

witnessed the drill conducted by the commandos of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S. W. AT) to deal with any hostile situation.

Commandant SSU Dr. Farrukh Ali Lanjar, SSP Madadgar-15 Amjad Hayat, SSP Security-II Syed Salman Ahmed, SP Foreigners' Security Cell Saddam Hussain, SP SSU Anil Haidar and SP SSU Farah Ambreen were also present.

Civil Hospital Administration Transfer New DHQ of Civil Hospital: Amir Khattak



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak regarding the hand-over of Civil Hospital building to Children's Hospital administration. Practical steps were started to transfer the new DHQ of Civil Hospital and give the building to Children Hospital. On this occasion, Child Life Foundation team, Tare Zameen Par Trust team were also present in the meeting.

In the meeting, Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak also gave orders to improve the services provided to abandoned women in Edhi Homes. Director Development Rubina Kausar, ADCG Dr. Abida Farid, Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq, Director Health Services, CO Health, Hospital KMS and officers of other relevant departments were also present.

Police should stop their business in the name of helmet: Dr Safdar Hashmi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Police should stop their business in the name of helmet. People are forced and worried about inflation and the police department is adding to the public's woes with expensive challans. These views were expressed by Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi and Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Mian Asif Akhwani in their statement. He further said that every class is worried about inflation while the rulers are not ready to reduce their privileges. Their luxuries are increasing and their expenses are increasing.



They are taxing the people. He further said that the situation of the police department and the district administration is that Multan is lying in ruins. The citizens of Nawabpur Road are deprived of basic necessities like water.

RPO Multan, DPO Multan Give an immediate order to stop the chain of fines and arrests on Helmut. Jamaat-e-Islami will represent the people in every forum, we will not sit silent under any circumstances.

Business organizations will cooperate with police to maintain peace during Muharram: Khawaja Suliman



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: SSP Operation Muhammad Imran has said that due to the security concerns of the business community, the safeguards will be removed. They are open to the community at all times. Harassment of the business community by the police personnel will also be controlled and not only police patrols will be increased in the markets and bazaars during the month of Muharram, but fool-proof security arrangements will also be made.

Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, the Central Chairman of the Central Organization of Trade Unions of Pakistan, said that Multan, the land of saints, is the cradle of peace.

On this occasion, SP City Hasan Khakhi, SP Investigation Rana Ashraf were also present. On this occasion, senior police officers assured the delegation of business leaders that the delegation will use all their capabilities to solve the problems faced by them. Central Senior Vice Chairman Sheikh Akram Hakeem, President South Punjab Sheikh Javed Akhtar, District President Syed Jafar Ali Shah, President Multan Khalid Mehmood Qureshi, Chairman South Punjab Javed Akhtar Khan, General Secretary South Punjab Zeeshan Siddiqui, General Secretary Multan. Mirza Naeem Baig, Chairman Multan Kashif Rafique, Vice President South Punjab Zeeshan Zafar, Rana Owais, Khawaja Talal Siddiqui.

The important meeting of Southern Punjab Traders Association will be held today on July 13 at a local hotel. In which issues related to solving the problems faced by the business community will be discussed and strategies will be decided for their solution.

Tree Plantation Drive

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Mian Shabaz Sharif Being briefed about Tree Plantation Drive by Member Environment CDA Capt R Anwar Ul Haq Marriyum Aurangzeb, Dr. Fazal Choudhary, Syed Zeshan Naqvi and others present at the briefing.



Photo: PID

Punjab govt launches issuance of paperless driving license system: Abdul Saboor

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the directives of the Punjab government, issuance of driving license has been made very easy and now a paperless system has been launched by eliminating the old system. For this purpose, joint outreach teams of the traffic police and the Punjab police have been constituted. These teams visit government and private offices, educational and industrial institutions, commercial markets and villages in rural areas and issue learner driving licence on the spot.

On the direction of CPO and CTO Multan three teams are active for this purpose. On Wednesday, an outreach team visited the office of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab and issued learner licenses to 35 employ-



ees of the secretariat while three driving licenses were renewed. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Secretary Admin Bhatta, Syed Ali Raza Gardizi, Mian Ajmal Abbas, Sahibzada Syed Abdul Basir Azad, Syed Ali Hussain Shah, Pir Abu Al Hasan Gilani and others. Accompanied by them reached Circuit House Multan, where Peace Ambassador Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad presided over the meeting of Ittehad Bin Muslimin Committee held at the divisional level in Circuit House Multan.

Zonal Assistant Administrator of Awqaf Zia Al-Mustafa

daily. He further said now the citizens have been given the facility to take a driving test in their own vehicle. Lady Constable Razia Sultana said outreach teams are proving all the facilities of Police Khidmat Markz to the citizens at their doorsteps. She said citizens are also being provided copy of FIR, character certificate and other facilities on their demand.

District admin made helipad in the middle of Zakariya University cricket Ground



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the occasion of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif's visit to Multan, the district administration of Multan constructed a helipad in the middle of Zakariya University Multan's cricket ground on the side of PITCH. There was a wave of concern among the student-athletes. The student player of Bahauddin University said that the district administration of Multan is only the pitch area of the cricket ground suitable for building a helipad in Zakaria University spread over thousands of acres?

Pakistan Armed Forces strengthened the country's defense and peace: Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In order to establish peace and order during Muharram, on the special instructions of the Punjab government, the convener Ittehad-e-Bin-Muslimin Committee, the chairman of the Central Ruit-e-Hilal Committee, the Pakistan ambassador for peace, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad the leader of the Ittehad-e-Bin-Muslimin, led by Imam Badshahi Masjid Lahore. The delegation of Punjab including Pir Masood Qasim Qasmi, Sardar Mohammad Khan Laghari, Maulana Abdul Wahab Roopari, Allama Rasheed Tarabi, Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi, Allama Asif Akbar Qadri, Mufti Muham-

mad Shafiq Awan, Maulana Abu Sufyan Hanafi, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Patafi. Maulana Bilal Naqshbandi, Maulana Qazi Abdul Ghafaraqadri, Mufti Muhammad Owais Irshad, Malik Khawar Hasnain Bhatta, Syed Ali Raza Gardizi, Mian Ajmal Abbas, Sahibzada Syed Abdul Basir Azad, Syed Ali Hussain Shah, Pir Abu Al Hasan Gilani and others. Accompanied by them reached Circuit House Multan, where Peace Ambassador Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad presided over the meeting of Ittehad Bin Muslimin Committee held at the divisional level in Circuit House Multan.

Zonal Assistant Administrator of Awqaf Zia Al-Mustafa and Deputy Commissioners and DPOs belonging to the division and leading scholars of all schools of thought including Maulana Farooq Khan Saeed, Maulana Abdul Haq Mujahid, Pir Khizr Hayat Sajid, Chaudhry Muzamil, Maulana Zubair Ahmad Siddiqui, Pir Abdul Majid Siddiqui, Maulana Mufti Hasan, Maulana Muhammad Usman Jalandhri, Mazhar Gilani, Maulana Inayatullah Rahmani, Maulana Rafiq Ahmad Shah Jamali, Qari Saifulah, Mehr Sakhawat Sial and members of peace committees participated in full.

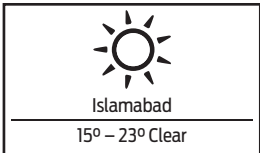
In Muharram, scholars should create unity in their ranks and avoid provocative speeches. From the martyrdom of Syedna Farooq Azam and Syedna Imam Hussain, we learn the spirit of self-sacrifice and sacrifice, peace, security, brotherhood and love, which is a beacon of light. Muharram ul-Haram will pass peacefully and peacefully as always, I request the scholars of all schools of thought, religious leaders and the people to unite and keep a close watch on the enemies of Islam and peace and security, the saboteurs. And destroy all the nefarious intentions of the enemies of the country and cooperate fully with the administration.

Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad said that Israel's internal affairs is an absolute violation and the resolution that Israel presented in Geneva against Pakistan, which discussed homo-

sexuality and human rights violations in Pakistan. Today's forum strongly condemns Israel's resolution and asks Israel to respond to the massacre of Muslims inside Palestine and its violation of human rights. Calculate this, not only Pakistan but the entire Muslim Ummah is united against Israel's aggression. Finally, a special prayer was made for national

security, development and prosperity, the unity of the Islamic world, the protection of the Haramin Sharif and the freedom of occupied Kashmir and Palestine.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:25 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:12 pm
Maghrib	7:20 pm
Isha	9:01 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116

Solar Panel Project inaugurates in Women University Multan: Dr Uzma Quraishi

Quatul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Solarization process completed with the support of Energy Department, Punjab Government and Punjab Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (PECA) at the Women University Multan. In this regard, 400 KW grid has been installed in both campuses. Two grids are installed at Matial Campus and Katchery Campus, from which the University will generate around 1600 units on daily basis. However, the university will purchase electricity at the rate of 23 rupees per unit in the first 5 years, while electricity will be purchased at the rate of 13 rupees per unit for the next 20 years, after which the system will become the property of the university. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi inaugurated the solar panel system at Katchery campus. On this occasion, Project director Asad Ali Bhutta and managing head of Ghulam Rasool Company Mr. Nadeem briefed the participants about the project. Addressing the ceremony VC Prof. Dr Uzma Quraishi said that this is a very good sign that the university is gradually converting its power load to a solar system. The university will save million of rupees in terms of electricity and additional electricity will also be available while green energy will also have a positive impact on the environment, the university is progressing rapidly and its infrastructure will be improved further. The ceremony was attended by Registrar Dr. Qammar Rubab (Registrar), Dr. Saadia Irshad (Additional Registrar) Mr. Rehan Qadir, (Treasurer) and chairpersons of all departments were also present.

PTV, Radio Pakistan attacked by proponents of institutions' auctioning: Marriyum

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said national assets like Pakistan Television (PTV) and Radio Pakistan were attacked by those who were proponents of privatizing the national institutions and selling their buildings during their 4-year tenure which ensued nothing but conspiracies, lies and propaganda.

"On coming into power, we have not chanted slogans to auction buildings of Radio Pakistan which is a national heritage and asset of the country," she said while recalling policies of the previous regime which was bent upon privatizing the national institutions, especially in the information sector.

"Those who vowed to auction national institutions were the same individuals who had not only attacked the Pakistan Television (PTV) in 2014, but also the building of Radio Pakistan in Peshawar on May 9 this year," the minister regretted while addressing the media here at Radio Pakistan after inaugurating 12 new studios which were set up on modern lines as a result of the reforms started 14 months ago.

She was accompanied by Secretary

Information and Broadcasting Sohail Khan and DG Radio Tahir Hassan.

The minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) plan to auction the Radio Pakistan was also akin to an attack on the national asset, but it was then opposition led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who foiled their nefarious design.

Recalling the May 9 incidents which included vandalizing of Radio Pakistan and sensitive installations, and burning of memorials of martyrs, she said it was the same mindset that wanted to privatize the national assets on coming into power.

The minister told the reporters that the present government rolled out a reform programme to upgrade and digitize the Radio Pakistan on war footing soon after assuming the power.

It was under implementation for last 14 months, she added.

Marriyum said a comprehensive business plan had been worked out to transform the Radio Pakistan into a financially viable organization. "New studios have been established at the Radio Pakistan which I visited today for reviewing its efficiency," she added.

Round the clock sports transmission of Radio Pakistan FM had been initiated at 94 frequency, she said, adding



programmes in 11 regional languages were also launched.

As regards the environment, she said a dedicated transmission had been initiated to discuss its challenges and highlight the country's biodiversity, wildlife, water management, forest conservation and management.

Marriyum said a studio had been launched to instill research-based information regarding tech in the masses. Likewise, a studio was estab-

lished to broadcast moral drama reel live, while podcast studios had also been launched.

"We have started a dedicated live 24-hour music transmission," she said, adding a world service was also launched to disseminate all sort of news, culture and heritage related content among the overseas Pakistanis.

Another studio to broadcast news bulletin had also been launched, while Saut-ul-Quran segment of Radio Paki-

stan was completely digitalized, Marriyum noted.

She said Saut-ul-Quran was the vision of Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, which had been implemented by the Radio Pakistan.

The minister said a total of 12 studios were established on modern lines and at par with the international standards.

She said all those initiatives were taken by the incumbent government in last 14 months, as the Information Ministry was unfortunately spearheaded by a minister who completely focused on gagging the media by assaulting journalists.

Other than those initiatives, cinemas research cells were also established in Radio Pakistan, she said, adding all the studios would welcome the talented students who would eventually get an opportunity to hone their skills.

She said a summer programme was being launched for universities' students by integrating academies of PTV, Radio Pakistan Academy, and Information Services.

Marriyum lashed out at the PTI chief for consistently churning out lies, spreading propaganda, hatching conspiracies, and above all using national institutions for political purpose during his government tenure.

Livelihood

RAWALPINDI: A woman vendor is selling food stuff on his stall at 6th road, to earn daily wages for the livelihood of her family.



Photo: Online

Zong 4G collaborates with Sehat Kahani for unprecedented discounts for My Zong App users

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, the leading telecommunications company in Pakistan, has forged a strategic collaboration with Sehat Kahani, propelling the nation's healthcare landscape into a new era of accessibility and affordability. This dynamic alliance empowers users of the My Zong App with exclusive discounts on telemedicine solutions and comprehensive healthcare services, spanning from diagnosis to treatment. Together, Zong 4G and

Sehat Kahani are revolutionizing healthcare access, making it more convenient, affordable, and transformative for people across the country.

Zong 4G users in far-flung areas can access the Sehat Kahani portal through the My Zong App, available on both Android and iOS platforms, enabling them to connect with the best doctors in Pakistan who provide quality and cost-effective healthcare services.

Under this month-long initiative, My Zong App users can avail the first two consultations

with General Physicians free of cost, followed by a 50 percent discount on the third consultation. Moreover, the first consultation with a medical specialist will only cost Rs. 249, regardless of the original consultation fee, which ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 4,500. The app also offers the first mental well-being consultation at Rs. 750 (whereas the original consultation fee ranges from Rs. 1500 - Rs. 4500).

Additionally, My Zong App users can subscribe to a month-long unlimited consultation

package with General Physicians and Medical Specialists for just Rs. 499.

The official spokesperson of Zong 4G expressed the company's commitment to providing exceptional services for their customers. "Zong 4G has always sought to make its customers' lives easier and digitally enabled. This partnership proves that the difference is truly digital. Through it, we have successfully made digital healthcare available at affordable rates and in exclusive deals to all Zong subscribers and My Zong App users."

Government and UN work together



News Desk

QUETTA: To mobilize policy support for driving a sectoral development and fostering climate-smart practices in agriculture and fisheries, the Government of Balochistan (GoB) joins hands with The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) agreement signed at the FAO Office in Quetta today. The collaboration will be implemented through Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihood Support Project (GLLSP-II), a project financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Florence Rolle, FAO Representative in Pakistan, and Rehmat Dashti, Project Director, GLLSP-II signed the agreement.

Jointly implemented by GOB the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), FAO, and the World Food Programme (WFP), the six-year project aims to promote climate-resilient agriculture and livestock farming systems, empower smallholder with knowledge and skills and enable them to build better resilience.

FAO will provide technical assistance to the project, which will employ the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach. Through FFS, the project seeks to create an inclusive learning environment that fosters knowledge sharing and skill development among farmers. GLLSP II is committed to promoting gender equality and youth engagement, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to benefit from the program. The project will also provide policy support to create enabling condition in the fisheries sector, which will benefit 100,000 rural households in Gwadar and Lasbela districts.

"Our aim is to train 30,000 farmers and provide them with in-situ demonstrations. Through this collaboration, the project aims to obtain technical assistance for various aspects such as Training of Trainers (ToT), curricula development, and training for small-holder farmers to enhance their capacities on climate resilience. Through interactive sessions and hands-on experiences, participants will gain invaluable insights, enabling them to adopt modern techniques and improve their farming practices," said Rehmat Dashti.

Florence Rolle, FAO Representative in Pakistan, emphasized FAO's commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the resilience of vulnerable rural households. She said, "GLLSP-II reflects FAO's dedication to supporting sustainable agriculture practices. "We believe that our partnership with the Government of Balochistan, NRSP, and IFAD will bring about positive changes in the lives of farmers, livestock keepers, and fishing communities, ultimately contributing to food security and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," she added.

