





## Group photo

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants of the 37th Mid-Career Management Course, Quetta, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Political inclusion of women imperative for stable democracy: says NA Speaker

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that no society can develop without inclusion and active participation of women in all segments of society. He also said that societies remained backwards and underdevelop where women are not encouraged and promoted. He said that Pakistani women are talented and taking active part in politics. He expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of Round Table of Political Parties on Women's Manifesto organized by Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in collaboration with UN Women in Islamabad today.

The Speaker Raja Pervez has said that stable politics and strong Parliament is interlinked with political empowerment of women. He also said that women comprises more than fifty percent of population and their representation in politics would strengthen Parliament and democracy. He extended felicitation to organizer of this successful Round table conference. He also appreciated the consensus evolved in manifesto is praiseworthy.



Ms. Shahida Rehmani General Secretary WPC said that WPC has always been at the forefront to legislate for protection of fundamental women's rights. She said that political participation of women is vital for progress and development of country. Freha Omar UN Women Representative in Pakistan said that political participation of women is pivotal for empowering women. She appreciated the support of Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf and Ms Shahida Rehmani Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus for organising this successful conference.

Shaista Pervaiz Malik Ex General Secretary of WPC has

appreciated support of Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez for always promoting women participation in legislative arena. She said that all parties will remain committed to their manifesto.

MNA Farrukh Khan-Representative Q-League praised the role of Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf and Ms Shahida Rehmani Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus for their role in promoting and supporting Women Parliamentary Caucus.

Farhat ullah Babar Secretary General Pakistan People Parties said that WPC represents all women across the country. He also stressed on

need to include suggestions for political empowerment in manifesto of all political parties.

Ms. Bushara Rindh representative of Balochistan Awami Party emphasized that Pakistani women are the most talented in the world.

Jamal Dawar Representative of National Democratic Movement stressed on need to organise such conference at regional and provincial level. H

Ms. Aysha Syed representing Jamat-e-Islami said that Islam is a comprehensive religion. She said that Islam stressed upon ensuring provision of fundamental rights to all humans equally including

women.

Syed Nayar Hussain Bukhari Ex-Chairman Senate Secretary General Pakistan People Party Parliamentarian stressed that it is PPP which has been at forefront to take all initiatives to empower women.

Two days Round Table of political parties on Women's Manifesto unanimously adopted Women Manifesto to empower women in all walks of life. The Manifesto outlined the significance attached with political participation. Women Representatives of all political parties agree upon to include agenda of women empowerment in their political manifestos.

# Kashmiris observe Accession to Pakistan Day to renew resolve against Indian oppression

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Kashmiris living across the world observed the Accession to Pakistan Day on Wednesday with a renewed commitment to fight the Indian oppression and achieve their right

to self-determination as guaranteed by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

It was July 19 in 1947, that the genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession

to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Aabi Guzar area of Srinagar.

The historic resolution called for the accession of the

State of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan in view of its existing religious, geographical, cultural and economic proximity to Pakistan and the aspirations of millions of Kashmiri Muslims.

The APHC leaders and organizations said the people

of Kashmir, expressing their love for Pakistan every year observe July 19 as Accession to Pakistan Day. They said that it was on this historic day when the Kashmiri leadership unanimously decided to link their future with Pakistan.

# No additional tax being imposed on agriculture sector income: Bilal

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Wednesday categorically said that the government had no plan to impose additional tax on income of agriculture sector.

Addressing a news conference here, he said it was unfortunate that those who pushed the country to the verge of default were now attempting to dent the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

He expressed firm resolve that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue to take the country's journey towards economic stability and progress forward after coming

into power in the next general elections.

He mentioned that the government had successfully entered into a nine-month Stand-By-Agreement (SBA) with IMF, which was the result of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's dedicated efforts that received overwhelming support from the entire nation.

One significant indicator of the country's economic growth was observed on July 3 when the Pakistan stock exchange experienced a remarkable increase of 2446 points, with the index surpassing the 45,000 mark. This positive development was well-received by the business and trading communities, signifying their confidence in the government's economic policies, he added.



Kayani highlighted that Fitch, a renowned credit rating agency, also improved Pakistan's rating from minus 'CCC' to '+CCC' further bolstering the nation's economic position. Acknowledging the concerns surrounding loans acquired from the IMF,

the Prime Minister himself acknowledged the necessity of such measures for Pakistan's economic well-being. As a result, the country's foreign reserves increased, and exchange rate stability has been achieved, effectively eliminating the threats of default.

In addition to the assistance of around \$4.2 billion from the IMF, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China also recently rolled over a loan of \$600 million.

Bilal Azhar emphasized that certain elements within the nation had attempted to undermine the national economy by engaging in petty politics. However, these destructive seeds have been uprooted, and those who once desired Pakistan to default are now opposing the IMF program, perplexed by the country's resilience, he added.

He said despite the challenging decisions, the government has ensured that the socially vulnerable classes receive financial assistance through the social protection program.

# President urges bureaucracy to promote good governance in public departments

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday urged the government officers to play their role in promotion of good governance in all public departments of the country.

He said besides improving service delivery, the bureaucracy should also work for the country's development and welfare of the people with sincerity and hard work.

He was talking to the participants of 37th Mid-Career Management Course Quetta who called on him here at the President House.

The president said the government authorities needed to take timely decisions to provide justice to the people.

"Delay in decision making put negative impact on the service deliv-

ery and development of the country," he said adding "We need to adopt better morals and values?? of integrity".

He said Pakistani bureaucracy has to improve the system and increase the intellectual capacity.

The officers should equip themselves with modern skills to improve the performance and effective decision making, he remarked.

President Alvi also asked the bureaucracy to benefit from the modern information technology to improve the people's access to the public service and enhance performance of the government departments.

The president also directed to provide service as per the people's expectation to ensure fast-track development in the country.

# Under vision of PM, government takes concrete steps for revival of economy: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the present government had taken immediate and concrete steps for revival of the country's economy.

During a meeting with Australian Ambassador to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins who called on her here, she said Pakistan valued relations with Australia.

Bilateral relations, economic stability, cooperation in the fields of film, art and culture were also discussed during the meeting.

The ambassador appreciated the current government's efforts for stabilizing the country's economy and the International Monetary Fund agreement.

"Thanks to government initiatives, positive results have started coming on the economic front," the minister maintained. She also briefed the ambassador about the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Marriyum said this council would ensure the forecasting, continuity and effective implementation of the policy for economic recovery.

The SIFC would function as the apex decision-making forum, she added.

Stating that the present government fully believed in freedom of expression, she said the government introduced the Freedom of Expression Bill in Parliament in first week after coming to power.

The minister said that the Journal-



ists and Media Professionals Protection (Amendment) Bill was in the process of approval.

An ample amount of money had been allocated for the health insurance of journalists and artists in this year's budget, she informed the ambassador.

The minister said that PEMRA law was being amended in Pakistan and for the first time journalistic organizations had also been represented in PEMRA authority.

For the first time, she said, budgetary allocation had been made for the film industry in the ongoing fiscal year.

The minister said the government wanted to show Pakistani culture, civilization and heritage to the whole world through screen tourism.

She also informed the Australian Ambassador about the National Amateur Film Festival aimed to highlight the creativity of Pakistani youth.

She said that 25 high achievers had recently left for Australia for National Amateur Film Festival Awards.

The government had not only established a film finance fund at a cost of Rs 2 billion, but also given many concessions to the film sector, she added.

"The government will provide funds for producing films, documentaries and dramas under the new film policy", she said.

# Pakistan earns \$2,369 million from IT services' export in 11 months

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US\$ 2,369.110 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services to various countries during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23.

This shows a nominal decline of 0.59 percent as compared to US\$ 2,383.140 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During July-May (2022-23), the export of computer services declined by 0.16 percent as it went down from US\$ 1,913.360 million last fiscal year to US\$ 1,910.39 million this year.

Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed a decrease of 2.38 percent, from US\$ 715.743 million to US\$ 698.737 million while the exports of hardware consultancy services rose by 114.50 percent from US\$ 2.448 million to US\$ 5.251 million.

The export and import of computer software-related services surged by 5.47 percent, from US\$ 512.167 million to US\$ 540.169 million whereas the exports of repair and maintenance services increased to US\$ 2.822 million

from US\$ 1.435 million.

In addition, the exports of other computer services witnessed a decrease of 2.66 percent going down from US\$ 681.567 million to US\$ 663.411 million.

Meanwhile, the export of information services during the period under review declined by 8.91 percent going down from US\$ 4.940 million to US\$ 4.500 million.

Among the information services, the exports of news agency services decreased by 18.21 percent, from US\$ 3.234 million to US\$ 2.645 million whereas the exports of other information services, however, increased by 8.73 percent, from US\$ 1.706 million to US\$ 1.855 million.

The export of telecommunication services witnessed a decrease of 2.28 percent from US\$ 464.840 million to US\$ 454.220 million during the months under review, the data revealed.

Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centre services increased by 7.55 percent during the period as its exports increased from US\$ 197.265 million to US\$ 212.158 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services decreased by 9.53 percent, from US\$ 267.575 million to US\$ 242.062 million during the period under review, the PBS data revealed.



# PRCS provides relief supplies to families in Badin coastal belt

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Recognizing the potential risks posed by the recent cyclone in the coastal area of Badin, Pakistan Red Crescent Society carried out the distribution of relief packages among 3,000 families on Tuesday. These packages included rations, mosquito nets, plastic sheets, and kerosene lamps. The distribution ceremonies took place in Ahmed Raja village and Jamkhana, Badin.

The dry ration package, weighing 51 kilograms, consisted of essential food items such as wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar, lentils, tea, and spices.

The ceremonies were attended by Mr. Jehanzaib Baloch, Deputy Director Field of PRCS, along with Zulfiqar Ahmed, the focal person for response



from National Headquarters, Abdus Memon, and Tahir Kallhorro from Sattar Memon, Sadiq Somro, Aftab PRCS Badin Branch.

Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari said that the Red Crescent has been in the service of flood victims and playing its fullest and effective role in relief operations. He said PRCS has fulfilled its commitment to providing assistance to the affected individuals. He emphasized that it is their responsibility to continue their work until all the affected people have recovered.

