



Pakistan, Ukraine agree to expand cooperation in areas of mutual benefit

Pakistan and Ukraine on Thursday agreed to expand cooperation in all areas of mutual benefit including trade, investment, agriculture, food security, defense cooperation, cultural exchanges and people to people contacts. (Details on Page 8)



Naaila Kiani creates history as first Pakistani woman to summit Broad Peak

Naaila Kiani, the renowned female mountaineer of Pakistan, has once again made headlines by achieving another remarkable feat. This time, she has successfully summited Broad Peak, the world's 12th highest mountain, which stands at a height of 8051 meters above sea level. It hasn't been long since her triumphant ascent of Nanga Parbat, the world's 9th highest mountain. (Details on Page 7)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

National IT Seminar

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attends the National IT seminar as Chief Guest held on Thursday. Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir attended the seminar as guest of honor.



Photo: PID

PM vows to boost IT exports to \$25b; assures all-out facilitation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan was required to boost its IT exports to \$25 billion and IT investment to \$20 billion within a span of two to three years, as the government had already placed a mechanism to ensure one-window operations to facilitate the investors. "This is something doable. This is difficult but not impossible. We have to achieve this target under all circumstances through your support and exper-

tise," the prime minister said addressing an IT seminar and launching ceremony of multiple IT-related projects here. He told the gathering of diplomats, IT experts, investors, entrepreneurs, professors and students that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would sit with them to discuss issues and find out solutions and move forward like a corporate culture. He said Pakistan was rich with immense youth potential with the youngster getting modern skills with each passing day

but the export figure hovering around \$2.5 billion did not justify the potential - owing to lack of support and archaic procedures. The prime minister cited the example of a neighboring country that had excelled in the field of IT and IT exports, adding that Pakistan was also positioned to claim its space. Calling the investors his "masters" he said the government would extend all-out facilities to them through the SIFC as he himself chaired the apex committee and the Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir

was also playing his full role. He said the SIFC would focus on boosting investment in agriculture, IT, mining and defence production. "This is seriously a one-window operation with the whole of government sitting there and extending facilities to potential investors without any delay. No delay will be tolerated at any cost," he assured. The prime minister said that the commission would generate revenue and enhance exports.

He urged all the stakeholders to march with unity and do everything in their capacity to change history as "we have expertise and energy to do the wonder." He said the government would act as a partner and catalyst to provide all kinds of support to the investors. Mentioning the "wastage of energies" during the last four years of the previous government, the prime minister urged to move forward to change the landscape of history.

Nawab of Junagadh Nawab Muhammad Jahangir Khanji passed away



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Nawab of Junagadh Nawab Muhammad Jahangir was diagnosed with cancer yesterday. Nawab Muhammad Jahangir Khanji's funeral prayers will be offered tomorrow at Junagadh House Karachi after Namaz e Juma. Political and social figures have expressed deep grief over the sad departure of Nawab of Junagadh. The Nawab of Junagadh dedicated his entire life to the independence of Junagadh state and continued his struggle till the last breath of his life.

Cypher case: 'Penalty for misusing classified document is 14-year jail'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Thursday that Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will hold an inquiry into the cypher case against the PTI chief and others under the Official Secret Act after being tasked by the federal government. While addressing a press conference, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had possessed the cypher and waved the classified document in a public gathering. He added that the former premier did not return the cypher to the concerned institution yet. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had possessed the cypher and waved the classified document in a public gathering. He added that the former premier did not return the cypher to the concerned insti-



an inquiry into the matter under the Official Secret Act. "The whole country is aware of a drama was staged in the name of cypher. Cypher issue was used for foiling the no-trust motion." Azam Nazeer Tarar said that a merit-based investigation will be held into the cypher case. "The penalty for using a classified document for personal gains is 14-year jail." To a question regarding civilians' trials in the military courts, Tarar replied that the trials under the Army Act are continued since five decades. "The actions against the attacks on the military installations are also taken under the Army Act." The law minister said that the accused were taken into custody in accordance with the law after seeking court orders. "Accused has the right to appeal in the military courts, as well as hiring a lawyer of his own choice."