"Targeted support in sectoral development in agriculture is essential as it equips us with the knowledge, expertise, and innovative solutions for addressing the ever-evolving challenges in our agricultural systems. When we can increase productivity, promote sustainable practices, and build resilient communities, we pave the way for a thriving and food-secure future. And by uniting our efforts within the Rome Based Agencies, sharing expertise, and aligning resources, we can achieve results in transforming rural lives," said Arnoud Hameleers, IFAD Country Director for Pakistan.

Huawei Powers first national Hyper-Scale Financial Cloud

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Technologies Ltd and Khazana Enterprise have taken a monumental step to build the first of its kind, hyper-scaler financial cloud in the country. They announced this at the launch event attended by the key leaders from the financial industry, government and business sectors of Pakistan.

The First National In-Country Cloud is a leap... not just for the ICT Industry in Pakistan but for the economy as a whole. Pakistan is denied of millions of dollars for access to Cloud Services. No longer will that be the case. This initiative paves the way for entities to opt for a solution in Pakistan that benefits local businesses and the exchequer.

Mr. Nadeem Hussain the Executive Chairman of Planet N Group said in his welcome note: "I congratulate Huawei Management and Khazana team for this successful cloud launch which is first of its type. If you want digital Pakistan, then you have tons of data and this data needs to be stored somewhere either

physical storage or on a cloud and the world has demonstrated the benefits of cloud over physical data storage i.e. flexibility, agility, cost cyber security etc. Huawei Cloud is the answer to all above being one of the top cloud service providers. Lastly SBP is giving an enabling environment for the in-country cloud that can be used both for the material or non-material data"

Mr. Bob Din, Chairman Khazana said, "I congratulate the tech industry of Pakistan specially Khazana Team and Huawei Cloud Team for this progressive initiative and the conducive environment provided by the regulators in Pakistan for the development of Cloud Infrastructure"

Mr. Shahzad Rasheed, CEO, Huawei Cloud Pakistan said "We are living in the era of disruption, either disrupt or get disrupted. The upcoming time will completely change the way banks have been operating. This Digital transformation of organizations is not possible without using digital divers like AI, IOT, Machine Learning and these digi-

tal drivers need to be hosted somewhere on a cloud and Huawei Cloud differentiate itself by 2 ways; firstly being one of the three hyper scaler federated cloud available in Pakistan; secondly for the digital banks, Huawei Cloud provides software services and out of book solutions just by a single click"

Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP said in his keynote, "SECP is focusing on end to end digitalization of companies operating in Pakistan. I congratulate Huawei and Khazana for this step as data is the new oil or wealth that needs to be protected. However, with this top-notch partnership of Huawei and Khazana, regulator and end user's concerns like data sovereignty and security seem to be addressed"

Ms. Sima Kamil, Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan said; SBP is appreciative and welcomes the launch of Huawei cloud. SBP has been aggressively working formulating regulatory framework for the Cloud Services. SBP approves of Huawei cloud basically for five main reasons. Firstly, this indige-



nous model addresses the issue of data security and allows the data to remain within the country subject to the relevant laws and regulations; secondly data security and privacy which gives more control on the sensitive information.

Huawei Cloud has been deployed in 29 Regions around the world, and is fast becoming the preferred choice of customers in industries such as finance and manufacturing to migrate to the

cloud. Founded in 1987, Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. Huawei has 207,000 employees and operate in over 170 countries and regions, serving more than three billion people around the world. They are committed to bringing digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world.

Khazana Enterprise is an institution in Pakistan dedicated to providing innovative products and services. With a customer-centric approach, Khazana aims to simplify and enhance the lives of individuals and businesses across the country. To provide personalized support, Khazana will establish physical service centers and dedicated customer support channels. This commitment to human interaction underscores Khazana's dedication to addressing customer concerns and providing tailored assistance throughout their financial journey.

"Our belief is that technology should empower our customers and drive economic growth. With our Fintech and National Cloud services, we aim to revolutionize the financial landscape in Pakistan," stated Bob Din, Chairman of Khazana Enterprise.

This event further solidified this collaboration by signing MOUs with fintech companies that included Raqami Islamic Digital Bank, HengShan and Titi's Technology.

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Yaum-e-Shuhada: Honoring the Martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir on July 13th

Every year on July 13th, the people of Jammu and Kashmir observe Yaum-e-Shuhada, a day dedicated to honoring the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom. This day holds immense importance for the people of the region, as it reminds them of the ongoing struggle for self-determination and the countless lives that have been lost in the process.

Jammu and Kashmir, located in the northernmost part of the Indian subcontinent, has been a disputed territory between India and Pakistan since the partition in 1947. The region has been witness to decades of political unrest, cross-border conflicts, and a constant struggle for Freedom. The day of July 13th marks one of the most significant incidents in the history of this struggle.

On July 13, 1931, in the city of Srinagar, several people participated in a peaceful protest against the oppressive policies of the ruling Dogra regime. The Dogra rulers, who were Hindus, had been ruling over the largely Muslim population of Kashmir with an iron fist, often suppressing their religious and political rights. The peaceful protesters were fired upon by the Dogra forces, resulting in the deaths of 22 people. The events of that day ignited a spark of resistance and determination among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This incident is considered as a turning point in the region's history, as it led to increased political awareness and a stronger demand for independence.

The Kashmir freedom movement has been an ongoing struggle for autonomy and self-determination in the disputed

region of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Rooted in a long history of political, religious, and territorial conflicts, this movement represents the aspirations of the people to exercise their right to determine their own political destiny. The roots of the Kashmir freedom movement can be traced back to the partition of British India in 1947. The decision to divide the region along religious lines into Muslim-majority Pakistan and Hindu-majority India created a complex situation in Kashmir, where the majority population was Muslim but the ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, was Hindu. This led to a territorial dispute.

The Kashmir freedom movement has been marred by human rights abuses by India. Reports of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary detentions, and mass protests being met with excessive force have raised concerns globally. Human rights organizations and activists have long voiced their concerns about the deteriorating situation, urging for a peaceful resolution and respect for the rights of the Kashmiri people. The Kashmir conflict has also drawn international attention as it poses various security concerns, including the risk of nuclear escalation between two nuclear-armed nations, India and Pakistan. The United Nations has repeatedly called for a resolution to the crisis through peaceful negotiations, urging all parties to respect the principle of self-determination. However, efforts to resolve the issue have been

largely unsuccessful, leading to further frustration and discontent among the Kashmiri people. Achieving a peaceful resolution in the Kashmir conflict requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the political, economic, and social dimensions of the issue. Dialogue and diplomacy should be prioritized over military solutions, enabling the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination in a peaceful and democratic manner. Additionally, ensuring the protection of human rights and facilitating opportunities for national and international reconciliation are crucial steps towards lasting peace and stability in the region.

India has cancelled the special status of occupied Kashmir which further ignited the complexity of the issue. In the case of ending the special status of occupied Kashmir, the Supreme Court of India has recently decided to hold hearings on a daily basis. According to Indian media reports, petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution will now be heard on a daily basis from August 2. A five-judge bench met in the Supreme Court of India recently, the bench said in its verdict that the hearing will begin on August 2 at 10:30 am and will continue on a daily basis. In this case, an affidavit has been submitted by the Center in the court, in which it was informed about the so-called development in occupied Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370. However, Chief Justice DY Chan-

drachud Said that this affidavit will not affect or rely on the constitutional issues raised in the petitions against the cancellation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. It is being falsely propagated by India that since the end of the special status of Occupied Kashmir, peace and stability have been brought to the valley along with development, which the valley was deprived of in the presence of Article 370, however, the occupied Valley Voices are being raised all over the world on the situation of oppression and India has also been severely criticized in this regard. The Chief Justice of India said the written submissions should be submitted on or before July 27 and no further extension would be allowed. It should be noted that on August 5, 2019, the Modi government unilaterally revoked the special status of Occupied Kashmir by canceling Article 370, after which a new series of atrocities has started in the valley.

Readers, the Kashmir freedom movement is a complex struggle shaped by a long history of political, religious, and territorial disputes. Amidst the challenges and human rights concerns, the desire for self-determination among the Kashmiri people remains steadfast. It is essential for all parties involved to engage in meaningful dialogue, focused on addressing the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, to ensure a peaceful and just resolution to this protracted conflict. World should put pressure on India to give the right to self-determination to Kashmiris and stop violating human rights in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The majority of the people of Kashmir want to live with Pakistan. The need is to give them free and fair right of self-determination.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Half of world sinking in debt crisis

Half of humanity lives in countries that are forced to spend more on servicing their debt than on health and education, which is nothing less than a "development disaster," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday.

