



Masses bearing brunt of economic destruction brought by 'project Imran': Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the present government had saved the country from default by addressing the economic challenges deliberately created by the previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). (Details on Page 8)



SAPM Romina for urgent collective action to combat climate change

SAPM and Convener of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday called for urgent collective action to combat climate change to save the planet earth and future generations. She said, "Pakistan is one of the worst hit countries by the climate induced catastrophes but despite resources constraint, the country remains firm in its commitment.... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 29, Tuesday, July 18, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 99

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Corps Commanders' Conference

Rawalpindi: COAS General Syed Asim Munir presided 258th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at the General Headquarters on Monday.



Pakistan Army vows to provide all-out support to govt for 'economic revival'

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army vowed to provide all-out support to government for the 'economic revival' of the country.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, presided over the 258th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ today.

The Pak army media wing stated that the forum paid rich

tribute to the supreme sacrifices persistently being offered by the valiant soldiers in the defence of their motherland against the threat of terrorism.

ISPR said that the participants were briefed in detail about the prevailing Internal Security environment. The sanctuaries and liberty of action available to the terrorists of proscribed TTP and other groups of that ilk in a neighboring country and the availability of latest weapons to the terrorists were noted as

major reasons impacting the security of Pakistan. Furthermore, the Corps Commanders' Conference deliberated in detail upon the operational preparedness and training aspects of the army.

COAS Asim Munir stated that "Objective training remains the hallmark of our professionalism and we must always remain prepared to guard against any threat to our national security."

The forum was also apprised about the Government's

economic revival plan and role of Army in uplifting agriculture, IT, mining & mineral and defence production sectors under the ambit of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan constituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the economic revival of the country.

The Economic Revival Plan was unveiled during a high-level meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and

attended by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Chief Ministers, Federal and Provincial Ministers and high-level government officials.

The COAS, speaking at the occasion, assured Pakistan Army's all-out support to complement the government's efforts for Economic Revival Plan, considered fundamental to socio-economic prosperity of Pakistanis and reclaiming Pakistan's rightful nature among the comity of nations.

Pervez Khattak launches new political party

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Former defense minister Pervez Khattak on Monday launched new political party under the name of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentarians.

Khattak who was expelled from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), last week, over his statement against the party chief, announced his new political party.

PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan issued the termination letter 'with reference to the show cause notice' served to Pervez Khattak last month.

The new political party has been PTI Parliamentarian. Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief Minister Mahmood Khan along with 57 former PTI lawmakers including former provincial minister, Ishtiaq, Shaukat Ali, Dr. Aasia Aad, Somali Falaknaz, Ziaullah Bangash, Ibrahim Khattak,



Ahmed Hussain Shah, Javed Akbar and others are part of the PTI Parliamentarians.

Khattak also condemned the May 9 riots that were triggered after arrest of the PTI chairman.

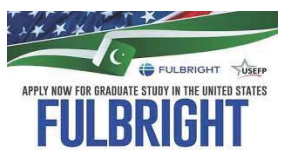
On Sunday, Pervez Khattak said that he would decide about his political future after consultation with like-minded people.

Speaking exclusively to ARY News, Khattak said a meeting had been summoned to consult about their political future.

Pervez Khattak also denied joining or forming any political party, saying that future of action of plan will be made in tomorrow's meeting.

170 Fulbright Scholarship students to depart for USA

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) Monday announced that 170 accomplished Pakistanis had been awarded the prestigious 'Fulbright Scholarship' to study and conduct advanced research at leading US universities.

The flagship academic exchange program of the U. S. Government, the Fulbright Program, enabled students from around the world to attend universities across the United States, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The 2023 cohort gathered for a two-day pre-departure orientation to prepare for their educational journey and learn about the American culture, life on campus, and opportunities for exchange students in the United States.

US Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, William Ostick congratulated the students on securing the scholarship and advised them to connect with fellow students and learn from

each other's experiences.

"In the United States, the students will be cultural ambassadors, strengthening ties between the peoples of Pakistan and the United States. They will connect with Americans eager to learn more about Pakistan. And when return, the student can help explain America - its people, its values, and its character their communities," he added.

This year's 170 participants belong to 44 public and private universities. Among these are 129 Master's and 41 PhD students and 7 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) fellows.

Women represent 61 percent of this year's departing cohort. The recipients will begin their educational journey this fall at 81 U. S. universities in various disciplines, including engineering, energy management, and social sciences.

Over Rs20b disbursed for parliamentarians' uplift schemes

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has disbursed more than Rs20 billion funds for the uplift schemes of the parliamentarians.

The federal government has started the disbursement of Rs61 billion to the parliamentarians in instalments for the uplift schemes. Over Rs20 billion has been disbursed to the Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) for their development schemes.

Sources within the Planning Commission told media that the disbursement process for schemes led by the parliamentarians has commenced and the first instalment worth over Rs20 billion was disbursed to the MNAs under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PM, Sri Lankan President reaffirm to continue long-standing cooperation in diverse fields

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday agreed to continue the long-standing cooperation in areas of mutual interest and further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries.

The prime minister held a telephone call with the Sri Lankan president.

The prime minister emphasized the need to work together to fight poverty and promote economic growth and development for the benefit of the entire region, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He also expressed his desire to promote peace and enhance connectivity through regional coop-



eration.

The two leaders fondly recalled the close and cordial relations and immense goodwill between the people of the two countries.

The president of Sri Lanka thanked the prime minister for conveying warm sentiments on behalf of the people of Pakistan.

Separately on his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Sri Lanka were underpinned by reservoirs of goodwill and good neighbourliness between our two countries.

"I had the pleasure of speaking to H. E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, earlier today to thank him for his support to Pakistan during my meeting with MD IMF," he added.

Over the decades, the prime minister further said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka had been close allies and friends and stood by each other through thick and thin.

"I remember how a team of Sri Lankan doctors stayed in Lahore and helped the Punjab government deal with dengue epidemic which was devouring precious human lives in Lahore," the prime minister said in a tweet.

He also expressed his desire to working with the Sri Lankan president to further build on the friendly relations between the two countries.

Pakistan put on road to progress again, says Ahsan Iqbal

Bureau Report

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said, "Today we have put Pakistan back in its place", as Pak Rupee is gaining strength, stock exchange is improving and country's economy is stabilising.

Addressing the opening ceremony of Nisar Fatima Auditorium, Jamia Masjid and Innovation Centre at the UET Narowal Campus on Monday, he said that on July 14, China made investment of \$3.5 billion in Chashma nuclear power plant, and billions of dollars more investment would come to the country in the coming weeks.

He hoped that people would make a right decision in the next general election, and then Pakistan would be put on the road to development again.

Ahsan Iqbal said the UET Narowal was making a place for itself among the best universities of the world. Students would play a proactive role in the country's development after getting education from this university. He said that in the year 2009, he dreamed of setting up an engineering university campus, which had been fulfilled today.

He said the government wanted the youth to excel in all spheres of education and that was why it

Govt launches crackdown against illegal loan application: Amin

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Amin-ul-Haque Monday said in a decisive move to combat fraudulent loan applications, the government initiated a crackdown against illegal loan providers.

In a statement, he said, that Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Major General (r) Hafeezur Rehman directed immediately to take swift



action on the illegal loan applications.

Under the orders issued, 43 loan applications had already been blocked, said Amin-ul-Haque.

The targeted companies, operating within the lending industry, were registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he added.

Highlighting the severity of the issue, Amin-ul-Haque shed light on the involvement of mafia groups operating through social media platforms, particularly Facebook.

These unscrupulous entities have resorted to blackmailing innocent individuals, exploiting their financial vulnerabilities.

To raise awareness and safeguard the public, a comprehensive public awareness campaign has been launched.

The citizens are urged to report any suspicious loan applications or incidents involving the loan mafia groups to the PTA, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing, or their local police stations.

The collaborative efforts of various law enforcement agencies aimed to address the increasing cybercrime wave in the country.

Caretaker CM inspects RIC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conducted a thorough inspection of various departments at the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC), which included the emergency ward, CT scan, X-ray room, and fluoroscopy.

During the visit, he interacted with patients and their attendants to garner feedback on the medical facilities, with a particular focus on angiography, angioplasty, and overall cleanliness standards. The patients and their attendants expressed their contentment with the provided amenities and commended the attentiveness of the doctors and paramedics, as well as the availability of medicines at the hospital.

Recognizing the significance of accessible healthcare, the chief minister ordered the opening of the



ICU ward to the general public and expressed his satisfaction with the high quality of healthcare services offered at the institution.

He further emphasized that the hospital serves as a valuable healthcare facility for heart patients and expressed his appreciation for the dedication demonstrated by the doctors and paramedics.

In order to ensure the smooth functioning of the hospital, the CM instructed the health secretary to guarantee the availability of necessary funds and other essential requirements.

Inauguration

Quetta: Presidential award winner Faisal Baloch Inaugurating Green bus service, Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz akeli, Provincial Minister for transport Malik Naeem Bazai are also present in the ceremony.



Photo: Online

Masses bearing brunt of economic destruction brought by 'project Imran': Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the present government had saved the country from default by addressing the economic challenges deliberately created by the previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"Today, the project Imran has become a source of embarrassment for even those who had brought him to power as the masses are bearing the brunt of his 44-month-long economic destruction," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

"The PTI chief has crossed all limits in his enmity towards the country," she said while lauding the leadership and the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had not only saved the country from default, but also charted the country on the path of progress.

At the outset of press conference, she said the incumbent coalition government took many important steps in 14 months to undo the devastation caused by the four-year misrule of the inefficient and incompetent rulers.

The PTI chief's 44-month reign was a period of economic destruction, inflation, theft, loot and plunder, she added. His government signed the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on tough conditions, first violated it and then suspended, pushing the country to the brink of default.

The PTI chairman had, in fact, crossed all limits to harm national interests as he and his cronies wanted the country to default like Sri Lanka, she added.

The petrol price was, she said, reduced by the PTI chief in 2022 in violation of the IMF programme and it was done intentionally to get petty political mileage.



The minister recalled that when the present government came to power as a result of the first ever successful no-confidence motion in country's history against the former prime minister, the economy was completely in ruins with jobless youth and unprecedented inflation.

There was acute shortage of energy and there was hardly any fund to purchase petroleum products and lique-

fied natural gas (LNG), she added.