Furthermore, registrations have commenced for the distribution of ration packages in Sajawal and Omerkot. Dedicated volunteers of the Red Crescent are visiting households to provide coupons to eligible families. In Sajawal, 3,000 households will benefit from this relief assistance, while in Omerkot, 1,000 households will receive the much-needed support.

## Aerial Bundle Cable for MEPCO to curb power theft in interior's Punjab

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Mepeco Board of Directors Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Laghari has said that the installation of Aerial Bundle Cable (ABC) is a commendable project to reduce the rate of electricity theft and the incidence of electrocution in the interior areas under the administration of South Punjab. The use of modern technology to eradicate power theft is the need of the hour for which the MEPCO Board of Directors and management are grateful to USAID. He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of visiting Sports Complex/USAID office. He directed the CEO Mepeco to take more steps to reduce the rate of electricity theft in the Mepeco region.

And ABC cable should also be installed to prevent the incidents of electric shock. Chief Executive Officer Mepeco Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana while giving a briefing to the Chairman Mepeco Board of Directors said that the ABC cable installation projects have been completed in Multan/Khaniwal/Bahawalpur/DG Khan and other cities in the interior areas of which Substantial results have been obtained. In inner urban areas, the rate of electricity theft has decreased and the rate of electrocution incidents has also decreased. He said that new projects are being started in Musa Division of Multan city with the support of USAID (PSIA) in which modern technology will be introduced.

Table Tennis/Badminton/Gymnasium/Carrom Board/Snooker games are also being organized in the complex. Mepeco is the first company in the country where taekwondo training is being provided to children of officers/employees to provide their safety and healthy activities where international coaches are imparting training to children/girls. Chief Engineer Customer Services Jam Gul on this occasion. Muhammad Zahid, Project Director Construction Sohail Bashir, Manager Civil Works Abdul Hameed Memon, Additional Actin Civil Works Rao Muhammad Afzal Sabir and other officers were also present.

## DPO visits PS & checkpoints, reviewed law, order & security situation



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah (PPM) visited Police Station (PS) Raghzai, Checkpoints Angoori Ada and Khamrang Near pak Afghan Border yesterday, Inspected all new buildings, met local tribal elders and dignitaries.

The DPO reviewed the law and order and security arrangements in detail, SHO Police station Raghzai gave a detailed briefing about the security arrangements and law and order, on which Mr. DPO expressed his satisfaction.

While speaking, the DPO said that the police officers are responsible for the lives and property of the people and it is our duty to fulfill the responsibility properly.

People's lives and property will be protected, only then, with positive changes in citizens' attitudes towards the police, more respect for the department will increase.

The police officers should take care of the sanctity of the self-respect of all the tribal elders of the area and take full action against the criminal elements with the cooperation of the white-clothed tribal leaders, and cooperation of tribesmen will help in keeping the society free from crime.

On this occasion DPO issued instructions to the police to use bullet-

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muhammad Usman Chachar called on President of AJK Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry here on Wednesday. During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual interest, especially the administrative affairs of Azad Kashmir.



# Mega Health Projects in Multan on The Way Towards Completion: Amir Khattak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Mega health projects in the city of Saints are on the way towards completion. The Punjab government has assigned the special task of completion of development projects to Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak. Visited suddenly and said that OPD in cardiology extension block has been made fully functional. The work on the project worth 3 billion rupees is going on rapidly. 33 rooms are functionally complete while the second floor should be handed over to the hospital administration today.

He said that a deadline has been given to make the hospital fully functional in September this year. Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak said that 208 beds will be increased by the construction of hospital consisting of 3



basements, ground floor, 3 flows. A 4-storied inn will be constructed at a cost of 20 crores in cardiology hospital. One PC of the 250-bed inn has been sent to the Punjab government. Commissioner Aamir Khattak also visited the Civil Hospital and reviewed the construction work

He said that the existing building of Civil Hospital is being handed over to Children's Hospital. Children's hospital emergency will be moved to civil hospital building. The 47 million rupees scheme should be completed in one month. He said that the practical steps have been started to transfer the civil

hospital to Shehbaz Sharif hospital and give the hospital building to the children's hospital. The people of this region have long demanded that children The hospital should be expanded and its services should be improved. Children's Hospital is the only hospital in South Punjab for the treatment of

## People of Wasaib been forced to commit suicide due to poverty: Zahoor Dharija



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A protest demonstration against the government for not creating a province and the incidents of suicides due to poverty, unemployment, and inflation were raised by the Saraikistan National Council. The protestors demanded the establishment of a tax-free industrial zone in Saraiki Wasaib. Addressing the protest in Dharija Nagar, Saraiki leader Zahoor Dharija said that the incident of suicide of a poverty-stricken husband and wife along with their children in Hashilpur is said.

Why have the people of Wasaib been forced to commit suicide due to poverty, unemployment and inflation? He said that the deceased Hassan was unemployed, the house was on rent, the rent of which was to be paid, the people of WAPDA sent a heavy bill of 17 thousand five hundred rupees from above.

# Economic Revolution can be brought by increasing the Production of Cotton:

Chaudhry Waheed

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chairman of Pakistan Cotton Growers Association (PCGA) Chaudhry Waheed Arshad has said that an economic revolution can be brought about by increasing the production of cotton. PCGA launched the Cotton Growing Economy Campaign Today all stakeholders agree that all economic goals can be achieved by increasing cotton production. Ensure provision of loans at low markup/low interest rates to the gins and spinning industry to handle one of the largest cotton crops in the history of the country and ensure CASH



FLOW to protect farmers from exploitation. If the country is prosperous, the policy of prosperity should be promoted

All stakeholders should ensure that the relief for the farmers reaches their doorsteps. While holding a press conference at PCGA House

Multan, Vice Chairman Rana Waseem Hanif along with former chairmen Haji Muhammad Akram and Sohail Mehmoed Haral, Chaudhry Waheed Arshad said that the government has planted 'Banula' oil on Banula and Cotton Dirt (DIRT). 18% sales tax respectively should be announced

immediately. Cotton ginning industry should also be given textile sector incentives. Cotton fee 'market fee' NHA tax provincial excise (highways) tax should be abolished. The increase in tariff should be withdrawn. Immediate steps should be taken for the recovery and survival of the mining industry

The government has now given up the pretense of IMF and taken decisions in the best interest of the country. By doing this, provide relief to the gendarmes. Welcome to the government's green revolution. Assuring full support for the continuation of the Government's GROW MORE COTTON program and further initiatives.

# Maa Organization takes initiative of education and marriage of special children



City Desk

LAHORE: Maa Organization in collaboration with Rotary Club Lahore Garrison has taken an initiative to bring positive change in the lives of Down syndrome children.

Apart from its mission of providing employment for special children along with its inclusive education program, it has also started marriages with the support of Balochistan Welfare Organization and Society.

It should be remembered that Dr. Ruqia Saeed Hashmi, former Minister Balochistan is the main initiator and founder of these three organizations.

The CEO of "Maa" (The Mother) is

Syeda Salma Hashmi and the Administrator is Senior Major (Retd) Anjum Afroz Rana (Deputy Governor Rotary International District 3272). The first engagement of this series has taken place between Ahmed and Jannat.

While Rotary Club of Lahore Garrison president Mohammad Kashif and his team invited the couple to the swearing in ceremony and encouraged them and their parents.

On this occasion Rotary District Governor Masroor Shaikh, nominated Governor Dr. Shahina Asif, former Governor Shehzad Ahmed, Club Secretary Rabil Butt and former Deputy Governor Abdul Halim were present with the entire team of the club.





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:31 am  
Zohr ..... 12:14 pm  
Asr ..... 5:11 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:17 pm  
Isha ..... 8:56 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**IBF Int'l Consulting hosted a Project Closing and Toolkit Distribution**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: IBF international Consulting a leading implementing partner of Programme for Migration Development of GIZ, organized a momentous project closing ceremony followed by in-kind support to beneficiaries as part of its comprehensive training-led employment support project. The ceremony marked a significant milestone of the project by empowering returnees and local individuals with the necessary skills and resources to secure sustainable self-employment opportunities in Pakistan.

Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, National Team Leader of the Program Migration for Development (PME), Pakistan, who was the chief guest of the ceremony, expressed his gratitude for the collaborative efforts and the positive impact the training-led employment support project has made. He commended IBF and IConsult for their dedication towards uplifting returnees from Germany and various countries throughout the world and empowering them to embark on sustainable business journeys in Pakistan.

# Peace in region linked with resolution of Kashmir: AJK-PM

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Stressing the need for an early and amicable settlement of the Kashmir dispute, the Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that despite the passage of several decades, the United Nations (UN) has not been able to implement its resolution on Kashmir. While talking to the media men and members of different delegations who called on him at his residence here today, the PM said that decades have passed since the Kashmiris were promised the right to self determination, however, the Kashmiri people have still been waiting for the highest forum's proactive role to help resolve the lingering dispute by implementing its resolutions.

He said that over the past several decades the people of Kashmir have rendered unprecedented sacrifices to achieve the cherished goal of freedom from India's illegal and forcible occupation. Referring to the reign of terror unleashed upon them by the Indian occu-



designs under any circumstances. He said that Kashmiris' journey of sacrifice and struggle, which started in 1947, continues even today. The Kashmiris' third generation, he said, has taken the mantle of resistance and were determined to achieve the goal, which was set about by their forefathers months before the creation of Pakistan. He said that Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control were celebrating Pakistan Accession Day with a renewed pledge to take the ongoing struggle to a logical conclusion. "The struggle for the right to self determination will continue on all fronts", he said, adding that the Kashmiri people would continue their struggle until the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir was freed from Indian rule and becomes part of Pakistan. The AJK premier, while appreciating Pakistan's principled stance on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, said that Pakistan has always lent its full support to the Kashmir cause besides presenting the case of Kashmir effectively at every international forum.

patation forces, the PM said that despite using all means of oppression, India has miserably failed in its attempts to wipe out Pakistan's love from the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people. Terming the relationship between Kashmiris and Pakistan as unbreakable, the PM said that Syed Ali Shah Geelani's popular slogan "Hum Pakistani Hai Pakistan Hamara Hai" was the voice of every Kashmiri. He said that the bodies of Kashmiri martyrs draped in green flags was a vivid manifestation of Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan. Lauding the Kashmiris' commitment to the noble cause of freedom, the PM said that the people of Kashmir would not allow India to succeed in its nefarious

## Farewell Meeting

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Mr. Ibrahim Yala Al Madani, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Pak pharma sector has limitless potential in Africa

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Africa Business Forum (PABF) said on Wednesday that Africa is made up of 54 countries and has an enormous range of opportunities; therefore, trade with the continent must be prioritised.