According to a new report by the UN Global Crisis Response Group, entitled 'A World of Debt', a total of 52 countries, including Pakistan, which means - almost 40 per cent of the developing world - were in "serious debt trouble", the UN chief said, backing calls for them to receive urgent fiscal relief.

Last year global public debt reached a record \$92 trillion, of which developing countries shoulder 30 per cent - a "disproportionate amount", the UN chief stressed.

The secretary-general warned that 3.3 billion people suffer from their governments' need to prioritize debt interest payments over "essential investments" in the Sustainable Development Goals or the energy transition.

"And yet, because these unsustainable debts are concentrated in poor countries, they are not judged to pose a systemic risk to the global financial system," the UN Secretary-General added.

He insisted that the catastrophic levels of public debt in developing countries are a "systemic failure" that resulted from colonial-era inequality built into "our outdated financial system".

"That system has not fulfilled its mandate as a safety net to help all countries manage today's cascade of unforeseen shocks - the pandemic; the devastating impact of the climate crisis; and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"Indeed, the report points out that developing countries are highly exposed to external shocks precisely because they have to service debt repayments in foreign currencies."

The UN chief stressed that on average, borrowing costs are four times higher for African countries than for the United States and eight times higher than for the wealthiest European economies.

Poorer nations rely increasingly on private creditors who charge "sky-high" rates and find themselves forced to borrow more "for their economic survival", he said.

From an important financial tool, debt has become "a trap that simply generates more debt", Mr. Guterres deplored.

The new UN report proposes a number of urgent remedies, including an "effective debt workout mechanism" that supports payment suspensions, longer lending terms and lower rates, "including for vulnerable middle-income countries", the UN chief said.

The report also calls for a "massive" scale-up of affordable long-term financing, by transforming the way that Multilateral Development Banks function, re-engineering them to support sustainable development and leveraging private resources.

Guterres recalled that the Bridgetown Agenda, led by Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados and the recent Summit for a New Global Financial Pact in Paris, had generated "other important proposals" regarding international debt relief, and expressed the hope that the upcoming G20 meeting in September will take some of these ideas forward.



Rasmi

Amjad Rasmi

Why are KSA, UAE investing in agri-livestock? - II

Another study, "Agrarian Mirage: Gulf Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan's Agriculture Sector," conducted by the Middle East Institute, stated that Gulf interest in Pakistan as a reliable source of food increased significantly during the tenure of General Pervez Musharraf, peaking in 2008. At the time, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) governments were highly concerned about global economic changes and their limited capacity to enhance domestic agricultural production to fulfill the requirements of their quickly growing populations. As the dollar price of Rice increased to \$907 a ton in April 2008, nearly tripling the November 2007 levels and in response, major grain-exporting countries such as India and Vietnam imposed export bans, infuriating the Arab Gulf states. Saudi Arabia and the UAE then decided to take matters into their own hands by avoiding global food markets and instead seeking agricultural land overseas to grow crops such as rice, wheat, sugar, and fodder crops such as alfalfa, maize, barley, and soybeans. All of these crops were ideally suited to the Pakistani environment. Meanwhile, the Pakistani government offered tax exemptions, duty-free equipment imports, and 100 percent land ownership in special free zones in its agriculture, livestock, and dairy sectors.

In addition, land investors were also exempted from the country's existing labor laws and offered to provide a 100,000-strong security force to protect investors. This was what the Gulf states were looking for. In their quest to acquire agricultural land in Pakistan, the Gulf countries relied on several key organizations and firms to facilitate the transactions. In Saudi Arabia, The King Abdullah Initiative (KAI) for Saudi Investment in Agriculture was established, with the aim of achieving national food security through building integrative partnerships with countries that had a high agricultural potential. The UAE has relied on Abraaj Capital, a Dubai-based private equity investment firm, to facilitate investments in foreign agricultural projects. Al-Qudra Holding is an Abu Dhabi-based firm involved in agricultural investments through its subsidiary, Al-Qudra Agriculture.

These firms then went on a shopping spree in Pakistan. In 2008, the private equity company Abraaj Capital and other UAE companies acquired 800,000 acres of farmland in Pakistan with the support of the UAE government. Another UAE firm also acquired as much as 800,000 acres of farmland in Pakistan that year. The Emirates

Investment Group and the Abu Dhabi Group in 2009 acquired about 16,187 hectares of land in Pakistan's Baluchistan province for an estimated US\$40 million for mechanized farming with an additional investment of \$20 million in fertility enhancement to make it commercially viable. The Qatar Meat and Livestock Company (Mawashi) reportedly spent \$1 billion into corporate farming in Pakistan by taking on lease around 12,140 hectares in Shikarpur, Larkana, and Sukkur. Saudi Arabia took on lease 500,000 acres of land in Pakistan to grow grain and vegetables for the Saudi market.

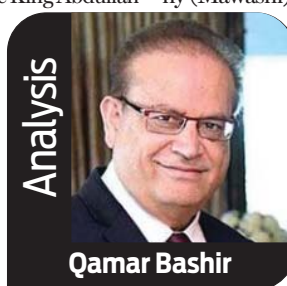
However, shortly after the democratic government of Asif Ali Zardari as President and Yousaf Raza Gilani as Prime Minister took over, FDI, which had peaked at US\$8 billion in 2008, plummeted to US\$750 million. The arguments were straightforward and logical: selling agricultural land to foreign countries had the potential to cause political and societal upheaval, especially given Pakistan's uncertain food security. In reality, Pakistan's food security is worse than that of Saudi Arabia and the UAE in terms of pricing, availability, quality, and safety.

Pakistan ranked 99th out of 121 countries in the 2022 Global Hunger Index and has been classified with a serious degree of hunger with a score of 26.1, whereas Saudi Arabia ranks 30th out of 121 countries with a low level of hunger with a score of 6.7. The United Arab Emirates ranks 18th out of 121 nations in the 2022 Global Hunger Index, with a score of 5.3, indicating a low degree of hunger.

As our Prime Minister thanked the army chief on numerous occasions for bringing in much needed dollars from both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and as we all know, there is no such thing as a free lunch, perhaps the cost agreed upon by the army chief was a restart of the process of selling agricultural land to Saudi Arabia and the UAE that was started during the Musharraf regime but was shelved by successive civilian governments. Let us hope that this time, these seemingly 13-year-old schemes would result in a win-win situation for Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. Instead of falling farther down the hunger index, Pakistan will at least achieve the degree of hunger experienced by both Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Concluded

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

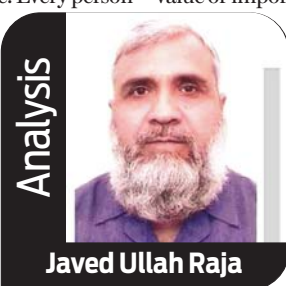
Human lost in the Comforts of the Time

As living in harmony with nature lays the secrets of simplicity and blissful health. The way of life of the past people was in accordance with nature. It is true to say that today's worldwide awareness of nature conservation is an indication that the world's human beings are moving back to ancient ways. Thanks to them, apart from getting rid of the damages caused by the industries, a healthy environment will also be available. Every person will stay away from diseases, and then there will be no need to take medicines. In fact, the use of organic foods and products is natural which is sustainable, cheap and also beneficial for human health. Khet Kalyan, pure ghee, milk curd, butter, pure fresh vegetables and fruits, clear water from natural springs and wells, fresh air, lush green gardens and open air places. They are the natural blessings in search of which people from all over the world resort to tourism by spending a lot of money.

We know very well that even today in the remote areas of the country there are ancient home industries as heritage. Mention of the home industries is necessary. Among these industries, grape vinegar is our home industry since ancient times and is still in demand in the world, there is no secret hidden throughout. Home-grown vegetables that are free from chemical compounds can be cultivated even on a small area. An agronomist says: that one square foot plot of land is enough for one person to grow vegetables for the whole year. Other examples are our own hand-woven textiles, such as woolen rugs and khadi fabrics. From beads and mirrors to jewellery, embroidered garments

and accessories reflect our cultural heritage. Clay pottery has a long history that the world is turning towards for maintaining the quality of health. Leather shoes, bags, belts and other items are in high demand around the world. Beautiful designs on brass, copper and silver vessels. Intricate designs on wooden pieces from the provinces of Sindh and Punjab which were used to print patterns on cloth. Many products made from dried palm leaves, which have no value or importance here, are available at cheap prices and are a part of most villages and towns in the country. In the western countries, some of our young enthusiasts are earning capital by exporting these products.