"When we came to power, the country was close to default, on the contrary when they (PTI) were brought in the government in 2018, it was developing at a growth rate of over 6.2 per cent."

The minister said when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government ended its tenure in 2018 with surplus electricity, but, ironically, the PTI leaders used to mock the party for producing surplus energy.

Marriyum said the PTI rulers destroyed every sector, including the foreign policy during their 44 months tenure and incumbent government faced great difficulties.

Comparing first 14 months of the PTI regime with the same period of the present coalition government, she said sugar was not only expensive but also out of stock, and similarly flour and electricity were also not available in the market despite not being expensive.

Cancer hospital project inaugurated at PIMS

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Monday inaugurated the 200-bed cancer hospital project at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that a large number of people living in surrounding areas and other cities will get direct benefits from this hospital with having all the necessary medical services for cancer patients. He said that an amount



of Rs one billion has been proposed initially to utilize for the construction of this modern hospital, where all concerned necessary services will be provided.

He said that besides initiating new projects in major hospitals, the government has upgraded the basic health units and rural health centres where daily several hundred patients can visit for the treatment of various diseases and added that more such modern centres will be established in the federal capital.

He said that the aim of the government was to provide all basic health services in every place and village so that citizens have all such services at their doorsteps.

He said that the major hospitals of the federal capi-

tal have been facing a burden of patients and with the setting of new basic health centers, this burden will gradually decrease.

He said that several innovative steps have been taken to make improvements in the health sector and to ensure the provision of all basic health facilities to the country's people.

He said that the government was making efforts to improve access to quality health services, increase budget allocations for health, and invest in infrastructure to meet the health needs of the people of Pakistan.

Pervaiz Elahi detained under 3MPO

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has been detained for a month under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rafia Haider has issued the notification stating that the PTI president will remain in custody at the Camp Jail Lahore for a period of 30 days in order to prevent public disorder. He will stay in Camp Jail under the Superintendent of Camp Jail for the next one month.

The notification mentioned three cases have been registered against Pervaiz Elahi in Qila Gujar Singh police station and Ghalib Market.

The notification said there are three cases against Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, who is a leader of PTI, who may harm law and order. It said the former CM is also wanted by the police in these cases.

LHC bars Pervaiz Elahi's arrest in 'unknown cases'

Earlier, the capital city police on Saturday requested the Lahore deputy commissioner to issue a 30-day detention order for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf president under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).



Central Cloth Board demands end of WASA neglect in Faisalabad plazas

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Naseer Yousaf Vohra, the President of Cloth Board Etihad Pakistan, clarified that the historical indifference of WASA can cause financial and human loss to the people. If the institutions and the employees working in them are deliberately negligent, such institutions, There is absolutely no need for the people. Vohra further said that under the guise of political affiliation, 'inexperienced people have been appointed to positions for which they have no plan & strategy to save and secure the people.

If further more chances are provided to irresponsible officers, surely the public will lose billions of rupees even there is also a strong possibility of heavy loss of lives. He condemned WASA in harsh

words and said that

WASA has reached the end of obstinacy, therefore WASA Faisalabad should be aware and replace the pipelines immediately to prevent the collapse of the plazas comprising of thousands of shops.

He further informed that, Faisalabad Vakilan Wali Gali No. 4, 5, 6, 7 all the plazas will be drowned due to failure of sewage system' and Central Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan cannot remain silent on this dangerous situation.

It should be noted that the sewage water has entered the basement of the plazas due to the willful negligence and arbitrariness of WASA.

Moreover, Haji Abdullah Nawaz Vohra, Senior Deputy, Cloth Board, Itihad Group, Pakistan, has said that Muharram is coming

and non-management of WASA is missing the opportunity to save us.

WASA wants to see dead bodies that will be seen in these plazas because of WASA' but WASA has not been touched by this indifference. The higher authorities should take immediate notice for remedial measures to secure the working persons in these plazas on priority.

A sea of sewage water is flowing in Aminpur Bazar, Chinot Bazar and Vakilan Wali Streets No. 4, 5, 6, 7, he further informed.

WASA employees seem unable to restore the sewage of these streets?

If WASA does not show its performance in a few days, the traders will be on the road to protest & the district administration should pay attention to resolve the sewage system immediately.

SAPM Romina for urgent collective action to combat climate change



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday called for urgent collective action to combat climate change to save the planet earth and future generations.

She said, "Pakistan is one of the worst hit countries by the climate induced catastrophes but despite resources constraint, the country remains firm in its commitment to accomplish all SDGs to save planet earth and to provide a secure and safe environment for future generations. She made these remarks while representing Pakistan in the 'Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', in New York, a news release said.

In her remarks, the Convener emphasized the importance of collective action in combating climate change. She drew attention to the Resolution passed unanimously by the National Assembly on June 23, 2023, which while appreciating the contributions of the United Nations and its agencies in supporting Pakistan's fight against climate change called for climate justice and provision of adequate resources to combat climate induced challenges.

She urged conference participants to leverage their collective experiences and expertise to establish a consortium focused on disaster risk reduction strategies for the Asia-Pacific region. Besides the conference, the Convener will also present Pakistan's case at other prestigious forums arranged at the United Nations. She intends to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to the SDGs at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by highlighting the government's policies focused on education, poverty reduction, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth including the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and Prime Minister's Youth Business & Agriculture Loan Scheme. The Convener will also participate in the IPU's high-level political forum arranged to reflect on the progress of SDGs and what role can the National Parliaments play in mainstreaming the global agenda in local legislations. The conference will also reflect upon the mid-point toward the SDGs. Moreover, the Hon. Convener is also holding exclusive meetings on the sidelines of the conferences. She met with H. E. Csaba Korösi, President of the United Nations General Assembly, and briefed him on the working of the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat, the other day. A meeting of the Hon. Convener and the Undersecretary General of UNESCAP is also scheduled where she will share the concrete steps taken by Pakistan to align its national policies with the 2030 Agenda.

AEDB formally merged with PPIB

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) has formally merged with Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB)

Upon promulgation of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (Amendment) Act, 2023 notified through the Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary, Part-1, as an Act No. XXVI of 2023 dated 10th June 2023, AEDB has merged with PPIB, consequently, the Alternative Energy Development Board Act, 2010 (Act XIV of 2010) stands repealed/ dissolved henceforth, said a statement issued here on Monday.

"We are confident that this merger will pave the way to enhance oper-

ational efficiency and facilitation of investors by extending a true one-window facility for smooth and seamless development and processing of power projects of all technologies including Alternative and Renewable Energy (ARE) projects by PPIB as a one entity on behalf of the Government of Pakistan," it further said.

Managing Director PPIB Shah Jahan Mirza said that the whole team is excited to take fresh responsibility as a challenge for achieving new horizons of excellence and fully poised to harness the indigenous, alternative and renewable potential of the country for powering Pakistan with clean, green and sustainable electricity.

Electoral reforms bill to be tabled before committee today



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the electoral reforms bill will be tabled before the committee today.

As per details, the federal minister said that the draft of the electoral reforms committee has almost been finalized, and now the draft will be converted into written form.

He stated that the meetings took place in closed session to maintain the secrecy of the bill before the proposed time.

Furthermore, Azam Nazir Tarar said that the official statement on the electoral reform draft will be

made tomorrow.

Earlier, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) President Ahmed Bilal Mehboob said that Electoral reforms without opposition would be controversial.

He said one month is left in general elections and electoral reforms cannot be made in such a short time as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will not have enough time to implement those reforms.

The PILDAT President stated that the electoral reforms will be controversial without the opposition as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has already boycotted the electoral reforms committee. The government needs to consult PTI regarding the electoral reforms, Ahmed Bilal added.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the two sessions of the parliamentary committee, the body completed a preliminary review of 70 of the 73 amendment proposals in election law suggested by different political parties.

Some political parties expressed serious reservations over the delay in the announcement of election results. They suggested not accepting the results submitted after a delay.

General elections must be held within 90 Days: Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that there was a consultation between two major parties regarding the caretaker set-up and decisions were made after the consultation. Will the political future of Pakistan be decided in closed rooms? Who has to decide the political future of Pakistan? The leaders of the two major parties have to do or the right will be given to the people to choose the future representatives through a transparent setup. In the meeting between the two, it was also decided that other parties of PDM will also be taken into confidence.

It is decided that what kind of supervisory setup is being prepared? He expressed these views while talking to the media after appearing in the courts in Multan Kachari (District Court) along with his son and former member of the National Assembly Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi. said that from the words of the Prime Minister, it seems that the



assemblies will be dissolved before the time. That is, the elections must be held within 90 days. The government seems to be giving priority to the elections within 90 days. The election date is given by the Election Commission. He said that the meeting in Lahore which was held in Model Town proved the seal on the decisions of Dubai

Everyone knows what was discussed in this meeting. From what the Prime Minister said, I understood that he has decided to dissolve the assem-

blies ahead of time. He said that a committee on electoral reforms has been formed under the chairmanship of Ayaz Sadiq. Yes, electoral reforms are very important and are being done in a hurry. Sarwar Bari was a part of Fafan, he also spoke about electoral reforms. His words should be given importance. Section 9 of Election Act 2017 is very vague. Regarding the amendment, Tehreek-e-Insaf was not taken into confidence. He said that regarding the appointment

of caretaker prime minister, there is a consultation between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition under the constitutional procedure.

The Pakistani delegate talked about human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir and Palestine. In response to the Pakistani delegate, Israel responded. Please see the statement of the Pakistani delegate regarding Israel. In response to a question about giving relief to Parvez Elahi, he said that Chaudhry Parvez Elahi defended his cases in the courts. In one case, the court gets relief. After that relief is given in other cases also. Later they are detained under 16 MPO

Fabricated cases are being made against them and politics is being looked at. In response to a question regarding the appointment of the caretaker prime minister, he said that the decision of the caretaker prime minister was decided in a closed-room meeting between Shahbaz Sharif and Zardari. Regarding the caretaker prime minister's name, he can tell the truth. I don't know.

MTBA strongly condemns the hooliganism of the criminal gang against tax bar members

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: An emergency meeting of the executive body of Multan Tax Bar Association today was held by Naveed Al-Zafar Ahmed Sheikh and Imran Nawaz along with their colleagues in the Tax Bar for hooliganism, verbal abuse and assaulting Vice President Tax Bar Malik Muhammad Rafiq and during the quarrel Malik Muhammad It was held about trying to kill Rafiq by seriously injuring him and withdrawing the money from his pocket. In the meeting, a resolution was presented against Naveed Al-Zafar Sheikh, Imran Nawaz and his gangster associates for violent hooliganism and hand-to-hand fighting, which was unanimously approved.