Africa has abundant raw materials; seventy percent of sub-Saharan Africa is under the age of 30, which is a market dream for companies looking for new consumers and talent, he said.

Omar Shahid Butt, President (PABF) said in a statement issued here today that Africa has a combined GDP of

three trillion dollars, and the land mass of Africa is larger than China, the US, and the EU combined.

He added that Africa has a population of 1.2 billion, which has been projected to double in the next thirty years, offering many opportunities for our business community.

The business leader said that Africa offers great scope for the Pakistani pharmaceutical industry, as there are only 375 pharmaceutical companies on the whole continent.

It is also a good destination for Pakistani rice exporters, as it is a necessary commodity for which demand is constant on the continent, especially in



West Africa.

Many people in Africa prefer to consume IRR1-6 (broken rice) grown mostly in Sindh, he said, adding that Africa is also in need of agricultural machinery that can be

beneficial to Pakistan.

He said that Gwadar port is well positioned for trade with Africa, and can be utilised appropriately by increasing trade with Africa, as trade with a dozen Middle Eastern countries will not help utilise the potential of Gwadar.

Pakistan can also satisfy its needs by importing many things from Africa at a competitive price, which will help the masses facing high inflation.

We need a firm focus on trade with Africa, for which different steps are needed, including full implementation of the 'Look Africa Policy', he demanded.

## Punjab Food Authority to fine restaurants for not getting test from private labs

**City Desk**



RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Food Authority expressed disbelief on the test conducted in the District Health Department. Despite being the District Health Department, Punjab Food Authority administrators started forcing restaurant owners to get expensive tests from private laboratories. A case has been registered against 4 resort owners who did not get tested by Punjab Food Authority's preferred laboratories. On which the merchant Brady protested.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed, president of Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajran Liakat Bagh Rawalpindi and other Traders appealed to Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Provincial Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir to stop the series of unjustified fines. If the District Health Department is not a reliable institution, it should be closed.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed expressed his surprise on the attitude of the director general of Punjab Food Authority, Raja Jahangir Anwar, to conduct the tests of the employees of the restaurant owners with expensive laboratory tests. And said that the tests conducted in the district health department are not satisfactory. Isn't the district health department an institution of Punjab government? The business community of Rawalpindi appealed to Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Health Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir to stop the institutions from making suggestions on their own. The chain of retaliation should be stopped. We are also responsible citizens of this country. We and our business should be protected. If the restaurants are closed, unemployment will increase further. The institutions under the supervision of the Punjab government will be responsible for this.

## Ombudsman Office intervenes to secure academic future of students

**News Desk**

LAHORE: In compliance with the orders of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, the Government College University Faisalabad has allowed 43 affected students of a private Lahore-based educational institution to appear for the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) examination from some other institution to continue their studies.

As per the details, a group of students including Muhammad Waleed, Muhammad Asim, Basma Anees, and others submitted an application to the Office of the Punjab Ombudsman stating that they were enrolled as Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students at Premier Institute Chungi Amar Sidhu, Ferozepur Road, Lahore. Their institution was affiliated with Government College University Faisalabad. Four batches of students were already enrolled in the institution when they took admissions. However, approximately a year later, the college notified them that their affiliation with Government College University Faisalabad has been terminated, putting their academic future at risk. The students expressed concerns over the academic deadlock between the college and the university, which has brought their education to a standstill and jeopardized their job prospects.

Concerned about their academic future, the students sought assistance from the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab to ensure the continuation of their education, considering the time and financial resources they had already invested in their studies.

The affected students have thanked the ombudsman office for securing their educational future.

## CBD Punjab organized Public Hearing for Environmental Approval of Walton Road Up gradation

**News Desk**

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), is set to embark on the Walton Road upgradation project. In this regard, CBD Punjab has organized a public hearing session to discuss the project's environmental aspects and obtain environmental approval in a bid to ensure transparency and gather valuable feedback.

The public hearing session was attended by representatives from the Technical Directorate of CBD Punjab, Environment Protection Agency Punjab (EPA), Walton Cantonment Board (WCB), local residents, and Walton Road community representatives. The technical team of CBD Punjab provided insights about the project, emphasizing that it aims to address the long-standing sewage and drainage issues of Walton Road.

While talking on the occasion Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, COO of CBD Punjab, said, "We are committed to resolving the longstanding issues faced by the residents of Walton Road. Through this upgradation project, CBD Punjab aims to create a modern and sustainable environment that prioritizes the well-being of the community."

Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain said that the authority will work in full swing while utilizing all available resources for the timely completion of this project.



# Third International Solar Clean Energy Conference

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Speakers at a conference emphasized the need to maximize solar energy production in Pakistan, especially by establishing utility-scale renewable energy projects to provide uninterrupted power supply to every household in the country at the cheapest rates.

They were speaking at the 3rd International Solar Clean Energy Conference organized by the Energy Update here at a hotel in collaboration with Sindh Energy Department and AEDB.

Speaking as the guest of honor, the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates, Bakhteeq Ateeq Al Romaithi, said the UAE would fully support the development of renewable energy projects in Pakistan in line with its assistance for improving health, educational facilities, and infrastructure projects in the country. He said the students in Pakistan

should be properly educated about the importance of renewable energy in their lives.

He said that given the deep friendly ties between the two brotherly Islamic countries Pakistan should fully take advantage of the upcoming COP-28 Conference to be held in Dubai for actively seeking international assistance for projects aimed at reversing the devastating phenomenon of climate change.

The Consul General assured the fullest assistance by the UAE for all efforts in Pakistan to ensure uninterrupted electric supply to every citizen at the most affordable rates.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh said the present provincial government had planned to formally establish the provincial power sector regulator in the remaining part of its tenure to facilitate the maximum production of renewable electricity in the provin-

ince. Shaikh told the audience at the conference that Sindh had the required infrastructure and policy frameworks in place to ensure maximum utilization of clean energy sources.

The Energy Minister informed the audience that under the drive of the Sindh government to promote the usage of clean energy sources, solar systems had been installed at 233 basic health units and 73 public sector hospitals. Similarly, solar panels will be installed at 40 large public sector buildings in the province including the government offices, Sindh Assembly, and jails.

Mehfooz Qazi, Director of Sindh Solar Energy Project, told the audience about the World Bank-funded drive of the provincial government to build utility-scale solar energy projects and install solar panels on the rooftops of public sector buildings.



Pioneer of clean energy sector in Pakistan, Prof Dr Nasim A Khan, said that given the massive potential of producing renewable energy the wind and solar should be treated

as main power generation sources instead of considering them alternative resources to produce electricity. Naeem Qureshi, speaking on behalf of Energy Update, said the Solar Clean

Energy Conference was being organized for the past three years to combine the efforts of the private sector, foreign donors, and government organizations for enhancing clean energy production in Pakistan.

Guest of Honor Mr. Abu Bakar Madani, Secretary Energy Department, Government of Sindh, Syed Salman Mohiuddin, Country Manager, Goodwe, Usman Waheed, Country Manager, Sungrow Power Supply Co. Ltd, Dr. Mohsin Aman, Director ASURE centre Associate Professor NED University, Shoab Asif Sipra, Vice President, Energy Solutions, Wateen Energy, Farheen Irfan, COO, ACT Engineering, Anis Yousuf, MD, EMBA Corporation, Irfan Ahmed Energy Expert, Shaaf Mehboob, CEO, Adaptive Technologies, Nabil Bari, CEO, PV 360, Faaz Diwan, Director, Diwan International Pvt Ltd, Yousuf Irfan Allahwala, Director, Mesol Solar and others also spoke on this occasion.



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# KVSL- A Great Initiative towards Healthier Kashmir - I

**S**ports play a vital role in shaping individuals and societies alike. From fostering physical fitness and mental well-being to instilling essential values like teamwork and discipline, sports offer a plethora of benefits to participants of all ages.

Regular participation in sports contributes to improved physical fitness and overall well-being. Engaging in sports activities helps build strength, endurance, and flexibility, leading to a healthier body and a reduced risk of various diseases such as obesity, cardiovascular ailments, and diabetes. Additionally, sports promote motor skills, coordination, and balance, ensuring better motor development, especially in children. Beyond physical health, sports also greatly impact mental and emotional well-being. Physical activity stimulates the release of endorphins, or "feel-good" hormones, which help alleviate stress, anxiety, and depression. Sports provide an outlet for individuals to release pent-up energy, channel their emotions, and enhance mental clarity. Moreover, participation in sports enhances cognitive function, concentration, and memory, improving academic performance and overall brain health. Sports are fertile ground for character development. Athletes learn the values of discipline, perseverance, determination, and resilience—essential attributes that translate into other aspects of life. The competitive nature of sports teaches individuals how

to handle victories and defeats graciously, fostering humility and sportsmanship. Team sports, in particular, nurture cooperation, communication, and empathy, as participants learn to work together towards a common goal. These values are indispensable in personal relationships, professional settings, and building a harmonious society.

Sports transcend borders, cultures, and languages, creating a universal language that unites people. Sporting events bring communities together, promoting social integration and unity. Whether it's cheering for a local team, supporting a national squad, or witnessing international tournaments, sports foster a sense of belonging and pride. Furthermore, sports provide opportunities for cultural exchange, allowing individuals from different backgrounds to interact, appreciate diverse perspectives, and bridge cultural gaps. Sports serve as a powerful tool for education and skill development. Schools and educational institutions recognize the importance of incorporating sports into curricula to instill discipline, teamwork, and time management skills among students. Participation in sports also encourages personal growth, as individuals set goals, develop strategies, and work towards self-improvement. Sports teach indi-

viduals to accept challenges, take calculated risks, and learn from failures, all of which are vital in preparing for the challenges of life. The sports industry has become a significant contributor to the global economy. From professional leagues and tournaments to sports equipment manufacturers and fitness centers, sports generate employment, revenue, and economic growth. Sporting events and tourism related to sports attract visitors from around the world, bolstering local economies. Moreover, the sports industry drives innovation, technological advancements, and research in areas such as sports medicine, nutrition, and sports analytics, benefiting both athletes and the general population. Sports are much more than mere physical activities; they embody the essence of human potential and growth. By promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, character development, social integration, and education, sports empower individuals to reach their full potential. The impact of sports extends beyond personal benefits, fostering societal harmony, cultural exchange, and economic growth. As we recognize the importance of sports, let us embrace their power to shape a healthier, happier, and more societies.