Apart from this, there are many other industries which are getting lost in the dust of time. These are the commodities associated with our small scale industries and the trend of people of the world is rapidly moving towards them. As the employment of low income people in these industries and traditional practices depends on. If we encourage these small artisans, we can also support them. They are continuing work of their forefathers within their limited resources. We can also earn a lot of capital by shipping these products around the world. It is a fact that the western countries have made us use non-organic products and are turning back to using organic products day by day. In my country, healthy and environmentally friendly methods are still being used for humans. Come and contribute to the local economy by maintaining these traditional home industries.



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

Writer is senior analyst and can be reached at javedullahraja@gmail.com

PM felicitates Uzbek President Mirziyoyev on his re-election

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday congratulated President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his re-election in the presidential elections held on July 9.

Terming the re-election of President Mirziyoyev as the reiteration of the confidence of the Uzbek people in his leadership, the prime minister expressed his strong confidence that bilateral relations between the two countries would continue to strengthen under his stewardship.

The prime minister held a telephone call with the Uzbek president, PM Office Media Wing said



The prime minister underscored the importance attached by Pakistan to bilateral relations with Uzbekistan.

the importance attached by Pakistan to bilateral relations with Uzbekistan.

He noted with satisfaction the operationalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and the Uzbekistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA).

Both these agreements would enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries, he added.

Recalling their previous interactions in Samarkand and Astana, the two leaders discussed the prospects of accelerating regional development and agreed on the need to further expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, connectivity, agriculture, IT, textiles, and logistics.

Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has paid rich tributes to July 13 martyrs

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: In a statement issued here today the DFP spokesman while recalling the supreme sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs said that the valiant struggle of Kashmiris against despotic Dogra Maharaja was a cornerstone of the ongoing struggle for right to self-determination.

Reiterating Kashmiri resolve to carry forward the mission of martyrs he said that the Kashmiri youth who have taken the mantle of resistance were fully determined to take the ongoing struggle to its logical conclusion.

Stressing the need for an early and amicable solution of Kashmir dispute the spokesman said that a just and equitable solution of the lingering dispute was essentially imperative to ensure durable peace besides putting an end to looming, ever-present threat of nuclear war between the South Asian nuclear neighbors (India-Pakistan).

Kashmir martyrs' sacrifices continue to pay off: ex-PM

Bureau Report



MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said in his message on the occasion of Kashmir Martyrs Day that the martyrs of 13 July laid the foundations of Kashmir's freedom movement with their blood and determined the future paths of future generations. These

sacrifices of the people of Kashmir against the Dogra tyranny are now continuing with great style and passion. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the people of Occupied Kashmir are still making sacrifices following the footsteps of the martyrs of Kashmir. Like the Dogra rulers, India is suppressing the right and truth of Kashmiris by force. He said that the Kashmir issue has become the flash point of South Asia. He said that the goal set by sacrificing his life outside the Srinagar Central Jail is still in front of the eyes of the entire nation and the sacrifices are continuing to achieve it, the day is not far when these sacrifices will bear fruits and the occupied people of Kashmir will breathe in free air. On July 13, 1931, twenty-two people sacrificed their lives in front of the Srinagar Central Jail. But one person from the crowd started giving azan and was shot dead by the Dogra soldiers. And 22 people sacrificed their lives to complete this azan. Today, this day is celebrated in memory of this great sacrifice. These sacrifices will not go in vain and Kashmir will be free by the willing of God Insha Allah.

E-sports Marketing Pakistan presents CS-GO 5v5 'The Last Ride'

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: As e-sports are gaining popularity and recognition in various countries around the world, Pakistan is also witnessing the emergence of a vibrant e-gaming culture. Fast Sports HD Pakistan's best Sports Channel and Tapmad, the country's leading OTT platform, has forged a strategic partnership with E-Sports Marketing Pakistan, the pioneer of e-sports advertising/marketing in the country, to bring more thrilling and engaging e-gaming events to the Pakistani audience.

The currently from these events is an online tournament for the game CS:GO titled as CS-GO 5v5 The Last Ride, where gamers and teams from all over Pakistan, including some of the top players in the country, will compete for glory and prizes. The tournament will be live streamed on Esports Marketing and Tapmad platforms, and will be broadcasted live on Fast Sports, with commentary by the renowned esports caster Arhum Rasul-The Low FPS dude. Esports Marketing Pakistan also invites other local organizations, investors, brands, and ad agencies to join them in their mission to foster the growth of the e-sports industry in the country. For more details, please visit their Facebook Page-Esports Marketing Pakistan <https://www.facebook.com/esportsmarketingpk/>

Poll tracking: Biden's popularity drops to 40% as economy remains top worry

United States President Joe Biden's popularity lingered at 40% — close to the lowest levels of his presidency — in early July as economic fears continued to trouble people in the country, as per a Reuters/Ipsos poll this week.

The results of the three-day online poll, which asked people, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?" and ended on Monday, showed a marginal decrease from his 41% approval rating a month earlier, within the survey's three percentage point margin of error.

21% respondents declared the economy as their top concern, following by 15% who cited crime or corruption. The White House in recent weeks has kicked off a series of events aimed to lift Americans' dour mood about the economy, touting what it calls the Democratic president's "Bidenomics" agenda.

Biden's rating is identical to his Republican predecessor Donald Trump's 41% approval at this point in his presidency, a relatively low number compared to their immediate predecessors, Democrat Barack Obama and Republican George W. Bush.

UK Acting High Commissioner calls on Raja Riaz Ahmed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Raja Riaz Ahmed said that international community must intervene to resolve Kashmir issue as per UNO resolutions. He also said that abrogating constitutional status of Kashmir is great injustice and international community should take cognizance to the plight of Kashmiri people. He also said that Pakistan and UK enjoys cordial relations based upon mutual interests and commonality of views. He expressed these views during his meeting with UK Acting High Commissioner in Pakistan Ms. Zoe Ware in Parliament House Islamabad today.



Raja Riaz Ahmed said that Pakistan values high its ties with UK. He also said that contesting elections is right of every political party and no political party should be banned. Furthermore, he also strongly condemned the 9th May vandalism and demanded that all those involved in anti state activities must be brought to

justice. He also said that constitution ensures all fundamental rights including Right of Freedom of Speech. He also berated about process of choosing next caretaker Prime Minister.

UK Acting High Commissioner in Pakistan Ms Zoe Ware said that UK and Pakistan enjoys cordial

relations based upon trade. She also expressed that UK stance on Kashmir is unchanged and Participating in G-20 in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir was to promote tourism. She said that UK would continue to support Pakistan in its endeavours for socio-economic development.

July 13 important milestone in the history of AfJK: PM



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq has said that July 13 was an important milestone and a glorious chapter in the history of the Kashmir freedom movement.

In his message issued on the occasion of the Kashmir martyrs day, the PM said that on this fateful day in 1931, 22 Kashmiri Muslims were martyred by the Dogra forces in the premises of the central jail in Srinagar.

Paying rich tributes to Kashmiri martyrs, the PM said that 13th July incident was a unique incident in the entire Islamic History wherein 22 Kashmiris one after the other offered their lives to accomplish Azan (the call to prayer). He said that the unprecedented aspect of this incident was that all the martyrs bore bullet marks on their chests and none of them was shot in the back.

Referring to the Maharaja's repressive and anti-Muslim policies, he said that in the early 1930s the tyranny of the Dogra Maharaja in Kashmir had touched to its peak. "Muslims were being treated as worthless creatures, whereas, desecration of Mosques and Holy Quran, had become a new normal", he said, adding that on the one hand a cruel tax regime was imposed by the government while on the other Kashmiris especially the Muslims were banned from holding land.

"No one was allowed to raise his voice against the oppression and cruelty of despotic rulers", he said.