Malik Khadim Hussain Maitla President of Multan Tax Bar Association said that the goons are the pet goons of Qadir Memon, Rana Munir, Khalid Asad and Bashir Ansari who have created an atmosphere of fear and panic inside the tax bar.

An application has been made to investigate the incident along with the medical report of Vice President Malik Muhammad Rafiq in the Cantt police station in order to suppress this gangster mafia. The police should immediately arrest these goons and cleanse the society of these evils. It is the responsibility of the FBR to arrange security at the place provided by the Federal Board of Revenue for the convenience of lawyers in the tax house.

And such miscreants should be prevented from entering the tax house. While the Federal Finance and Law Ministers are requesting that the gangster elements are active due to the lack of legal explanation of the tax bars. Therefore, tax bars and tax lawyers should be provided protection by legislation and institutions should be established at the national level for proceedings.

Sympathetic announcements orders to Radio employees and pensioners ignored

Quratul Ain Asim

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif If you are visiting Radio Pakistan tomorrow, pay attention to the plight of Radio Pakistan. When and how the financial problems of Radio Pakistan started, full accountability should be made. If the recruitments in various sectors in 2015 were done according to the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Finance, huge sums of money would not have been withdrawn from various funds for their salaries and the radio would not have faced any more financial problems.

If the funds of the temporary contract employees who are kept needlessly on the basis of recommendation were arranged according to the rules of recruitment, especially the program department would not have suffered financial crisis and the quality of the programs would not have been affected.

Mr. Prime Minister! Sympathetic announcements and orders to your radio employees and pensioners were also ignored by the radio officials, as a result of which they were deprived of joy even on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha. So far, sick, senior citizens, their widows and orphans have been deprived of the benefits of the last three months' pension and the employees' half salary of one month, house rent. While in this Islamic country, radio employees and pensioners have also been deprived of medical facilities. And some retired people have left this world waiting for commutation for the last four years.

District administration implemented zero tolerance policy to make dengue campaign: Simal Mushtaq

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has decided to take strong measures to eliminate dengue larvae. In this regard, special surveillance teams have been formed under the leadership of assistant commissioners, while commercial buildings and plazas have also been sealed immediately when dengue larvae are found. Yesterday Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq, Assistant Commissioner Shujaabad Fayaz Ali Jatala and Assistant Commissioner President Amir Ifkhar along with Assistant Commissioner Jalalpur Peerwala Raheel Mirza along with the Health Department conducted an inspection across the city.

Assistant Commissioner participated in the dengue larvae eradication campaign under his supervision. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the district administration has implemented zero tolerance policy to make the dengue campaign successful. Umar Jahangir said that commercial buildings will be sealed immediately if dengue larvae are found

Lahore police net 10,408 proclaimed offenders, 10,371 habitual criminals this year

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore police have successfully apprehended a significant number of individuals involved in various criminal activities.

According to a statement by Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana, a total of 10,408 proclaimed offenders (POs), 22,811 court offenders, and 10,371 habitual criminals have been arrested this year.

Providing a breakdown of the arrests, Kamyana stated that within the Cantt Division, 2,310 POs, 3,964 court offenders, and 2,427 habitual criminals were taken into custody. Similarly, in the Civil Lines Division, 1,016 POs, 2,021 court offenders, and 1,104 habitual criminals were

Dirty

FAISALABAD: A view of the sewerage water accumulated in the street of Waris pura area causing trouble to the nearby residence, which needs the attention of concerned authorities.



Photo: Online

Indian state terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir 'increasing': Shabir Shah

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Senior APHC leader and chairman Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has urged the international community to take effective notice of the increasing Indian state terrorism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message from Tihar jail, the incarcerated DFP chairman while voicing his concern over the worsening political and human rights situation in the held territory said that the Indian occupation authorities have intensified their state terrorism in the

held territory, mainly targeting pro-freedom leaders, activists and civil society members who have been critical of the Modi government's muscular policy.

Highlighting the use of state repression in response to democratic dissent, the DFP chairman said that on the one hand with-hunt against political, social and human rights activists goes on unabated, while on the other occupation authorities have reopened cases against hundreds of political activists.

"They are being summoned to police stations every now and then, harassed and humiliated and dragged to the courts, and forced to appear



in courts far away from their homes", he said.

"Arbitrary arrests of Kashmiri political leaders and activists and booking them under black laws and leaving them

to rot in jails and interrogation cells without producing in the court of law, getting them punished in fake and fabricated cases, awarding severe punishments such as death penalties, reopening 30 years old cases in which they have been already acquitted, and dragging them and their families to the courts has become a new normal in Kashmir", he said.

Shah said that not only political activists but members of civil society, rights defenders and even journalists were also being rounded up and put in jails.

He regrettably noted that the Modi government was

using its judiciary as a weapon to silence legitimate political voices in Kashmir.

He said that the ruthless suppression of dissent was a serious violation of basic human rights.

Shah said that the international community should mount pressure on India and demand the Modi government to stop the use of state repression to crush political dissent in Kashmir and using its judiciary as a weapon to punish Kashmiri leaders who have been waging a peaceful struggle to achieve the fundamental rights guaranteed to Kashmiris by no less an authority than the United Nations.

Punjab Govt zero tolerance policy to ensure ideal peace in Muharramul Haram

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Punjab government has a zero tolerance policy to ensure ideal peace on the occasion of Muharram. Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has formed a special cabinet committee for monitoring law and order. These views were expressed by Provincial Minister Higher Education Mansoor Qadir while presiding over the review meeting of Muharram arrangements in South Punjab on the occasion of the visit of the Cabinet Committee for Peace to Multan. He said that the Punjab government wants the cooperation of scholars of all schools of thought for peace. Full powers have been assigned to the district administration for peace.

Provincial Minister Mansoor Qadir said that he is satisfied that all arrangements have been completed to maintain peace during Muharram in South Punjab. Provincial Minister Higher Education while appreciating the mutual cooperation of the administration and police said that the issues can be resolved easily with the best coordination. Provincial Health Minister Dr Javed Akram said that Muharram teaches us tolerance, patience and brotherhood. In order to prevent sectarian destruction, the government has promoted inter-religious harmony and given a platform to the scholars of all schools of thought. But united, there has been a meeting and discussion with the scholars of all schools regarding Muharram.



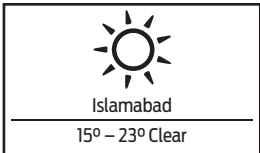
Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain (Rtd) Saqib Zafar while briefing the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order said that In South Punjab, 9240 congregations, 2783 mourning processions will be held during the

month of Muharram, 266 scholars and dhikrs have been banned from speaking while 415 have been banned, 22 companies of Pakistan Army and 23 companies of Rangers have been hired to help the police. Going forward, a request will

be made to the federal government to stop mobile service on 9-10 Muharram. 243 places in South Punjab have been declared sensitive. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khat-tak said that the Municipal Corporation

has been assigned the task of repairing Muharram processions.

The work of repairing the routes of the processions is going on for the convenience of the mourners. Vasa has been given the task of replacing the manhole covers. 9, 10 Muharram is being written for non-load shedding and low voltage. RPO Multan Region Captain R. Sohail Chaudhry said that on the first 10 days of Muharram, there will be 910 processions and 3182 assemblies. A comprehensive security plan has been prepared for peace and order in Muharram. Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir, CPO Mansoorul Haque Rana, South Punjab Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, RPOs, DPOs also gave a detailed briefing.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:29 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:18 pm
Isha 8:58 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
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Secretary BISP conducts E-Katchehri to address beneficiaries' concerns

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad, held an E-Katchehri today to engage with programme's beneficiaries and resolve their complaints in real-time.

The E-Katchehri witnessed an overwhelming response from beneficiaries across the country.

During the E-Katchehri, majority of the complaints were promptly checked and rectified on the spot, showcasing the programme's commitment to efficient service delivery. For the remaining grievances, Secretary BISP had directed the relevant authorities to ensure their resolution within a maximum timeframe of three hours.

The Secretary BISP also held a follow up meeting after 3 hours to verify resolution of remaining complaints. The meet-



ing was attended by all provincial Director Generals. All provincial DGs briefed the secretary BISP about steps taken to resolve remaining complaints.

Benazir Income Support Programme is also disbursing 4th quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 and so far, more than rupees 69 billion has been disbursed among over 7.7 million beneficiary women.

Under Benazir Kafaalat, 90 lakh registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly instalment of Rs 9,000

per family. Benazir Income Support Programme has already released over rupees 81 billion to its partner banks, that is, Bank Alfalah and Habib Bank Limited (HBL), for disbursement among the beneficiaries through their retail distribution network.

Along with Benazir Kafaalat, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif are also being given out to the children of registered families, however, 70% attendance in the school is mandatory to receive Taleemi Wazaif.

In case of any complaint, beneficiaries can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil Offices or call on toll-free helpline number 080026477 of Benazir Income Support Program.

The BISP spokesman reiterated that any messages from Benazir Income Support Program is sent only from 8171 and message from any other number should not be trusted.

DC, DPO call on religious scholars to promote religious harmony during Muharram



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: DC Attock Rao Atif Raza and DPO Dr. Ghayas Gul has emphasised upon the religious scholars to play their vital role in maintaining religious harmony across the Attock district. DC Rao Atif said this while chairing meeting of Distt Peace Committee which was held in connection with arrangements for the forth coming Muharram ul Haram. The meeting was attended by religious scholars belonging to different sects that includes Peer Saadat Ali Shah, Molana Mehmood ul Hassan Tawhidi, Molana Sahir Zaman, Syed Waqar Naqvi, Aftab Hussain Haidri and other members of peace committee and other officials officials were present. All the participants condiment the incident that happened in Sweden. Everyone unanimously passed the resolution.

DC said that Islam gives message of peace, love and brotherhood and unity and this message must be promoted from the platform of all mosques and imambargahs, and role must be played to shun sectarianism, hatred, extremism and terrorism. DPO said, all SOPs in connection with Muharram must be followed and not to violate these SOPs at any cost. All the members (religious scholars) of Distt Peace Committee assured the DPO of their full cooperation.