Volleyball, a dynamic and thrilling sport, has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. Known for its fast-paced action, strategic gameplay, and emphasis on teamwork, volleyball has become a beloved pastime and a highly competitive sport at both amateur and professional levels. Volleyball is a team sport played on a rectangular court, with two teams each separated by a net. The objective is to keep the ball in play and send it over the net, aiming to make it touch the ground on the opponent's side or force an error from the opposing team. The game is fast-paced, requiring quick reflexes, agility, and precise coordination between teammates. Volleyball epitomizes the essence of teamwork. Effective communication, trust, and cooperation are crucial to achieving success on the court. Each player has a specific role and position, such as setters, hitters, blockers, and defenders, and must work together seamlessly to execute plays and strategize against the opponent's defense. The synergy created through teamwork is what sets volleyball apart, as players must rely on one another to anticipate movements, provide accurate passes, and deliver powerful spikes. Volleyball demands a wide range of technical skills from its players. Serving, one of the most crucial aspects, requires precision and strategic placement to disrupt the opponent's reception. Accurate passing, known as bumping or forearm passing, is essential for setting up attacks.

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*To be Continued*



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Guterres warns against malicious use of artificial intelligence

**M**alicious use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems could cause a "horrific" amount of death and destruction, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said, calling for a new UN body to tackle the threats posed by the technology.

Speaking in the UN Security Council, Guterres said that if AI became primarily a weapon to launch cyberattacks, generate deepfakes, or for spreading disinformation and hate speech, it would have very serious consequences for global peace and security.

"Look no further than social media. Tools and platforms that were designed to enhance human connection are now used to undermine elections, spread conspiracy theories, and incite hatred and violence," he said.

"Malfunctioning AI systems are another huge area of concern. And the interaction between AI and nuclear weapons, biotechnology, neurotechnology, and robotics, is deeply alarming."

Guterres noted the problematic debate over AI governance, highlighting the need for a universal approach, and citing similar experiences in the past which offer a potential way forward, under UN leadership.

"The international community has a long history of responding to new technologies with the potential to disrupt our societies and economies. We have come together at the United Nations to set new international rules, sign new treaties, and establish new global agencies," he added.

The guiding principles on lethal autonomous weapons systems and the recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, for instance, were discussed and agreed at UN forums.

"I therefore welcome calls from some Member States for the creation of a new United Nations entity to support collective efforts to govern this extraordinary technology, inspired by such models as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change," he said.

"A new UN entity would gather expertise and put it at the disposal of the international community. And it could support collaboration on the research and development of AI tools to accelerate sustainable development."

Guterres announced that he will be convening a high-level meeting for AI, which will report back on the options for global governance, by the end of this year. He is also going to issue a new policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, which will make recommendations on AI governance to Member States.

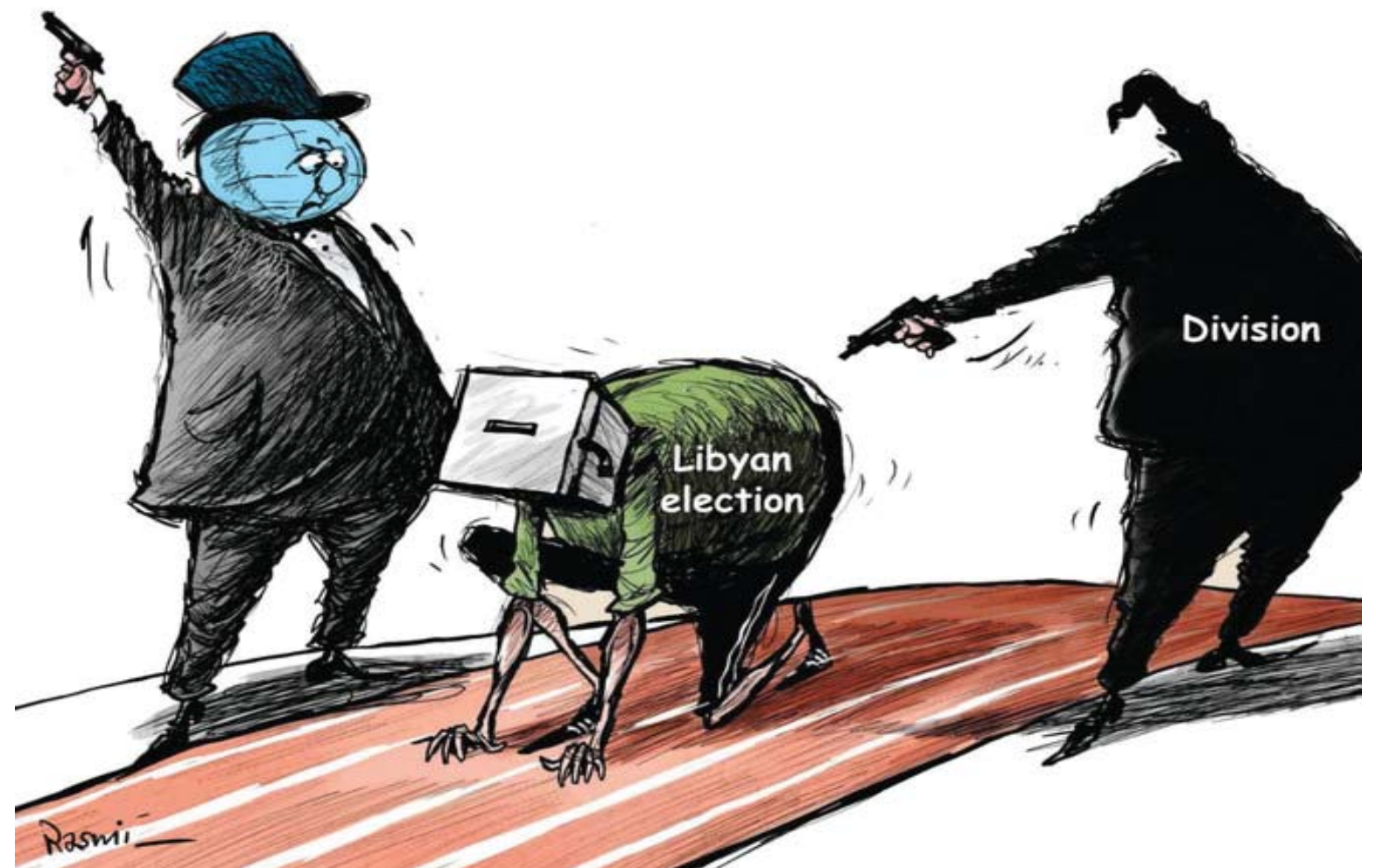
The policy brief will call for negotiations to be concluded by 2026 on a legally-binding instrument to prohibit lethal autonomous weapons systems that function without human control or oversight, which cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law.

The Secretary-General called on the Security Council, which is responsible for international peace and security, to "exercise leadership on AI" and show the way towards common measures for their transparency, accountability, and oversight.

"We must work together for AI that bridges social, digital, and economic divides, not one that pushes us further apart. I urge you to join forces and build trust for peace and security," Guterres concluded.

The meeting on Tuesday was convened by the United Kingdom in its capacity of holding the rotating presidency of the Security Council for the month of July.

It was the first-ever meeting of the 15-member Council on the potential threats of artificial intelligence to international peace and security.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

## Why always Islam?

**W**hy always Islam? Billions of sorrowful hearts, blooded eyes, sobbing souls, deeply wounded values. Along with virtual representation of unity, so-called practices (salah and other practices), and some dying conscience showing the helplessness of the 2nd biggest religion and its followers. Again, Muslims were hurt and attacked on their weakest point. And if we talk about current Christians or followers of many other religions, they could never understand the feeling of a Muslim when his sacred points are scratched, because their religion is imprisoned within the walls of churches, and they could never imagine getting sad even when someone says bad things about Jesus. Their concept of feeling emotional with religion has already died with the growth of a Modern Society which concludes that the need for religion starts right after death. This is just not about an incident of burning Quran in Sweden, there is a whole ideology and mindset behind that.

Why was this time different? In recent times France insulted Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). And that insolence was done at national level where President Emmanuel Macron declared it as an obligation behind a nonsense agenda calling it Freedom of speech. And before that many individuals have done a lot of tries to hurt Muslims like a movie was made about Prophet Muham-

mad (peace be upon him) and some Burnt Quran again calling it freedom of speech but before we move on clearly defining Freedom of speech. It could never be freedom of speech if billions of humans are being hurt and not only hurt, the wounds are even bitter than any normal physical injury. And when they are already aware of Muslim's closeness with Islam, and they know that this is a deadline for every real Muslim does not matter whether he prays 5 times a day or not, he is not ready to hear even a word against his religion Islam.

This time on July right in front of a mosque where 10000 Muslims were praying Eid a guy from Iraq named started burning the holy book Quran under a full security protocol from police and he also assured the presence of media and he was the burning the holy book which is the one protecting the rights of weaker ones. The best book which promotes the peaceful society more than any other book and the book that's teaching to be respectful to all other prophets and being respectful to other religions. And before doing it publicly a petition was signed in assembly where it got accepted and afterwards court declared this act as a freedom of speech and proper security was ordered to be provided and as a Muslim this is unimaginable at the moment of joy their

holy scripture is burnt on fire and they are supposed to be watching it without showing any resistance and one of them full of dignity tried to stop and he got arrested eventually.