Referring to Abdul Qadeer Khan's role in the struggle that shook the foundations of the Maharaja, the PM said that on June 25, Abdul Qadeer Khan delivered a historic speech during a meeting of the Young Muslim Association at Khanqah Moala in Srinagar and asked Kashmiris to stand up and raise their revolt against the brutality of the Maharaja.

Social leader Maryam Idris calls on President Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Leader of social and human rights Maryam Idris met with the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry at the President's House, Islamabad. Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that India's face has been exposed to the world after the increasing atrocities, unconstitutional measures and human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir, against which Kashmiris protested all over the world, Pakistan also raised its voice, some other countries including China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia boycotted the meeting and India's plan failed.

Kashmiris should be given their right to self-determination according to the resolutions of the United Nations, they are raising their voices to highlight the issue of Kashmir at every forum, they will not remain silent, Pakistan is advocating for Kashmiris, more effective measures need to be taken, Pakistan should Yasin.

Against the unjust punishment of the country should go to the International Court of Justice, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry praised the efforts of social leader Maryam Idris on this occasion and said her work is commendable and the young gener-



ation should move forward.

In the meeting, Maryam Idris praised the efforts of President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the international level and said that he raised the voice of Kashmiris at every forum, as a leader of social and human rights.

I think everyone should do their part to highlight this cause in the world and to expose India's human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir.

Maryam Idris said that only an

educated society can give the best leadership. In the meeting, he told the President of Azad Kashmir about the visits to government schools and colleges in Azad Kashmir and also presented a report based on the problems faced by the educational institutions and suggestions for their solution.

That they will play their full role to solve these problems. In the end, he also presented shield to Maryam Idris for her excellent work on various social issues including education, health and raising her voice for Kashmir cause.

'Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Day II of Gandhara Symposium 2023: "Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan" commenced with the Fourth Session on "Exploring the Spirit of Gandhara: Preserving the Past & Illuminating the Future." The session was moderated by Dr. Asma Ibrahim, Director, State Bank Museum, Head of ICOM Pakistan. Speakers of the

session were Prof. Ruth Young, Prof of Archaeology, University of Leicester, UK; Ms. Yi Yun Jung, Senior Researcher, Cultural Heritage Foundation, South Korea; Nishantha Pushpakumara, Dir Min. of Buddhasana Religious And Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka; Prof. Dr. Hridya Ratna Bajracharya; Former VC Lumbini University, Nepal; and Prof. Xiang Dehao, Prof. School of International Journalism & Communication, Beijing University.

In the Concluding Session, a summary of the Symposium was presented by Dr. Abdul Samad that highlighted key takeaways from the 2-day Panel Discussions, Round Table and In-house deliberations. This was followed by concluding remarks from Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, who stressed inter-faith harmony and shared his views and suggestions on promoting Gandhara tourism. An address by the Chief Guest Minister for Religious Affairs



and Inter-faith, Senator Talha Mahmood, was delivered. Senator Talha Mahmood indicated that developing sustainable tourism initiatives, particularly related to Gandhara, should be one of our key goals. He high-

lighted the hospitable nature of Pakistani society and dispelled the negative propaganda about security in Pakistan. As a mark of Pakistan promoting inter-faith harmony, he extended an invitation to people of differ-

ent faiths and cultures to visit Pakistan.

Lastly, a Vote of Thanks was presented by DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood. He congratulated the organizers and participants on the completion

of the academic sessions, which had held in-depth deliberations on various aspects of Gandhara civilization, and produced takeaways that would be beneficial in crafting an appropriate strategy and action plan.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
45,514.95	45,155.79
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,582.30	45,200.35
Index Value	Change
10,526,572,200	+359.16
Percentage	Time
+0.8%	12 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,416.11	+133.59
Percentage	Time
+1.83%	12 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,403.46	+142.04
Percentage	Time
+0.41%	12 Jul, 1:23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,943.93	-259.64
Percentage	Time
-0.81%	12 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191	195
Bahrain Dinar	741.93	749.93
Canadian Dollar	214	216
China Yuan	38.7	39.1
Danish Krone	41.14	41.54
Euro	302	305
Hong Kong Dollar	35.72	36.07
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.34	917.34
Malaysian Ringgit	59.87	60.47
New Zealand \$	173.56	175.56
Norwegians Krone	26.61	26.91
Omani Riyal	724.56	732.56
Qatari Riyal	76.81	77.51
Saudi Riyal	73.2	74
Singapore Dollar	205	207
Swedish Korona	25.91	26.21
Swiss Franc	315.27	317.77
Thai Bhat	7.96	8.11
U.A.E Dirham	76.4	77.2
UK Pound Sterling	355	361
US Dollar	278	281

PM stresses balance in pricing of life-saving drugs & pharma sector growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed the formulation of a balanced strategy that could lower the pricing formula of life-saving drugs and also ensure growth of the country's pharmaceutical industry. Addressing the Pharma Export Summit and Awards (PESA-2023), he said the government was committed to protecting the poor on one hand besides helping the pharmaceutical sector to thrive.

The event organized by Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA) gathered corporate heads of national and multinational pharmaceutical companies and pharma experts.

The prime minister said the country's pharmaceutical industry was playing an important role in meeting the demands of medicine.

He paid tributes to the companies for propelling the export of medicines.

Because of the steep rise in the cost of raw materials, he said, the prices of medicine witnessed an upsurge.

He, however, stressed that the situation must not lead to conflict with the production of life-saving drugs.

PM Sharif constituted a committee to resolve the issues and demands of the pharma industry within two weeks.



He hoped that before the completion of the constitutional term of incumbent government, the matters pertaining to the pharma industry would be resolved amicably.

The prime minister expressed confidence that the board meeting of the International Monetary Fund this evening would help open more Letters of Credit (LCs) relating to pharma products.

"This is just the beginning of a long journey, for which, the government, businessmen and all institutions need to work together," he said.

He said the nation could make remarkable progress if all segments work with unity within their ambitions.

Regarding Saudi Arabia's \$2 billion deposit with the State Bank of Pakistan, the prime

minister gave the entire credit to army chief General Asim Munir, saying this happened "purely due to his untiring efforts".

Shehbaz Sharif recalled that in 2016, while serving as Chief Minister of Punjab, he effectively carried out transparent procurement of medicines for the government hospitals, saving Rs 8 billion.

He mentioned that state-of-the-art laboratories were set up in the province in collaboration with a British company.

Chairman PPMA Syed Farooq Bukhari said the pharmaceutical industry of Pakistan witnessed a 25 percent growth compared to the previous year.

He highlighted the economic aspect of the pharmaceutical industry and managing the supply of life-saving drugs under Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP).

Also, he pointed out that DRAP needed to ensure quality assurance of medicines in the markets.

The 6th Pakistan Pharma Summit and PESA'23 was held with the aim to celebrate achievements of the pharmaceutical industry and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

Founded in 1961, the PPMA is recognized by the government of Pakistan as the only representative Pharma body in the country having 400 members which comprises both national and multinational companies.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Members of Municipal Labor Union hold protest in the favour of their demands at Murree Road on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Masses need to know about beneficiaries of \$3bn in loans

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Wednesday that the nation wants to know the names of those businessmen who got three billion dollars in interest-free loans amid the pandemic during the previous regime.

Keeping the names of those who took interest-free loans of three billion dollars secret by various institutions shows that there is something wrong in the whole drama, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the secrecy shrouding the whole matter and the efforts of different banks to keep the names of recipients hidden is suspicious and an insult to the masses and the taxpayers.

He said that during the previous regime, 620 people were given interest-free loans



worth three billion dollars in the name of helping the business community during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Their names are being kept secret, and the masses are being denied the right to know about them, which is a clear violation of their fundamental rights.

The public has the right to know who received this money and whether this investment was in the country's interest or against it, he added.

The business leader said that there is a need to hold accountable the politicians who took loans from foreign institutions and allowed them to be distributed among cronies while ignoring the plight of the public.

Prices of wheat, flour, and sugar have increased tremendously: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that differences have started in the various parties that are part of the ruling PDM.

There are differences over the date of elections and the issue of power sharing, as a result of which political instability may increase, which worries the business community, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan has narrowly avoided bankruptcy and the fear of default has not ended, therefore, the need for economic reforms is becoming more and more serious.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that politicians should resolve their internal differences and not bring them to public forums so that investors are not harassed.