During the forth coming Muharram-ul-Haram 145 processions will be taken out from 87 imambargah by the mourners which include 29 licensed and 116 traditional processions. For these processions and Majalis all security and management arrangements have been finalized. Source said that for 145 processions which will be taken out from different areas of the Attock district in which 28 category-A sensitive procession are declared. Source said that 754 majalis will be held which include 66 majalis in Saddar circle, 70 majalis in Tehsil Hasanabdal, 173 majalis in Tehsil Fatehjang, 325 in Tehsil Pindigheb and 120 majalis will be held in Tehsil Jand.

Play 'Mera Ishq Vi Tu' was staged at the Punjab Arts Council



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Drama 'Mera Ishq Veetan', based on the cure of the scourge of drugs, was presented at the Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Aims Association. The chief guest of the play was Naheed Manzoor and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. The play was written and directed by William Parvez. Zabar Sarhadhi, Ali Shan, Sofia Ali, Imran Rushdie, Rizwana Khan, Kashif Ali, Maimoona are among the famous artists of the play. Naheed Manzoor said that the drug dealers are killers of the talents of the young generation; they are destroying and ruining the future of millions of youth. Troubled youths are made addicted to drugs by saying that it is a medicine to solve the problems. There is a need to take measures on an emergency basis to eradicate it so that future generations can be kept away from its harmful effects of drugs, she added. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that for the first time in the world, when a human being used to convey his message to another human being, the gestures, movements and sounds he used with his hands, eyes, face, and tongue were actually the world's first theater. Theater is the name of thought, movement and dialogue. Thought, movement and dialogue are the nursery of evolution of human civilization and culture. If we all consider our responsibility and try to eliminate this evil, there will come a time when we will be able to rid the country of the scourge of drugs because staying away from drugs is the hallmark of a healthy society. A large number of citizens turned to the Arts Council to watch the play.

Careem partners with White Car to enhance airport transportation in Karachi

Commerce Desk

LAHORE -: Careem, the pioneer of ride hailing services in Pakistan, announces its collaboration with White Car, a renowned local car service provider in Karachi. This strategic partnership enables customers in Karachi to seamlessly schedule or pre-book White Car rides to and from Jinnah International Airport directly through the Careem app.



Equipped with a fleet of premium cars and trained drivers, Careem aims to provide a 100% fulfillment rate, ensuring that customers can pre-book their rides with convenience. White Car specialises in scheduled pick and drop services to and from the airport, offering essential amenities while travelling such as WiFi and air conditioning.

Commenting on the partnership, Imran Saleem, General Manager Ride Hailing at Careem Pakistan, stated, "We are excited to partner with 'White Car' to bring another seamless airport transportation experience to our valued customers in Karachi. This collaboration aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing safe, reliable, and comfortable transportation solutions to the masses. We will continue to partner with such organisations to add solutions aimed at simplifying and improving the lives of people in Pakistan."

Farhan Kasbati, GM Operations at White Car, stated: "We are thrilled to partner with Careem and extend our premium airport transportation services to the residents and visitors of Karachi. By integrating White Car into the Careem app, we can now provide a seamless and convenient booking experience, ensuring that passengers can effortlessly enjoy a comfortable and hassle-free journey to and from Jinnah International Airport. We are excited to serve the community and contribute to the overall transportation ecosystem in Karachi, making airport travel a truly delightful experience for all." The partnership with White Car reinforces Careem's ambitions of offering a diverse range of transportation options all while further enhancing the overall customer experience. The White Car service is currently operational exclusively in Karachi, catering to the airport transportation needs of the city's residents and visitors.

Enjoying at water fall

MUZAFFERABAD: Tourists are enjoying at Dhani Water Fall point. Due to the summer vacations people from across the country are visiting such mountainous area of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online

Mining experts call for bridging gap between academia and industry

News Desk

ABBOTTABAD: Urging the students to learn the skills in addition to formal education, Director COMSATS University Abbottabad campus, Professor Dr. Muhammad Maroof Shah, on Saturday stressed the need for bridging the gap between industry and academia through collaborative projects.

He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the seminar on the "Role of geo-sciences in mining industry," which was organized by Department of Earth Sciences COMSATS University Abbottabad Campus in collaboration with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and Earth Explorer Club here.

Maroof Shah stressed that illegal mining in Pakistan has had severe negative effects. "The country is rich in natural resources, including miner-



als such as coal, copper, gold, and gemstones. However, illegal mining practices have led to significant environmental degradation and ecological imbalances," he added.

The mining and mineral exploration company's experts said that geo-sciences play a crucial role in the mining industry of Pakistan.

The Pakistani mining industry, and the workforce in general, should learn from other countries' experiences

rather than reinventing the wheel on health and safety, they added.

The speakers said that geo-sciences provide critical insights and technical expertise to the mining industry of Pakistan.

The visitors guests of the seminar include Liaqat Ali Sultan, CEO of Chinar Mines and Minerals, Col. (R) Sadiq Ali Sultan, Chairman of Chinar Group of Companies, and Kamran Ali Sham-

sher (CEO), ZAKMAX(PVT) Limited and Syed Nohman Gilani, chief geologist Chinar Group of Companies and founder of Earth Explorer Club.

All industrial participants offer paid internships to the students of Earth sciences in upcoming exploration phases.

Head of the Department of Earth Sciences Assistant Professor Dr. Javed Iqbal Tanoli distributed souvenirs amongst the guests

AIOU offers Matric, F.A programs for international students

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has offered admissions in matric and intermediate programs in the first phase of the autumn semester 2023 for Overseas Pakistani and international students. The last date to apply for these programs is August 15, 2023 and students can only apply online. AIOU is the only university in the country providing educational opportunities for Pakistanis living all over the world.

AIOU is offering more than 40 educational programs for international students from the semester autumn 2021 by using the latest online technologies. In the last semester, more than 460 students enrolled from 36 countries including Australia, Russia, South Korea, Japan, China, America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, France, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, South Africa, Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Iraq, Oman, and others. Vice-Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has set a target to enroll 10,000 international students in the next five years.

It is pertinent to mention here that these programs for international students are offered through the learning management system. All teaching activities from admissions to examinations will be online.

Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan agree on long-distance rail link-Joint Protocol

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A trilateral Working Group Meeting of three countries on Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) Railways project was held at Ministry of Railways Islamabad. Syed Mazar Ali Shah, Secretary / Chairman Pakistan Railways led Pakistani side whereas delegations of Afghanistan was led by Alhaj Bakh-tulrehman Sharaft, Director General and CEO of Afghanistan Railways Authority. Mr. Dekhkanov D. T, Head of the Transport Department of Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan represented the Uzbekistan side.

The working group finalized the route of the project in today's meeting. The signing ceremony of Joint Protocol will take place on 18th July,



2023. The key objectives of UAP project is to build a missing rail link by connecting Uzbekistan railways with Pakistan railways via Termiz-

Mazar e Sharif-Logar- Kharlachi route.

The UAP railway project would not only facilitate the regional, transit and bilateral trades amongst the participating countries, but also provide better people-to-people connections to the entire region. The line will support both passenger and freight services, and would contribute in regional trade and economic growth.

The parties also agreed on a roadmap for conducting technical studies, financing sources and other key aspects for early implementation of the project. The parties appreciated the professional work of the experts of the three railways in achieving consensus on the final route and its implementation modalities.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

India- An Emerging Failed State - II

Another example clearly showing the value of Muslims and minorities in India was in 1992 where an organized mob of at least 75,000 Hindus descended on one of Ayodhya's mosques—the Babri Masjid and tore it to the ground using hammers, rods, and shovels, while Indian authorities watched. In the aftermath of this attack, interreligious rioting engulfed several Indian cities, and by the end of the violence, over one thousand people, most of them Muslim, were dead. In some cities, like Mumbai, indiscriminate shooting of peaceful Muslims by police was reported.

Apoorvanand in his article published in Aljazeera says that, Muslims, however, are not the only religious minority being targeted by the increasingly emboldened far right in the country. Christians across India are also facing similar hate and violence. As veteran journalist John Dayal reported, "violent Hindu mobs attacked churches, Christian congregations in prayer and groups celebrating Christmas in at least 16 cities and towns". Such incidents were seen in states all across the country, from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in the north to Karnataka in the South. According to United Christian Forum, at least 460 attacks against Christians have been recorded in the 2021 in India. Under BJP's leadership, India became one of the most dangerous countries for Muslims and Christians in the world. They are being persecuted physically, psychologically and economically. Laws are being passed to criminalize their religious practices, food habits and even businesses. On top of discriminatory laws, they are also routinely being threatened

with and subjected to physical violence. The media, as well as the TV and film industries are prejudiced against them. Perhaps most importantly, the elected rulers of the country are constantly dehumanizing and even demonizing them to further their own political agenda. 2021 was a year of fear, violence and harassment for Muslims and Christians of India. And as the Bulli Bai incident demonstrated, the Hindu far right's attacks on religious minorities continued with force in the next years. The justice system in India is failed to treat everyone equally which can be clearly seen in the case of Babri Mosque.

According to an article of VISWANATH, Raghavi, Violence against Muslims and Dalits in India has drastically increased since the incumbent political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), came to power in 2014. Around 85% of perpetrators are alleged to have been associated either with the BJP or its sister Hindu organizations. In at least some cases, law enforcement agencies have been either indifferent or hostile to the victims.

Then the Human rights violations in Manipur are also in front of the world. The European Parliament has strongly urged India to take necessary measures to promptly halt the ongoing ethnic and religious violence, protect all religious minorities such as Manipur's Christian community, and pre-empt any further escalation. The joint resolution was adopted recently following recent violent clashes in the state of Manipur, India since May 2023 that left at least 120 people dead, 50 000 displaced, and over 1 700 houses and

250 churches destroyed. The resolution noted that intolerance towards minority communities had contributed to the current violence and there were concerns about the politically motivated, divisive policies that promote Hindu majoritarianism in the area. The Manipur state government has shut down internet connections and severely hindered reporting by the media, while security forces have been implicated in the recent killings, something that has further increased distrust in the authorities.