All these events conceived us to the point that it was a fully fledged plan to hurt billions of hearts. Why only Islam is targeted? More than 1000 religions are present currently in the whole world with Christianity on top with more than 2.5 billion followers followed by Islam than Hinduism and so on. It's the nature of humans that they want to get rid of those first who they are afraid of. After thousands of attempts on declaring Islam as a non peaceful fake religion and none of them worked so this is their habit to hurt Islam by non-ethical actions. There is a history of orient lists getting an answer to every question they raised against Islam.

And more surprisingly many of them end up accepting Islam as the purest and most authentic religion on earth. With the fastest growing rate of Islam, it is estimated that till the end of 2060 Islam would be the religion with the most followers. That should not be very concerning as Islam is also a religion, but now they are scared to lose all their development in gaining an ideal civilization which they said to consider a perfect way of living. Because the

Quran comprises beliefs which are way more powerful than their concepts. And this is the reason why every person searching for the right path results in embracing Islam. That inspirational charm in divine religion Islam is raising their anxiety levels and their incapability could be seen clearly through these immoral deeds. All enemies of Islam are conscious about revolutionary ideas in Islam, and they are mindful about their undeserving rule on poor countries through colonialism and capitalism.

Whereas only a little implication of Islamic rules could result in a balanced and most peaceful society. What is our duty as a Muslim? As a part of this magnificent community this is an obligation for us to raise a voice against this dreadful act as an individual and as groups which is the most effective way of showing our sensitivity towards Islam. And the most effective way of doing it is to pressurise our rulers and leaders of Muslim Ummah for taking this matter to united nations (UN) and to pass proper laws where disrespecting Islam or its rituals is to be considered as a crime so no one will show the boldness to do these kinds of acts again. Most importantly this is a wakeup call for Muslims to at least explore what's inside that holy scripture which non-Muslims are so terrified of. This is the perfect time for Muslims to read the Quran and the main thing is to understand the translation to achieve the keys to success.

(Writer is student)



Analysis

Ahmed Malik

## Twists and Turns of Politics - II

**E**ven now, the establishment has helped Asif Ali Zardari to persuade other politicians to support the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan. He was a member of the opposition alliance that brought the motion forward, and he was also key in convincing some of Khan's own allies to desert and vote against him. On March 8, 2022, he orchestrated the opposition's no-confidence resolution against Khan, which was carried by the National Assembly on April 10, 2022, and Khan was dismissed from office.

The big question is why the establishment has helped Jehangir Tareen, who is suffering from serious health issues, and Pervez Khattak, a fervent supporter of Imran Khan, to prop up two separate parties, one primarily driving its members from Punjab and especially from southern Punjab, and the other driving its candidates from KP province. There could be two major hypotheses. The first possibility is that even the PML(N) and PPP were used to depose Imran Khan, but the Establishment does not trust either of these parties, in the case of the PPP due to its widespread perception as corrupt from the top, and in the case of the PML(N) due to the impending confrontation, especially while Nawaz Sharif is in the saddle, and Maryam Nawaz's belligerent posture.

What IPP will accomplish in this case is intriguing. One scenario is that the IPP, which currently controls the majority of PTI electables and has the support of the Establishment, would win significant seats in Punjab and the Centre, while the PTI-P will do the same in KP province and the Centre. They may be able to build governments in the center, Punjab, and KP with the help of celebrated independents, allowing the Establishment complete flexibility to pursue its development agenda and drive the country forward. The second, more realistic theory is that they

would not establish a government in the center or provinces, but will garner enough seats in the center, Punjab, and KP to effectively cripple any government formed by the PPP, PML(N), or PTI. In such a scenario, politicians will lose much of their capital in developing consensus on national agendas and will seek the establishment's assistance at every critical moment in the same manner and style that the PTI has done during its time in power, allowing the establishment to pursue whatever agenda it has to steer the country forward without any opposition or confrontation.

With decades of experience dealing with establishment, PPP and PML(N) have probably realized the layout of the chess board and, as a result, during the meeting of Zardari and Nawaz in Dubai, they may have jointly thought-out the plan to manage IPP and PPP-P in such a way that they both do not pose a critical threat to upcoming governments. Analysts dismiss IPP as an insignificant force with no charismatic leader to attract voters and no plans and strategy to steer the country differently than it has been steered in the past, but they may be wrong in doing so, as prior to the 2018 election, PTI was as insignificant as the IPP or PTI-P, but with the support of the establishment, it became a formidable force and ruled the country until April 2022, but now that this support has been withdrawn, it has collapsed. This critical support appears to be with IPP and PTI-P rather than PPP or PML(N), and history shows that this has worked in the past and will continue to work in the future to determine the political path.

*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)*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



# Kashmiri demands urgent action by int'l community to protect human rights of Kashmiris: Gillani

**Kiran Asim**

LONDON: Former Prime Minister Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Tuesday addressed the Kashmir Martyrs Day Conference held at the British House of Commons wherein he emphasized the need for urgent action by the international community to protect the human rights of the Kashmiris.

Gillani shed light on the critical issues faced by the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The event brought together renowned personalities, including Rt Hon. Debbie Abrahams, Chairperson APPG on Kashmir, members of the British parliament, members of the civil society, and Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Self Determination Movement International.

Senator Gillani told the gathering that the tragic events of 21 Muslim protestors who were brutally killed

by Dogra forces in Srinagar nearly a century ago.

He emphasized that this crime against humanity had been repeated numerous times, perpetuating a humanitarian crisis that demands the attention of every freedom-loving individual.

The senator stressed that the Kashmir issue was not limited to a dispute between Pakistan and India rather it was an international concern that stained the conscience of humanity.

He expressed his appreciation for the strong resonance the Kashmir issue held within the United Kingdom, particularly among British Pakistanis and defenders of human rights.

He commended the audience for their unwavering support and dedication to keeping the flame of the Kashmiri freedom struggle alive.

Senator Gillani stressed the urgent need for increased support and solidarity with the beleaguered people of



IIOJK, who continue to suffer under the relentless onslaught of Indian

atrocities. Highlighting the grave situation

on the ground, Gilani pointed out that the Hindutva-inspired agenda

aimed to erode the cultural and political identity of Kashmiris, further intensifying their suffering.

He condemned the sinister project initiated on 5 August 2019 to transform Kashmiris into a minority in their own land, which has been accompanied by the alteration of IIOJK's boundaries, the settlement of non-Kashmiris in the region, and the erosion of fundamental rights.

The senator highlighted the ongoing military siege imposed by India, resulting in the systematic targeting and persecution of Kashmiri leadership and youth.

Drawing attention to the plight of Yasin Malik, a prominent Kashmiri leader, Senator Gilani denounced India's inhumane treatment of him. Despite already serving a life sentence following a sham trial, Indian authorities are now seeking a death penalty, further exemplifying India's consistent violation of human rights and usurpation of fundamental freedoms, he added.

## Pakistan and Afghanistan should solve their problems through mutual negotiations: Siraj-ul-Haq

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq has said that Pakistan and Afghanistan should fight the unrest together and solve the problems through mutual negotiations. The security situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is very alarming, martyrdoms of civilians and security personnel are taking place, if there is no peace in Pakistan, then Afghanistan will also be affected.

He said that if the elections are not held transparently and on a fixed constitutional period, the situation will worsen. If there is unfettered justice and strict accountability, the cruel landlords and corrupt capitalists imposed on the nation for years will be in jails. The history of the country is a witness that powerful courts, institutions could not be held accountable, now the people can make it possible only with the power of vote, vote for the Islamic system, this system is the guarantee of justice. PDM, People's Party and PTI have been tested, they have more opportunities if met, there will be further destruction, the only



option is Jamaat-e-Islami. Sirajul Haq said that after increasing the electricity tariff, preparations are being made to increase the gas prices by 40% on the orders of the IMF.

Stop squeezing the blood of the people, people are forced to starve due to inflation, instead of robbing the poor, the rulers should end their privileges and non-developmental expenses. There is no lack of resources in the country, the real problem is the concentration of wealth in a few hands and the incompetence and incompetence of the rulers. The government of PDM and People's Party did not fulfill even one of the promises, those who took out rallies against inflation became silent as soon as they got power. Chinese, Automa-

fia is earning billions; the poor are not getting two meals a day. The economy has collapsed due to bad governance, corruption and unfair distribution of resources. National resources have been looted for years.

The 2% ruling elite controls the resources, a few families decide the fate of the nation in closed rooms, Washington, Dubai and London, the nation must stand against the exploitative system, it will have to create its own destiny. Silence on oppression is tantamount to supporting the oppressor. Yes, peaceful democratic struggle will bring real change, the youth should struggle from the platform of Jamaat-e-Islami. Amir Jamaat said that there was no development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the ten-year tenure of PTI, still record corruption continues in the province. Sindh has been under the control of PPP for 15 years.

For development and prosperity, corrupt rulers and states have to say goodbye to parties. In order to save future generations from slavery, it is necessary for honest and qualified people to come to power.

## 15 electrocuted in India's Chamoli after transformer explosion

At least fifteen people were electrocuted Wednesday after a transformer exploded on the banks of the Alaknanda River in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, officials said.

An investigation has been launched to find the reason behind the unfortunate disaster. Among the fifteen dead in the accident — which occurred in the Chamoli district — are a police officer and five home guards, according to the local authorities.

The state's chief minister, Pushkar Singh Dhami, directed officials to initiate an enquiry into the incident.

He said rescue teams, including the district administration and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), have already reached the spot.

"For those severely injured, we are taking the help of helicopters to refer them to higher centres," said Dhami in a video statement, quoted by local media. Police said at least 15 people have also been severely injured in the accident and they are being treated at the district's main hospital.

"The incident took place last night but was reported to them Wednesday morning," Chamoli's superintendent of police Pramendra Dobhal said.



Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister PA&SS and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Presents Book titled "15 Years of Benazir Income Support Programme: 15 Years' Journey from Inception to a Globally Recognized Social Protection Vehicle" to Ms. Nicole Klinggen, World Bank's Regional Head of Social Protection & Acting Director for Digital Development in Europe and Central Asia, at World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC on July 19, 2023.

## British Council launches new IELTS preparation platform

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: British Council IELTS have launched a new service, IELTS Ready: Premium, providing innovative support for those preparing to take an IELTS test with the British Council.