He said that the news of differences in



the ruling coalition is everywhere, and the main reason for these differences is that different parties demand more than their right and try to deprive others of their legitimate rights.

According to the reports, at present, the tussle is going on over the slots of chairman of the Senate and president.

In these circumstances, the fragmented opposition is also eager to take advantage of the opportunity, while the people believe that the purpose of political unity and chaos is to gain power or fulfill personal ambitions.

The business leader said that Pakistan is facing many problems, including terrorism, inflation, poverty, and unemployment. In the last two days, the prices of wheat, flour, and sugar have increased immensely, which needs to be controlled.

If the ruling coalition concentrates on the problems of the people instead of unnecessary matters and provides relief to them, it will have a great political advantage, which will help it win the upcoming elections.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that saving domestic and foreign investors from disappointment and increasing their confidence is the responsibility of the government till the last day, which should be carried out in an efficient manner, otherwise, all the hard work will be wasted.

NTDC restores DG Khan-Loralai transmission line

News Desk

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Despatch Company Ltd (NTDC) has successfully restored power supply through the energization of the 220 kV Double Circuit D. G. Khan-Loralai transmission line. The achievement comes after the completion of rehabilitation works on three towers near Kingri in Balochistan, which were effected due to torrential rains in the area four days back.

Responding swiftly to the situation, NTDC mobilized its team and contractor under the guidance of Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan,

Managing Director NTDC. As a result of the tireless efforts, the rehabilitation works were completed within just four days. It is worth noting that NTDC was able to maintain power supply to the associated areas through alternate sources during this period.

The Managing Director NTDC expressed his appreciation for the timely completion of the rehabilitation works and re-energization of the transmission line, recognizing the efforts of the Project Delivery (South) team. He also expressed gratitude to the law enforcement agencies for their support and ensuring security to NTDC team during rehabilitation works.

Rwanda is a great place to invest with business-friendly policies, High Commissioner

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Rwanda to Pakistan, James KIMONYO, has said that Rwanda is the best investment destination for Pakistan's business community with its peace, business-friendly environment and transparency. Rwanda can be a launching pad for Pakistan in the Central Africa region.

This region is a vast market with 30 crore people and 8 countries. Rwanda has overcome the difficulties of the past to become a strong and fast developing country. The private sector has a big hand in the economic development of Rwanda.

I invite the business community of Pakistan to invest in Rwanda and the embassy will provide full support in this regard. He expressed these views while talking to President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to Islamabad Chamber on Wednesday. On this occasion, Pakistani High Commissioner for Rwanda Naem Khan and Defense Attaché of

Rwanda were also present with him. Ambassador James KIMONYO said that Rwanda has pulled itself out of difficult situations in the last 20 years due to continuity in policies and strong leadership.

Our country has left the conflicts and rebellions of the past far behind. Rwanda has now become the best place for investment, business and tourism not only in Africa but also in the whole world. He said that I invite the Pakistani business community to take advantage of the business-friendly environment of Rwanda. There are many possibilities to take the trade relations between Pakistan and Rwanda to new heights.

Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the development of Rwanda in just 20 years after the long civil war is an example for Pakistan. At present, the volume of mutual trade between Pakistan and Rwanda is 34 million dollars, in which Pakistan's share is only 4 million dollars. This trade

volume is far below the potential of both countries. It needs to be at least doubled in the next few years. He said that pharmaceuticals is a sector in which Pakistan has the most investment opportunities.

Pakistan High Commissioner in Rwanda Naem Khan said that there has been satisfactory progress in the relations between Pakistan and Rwanda in recent times. As Pakistan's High Commissioner, improving trade relations is one of my priorities. We have decided to build a display center in the building of the Pakistan High Commissioner in Kigali, which will house the products of Pakistan. He said that the High Commission will play its role for the B2B and one-to-one meetings of Pakistan's trade delegation.

On this occasion, Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar Islam said that it is necessary to continuously exchange business delegations to evaluate business opportunities between the two countries. In this regard, the diplomatic staff posted in both countries should play their role.



Speaking on the occasion, Honorary Consul General of Rwanda in Pakistan Farooq Azam Khawaja said that Rwanda's business-friendly environment is the best in Africa. International organizations praise the transparency of Rwanda's system. Relations between Pakistan

and Rwanda are improving. In the last 2 years alone, more than 200 people from different fields have migrated to Rwanda with their families. Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, Tuseef Rehman, Humayun Kabir and others also participated in the meeting.

Golfing events at Islamabad Air Force Skyview end after three rounds

✉ Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The events for professional golf players came to a booming conclusion after three rounds in the 1st President PGA Open Golf Championship at the exquisite and most fascinating par-72, Pakistan Air Force Skyview Golf and Country Club Golf Course. This title bearing event was a competition for the most eligible 100 top golf champions of the country and in accordance with its importance the golf arena had been prepared exceedingly well and met the required standards and for this all credit to the inspirational support of Air Cdre Imran Pervaiz, Sqn Ldr Muhammed Faizan and the team.

While the professional events have ended, the next three days are reserved for amateurs, senior amateurs and ladies.

The professional golf players are the top golfers of our national golf circuit and as when they compete in golf tournaments, game of a high class is witnessed, as these champions vie for honors and cash prizes.

Over the past three days in this championship too, 100 top professionals from all over country participated and after two rounds, 46 stood eliminated and based on commendable performance only 54 were selected to play the decid-

ing round on Wednesday.

And in this deciding round, the whole spotlight was on the 200 titles winner Muhammed Shabbir Iqbal of Islamabad Golf Club and robust and exceptionally potent champion in the making, Muhammed Shahzad of Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Club. Based on his phenomenal competing capabilities, the pundits considered Shabbir as the likely winner, but as the final round teed off, noticeable was a display of excellence on the part of both combatants. While Shabbir was flawless in shot making and all round game, equally unblemished and outstandingly pristine was Muhammed Shahzad. Shabbir's card for the day was a stunning 66 and M. Shahzad ended the 18 holes with a score of a marvellous 67. That enabled Shabbir to conclude three days golfing activity with scores of 71, 69 and 66 and a championship aggregate of 206, ten under par. And as luck would have it, his challenger, M. Shahzad also ended with scores of 68, 71 and 67 and an aggregate of 206, ten under par. With scores at level, while others watched eagerly, these rivals went into a sudden death playoff to decide the winner.

The sudden death playoff produced an unsurpassed matching of playing ability. First hole of the sudden death playoff was level, as were the second,

third and fourth holes and tension went soaring. Finally it was at the fifth hole that M. Shahzad acquired ascendancy with a masterful approach shot that fetched Shahzad a birdie while Shabbir had to be content with a bogey. A memorable moment of success for M. Shahzad and the first one to embrace him was Col Rustam Chatta, his mentor and playing mate during practice sessions at Lahore Garrison. Cheers went up as did a huge round of handshakes and Shahzad started to look like a golfing hero.

As for the other contenders seeking positions other than the first and second, M. Naem of Peshawar came third. His score for the championship was 211, five under par. Following him other performers were Waheed Baloch (Karachi) 214, Rehmatullah (DHA) 215, Muhammed Asif (Defence Raya) 215, Muhammed Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi) 216, Muhammed Zubair (Karachi) 216 and Abdul Zahur (Multan) 216. They are the top ten position holders in this 1st President PGA Open Golf Event for golf professionals.

Results of Senior Professional Event and Junior Professional Event
M. Akram (Gymkhana) first with a score of 148 ; Nisar Hussain (PAF) second, M. Tariq (Islamabad) third, Muhammed Akhter (Islamabad)



fourth, S/Lt Tariq Mehmood, fifth and Col Rustam Ali Chattha, sixth.

In the Junior Professional Category, the best junior of the event was Rehan Babar of Lahore Garrison. Runner up junior was Ashraf Ahmed of Karachi Airmen Golf Club and Abid Iqbal of Gymkhana was third.

Subsequent to the conclusion of the Professionals Events, cash prizes were awarded to the top three players in Professional Section, Senior Professional Section and Junior Professional Section. Prizes were awarded by Brig Ayyaz Masood Khan (Retd), Secretary of Punjab Golf and Air Cdre Imran

Pervaiz, Tournament Director in the presence of Kashif Bhatti and M. Zakir of Punjab Golf Association and golf professionals.