The Members of the European Parliament called on the Indian authorities to allow independent investigations to look into the violence, tackle impunity and o lift the internet ban. They also urged all conflicting sides to cease making inflammatory statements, re-establish trust and play an impartial role to mediate the tensions. The Parliament reiterated its call for

human rights to be integrated into all areas of the EU-India partnership, including trade. The MEPs also advocated the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue to be reinforced and encouraged the EU and its member states to systematically and publicly raise human rights concerns, notably on freedom of expression, religion, and the shrinking space for civil society, with the Indian side at the highest level.

On behalf of the European People's Party Group (EPP), the MEPs who adopted the resolution include Željana Zovko, Sven Simon, Tomáš Zdechovský, Ivan Štefaneč, Janina Ochojska, Michaela Šojdrová, Vladimír Bilčík, David Lega, Jiří Pospíšil, Andrey Kovatchev, Antonio López Istúriz White, Inese Vaidere and Seán Kelly. Pedro Marques

and Pierre Larroutourou adopted the resolution on behalf of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) group.

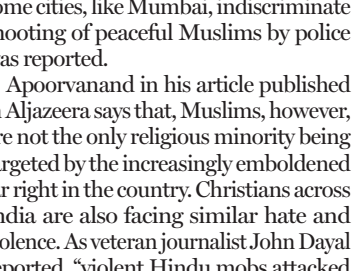
According to AAKASH HASAN in his article, new assessments of poverty in India have stirred debate over the record of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, with metrics highlighting how far the nation of 1.4 billion still has to go. The release of the Global Hunger Index cast a harsh light on India, which fell six places to rank 107th out of 121 nations, behind struggling neighbors Sri Lanka (64th) and Pakistan (99th).

Then come to their lies and false propaganda. The Indian Air Force launched an aerial strike near 'Balakot' On Feb 26, 2019, targeting a religious seminary that India described as a militant camp, and claimed killing more than 300 terrorists but without sharing any shred of evidence to corroborate the claims. Modi's claims of a successful surgical strike inside Pakistan's territory were disputed as soon as they were announced. He claimed the death of over three hundred terrorists, but reports from neutral sources such as Reuters, Associated Press, and The New York Times indicated only damaged trees. That by itself was a humiliating exposé of Modi's lies. Successful nations never proceed on lies. They build their basis on truth.

Readers, these are just few among several other facts which clearly show that India is rapidly progressing towards becoming a certified failed state especially in Modi's regime. Their so-called claims of being a secular state don't match with the ground realities. Recent resolution from European Parliament is an eye-opener and the world should urge India to stop violating human rights of minorities.

Concluded

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Accat)

Pakistan's shifting Afghan Policy - II

These were and are grave violations of the Doha agreement and the norms of a decent neighborhood, necessitating a stern, commensurate, and appropriate response. However, when dealing with Afghanistan, we must exercise extreme caution, as antagonizing the Afghan interim government could lead to increased tensions and hostility, which could result in cross-border attacks, the influx of refugees, and the spread of extremist ideologies. It would strain bilateral relations, impede efforts to improve economic cooperation, trade, and regional connectivity projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), CASA 2000, and TAPI pipeline, and India would cease the opportunity to increase its influence in Afghanistan.

As the adage goes, haste makes waste; therefore, it is in our best interest to maintain a stable and cooperative relationship with the Afghan government and develop a comprehensive strategy and multifaceted approach to persuade the Afghan interim government to prohibit the use of its territory for attacks within Pakistan, keeping in mind that implementing such a policy requires time, patience, and ongoing commitment from both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The proposed strategy may involve a sustained and comprehensive diplomatic engagement to establish a cooperative relationship and build trust through high-level visits, diplomatic channels, and regular dialogues; addressing security concerns and promoting mutual understanding; jointly developing a robust intelligence cooperation mechanism; improving surveillance technologies; increasing the presence of border forces and coordinating efforts to secure the border; and conducting joint exercises. At the same time countering extremist ideologies by promoting moderate and inclusive narratives, with an added emphasis on educational programs, social media campaigns, and community engagement initiatives to promote tolerance, peace, and pluralism in Afghanistan.

Army chief's plate is already full due to complex security issues, which include but are not limited to precarious borders with Iran, where many of our security personnel have been martyred by insurgents who, after ambushing army troops, seek refuge in Iran Balochistan. Our borders with Afghanistan, where despite barbed wires along the



Qamar Bashir

Analysis

entire border, the Pakistani Taliban who have been given safe haven inside Afghanistan carry out terrorist attacks along the borders and within the country, as well as our hot borders along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir, are experiencing increased pressures. Recently, he had to deal with the politically motivated attacks on over 200 military installations across the country by PTI activists, and for the first time in the annals of the armed forces, he had to take stern action against serving and retired army officers.

It is unfortunate that, instead of leaving him alone and allowing him to focus on the extremely urgent and grave external and internal security and safety, he has been drawn into almost all civilian matters. He had to save foreign, financial, and economic affairs by convincing Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and China to re-roll their deposits. He had to intervene in trade and commerce by attracting substantial investment from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the livestock and agriculture sectors. He was the driving force behind the transfer of Karachi port terminals 6 to 9 to a Dubai-based company, which will bring in foreign currency and enhance the performance of the Karachi port, as well as initiating the process of auctioning the inoperable steel mill. Now he is on a diplomatic offensive in Iran, where he has conferred with the Iranian president, foreign minister, and armed forces leadership to ease tensions along the Iran-Pakistan border and devise a joint strategy to combat terrorism and extremism in the region.

It is the responsibility of the civilian government and civilian institutions to shoulder the full weight of the civilian domain's responsibilities, which include, among many others, the development of a multifaceted strategic policy and approach to engage the Afghan government and to resolve the issue of cross-border terrorism diplomatically, politically, and economically, without resorting to the use of kinetic force, which history tells us has never worked in the case of Afghanistan.

Concluded
 The author is the former Press Secretary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan in France and also has been the former MD / CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC)

Impact of Pakistan's IMF accord on the economy and upcoming elections

The board of the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday authorized a \$3 billion bailout plan for Pakistan, which includes the immediate release of around \$1.2 billion to aid with economic stabilisation.

A staff-level deal was achieved between Pakistan and IMF last month, that resulted in a short-term accord and more financing than anticipated for the country of 230 million, that is currently experiencing a severe balance of payments crisis.

Since the country had not complied with a 2019 agreement that the IMF and former Prime Minister Imran Khan had signed, the IMF had refused to disburse a crucial \$1.1 billion portion of the loan, putting the bailout on hold. The money was released amid long-standing worries that the nation will declare bankruptcy, giving the incumbent government much-needed relief.

The agreement with the international lender, however, also entails stringent expenditure restrictions and structural reforms, which are expected to worsen the economic situation for many ordinary people.

What made the IMF bailout necessary?
 Pakistan's economy has been in catastrophic difficulties, beset by a balance of payments crisis as it tried to pay off massive amounts of external debt and crippling inflation.

The nation's foreign reserves were at risk before the rescue, hovering at roughly \$4 billion, enough to pay for a month's worth of imports, but Pakistan prohibited part of the imports to save money. Analysts estimate that in order to repay its foreign loans with interest over the next two years, Pakistan will require at least \$20 billion.

When an exchange restriction was relaxed earlier this year, the Pakistani rupee plunged to a record low versus the US dollar as the cash-strapped country tried to access the crucial IMF bailout. Pakistan's sovereign credit rating was downgraded by two notches to "Caa3" by global rating agency Moody's in February, noting that the nation's "significantly increased default risks" were due to its increasingly precarious liquidity.

As a result, in 2022, more than 750,000 people departed Pakistan—an increase of 3 times over 2021. Making matters worse, Pakistan has still not fully recovered from the \$30 billion in economic losses brought on by the devastating floods of

last year.
 What does the IMF demand?

Since the IMF mission's arrival in Pakistan in February, the incumbent government has complied with IMF's demands in a number of ways including rewriting its 2023-24 budget and recently increasing its policy rate to 22%. In order to comply with the IMF's fiscal adjustments, the Washington-based international lender also persuaded Pakistan to raise more than 385 billion Pakistani rupees (\$1.34 billion) in additional taxes. The central bank should continue to take proactive steps to lower inflation and preserve a framework for foreign exchange, according to the IMF.

The modifications have already contributed to an all-time high rate of 38 percent inflation year over year in May, the highest in Asia. In the meantime, the IMF negotiations have focused heavily on reforms in the energy sector, which has amassed debts totaling over 3.6 trillion Pakistani rupees (\$12.58bn).

In order to overcome obstacles, "particularly in the energy sector," where it anticipates an increase in electricity rates, the IMF stated it would urge Pakistan to implement its policies with steadfastness.

What effect will the bailout have on the forthcoming elections?
 It is not obvious whether the IMF bailout will improve Sharif and his PML-N party's chances in the polls, even though it gives the country some breathing room to try to address its economic turmoil. Because poor economic management and a decline in purchasing power will keep the incumbent government's popularity low.

Since previous Prime Minister Imran Khan was ousted in a vote of no confidence instigated by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a ruling coalition of more than a dozen parties, including Sharif's PML-N, in April 2022, the political crisis in Pakistan has got worse.

A Gallup poll conducted in March revealed that 62 percent of Pakistanis attributed the country's economic turmoil to the PDM. Imran Khan, who also triumphed in most of the recent national and provincial by-elections, has solidified his support across the nation. Of the 2000 respondents, almost 61 percent of them had favorable opinions of him.

(The writer is analyst and staff member)



Kiran Asim

Analysis

Revolutionizing Climate-Smart Sustainable Agriculture

A New Partnership Aims to Boost Pakistan's Global Rankings

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Organic Pakistan, a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting organic agriculture and sustainable practices, and Mishal Pakistan, a leading institution in the development sector specializing in research and communication strategies, are thrilled to announce a collaborative partnership aimed at revolutionizing the agriculture landscape in Pakistan and enhancing the country's international rankings.

Through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Organic Pakistan and Mishal Pakistan will work together to address critical issues related to agro-economy, climate change, and food security. The collaboration will involve the exchange of updated and timely data, media training, capacity-building workshops, and the creation of knowledge resources to foster public discourse and develop key opinion-makers.

As the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Platform, World Economic Forum, Mishal Pakistan plays a pivotal role in measuring and improving Pakistan's global rankings on various indicators. The collaboration between Mishal Pakistan and Organic Pakistan will support the World Economic Forum's initiatives by providing essential data and narratives related to sustainable agriculture, urban farming, and other crucial areas.