The new platform will include 40 IELTS mock tests, recorded classes and will be fully supported by native English speaking IELTS experts. Users can perfect their IELTS preparation with practice tests in both timed and untimed formats, with all answers analysed to inform the most useful exercises for test-takers to practice.

The IELTS Ready: Premium platform is powered by GEL—a leading provider of digital learning in English Language Teaching based in London.

Users will also be able to access:

- Writing practice with model answers to show what examiners are looking for to achieve required scores
- Feedback on every reading and listening question
- Tailored support to target areas where users need to improve
- Familiarisation videos so test takers are prepared for their test

Test takers receive unlimited free access IELTS Ready: Premium from the time they register for IELTS with the British Council up to their test.

During a successful pilot period, the platform achieved high levels of user satisfaction and engagement amongst test-takers. 97% of users said it helped them achieve their desired score and 98% said they would recommend the service to others.

Amir Ramzan, Country Director British Council Pakistan, said: "With over 15,000 IELTS tests delivered by British Council in Pakistan annually, IELTS Ready Premium will help individuals get the IELTS score they need to unlock their potential".

Andrew Mackenzie, Director of IELTS at the British Council, said: "We want to give our IELTS test takers every tool we can to achieve their ambitions of living, working or studying overseas.

"We are therefore excited to launch IELTS Ready: Premium, to help them feel fully prepared and have the best chance to fulfill those dreams."

## NCRC convenes inaugural advisory committee meeting

**Spokesman Repot**

ISLAMABAD: NCRC is pleased to announce the commencement of its first advisory committee meeting on 19th July 2023. The meeting convened esteemed experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss critical issues of child labour and child trafficking, aiming to strengthen preventive measures and protect the rights of children.

The NCRC is an independent statutory body established by the Government of Pakistan for the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of children's rights in Pakistan. NCRC has the mandate to examine and review policies, laws, practices, and proposals, inquire into violations of child rights, conduct research, raise awareness, build capacities, provide technical support and advise the Government on legislative and policy matters by virtue of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act of 2017.

Some of the key highlights of the discussion was enhancing awareness and advocacy efforts, legislative



reforms, implementation, and accessible shelters for children with disability. Moreover, strategies for raising public awareness and fostering greater advocacy against child labour and child trafficking were explored to mobilize communities and stakeholders. The committee also suggested to foster partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and civil

society to effectively combat these egregious violations. The NCRC firmly believes that safeguarding children's rights is a collective responsibility, and this inaugural advisory committee meeting represents a significant step towards creating a safer and more just society for children.

"The issues of child labour and child trafficking demand our utmost attention and unwavering commitment. Our advisory committee brings together experts from diverse fields to engage in constructive dialogue, leading to concrete actions in ensuring the rights and protection of every child," stated Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson, NCRC.

"Issues like child labour and child trafficking requires joint and collaborative actions from key stakeholders," stated Khalid Naem, member-ICT.

"Children begging is a violation of their rights and a form of exploitation. Giving money to children on the streets is a form of grooming. Recording children on the streets and posting videos, make them vulnerable and is unethical," stated Nadia Bibi, member-KP

## Yerzhan Kistafin urges close liaison between business community of Pakistan and Kazakhstan

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: Close liaison between the business community of Pakistan and Kazakhstan is potentially imperative to exploit the untapped potential of investment, bilateral trade and cultural cooperation, said Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan.

He was addressing an informal dinner hosted in his honour by Dr. Khurram Tariq, the President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

He described that direct air links have been established between two countries while trilateral rail links between Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan could also be extended up to Kazakhstan. About banking system, he elaborated that an

agreement has been inked with Al-Falah bank which will extend banking facilities to the importers as well as exporters by having direct access to the National Bank of Kazakhstan. He also said that liberal visa policy has been adopted and businessmen having a recommendation letter from FCCI would get a visa within only three days.

He further said that Kazakhstan has a custom free import and export regime with its neighboring countries and hence investors and exporters settled in Kazakhstan could operate at the regional level. He expressed that both countries are enjoying common religious and cultural values and a proposal was under consideration to declare sister cities of both countries having simi-

lar cultural values and historic background too. He appreciated the expertise of Pakistan in the textile sector and urged its branding at the global level. Responding to a question about poultry in Kazakhstan, he informed that his country was self-sufficient in food products while it was also exporting surplus soyabean, wheat and other agriculture commodities.

He also said that the foreign investors could also avail maximum facilities provided in its special economic zones. He further said that surplus products could also be exported to the neighboring countries without any custom duty. He claimed that the Railway link could also be established with the EU and exportable surplus could be delivered to any destination



tion in the EU within a period of two weeks. President FCCI, Dr. Khurram Tariq appreciated the efforts of Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin for promoting bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kaz-

akhstan. He also proposed to send a cultural delegation to Kazakhstan. Dr. Khurram Tariq was appreciative of the expertise of Kazakhstan in the field of fashion

design and said that they could collaborate in this field for the benefit of the two countries. The senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad, Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam

Bhalli, Engineer Ahmad Hassan, Shahid Ahmed Sheikh, Dr. Habib Aslam Gaba, Muzammal Sultan, Jawad Asghar and Muhammad Azhar Chaudhary were also present during this luxurious dinner.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
45,095.11	45,009.33
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,227.49	44,928.02
Index Value	Change
7,951,599,005	+85.78
Percentage	Time
0.19%	19 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,588.20	+134
Percentage	Time
+1.80%	19 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,091.75	+139.82
Percentage	Time
+0.40%	19 Jul, 1:24 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,896.03	+402.14
Percentage	Time
+1.24%	19 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197	200.5
Bahrain Dinar	747.45	755.45
Canadian Dollar	219	224.5
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	42.34	42.74
Euro	316	322.6
Hong Kong Dollar	35.97	36.32
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.17	926.17
Malaysian Ringgit	61.87	62.47
New Zealand \$	176.75	178.75
Norwegians Krone	27.95	28.25
Omani Riyal	729.95	737.95
Qatari Riyal	77.21	77.91
Saudi Riyal	75.2	76.5
Singapore Dollar	210	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.5	27.8
Swiss Franc	327.4	329.9
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	78.5	79.5
UK Pound Sterling	372	378.5
US Dollar	286	290

**Chairman FBR inaugurates tax office at Murree**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Asim Ahmad, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue inaugurated the newly constructed Tax House at Murree on Wednesday. On this occasion, Member Administration Syed Nadeem Hussain Rizvi and Member Operations-IR Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana were also present.

Addressing the participants, Chairman FBR said that keeping in view the distance from Rawalpindi, it was imperative to establish a Tax Office in Murree to provide tax-related services to the people of the region at their doorstep. He stated that FBR is committed to facilitate taxpayers in all possible ways. He further commented that various initiatives are being undertaken to broaden the tax base and improve tax compliance.

Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue RTO Rawalpindi Ms. Tehmina Aamer briefed the participants about establishment of Tax House at Murree. She said that outreach to the public and facilitation of taxpayers have always been the prime objectives of FBR. She added that establishment of Inland Revenue Office at Murree is another step in that direction.

**Gold prices in Pakistan continue upward trend**

Gold prices in Pakistan continued to rise on Wednesday as per tola price jumped to Rs226,400 amid a rise in international rates.

According to data issued by All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of gold (24 carats) gained Rs5,400 per tola and Rs4,630 per 10 grams to settle at Rs226,400 and Rs194,102, respectively.

Meanwhile, the price of the yellow metal gained \$6 to settle at \$1,973 in the international market today.

The gold rate has been volatile in Pakistan recently amid continued political and economic uncertainty, and high inflation. People prefer to buy gold in such times as a safe investment and a hedge.

**Insulting the lender will not be tolerated: Mian Zahid Hussain**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that Pakistan has promised the IMF to reduce subsidies on energy, increase revenue, remove a ban on imports, cut expenditures on salaries and pensions, and allocate an additional amount for the Benazir Income Support Programme to get the standby programme.

Pakistan has also promised to keep the difference between the open market and interbank rate of the dollar within the limit of 1.25 percent, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the full implementation of all these conditions is in the interest of Pakistan.

Talking to the business community, the veter-

an business leader said that the IMF has asked the government for a plan to levy taxes on the favoured sectors of agriculture and construction to raise revenue, which must be fulfilled and implemented.

He said that now we have to stop prioritising politics over the economy and force non-taxpaying sectors to pay tax; otherwise, the next IMF review due in November may be stalled.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that on the one hand, the IMF is asking for a plan to impose taxes on agriculture and the real estate sector as per the agreement reached with the government of Pakistan, on the other hand, according to reports, a change has been quietly made in the General Sales Tax Act, which will push 4800 of the 9082 large retailers out of the tax net.

This decision will result in a tax shortfall, which will shift the burden on the industrial sector and the salaried people, who are already reeling under the burden of inflation and other problems, he



added. Mian Zahid Hussain said that this time the deviation from the agreement will have dangerous consequences, which are not being taken seriously.

The business leader further said that favours to the blue-eyed sectors are no longer possible, and before the IMF takes any action in this regard, the changes made in the Sales Tax Act should be withdrawn.

The IMF should not be insulted by violating the agreement; otherwise, the economy will be pushed again into bankruptcy if the lender takes serious action.

Keeping certain sectors out of the tax net in a country that has been creating world records in population growth, poverty, and illiteracy is tantamount to filling the foundations of the economy with explosives, he said.

He warned that in the event of a default, no one would be spared from its terrible political, social, and political implications.

In these circumstances, when compliance with the current standby programme of the IMF appears difficult, the lender will never agree to another programme.

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Country Director Mr. Young Ye, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at Finance Division on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

**PTCL announced financial results**

**PTCL Group's revenue of Rs 90.9 billion in 2023**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading telecom and ICT services provider in the country, has announced its financial results for the six months ended June 30, 2023. The announcement was made during the Board of Directors' meeting held in Islamabad on July 19, 2023.

Throughout the first half of 2023, PTCL Group has sustained its momentum, further solidifying its position as the leading integrated telecom service provider in Pakistan. Despite the prevailing challenging macroeconomic conditions, the Group has achieved a remarkable 26.8% revenue growth compared to the same period of last year. This substantial increase in revenue is primarily attributed to the exceptional performance across multiple segments, including fixed broadband, mobile data, business solutions and banking services.