The next three days are earmarked for competition among amateurs, senior amateurs and ladies at the PAF Skyview Golf Course.

Guyana Amazon Warriors pick Saim Ayub, Mohammad Haris for CPL 2023

✉ A Sports

LAHORE: West Indies's marquee T20 event Caribbean Premier League (CPL) franchise Guyana Amazon Warriors picked Mohammad Haris and Saim Ayub for the upcoming edition of the tournament.

The 11th edition of the CPL will run from August 17 to September 25 with six teams fighting to get their hands on the coveted title.

Meanwhile, the CPL on Wednesday, revealed three teams have confirmed their fifth overseas player ahead of this year's extravaganza.

Consequently, the five-time runners-up Guyana Amazon Warriors have bolstered their squad with the addition of Pakistan batting prodigy Saim Ayub and Mohammad Haris.

Saim rose to fame during this year's Pakistan Super League (PSL). He scored 341 runs in 12 matches, at a strike rate of 165.53 with the help of



five half-centuries.

The left-handed batter, at the back of a scintillating domestic record, got his maiden call-up for the away T20I series against Afghanistan in March.

He opened the innings for Pakistan in the three-match series against Afghanistan and scored 66 runs in as many matches, including a sensible 49-run knock in the final fixture.

Additionally, the Warriors have also announced that Rahmanullah Gurbaz will not be available for some of this year's CPL due to international commitments. Gurbaz will be replaced by Pakistan international Mohammad Haris for that period.

Notably, Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Haris will captain Pakistan Shaheens in the eight-team 15-match ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup 2023, which is scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka from 14 to 23 July.

Haris-led Pakistan Shaheens squad was scheduled to depart in the wee hours of Tuesday from Lahore for Sri Lanka via Dubai to feature in the eight-team tournament.

Shaheens are slotted in Group B with India A, Nepal and UAE A. Shaheens will open their campaign on 14 July with a match against Nepal, after which they play UAE A and India A on 17 and 19 July, respectively.

India's Sunil Chhetri claims to be better than Ronaldo, Messi

✉ A Sports



LAHORE: India's footballer Sunil Chhetri came up with a shocking comparison as he claimed himself to be better than star footballers Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo when it comes to representing the national team.

Sunil Chhetri, who has been leading India's national football team for over a decade is considered one of the most decorated footballers in India's history. The striker is in the list of the top 10 highest goal scorers alongside Ronaldo and Messi.

The star Indian footballer denied any comparison of him with the rest of the leading goal scorers before claiming that he could be even better when it comes to representing the national team.

"There's no comparison with the rest of the nine names on the list. I mean, I am a fan of players like Ronaldo and Messi, just like so many other fans of them. There's just no comparison, and I don't take this list, or whatever this list is, too seriously. But, yes, when it comes to representing the national team, I can be even better than them," Chhetri said.

"Right now, international football is such that no one knows what will happen, and underdogs, too, can win! You just never know what is going to happen in football. That's why we have to give our best, and that's a message I am trying to send to the rest of the team," he added.

Earlier this month, Sunil Chhetri led India to South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship title victory and finished the tournament as the leading goal-scorer and was also named the Player of the Tournament.

Speaking about the tournament, Sunil Chhetri gratefully acknowledged the support and encouragement that he and the rest of the Indian team had received.

"It has been great, the support, right from day 1 (of the tournament). On the pitch, the way fans were and encouraged us throughout the game was something special and something magical. Also, the fact that Kuwait and Lebanon — who were India's opponents in the final and the semi-finals, respectively — are not exactly SAFF teams. They were invited, and they are really good quality sides. So beating them, competitions like them, also felt great."

Sanjay Dutt eager to meet Javed Miandad in LPL

✉ A Sports

LAHORE: Prominent Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has expressed his desire to meet Pakistan's cricket legend Javed Miandad. In a video message for the former skipper of the national cricket team, Javed Miandad, Bollywood celebrity Sanjay Dutt extended his greetings and expressed his desire to meet him soon in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

In the clip, Sanjay Dutt, who has recently joined the Lankan Premier League as the co-owner of the T20 franchise team, B Love Kandy, shared his fondness for Javed Miandad and the mentor of the team. "It feels so good to see you after this long. See you soon in Kandy," Dutt addressed Miandad in the video.

Sharing the clip on his Twitter handle, the cricket icon wrote, "Thank you Dear @duttсанжай and @OmarKhanOK2 for all the love, anxiously waiting to join @BLoveKandy in August 2023 in #LPL2023!"



It is pertinent to mention that the fourth edition of LPL, the T20 franchise cricket tournament in Sri Lanka, is scheduled to be played between five teams, from July 31

to August 22.

A total of 13 Pakistan cricketers were roped in for the upcoming fourth edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) in the

player auction which took place last month.

Notably, before the auction took place, some of Pakistan's notable cricketers had already found new homes in the LPL. Leading the charge is the formidable Pakistan captain, Babar Azam, who will be representing the Colombo Strikers.

Joining Babar in the LPL was the young and fiery fast bowler, Naseem Shah, who had also been acquired by the Colombo franchise. Another key addition to the LPL is the explosive batsman, Fakhar Zaman, who will be donning the colours of the B-Love Kandy team.

Pakistan Players to participate in LPL 2023

B-Love Kandy: Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Hasnain, Asif Ali, Mohammad Haris, Aamer Jamal

Colombo Strikers: Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Wahab Riaz, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Nawaz

Jaffna Kings: Shoaib Malik, Zaman Khan.

Pakistan dominate SLC President XI but tour match ends in a draw

✉ Sports Desk

HAMBANTOTA: The two-day tour match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) President XI ended as a draw despite a dominant all-round show from the touring side.

At the closure of play on Day 2, SLC President XI were 88/4 and were still trailing by 58 runs.

Salman Ali Agha led Pakistan's bowling attack in the second innings with two wickets, followed by one each from Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah.

Earlier on the second and final day of the tour match, Pakistan gathered a 146-run lead over the inexperienced SLC President XI courtesy of brilliant half-centuries by skipper Babar Azam, Shan Masood and Saud Shakeel.

The touring side, resuming at an overnight score of 160/3, continued to pile on SLC President XI misery as Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel partnered

strongly.

The pair batted sensibly and added 126 runs to the total and powered Pakistan to 286/3 at Lunch as both scored half-centuries.

Babar scored an unbeaten 79, laced with seven boundaries and a six while Saud scored 61 not out with the help of six boundaries.

The duo then retired out to pave the way for the rest of their batters to prepare well for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan's middle order responded well to the opportunity and added another 54 runs to the team's total before skipper Babar Azam called for declaration.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's star with the bat on the opening day, Shan Masood, remained the top-scorer for the touring side with a brisk 83 off 67 deliveries, hitting nine boundaries and three sixes.

Put into bat first, the SLC

President XI struggled against the ruthless Pakistan bowling attack and could only pile a modest 196 runs on the scoreboard.

Opening batter Oshada Fernando waged a lone battle for Sri Lanka with a gutsy century and played a marathon fighting knock.

The right-handed batter smashed 14 boundaries on his way to a 128-ball 109 before young pacer Aamer Jamal got rid of him.

Besides Fernando, no other SLC President XI batter could make a notable contribution. Kamindu Mendis (22) was the second top-scorer for the side while six of their batters failed to make it into the double figures.

Pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali led the bowling attack for Pakistan with three wickets each while Aamer Jamal and Abrar Ahmed bagged two each.

The two-day tour match will

serve as an opportunity for Pakistan to get used to the Sri Lankan conditions and is currently underway at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium.

Following the conclusion of the tour match, Pakistan will take on Sri Lanka in a two-match Test series, their first assignment in the newly-started World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 cycle.

The first Test of the series will take place from July 16 to 20 at Galle International Cricket Stadium while the second Test will be held from July 24 to 28 in Colombo.

Pakistan squad: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan, Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Huraire, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Shan Masood.



SLC President XI Squad: Niroshan Dickwella (WK), Oshada Fernando, Sandun Weerakkody, Kamindu Mendis

– Captain, Ahan Wickremasinghe, Nipun Dhananjaya, Nuwanindu Fernando, Lakshitha Marnasinghe, Praveen Jayawickrama,

Shashika Dulshan, Kavishka Anjula, Milan Ratnayake, Asanka Manoj, Mohammed Shiraz.