Muhammad Nadeem Iqbal, Founding Chairman of Organic Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are excited to join forces with Mishal Pakistan to drive sustainable agriculture practices and revolutionize the agriculture landscape in Pakistan. Through this collaboration, we aim to provide valuable data and resources that will contribute to improving Pakistan's international rankings and promote awareness of organic farming and urban agriculture."

Amir Jahangir, Founder, and CEO of Mishal Pakistan, the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Platform, World Economic Forum, emphasized the significant impact that the collaboration would have on improving Pakistan's rankings and narratives on international platforms. He highlighted the importance of combining expertise and resources to create a powerful impact on Pakistan's development, specifically in the area of climate-smart agriculture (CSA). CSA is an approach that addresses the interconnected challenges of climate change and food security.

Jahangir further explained that Pakistan is likely to face considerable challenges in the agricultural sector due to changes in monsoons and increased temperatures, particularly in northern Pakistan where vulnerability to climate change is already high. He emphasized the need for investment in CSA to ensure a stable food supply



in Pakistan's dynamic economy, despite the challenges posed by climate change.

Through the collaboration's efforts in knowledge creation, dissemination through media training, capacity-building workshops, and joint advocacy, the goal is to enhance Pakistan's positioning on international indices

and foster a sustainable and resilient future for the country. Jahangir expressed his confidence in Pakistan's potential to become the world's future food basket, given its favorable conditions and resources.

The MOU sets the framework for joint initiatives, including the develop-

ment of key opinion-makers, advocacy campaigns, and the sharing of resources and expertise. Both organizations are committed to creating knowledge resources through seminars, interactive workshops, and thematic reports to promote public awareness and understanding of sustainable agriculture

practices and related subjects.

The partnership between Organic Pakistan and Mishal Pakistan signifies a significant step toward driving sustainable agriculture practices, fostering public discourse, and contributing to a healthier and more resilient society in Pakistan. The collaboration will leverage the expertise of both organizations to create positive change and enhance Pakistan's global reputation.

Organic Pakistan is a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting organic agriculture, sustainable practices, and social responsibility. By advocating for organic farming and urban agriculture, Organic Pakistan aims to create a more sustainable and resilient food system in Pakistan. The organization's efforts align with several Sustainable Development Goals, including Zero Hunger, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Climate Action.

Mishal Pakistan is a leading institution in the development sector, specializing in design thinking, research, communication strategies, and narrative development. As the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Platform, World Economic Forum, Mishal Pakistan actively measures and improves Pakistan's global rankings on key indicators. The organization collaborates with various stakeholders to devise and deliver development solutions and promote Pakistan's progress on international platforms.

Saudi-Japan Relations

JEDDAH: Saudi crown prince, Japan PM reiterates 'unwavering support and agrees to promote further exchange between the two countries. (SPA)



AKU hosts joint training on environmental, social and governance



Bureau Report

KARACHI: In response to the pressing global challenges, such as climate change and economic downturns, businesses worldwide are undergoing significant shifts in their operations. Acknowledging the increasing importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors across all sectors, AKU together the Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business of the Pakistan Business Council organised a workshop titled 'ESG: Creating Sustainable Workflow.'

The training which was a collaborative effort between the University's internal audit team and the Office of Environment and Sustainability aimed to explore the applicability of ESG principles to AKU and higher education.

The workshop brought together participants from various departments within AKU as well as representatives from AKDN agencies, including the Aga Khan Health Services, Aga Khan Education Services, and Habib Bank Limited. ESG is in line with the AKDN mandate to improve the quality of life, and AKU's mission to provide meaningful contributions to society. The discussions shed light on ESG's business case, governance structures, identification of non-financial risks, and the development of ESG frameworks and reporting tools.

AKU President Sulaiman Shahabuddin noted that, "AKU is already well placed on all three aspects of ESG. We are the first university in Pakistan and East Africa with a net-zero commitment and a detailed Environment and Decarbonisation plan, focusing on investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices. We provide rupees 4 billion annually to patient welfare in Pakistan alone, while maintaining robust policies and processes for safeguarding and equity. Our governance structures are transparent, fostering collaboration and driving continuous improvement across the University."

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

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: 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 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/>

China -US tensions in space technology

Tahoora Maryam

China launched world's first methane fuelled space rocket. Zhuque-2 carrier rocket blasted off at 9am on Wednesday, 12 July from Jiuquan satellite launch center in North West China's Inner Mongolia. Successful launching of this 1st methane -liquid oxygen space rocket into orbit once again put China ahead of US space companies like Space X and blue origin. This news once again put china's rivals into cut-throat competition with China. It put Elon Musk's space X and Jeff Bezo's Blue origin in the race of new technological escalation to develop space vehicles fuelled by methane. Its first attempt has failed in December but China kept doing work over it and at last succeeded in flabbergast its rivals. US also had tried to launch its methane powered

rocket Terran 1 but failed. US failure enhanced the haughtiness of China. On the other hand the successful launching of Zhuque-2 put US in race of space dominance with China.

The space competition between US and China has the great potential to mould international world order. It is noted that the countries that have been technologically advanced have held more power and they had greater ability to influence the remaining part of the world. It is better to say that competition between the major powers is actually a thirst for more influence and craving for the dominance. The militarization of space could lead to severe tensions between countries especially China and US. Significant advancements in space technology by both China and US led to a shift in power dynamics. Now the launch of new methane fuelled rocket by China once

again significantly proclaiming the rise of new space race between US and China. China's successful launch of ZHEGUE 2 rocket is an evidence of an emerging landscape where China is directly competing with US for supremacy.

Methane fuelled rocket is more beneficial than the traditional rockets. This rocket is going to help China in several ways. Firstly it will reduce the cost of space missions as methane is most cost-effective than other rocket fuels. It will also reduce the environmental impact as methane is more sustainable fuel than other rocket fuels. They have the ability to enable more ambitious space missions. This will help China to achieve new scientific discoveries in space as it has the potential to explore the far reaches of our solar system and to make sure human presence on other planets. It will make space exploration more

accessible and affordable. This is the one of the biggest recent achievements to China that is some how terrifying the US as they failed to build the same rocket like Terran -1.

Due to this space rivalry and race after technology there are significant economic implications. China and US both are investing huge in space technology due to which it is expected that space industry will grow very much in coming years. US and China are two main pillars in this industry and the competition between these two powers would lead to some new space developments and also the creation of jobs in this space market. The global space economy could be worth over \$1 trillion by 2040 according to the estimations of some experts. We can see some positive economic impacts due to this competition that is indirectly enhancing their power. For example both countries are



investing in space tourism, which could become a possible source of revenue for both countries. Virgin Galactic is a US company that is already promoting space tourism as they have sold tickets for suborbital space flights. Negative economic implications could also have seen in this competition. Arm race in space could lead to the evolution of unnecessary high -cost weapons system. Space debris will definitely creat-

ed that will destroy the satellites and space infrastructure.

Besides these economical implications, there must be some societal implications regarding this debate. As both powers also possess allies and support of many other countries, what are the concerns of these countries especially the third world countries matter a lot. The development of space tourism would have social and cultural impacts so these

impacts should be managed carefully and it should involve the perspective of other countries as they are the part of this society. If we look at third world countries, this competition brings opportunities and challenges for them at the same time Economic opportunities are there for these countries as they would become the suppliers of components for space industry. This race may cause exploitation of resources for third world countries.

US- China competition reflects a critical pinch in the history of space race. Policy makers should carefully consider the risks associated with this competition as it should be a source of innovations, peace and progress for coming generation rather than destruction.

Writer is student of DSS Quaid eAzam University Islamabad and can be reached at maryamtahoora205@gmail.com

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
45,042.61	45,067.98
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,283.30	45,013.98
Index Value	Change
5,080,918,242	-25.37
Percentage	Time
-0.06%	17 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,406.42	-28.15
Percentage	Time
-0.38%	17 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,593.17	+84.14
Percentage	Time
+0.24%	17 Jul, 1:18 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,391.26	-28.07
Percentage	Time
-0.087%	14 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193	196
Bahrain Dinar	732.7	740.7
Canadian Dollar	211	213
China Yuan	38.7	39.1
Danish Krone	41.14	41.54
Euro	311	316.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.72	36.07
Indian Rupee	3.39	3.5
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	898.65	907.65
Malaysian Ringgit	59.87	60.47
New Zealand \$	175.54	177.48
Norwegians Krone	26.61	26.91
Omani Riyal	715.54	723.54
Qatari Riyal	76.81	77.51
Saudi Riyal	74.2	75
Singapore Dollar	205	207
Swedish Korona	25.91	26.21
Swiss Franc	320.45	322.95
Thai Bhat	7.96	8.11
U.A.E Dirham	77.1	78
UK Pound Sterling	364	369.5
US Dollar	282	285.5

Online applications cheating, harassing masses, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that all online loan applications should be banned immediately.

These applications are being run without following any rules and regulations and most of them are cheating the poor people by employing different dirty tactics amid the provision of cheap and quick loans, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that heavy interest and penalties are also charged for late repayment of loans, while the staff of these companies extort many times more than the original amount through threats, intimidation, fraud, and blackmailing.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that poor borrowers are helpless to confront a well-organised

company.

A few days ago, a person from Rawalpindi took a loan of thirteen thousand rupees to pay the children's fees and house rent but had to commit suicide due to the bullying, threats, and blackmail of the staff of a company.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the increased inflation, poverty and unemployment, many people are not able to meet the necessary expenses, so they take quick loans with the help of these applications. Despite paying the loan within the deadline, they get stuck with endless demands from the company.

In the presence of institutions like the State Bank, FIA, PTA, Security and Exchange Commission, and Competition Commission in the country, this exploitative business is flourishing that can be a result of tolerance, collusion, and incompetence.

The business leader said that after numerous complaints and the suicide of a person, the FIA has raided some offices involved in loan



sharking, which will not stop this business; therefore, the government should root out this business that thrives on exploiting the masses.

Last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission said online lenders were barred

from tougher recovery measures, but this was limited to the company's statement, while the Competition Commission urged the public to be cautious when dealing with such lenders.

After making these two statements, both organisations believed that their responsibility was over and that the public was left at the mercy of the online loan sharks.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that apart from online companies, other people across the length and breadth of the country are also doing the nefarious business of giving loans at high-interest rates on unfair terms. May be selling goods in instalments and robbing the poor with both hands, for which legislation is needed.