The business landscape in 2023 continues to be influenced by the adverse impact of macroeconomic challenges that arose in 2022. The escalating energy and fuel tariffs present ongoing obstacles for telecom operators, making it difficult to deliver high-quality services to consumers at affordable prices. Delays in LC opening have affected the operators' network expansion plans. Significant devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee in the first quarter, coupled with rising interest rates and additional super tax over and above regular corporate tax, has greatly impacted the profitability. To mitigate the effects of these challenging issues, policy intervention by the Government is required to provide much needed relief to the sector.

**PTCL Group Highlights**

- PTCL Group's revenue of Rs 90.9 billion in 2023 is 26.8% higher as compared to the same period of last year.
  - The Group's profitability was, among other factors, particularly affected by significant Rupee devaluation in the first quarter as the Group has unhedged FOREX liabilities. The Group has posted a net loss of Rs 8.5 billion.
  - PTCL continued its growth by posting 17.3% YoY revenue growth.
  - PTML's (Ufone) revenue grew by 22.4% YoY as compared to the same period of last year.
  - U Bank has achieved a 96.5% growth in its revenue over the same period of last year.
- PTCL Highlights**
- PTCL's revenue of Rs 46.9 billion for the period is 17.3% higher than 2022, mainly driven by growth in Carrier & Wholesale and Broadband segments.
  - The company has posted an operating profit of Rs 2.9 billion with an impressive 57% growth over last year and a net profit of Rs 6.9 billion. Increase in non-operating income due to translation gain on the Company's forex denominated receivables and gain on disposal of obsolete

assets due to upgrade and fiberization of the network, played a significant role in achieving 34.5% increase in the net profit as compared to same period of last year.

**PTCL Consumer Business: Steady Performance**

PTCL achieved 17.2% revenue growth over the same period last year in the fixed broadband business. The Company further strengthened its flag ship FTTH brand, 'Flash Fiber' by achieving significant net subscriber additions through exceptional customer experiences and aggressive expansion of fiber network across the country which played a vital role in achieving significant increase in FTTH revenue by 106.5%. IPTV segment also showed a 5.8% revenue growth YoY. Voice and wireless revenue streams continue the declining trajectory as they are impacted by OTT services and tough competition from cellular operators.

**PTCL Business Services:**

Business services segment continued its momentum sustaining market leadership in IP bandwidth, cloud, data center, and other ICT services segments. PTCL's enter-

recorded an impressive 22.4% YoY increase in its revenue and has achieved 24.5 million subscribers base. Network modernization activities, carried out in the first six months of 2023, resulted in better customer experience for Ufone subscribers. Ufone introduced best value Data Roaming Offer for its prepaid customers, who embarked on the holy pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Ufone is upgrading its IR services by launching various LTE products with our roaming partners in all major destinations. The company also upgraded its digital wallet 'UPaisa' to provide a high-quality user journey by introducing a QR Code Scan feature on its digital app to bring unprecedented convenience to its users and simplify financial transactions.

**U Bank Highlights:**

Despite an extremely tough macroeconomic environment, U Bank, the micro-finance and branchless banking subsidiary of PTCL, continued its growth trajectory and has achieved a remarkable 96.5% growth in revenue and an impressive 27.9% growth in net profit over the corresponding period of last year, while maintaining



prise business grew by 21.1% as compared to last year, while carrier and wholesale business continued its growth momentum and achieved 34.9% overall revenue growth. International voice revenue has increased by 18.6% as compared to last year. Despite the current challenging economic environment, overall Business Solutions revenue has shown a remarkable 27.4% year-on-year growth.

As the national telecom carrier and connectivity backbone in Pakistan, PTCL Group is committed to deliver innovative solutions that drive the growth of a 'Digital Pakistan'. This is achieved through the establishment of robust telecommunication infrastructure and a wide range of services, all aimed at enhancing the customer experience and accelerating progress in the country. PTCL collaborated with Vodafone to bring industry leading IoT products, services and solutions to the Pakistani market. The partnership will allow to develop and deliver a full suite of end-to-end IoT services aimed towards accelerating enterprise digital enablement and improving adoption of connected services in the Pakistani society.

**PTML - Ufone Highlights:**

Continuing its growth trajectory, Ufone

stands resolute in its commitment towards financial and social inclusion, utilizing its extensive outreach to provide exceptional services to a diverse clientele across the length and breadth of the country through its rural retail banking, corporate finance & investment banking, Islamic banking, urban retail banking, corporate banking, and digital banking canvases.

**Corporate Social Responsibility:**

During the first six months of 2023, PTCL Group undertook various CSR initiatives to strengthen its position as a national carrier. Amongst these initiatives, a massive blood donation campaign was held in Islamabad in connection with World Blood Donor Day. The initiative stems from PTCL Group's continuous commitment to create shared value and giving back to society. In addition, Ufone embarked on a shared initiative with the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) in Pakistan to raise awareness amongst the citizens regarding the importance of polio eradication through vaccination. PTCL Group endeavors to be a shining example of unwavering determination and bring a positive change in the lives of the people of Pakistan.

**SECP reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding public interests**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In accordance with its mandate of developing capital and financial markets, the SECP continuously reviews and reforms its policies, dovetailing its efforts towards promoting ease of doing business through technological advancements, expanding financial inclusion, lowering entry barriers, and transparently enforcing laws to protect people's rights.

SECP regulates Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) which are authorized to undertake lending. Some of these NBFCs have also ventured into personal loans through digital Apps. A list of SECP approved Apps is available on the SECP's website. Other than these, all Apps available on various play/app stores are unauthorized and illegal.

To combat the menace of illegal Apps SECP has been actively engaged with Google, which on April 05th, 2023 announced its Personal Loan App Policy for Pakistan, effective from May 31, 2023. Pakistan is the 6th country in the world, after India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nigeria and Kenya, for which Google has introduced additional requirements for digital lending Apps. The policy contains check and balances to avoid listing illegal Apps on Play store and sets stringent requirement to minimize access to personal data of the consumer. Google removed 84 illegal lending Apps reported by the SECP from its Play Store.



To address the issue of unlicensed digital lending apps operating illegally in the country, SECP has extensively liaison with various regulatory bodies, including the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Federal Investigation Authority (FLA-Cyber Crime Wing) and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). As result SBP issued Circular in June 2022, denying access to illegal Apps to banking/payment channels.

SECP launched a media awareness campaign to educate consumers on data privacy and their rights, involving mainstream and social media, capacity building workshops and SMS/In App notifications. The general public is encouraged to only download approved digital loan Apps. The list of digital lending apps available on link: <https://shorturl.at/jtJ01>

The borrowers should also review the App's permissions before signing up, read and evaluate the disclosures, regarding fees, late payment charges, loan tenor, cooling-off period, and the privacy policy. Users are also advised to report complaints against licensed Apps to SECP through dedicated complaint portal at SECP's website <https://sdms.secp.gov.pk/~sdmsadmin/>. All complaints are thoroughly examined and resolved promptly.

**Work is in progress on the construction of Expo Center: Ahsan Bakhtawari**



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that positive progress is being made on the project of establishing an Expo Center in Islamabad. An MoU will be signed between Gulberg Green and Islamabad Chamber soon.

He said that Gulberg Green is one of the most prominent housing projects in Islamabad which has established itself as a landmark of the city based on its excellent location, development works, and facilities. This society has the most commercial buildings which shows

the confidence of the investors. He said that all the big brands of Pakistan are coming here. It is the best opportunity for other investors to invest here. He said that every person associated with it has a hand in the ideal development of this society. President Islamabad Chamber congratulated the Estate Agents Association on this occasion and assured full cooperation from the Chamber.

On this occasion, Senior Vice President Chamber Faad Waheed said that estate agents play a fundamental role in the development and reputation of any society. Estate Agents Association in Gulberg Green Islamabad has not only rendered excellent services to its members but also its services are valuable for the development of the society.

Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam said that Gulberg Green has provided the best solution to the residential problem in Islamabad, and also the role of this society is prominent in promoting business.



# Punjab volleyball league opens at Govt College Women University

✉ Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Under the Prime Minister Youth Program, Punjab Volleyball Provincial League women's opening ceremony was held at Government College Women University under the Department of Health and Physical Education.

Expressing his views as a special guest Mian Abdul Manan (Former MNA-N) & honorary guest Mian Shoaib Idrees said that, it is a very happy occasion that Government College Women University as the host is welcoming all the teams. I am convinced of the intellectuality in every field given the vast opportunity.

Manan expressed that, many of our daughters, like Arfa Karim, made our name bright.

Further, referring to the MF agreement, he expressed hope that the incoming government would be committed in providing an exemplary building, hostel, better facilities and a good environment to the new camps of the Government College Women University by following better plans and economic stability.



The Vice Chancellor Government College Women's University Professor Dr. Zul Huma Nazli said that women are not just gender sensitive, they are raising the flag of their achievements in every field and said that students are advancing in sports as well as education. She congratulated and encouraged the teams that showed outstanding performance in

the trials. Coordinator Arts and Social Sciences Dr. Ayesha Sameen said that all our daughters have gender neutral. Heartiest welcome paid to the teams and here Mian Abdul Manan, Shoaib Idrees thanked all the guests. VC informed the audience about the recent achievements in the sports department of Government College Women University and appreciated the efforts of the Director Sports Fahmida Ayub and thanked the Higher Education Commission for this responsibility & Government College Women University gave it in the end.

The guests met all the teams and group photos were taken with them. Provincial League matches are going on at Crescent Sports Complex. VC further informed.

# Sudharsan ton aids India A thump Pakistan Shaheens in Emerging Asia Cup

✉ A Sports

COLOMBO: Sai Sudharsan scored a magnificent century and led India A to a thumping eight-wicket victory over Pakistan Shaheens in the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup on Wednesday.

Set to chase a modest 206-run total, India comfortably accumulated 210/2 in 36.4 overs at the back of a dominating century knock by Sai Sudharsan.

India A opens Sudharsan and Abhishek Sharma scripted a solid start to the pursuit with a 58-run partnership.

The pair tested Pakistan Shaheens' bowlers before Mubasir Khan found a much-needed breakthrough by casting Sharma, who scored 20 off 28.

Sudharsan and Nikin Jose then put India A in complete control with a terrific 99-run partnership with both scoring half-centuries.

Jose, however, fell briefly after amassing the milestone as Mehran Mumtaz got him stumped. He scored 53 from 64 deliveries, laced with seven boundaries. Skipper Yash Dhull (21 off 19) then joined India A mainstay Sudharsan in the middle and stitched a match-winning partnership.

Sudharsan remained unbeaten with a brilliant century. His 110-ball 104 featured 10 boundaries and three sixes.

For Pakistan, only Mubasir Khan and Mehran Mumtaz could pick up a wicket.

Opting to bat first in the high-octane clash against arch-rivals India A, Pakistan Shaheens' batting lineup failed and could only accumulate 205 before being bundled out in the 48th over.

Pakistan Shaheens had a dismal start to their innings as the green shirts lost Saim Ayub (0) and Omar Bin Yousuf (0) in the



fourth with just nine runs on the scoreboard.

Opening batter Sahibzada Farhan looked to anchor the innings with Kamran Ghulam after back-to-back dismissals.

The pair could add 36 runs to the total before Riyan Parag got rid of Farhan, who could score 35 off 36 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries.

Following Farhan's dismissal, Kamran put on a brief partnership with Haseebullah before both perished in the 23rd over to leave Pakistan in trouble at 78/5.

Pakistan Shaheens' captain Mohammad

Haris could not stop the flow of wickets as he also fell after managing to score a mere 14. Following the slump, Qasim Akram joined forces with Mubasir Khan and put on a crucial 53-run partnership for the seventh wicket.

The pair batted with great domination and looked in control before Nishant Sindhu trapped Khan plump in front to end the budding partnership.

Khan scored a cautious 38-ball 28 which featured four boundaries.

Akram then put on another important partnership for Pakistan Shaheens when he paired up with Mehran Mumtaz for

the 43-run partnership before eventually perishing in the 46th over.

He top-scored for Pakistan Shaheens with an anchoring 48 from 63 deliveries, hitting five boundaries.

Mumtaz, on the other hand, carried his bat all the way through with an unbeaten 25 off 26 but ran out of partners when Hangarekar removed Shahnawaz Dahani in the 48th over to wrap up the innings.

Hangarekar led the bowling attack for India A with 5/42 followed by Manav Suthar's 3/36 while Parag and Sindhu made one scalp each.

## Sajid Sadpara ascends Broad Peak



✉ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani climber Sajid Ali Sadpara on Wednesday successfully ascended Broad Peak (8,047-metre high) without the aid of extra oxygen or assistance, Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said.

"With this notable accomplishment, Sajid has now summited eight 8,000-meter peaks without using oxygen, including all five peaks of Pakistan's above 8,000-meter," Karrar Haidri Secretary ACP said in a statement.

Located in Gilgit-Baltistan adjacent to K2, Broad Peak is the world's 12th highest mountain.

## ACC President Shah unveils Asia Cup schedule before PCB chair's presser



✉ Sports Desk

LAHORE: Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Jay Shah revealed the anticipated Asia Cup schedule on Twitter, minutes before the schedule and trophy unveiling ceremony called by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Taking to Twitter, Shah unveiled the schedule of the continental event, scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan.

"I am happy to announce the schedule for the highly anticipated Men's ODI [Asia Cup 2023], a symbol of unity and togetherness binding diverse nations together! Let's join hands in the celebration of cricketing excellence and cherish the bonds that connect us all," wrote Shah.

It is worth mentioning that Shah's tweet came just around half an hour prior to PCB chair Zaka Ashraf's press conference to announce the schedule of the tournament, followed by a trophy unveiling ceremony.

As per the schedule shared by Shah, this year's Asia Cup will kick off with host Pakistan taking on Nepal in the curtain raiser on August 30 in Multan. Pakistan will host a total of four matches including a Super 4s fixture.

India's group stage matches including the anticipated clash against Pakistan, scheduled on September 2, will be held in Kandy while the rest of the Super 4s matches, including the final will be played in Colombo.

The arch-rivals Pakistan and India will come face to face again on September 10 in Colombo if both manage to qualify for the Super 4s.

Like the previous edition, the Asia Cup schedule holds a possibility of treating the cricket fans with a maximum of three Pakistan-India matches in a single tournament if both arch-rivals, in a first, simultaneously qualify for the final.

The upcoming edition of the Asia Cup features six teams, divided into two groups, the top two teams from each group will then qualify for the Super 4s. The continental event will run from August 31 to September 17.

Hosts Pakistan are placed in the same group as arch-rivals India and Nepal while the other group includes defending champions and co-hosts Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Asia Cup 2023 will be played in the ODI format and will serve as an opportunity for the Asian teams to bolster their preparations for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup.

# PCB officially unveils Men's Asia Cup 2023 schedule

✉ A Sports

The Asian Cricket Council and the Pakistan Cricket Board today announced the schedule of the Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023.

The 50-over format tournament will be held from 30 August to 17 September with Event Host Pakistan staging four matches and Sri Lanka holding nine matches.

Four venues will be used for the 13-match competition. In Pakistan, Multan will host the tournament opener between Pakistan and Nepal on 30 August before the action shifts to Lahore for the remaining three matches. Sri Lanka will use Kandy for the three first round matches and Colombo for the five Super-4 stage fixtures and the 17 September final.

Sri Lanka will open their campaign against Bangladesh in Kandy on 31 August, while India's first match in the tournament will be against Pakistan in Kandy on 2 September. If both Pakistan and India progress to the Super-4 stage, they will meet again in Colombo on 10 September.

After hosting the tournament opener in Multan, the remaining three matches in Pakistan will be held at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. On 3 September, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will go head to head, before Afghanistan will take on Sri Lanka on 5 September.

If all goes according to the

pre-event seeding, then Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in both sides' first Super-4 match on 6 September.

Pakistan and India are seeded as A1 and A2, respectively with Nepal as the third side in Group A, while Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are seeded as B1 and B2 in Group B, respectively with Afghanistan as the third side.

If Nepal and Afghanistan progress to the Super-4 stage from their respective groups, they will take the seeding of the sides that have dropped out in the first round.

Mr Jay Shah, President of the Asian Cricket Council: "We are thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023, a celebration of cricketing excellence that unites the nations of Asia in the spirit of competition and camaraderie. As President of the Asian Cricket Council, I extend my warmest regards and heartfelt wishes to all participating teams.

"The Asia Cup holds a special place in the hearts of cricket enthusiasts across the continent. It goes beyond being just a tournament; it symbolises the rich tapestry of cultures, traditions and shared passion for the game that binds our diverse nations together. This prestigious event not only showcases the cricketing prowess of the players but also fosters a sense of unity and brotherhood among Asian countries.

"Let the tournament be a



celebration of cricket's beauty, a display of sporting excellence and a reflection of the unity that binds our nations together. Together, let us witness cricketing magic unfold, as each match becomes a chapter in a larger narrative of friendship and sportsmanship.

"On behalf of the Asian Cricket Council and cricket lovers across Asia, I extend my gratitude to the fellow board members, teams, organisers, sponsors and fans who make this event possible. Your unwavering support is the driving force behind the success of the Asia Cup.

"May the Men's ODI Asia

Cup 2023 be an unforgettable journey, filled with moments of triumph, joy, and togetherness. Let us come together to witness the best of Asian cricket."

Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chair of the PCB Management Committee: "As Event Hosts, the ACC's Asia Cup 2023 schedule announcement provides us absolute clarity on how we will plan and deliver this tournament so that it is enjoyable for the participants and the fans. Our arrangements and hospitality are second to none and this will be a great opportunity to once again showcase this at an international level.

"For Pakistan, it will be the

homecoming of the ACC Asia Cup after 15 long years. Our fans have waited for this for a long time and, as such, we look forward to making it bigger and better so that the fans and participants can start counting down days leading up to the ICC Champions Trophy, which Pakistan will host in February 2025.

"I want to congratulate Nepal on qualifying for the Asia Cup and look forward to welcoming them along with Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have previously played in Pakistan, it will be the first of many times for Nepal and Afghanistan, and

I remain confident they will take away memories that will stay with them for a very long time.

"I am extremely happy for the Multan fans who will be the host of the ACC Asia Cup 2023 opener and will see their national side in action in a multi-team tournament for the first time since 1994. It remains one of my top priorities to ensure competitive cricket returns to historic venues across the country.

"From the Pakistan team's perspective, it will be an excellent opportunity for them to play in high-profile pressure matches and also aim to reclaim the title they last won in 2012. They have all the potential and capability to do that and a strong performance in the Asia Cup will give them the encouragement and confidence for subsequent series and events."

MEN'S ODI ASIA CUP 2023 SCHEDULE (start times to be confirmed in due course):

Group A - Pakistan (A1), India (A2) and Nepal (Nepal will take position of the side, which fails to progress to the Super-4 stage)

Group B - Sri Lanka (B1), Bangladesh (B2) and Afghanistan (Afghanistan will take position of the side, which fails to progress to the Super-4 stage)

30 Aug - Pakistan v Nepal, Multan Cricket Stadium, Multan, Pakistan

31 Aug - Bangladesh v Sri Lanka, Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy, Sri Lanka

2 Sep - Pakistan v India, Pallekele International Cricket Stadium Kandy, Sri Lanka

3 Sep - Bangladesh v Afghanistan, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan

4 Sep - India v Nepal, Pallekele International Cricket Stadium Kandy, Sri Lanka

5 Sep - Afghanistan v Sri Lanka, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan

6 Sep - A1 v B2 (Super-4), Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan

9 Sep - B1 v B2 (Super-4), R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium (RPICS), Colombo, Sri Lanka

10 Sep - A1 v A2 (Super-4), R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium (RPICS), Colombo, Sri Lanka

12 Sep - A2 v B1 (Super-4), R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium (RPICS), Colombo, Sri Lanka

14 Sep - A1 v B1 (Super-4), R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium (RPICS), Colombo, Sri Lanka

15 Sep - A2 v B2, (Super-4), R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium (RPICS), Colombo, Sri Lanka

17 Sep - Final - 1 v 2, R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium (RPICS), Colombo, Sri Lanka

18 Sep - Reserve day for the final

READ: ACC President Shah unveils Asia Cup schedule before PCB chair's presser