He demanded that the government can make it easy for people to take small loans so that illegal businesses could not thrive.

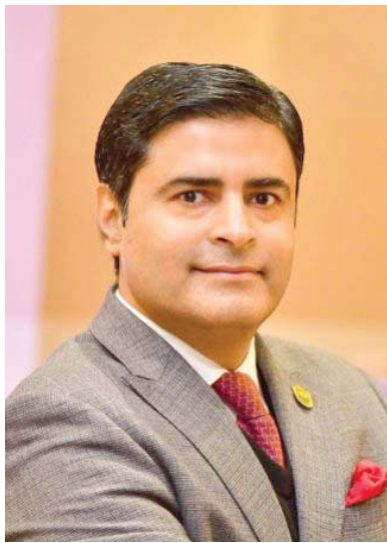
Self-employment schemes should also be introduced, and small loans should be provided on easy terms for rickshaw pullers, vegetable vendors, bakers, plumbers, carpenters, etc.

ICCI for harnessing hydropower potential to promote economic activities

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the high energy cost in Pakistan is a major hurdle in promoting business and industrial activities and called upon the government to focus on harnessing the hydropower potential to promote the economic activities. He stressed that the share of hydropower generation should be increased at least to 50 percent in the total energy mix in order to provide cheap energy to industry, reduce the cost of doing business and facilitate the growth of business activities that would pave the way for early revival of the economy.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the government has itself conceded that the LNG-based electricity will cost over Rs.51 per unit this fiscal year, furnace oil-based electricity over Rs.48 while the hydropower costs only Rs.6.94 per unit, which shows



that the LNG and oil-based power generations have caused unprecedented hike in

the energy cost in Pakistan. He said that according to WAPDA's estimate, Pakistan has the potential to generate 60,000MW hydroelectricity, but this untapped potential has not been harnessed so far due to which our industry is finding itself uncompetitive causing further decline in exports.

President ICCI said that the high transmission and distribution losses in Pakistan are also contributing towards high energy cost as the government has to increase power tariffs to cover up the rising T&D losses of DISCOs. He urged that the government should develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce T&D losses and power theft besides increasing the share of hydropower in the total energy mix in order to produce cheap energy and make Pakistan an attractive destination for business and investment activities. He said that the low energy cost would also help in promoting FDI, creating more jobs, reducing unemployment and putting Pakistan on the path of sustainable economic growth.

NTDC hires 100 (local) Security Guards for the protection of Transmission Lines in South Region



LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has hired 100 local security guards from a private security agency to combat the increasing theft of transmission line material in the South region. These security guards will be responsible for the protection of transmission lines.

An oath taking ceremony for the newly hired security guards from SIGMA Security Services was held at the Hyderabad Club. The Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, administered the oath to the security guards through a video link.

Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, during his speech, emphasized the significance of this historic and proactive step taken by NTDC to ensure the protection of transmission lines in theft-prone areas of Sindh. He further added that these local security guards, hailing from the native areas, will help establish a local intelligence network to identify the culprits involved in these nefarious activities. This project serves as a pilot, and its success will lead to the initiation of additional projects in the future, resulting in the hiring of more security related manpower.

Sacred item

KARACHI: A worker is busy in engraving designs on the sacred item of Shiite Muslims at his shop in Liaqtabad area ahead of Muharram-ul-Haram in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Mobilink Bank sets new benchmarks in women empowerment and MSME lending

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank achieved notable growth in Loan Disbursement and Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) across two key segments, Women as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as evident in its H1 2023 results. These achievements underline the Bank's commitment to fostering financial inclusion and supporting the growth of small businesses, further demonstrating the effectiveness of its strategies and initiatives implemented over the past year.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital

operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

Expressing his thoughts on the Bank's accomplishments, Ghaznafar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank shared, "We take immense pride in the remarkable growth we have accomplished this year. Our dedication to empowering women entrepreneurs and bolstering the

MSME sector has yielded exceptional outcomes, consequently fostering inclusive economic progress. These figures serve as a powerful testament to our resolve of enabling individuals and businesses to unleash their true potential. We will continue with the same zeal for creating growth opportunities for all."

Atta-ur-Rehman, Chief Branch Business Officer Mobilink Bank said, "The resounding success of our bank exemplifies our steadfast commitment to drive inclusive economic growth and empower diverse segments of society. With the vision of empowering women and MSMEs, we are

ready for taking all productive steps to continue including all, in the financial sphere."

Mobilink Bank's achievements go beyond financial figures, positioning the Bank as a key player in bridging the gender divide and outshining all other banks in topping the Banking on Equality Scorecard, released by the State Bank of Pakistan. By prioritizing women and MSMEs, Mobilink Bank drives economic progress, creates opportunities, and accelerates social development. Through customized digital and financial solutions, the Bank paves the way for the unbanked and underbanked, enabling them to thrive and prosper.

FBL appoints new Chairman of the Board of Directors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mian Mohammad Younis has been appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Directors Faysal Bank Limited, in its board meeting held on July 17, 2023.

With the professional career spanning over four decades in Ministry of Finance, Banking and Financial Sector reforms, Mr. Younis brings in extensive knowledge of Corporate Sector Governance and financial markets.

Mr. Younis has also served at the Board of Directors of Meezan Bank Limited, as the Chairman of the Board Audit Committee and was also a member of the Board Risk Management Committee.

He has been part of the Board of Directors at Faysal Bank Limited for more than nine years where he has been the Chairman of Board Audit and Corporate Governance Committee in addition to being a member of other key committees.

He has played a key role in planning and implementation of corporate governance, audit and controls framework at Faysal Bank.

He remained entrenched in providing strategic guidance and support for the historic conversion of Faysal Bank into a full-fledged Islamic Bank coupled with aggressive business growth and network expansion. Faysal Bank is a leading Islamic bank with more than 700 branches across 250 plus locations.

SECP amends regulations for election of independent directors and female directors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To address practical difficulties faced by the listed companies in election of directors, and to promote diversity in boards of the companies, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced amendments in the Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019 and the Companies (Postal Ballot) Regulations, 2018.

The notified amendments aim to facilitate listed companies in meeting their regulatory requirements relating to the elec-

tion of independent and female directors on their boards. The new regulations will also strengthen corporate governance framework by introducing the concept of voting in categories on proportionate basis.

Under the category voting, a three-tier voting structure for listed companies is being prescribed whereby votes shall be cast separately for the three categories of directors i.e. female, independent and others. The division of maximum votes available to each member for a category shall be in proportion to the number of seats of directors under such category.

The Difference is Digital - Zong 4G celebrates 15 years of success in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: "2023 marks a momentous milestone for Zong 4G as it celebrates 15 years of unwavering excellence in Pakistan. Guided by the belief that "the difference is digital," Zong 4G has revolutionized the country's digital landscape through the widest 4G network, leaving an indelible mark through its adaptability, customer-centric approach, and unmatched network infrastructure. Beyond being a telecom giant, Zong 4G has become the unrivaled digital provider for future generations, shaping the very fabric of Pakistan's technological future.

At the forefront of technological advancement for over a decade and a half, Zong 4G has been instrumental in propelling the nation's digital revolution. Pioneering the introduction of 3G and 4G networks and successfully testing 5G, Zong 4G has been a tireless advocate for technological progress, transforming the way Pakistan connects and communicates.

Committed to socio-economic upliftment, Zong 4G has invested significantly in expanding its network infrastructure, erecting over 14,000 towers nationwide. With a massive investment of over USD 3 billion, Zong 4G has extended its cutting-edge technology to even the remotest corners of the country. As a result, millions of Pakistanis now have access to the most affordable and best-in-class telecommunications services, bridging the digital divide and empowering individuals, businesses, and communities alike. Zong 4G has made a concentrated effort along the One Belt, One Road to improve infrastructure and invest in the country's remotest corners and the communities around it. Zong 4G has also been one of the largest contributors to the country's tax collection in the past 15 years.

Tanveer off to Czech Republic to compete at World Archery Para C'ships

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's visually impaired archer Tanveer Ahmed flew to Czech Republic on Monday to feature in the World Archery Para Championships 2023.

The week-long Championships that commenced in Pilsen on Monday will conclude on July 23.

The 39-year-old Tanveer claimed the first-ever silver medal for the country in the last edition of the Championships that was held in Dubai, last year. "That was my first appearance in the event and I returned home with a silver medal. Now I'm targeting another medal; hopefully gold this time," Tanveer, who has low vision and shoots blindfolded told APP on phone.

Tanveer has won several medals in national and international competitions since taking on archery in 2017. Prior to that he was a blind cricketer where he showcased his talent for 16 years. "I've been a cricketer. But it is archery that gave me real recognition." The 2022



has been a year of success for him as he earned five international medals in it, including the first-ever mix team gold medal in Andorra International Open for VI Archery, silver medal in 30-metre individual event of VI Archery and bronze medal in 18-metre individual event of VI Archery in Andorra International Open for VI Archery, bronze

medal in World Ranking Event & European Cup and silver medal in World Archery Para Championships. "I'm the only archer from Pakistan, who has won five medals in a calendar year," he added.

He said he had been training hard for the World Archery Para Championships and believed he was fully fit to take on the challenge and emerge victorious. "My

coach Muhammad Ijaz is a seasoned trainer. I wanted him to accompany but due to visa issues he could not accompany me.

"I will be competing in the event without my coach," said Tanveer, who is being sponsored by the BARD Foundation for the event. "The BARD Foundation is also sponsoring me for World Blind Games where I will be again the only archer to represent my country."

The 2023 World Games is the largest high-level international event for athletes with visual impairment, with more than 1250 competitors from 70 nations. The games, staged every four years are the pinnacle of the international sporting calendar outside the Paralympic Games.

The sports taking place during the 2023 World Games include archery, chess, cricket, blind football, partially sighted football, women's football, goalball, judo, powerlifting, showdown, tenpin bowling and tennis. Pakistan's men blind cricket team is also scheduled to feature in the Games.

ICC's new financial model to offer twice the revenue to PCB

A Sports

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday, announced that it will receive "more than two times" revenue from the new International Cricket Council (ICC) financial model.

ICC Board, Committee meetings and the Annual Conference took place in Durban, South Africa, from 10-13 July 2023. PCB's delegation represented Pakistan at these meetings during which Equal prize money for men's and women's teams at ICC Events, ICC Financial and Distribution Model 2024-27, Amendments to the ICC Sanctioning Regulations and Modifications to the over rate sanctions in Test cricket amongst other matters were discussed.

The new ICC financial and distribution model envisages the largest-ever investment to go into global cricket and provides a huge opportunity for the game to grow further.



In determining the distribution share to members, the model considers on and off field performance including cricket rankings, performance at ICC events, and commercial contribution to the ICC Events.

PCB, in accordance with its constitutional right, has over the past few weeks and at the ICC Meetings, consistently sought additional information to better understand the rationale behind allocation of weightages to each of the criteria and the calculation of the distributions. The PCB felt in the absence of all rele-

vant information, data and formulae, such a significant decision should not be taken in haste.

The PCB, therefore, proposed that this item may be deferred to the next ICC meeting.

Ultimately, majority of members did not find it feasible to defer this item and voted in favour of passing the Model, while the PCB recorded its dissent as a matter principle.

Consequently, due to the Pakistan cricket team's performance in men's ICC events and in bilateral cricket, the PCB's own huge fan-base, which leads to significant commercial value, the PCB was ranked amongst the top-four nations in this Model. As such, the PCB will receive more than two times the revenue when compared to the last cycle.

This increased share of revenue will mean that a far greater investment can be made in developing cricketing skills and will be beneficial in taking Paki-

stan Cricket to new heights. This was a welcome news for the Pakistani fans and our great nation.

A number of fruitful meetings were held by Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chair of the PCB's Management Committee, with fellow cricket board officials on the sidelines of the ICC meetings where collaborations and mutually beneficial programs to further cricket development and growth were discussed.

On Saturday, 15 July, a meeting was held between the PCB and ACC officials in respect of finalising the schedule of the Asia Cup 2023, logistical and organizational arrangements and marketing campaigns.

The finalised schedule is likely to be announced during this week. With the opening match scheduled to kick off in Pakistan, the PCB, as the event host, looks forward to welcoming cricket fans from across the world to experience Pakistan's renowned hospitality.

Qasim Akram's six-fer leads Shaheens to thump UAE in Emerging Asia Cup

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Qasim Akram's six-wicket haul and half-centuries by Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Harris, Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub led Pakistan Shaheens to a commanding 184-run win over UAE A in the ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup.

This was Pakistan Shaheens' second successive win in the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup after the defending champions defeated Nepal by four wickets on Friday at the Colombo Cricket Ground.

Chasing 310 to win, the spin duo of Qasim and Sufiyan Muqem were all over the UAE A batters after openers Aryansh Sharma (37, 34b, 8x4s) and Jonathan Figy (25, 50, 4x4s) stitched a 59-run partnership for the first wicket.

After the departure of both open-

ing batters, only Nilansh Keswani (17, 30b, 2x4s) and Ethan D'Souza (10, 19b, 2x4s) managed to enter into double figures.

Qasim, with his right-arm off-spin bowling, bagged six wickets for 26 runs from 10 overs while left-arm wrist spinner Sufiyan ended up with match figures of 8.5-1-36-3.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Pakistan Shaheens' opening pair of Saim and Sahibzada provided a solid 98-run start to the innings.

Right-handed Sahibzada was the first one to return back to the hut after scoring 63 off 55 balls, which included 10 fours and one six. Left-hander Saim was soon to follow Sahibzada, not before smashing five fours and two sixes of his 63-ball 56 innings.

Following the dismissals of both openers, Omair Bin Yousuf (24, 39b, 2x4s) was next to go with the score-

card reading Pakistan Shaheens three for 160 in 27.4 overs.

At that important juncture of the match, Kamran Ghulam was joined by skipper Mohammad Harris and the pair knitted an 87-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Harris (55, 46b, 9x4s) returned back to the pavilion in the 40th over, while Kamran (63, 53b, 4x4s, 4x6s) followed his captain as Shaheens were 284 for five in 43.4 overs.

The late middle-order then failed to contribute significantly as Shaheens were dismissed for 309 in 49.2 overs - losing five wickets for 24 runs.

Pakistan Shaheens will now face India A in their third fixture of the ongoing ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup on 19 July at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo. The first ball of the match will be bowled at 1330 PKT.



America's number 10' Lionel Messi 'unveiled' at Inter Miami

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: It rained on his parade, but Lionel Messi greeted his new Inter Miami fans and was hailed by the club's owner as "America's number 10" at a damp but celebratory unveiling event on Sunday.

Miami's 20,000 capacity stadium was close to full despite a huge thunderstorm just before the event to celebrate the arrival of the Argentine World Cup winner was due to begin.

A massive tropical downpour forced organizers to delay the start of "The Unveil" as fans took cover or waited out the rain in their cars.

The event started around two hours later than originally scheduled with wet but delighted fans chanting Lionel Messi's name as the lights dimmed on the venue.

The club's co-owner David Beckham opened the ceremony saying Messi's arrival was a "dream come true".

"Leo, we are so proud that you have chosen our club for the next stage in your career," said the former Manchester United

player whose move to MLS's Los Angeles Galaxy in 2007 was the league's previous biggest arrival.

"Welcome to our family Leo," Beckham added in Spanish, to roars from the crowd.

Inter Miami's majority owner Jorge Mas then whipped the crowd up with his own bilingual speech.

"Tonight is a gift and celebration to the city that opened its arms to my family," said the Cuban-American businessman.

"Tonight we are doing this in the rain. 'This is holy water!' he added.

"This is our moment! Our moment to change the football landscape in this country," he added, before introducing Messi as "Your new number 10, America's number 10".

Lionel Messi, who arrived in Inter Miami on Tuesday with his family and caused a viral sensation after being photographed shopping with them in a local supermarket, thanked the supporters.

"Thank you very much to all the people for supporting me

and giving me this love. I am very happy to be here in Miami," he said.

"I really want to start training, to compete, I have the same desire that I always had to compete, to want to win, to help the club continue to grow.

"I am very happy to have chosen to come to play in this city with my family, to choose this project and I have no doubt that we are going to enjoy it a lot, we are going to have a good time and very good things are going to happen," he said.

Inter Miami, the bottom club in Major League Soccer, confirmed on Saturday that the seven-times Ballon d'Or winner had signed a deal that will keep him with the club until 2025. The former Barcelona great opted to join Miami after his contract with French club Paris Saint-Germain expired last month.

His former Barcelona teammate, Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets, was also presented to the crowd after completing his move.

Major League Soccer commis-

sioner Don Garber praised Mas for his determined pursuit of Messi for the club which is in only its fourth season.

"Lionel Messi was on his radar from the very beginning. I have to say, when he would say that many years ago, I didn't think that he would be able to deliver it," Garber told reporters.

"But here we are today with a player that I think, without doubt, is not only a generational player, but in my opinion, the greatest of all time."

He was scheduled to hold a press conference on Monday but the club said Sunday that had been postponed. No explanation for the decision was given.

Lionel Messi could make his debut for the club on Friday against Mexico team Cruz Azul in the new Leagues Cup, which features teams from both MLS and Mexico's Liga MX.

However on Saturday, the team's new Argentine coach Gerardo Martino urged "patience" after watching his side's winless streak extend to 11 games.

"We look to the future with



hope (given) that the best player in the world will play for our team, but also with the patience that we have to have so that he can get in good physical shape and can play at the right moment," he said.

Latin music stars Camilo and Ozuna were set to entertain the crowd at the DRV PNK Stadium, about an hour's drive north of downtown Miami.

The stadium, Inter Miami's temporary home on the site of the old home of the now defunct Fort Lauderdale Strikers, was not completely full as the event got under way with fireworks.

Inter Miami are planning their own purpose-built stadium, Freedom Park, in Miami but it is not expected to open until 2025.

'Cornered Tigers-The 1992 Story' Premieres on Tapmad

Sports Desk

PAKISTAN: Pakistan's biggest OTT platform tapmad is streaming a first of its kind docu-series on the biggest and most cherished sports event in Pakistan's history i.e. Cricket World Cup 1992.

With the much-hyped Asia Cup just around the corner and the World Cup later this year, this exclusive and nostalgic docuseries aims to introduce the historic journey of the green squad in 1992 to the younger generation of cricket lovers in the country.

The best part about the docu-series is getting to hear the stories from the legendary team players themselves, the trailer for Cornered Tigers shows legends Wasim Akram, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Moin Khan, Javed Miandad, Mushtaq Ahmed & Ejaz Ahmed and others revealing their personal journeys, emotions, and insights throughout the 1992 Cricket World Cup. There is also a special appearance by Shoab Akhtar where he sheds light on the impact of the 1992 world cup on his life.

"Cornered Tigers - The 1992 Story" is directed by Adnan Sarwar and produced by Producer, Nina Kashif, and it is available for free on tapmad.

"Cornered Tigers tells the tale, by the heroes who made it possible. Unrelenting resolve, focused commitment and sturdy belief in their leadership was what Pakistan team was made of!," commented the producer Nina Kashif while speaking about the docu-series.

"The 1992 World Cup win is one of my fondest childhood memories. A rare uniting moment for our country which brought us pride. It has been a special project which gave me the opportunity to interact with my childhood heroes and to be able to document and archive not just the historic event, but also the thoughts of those who achieved it, for future generations", stated director of the docu-series Adnan Sarwar.



Djokovic fined \$80,000 for smashing racket in Wimbledon final

Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic has been handed a hefty fine of \$80,000 after he lost his cool and smashed his racket against a net post during the Wimbledon final clash, Independent reported.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz made history by breaking Djokovic's unbeaten 34-win streak at Wimbledon as he downed the Serb to win the final in a thrilling five-set match.

The 36-year-old is now hit with the penalty, amounting to £6,117, for "racket abuse", confirmed the All England Lawn Tennis Club on Monday.

During the final match on Sunday on Centre Court, Djokovic became frustrated and broke the racket after which he received a warning while the fans booed him.

Umpire Fergus Murphy issued a warning against the Serbian for a code violation.

"[It] was frustration," Djokovic said afterwards. "I had break points in the second game. Yeah, just tough, tough couple of points. He played amazing to break my serve, which was enough to win the fifth." The Spanish tennis star defeated Djokovic 1-6, 7-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 to win the Wimbledon men's singles final, breaking the 20-year dominance of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and Djokovic.

Earlier, Djokovic also hinted at retirement after losing the 136th Wimbledon final, admitting he "doesn't know how long he will be around".