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Foreign Ministry presents details of Pakistanis jailed in foreign countries

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has presented the details of Pakistanis jailed in foreign countries to the National Assembly (NA). During the NA session today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the details of Pakistanis jailed in foreign countries. According to the MoFA statistics, more than 12,000 Pakistanis are imprisoned in different jails in foreign countries. 3,100 nationals were imprisoned in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 3,100 in Saudi Arabia including 1,612 in Abu Dhabi, 1,488 in Dubai, 1,503 in Jeddah and 1,596 in Riyadh.

Nawaz Sharif will be next PM: Khawaja Asif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif on Thursday said that the party's supreme leader Nawaz Sharif will be Pakistan's next prime minister. Speaking exclusively to ARY News during talk-show 'Off The Record', the defence minister said that Nawaz Sharif will not only come back but will become Pakistan's next PM, adding that Nawaz Sharif's disqualification was a grave injustice and the decision should be reversed. He maintained that lawyers and legal experts who are considered anti-PMLN too have voiced their concerns over the decision. When asked what will happen with the current PM Shehbaz Sharif, Khawaja Asif said that Shehbaz Sharif is a



loyal and obedient younger brother and won't mind if his elder brother succeeds him as PM of Pakistan. As the host asked him about the impression that "Nawaz Sharif's name has been crossed" (means he won't be considered for the coveted post of PM of Pakistan), the PML-N leader said that he doesn't feel things are that bad for the elder Sharif. Khawaja Asif refused to comment on the roles Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shehbaz Sharif will play in upcoming elections by saying that a lot rests with Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Iraq expels Swedish ambassador over planned Quran desecration



Reuters

Iraq expelled the Swedish ambassador on Thursday in protest at a planned desecration of Holy Quran in Stockholm that had prompted hundreds of protesters to storm and set alight the Swedish embassy in the Iraqi capital. An Iraqi government statement added that Baghdad was

also recalling its charge d'affaires in Sweden, and Iraq's state news agency reported that Iraq had suspended the working permit of Sweden's Ericsson on Iraqi soil. Protesters in Sweden had applied for and received permission from Swedish police to desecrate the Quran outside the Iraqi embassy on Thursday.

Three policemen martyred, four injured in KP's Bara market blast



Bureau Report

KHYBER: Three policemen were martyred and four others were injured in a blast and firing near police station in Bara market, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). As per details, the blast was followed by intense firing near police station located in Bara market, Khyber. Initial reports said the blast was a 'suicide attack' in which three cops were martyred and four others were injured. The bodies and injured were moved to the CMH, while the market has been closed for security reasons after the incident, the rescue sources said. Following the blast and firing, a heavy contingent of security forces reached the spot. Pakistan has seen an uptick in terror activities, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year. Earlier this week, at least eight people sustained injuries in a powerful blast targeting a convoy of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) in Peshawar's Hayatabad area. Talking to journalists near the site of the blast, Cant Superintendent of Police (SP) Waqas Rafi confirmed the suicide blast saying that it was an attack on an FC convoy that was moving through Hayatabad's phase 6. The target of the terrorists were officials of the security forces, the police officer added.

Elections likely to be delayed over census issue

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: General elections are likely to be delayed for three to four months as the federal government started mulling to approve and notify new census results. The federal government has started mulling to approve and notify 2023 census results which would delay the organisation of general elections for three to four months. Sources told media that the federal government is deliberating on approving the new census results in the Council of Common

Interests (CCI) session. The next CCI session is expected to be summoned on July 25. Sources said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will be bound to complete new delimitations if 2023 census results are notified which would require three to four months. The notification of the new census data will delay the general polls till January or February, sources said. It is pertinent to mention here that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) hinted at not accepting general polls on



old census data. Earlier in the day, the ECP secretary said that they will make a decision in accordance with the law if new census results are approved by the federal government. During an informal conversation with journalists outside the ECP headquarters, Omar Hamid Khan said that the commission is fully ready to hold gener-

al elections. "Four months will be required for new delimitations if new census results are approved." Additionally, ECP Special Secretary Zafar Iqbal told the media that the commission would hold general elections by October 11 if assemblies are dissolved on August 12. On the other hand, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah asserted a few days ago that the next general elections, scheduled to be held in 2023, will be based on the last census carried out in 2017. Speaking to a private news channel, the interior minister said that the government has decided

not to notify the latest census and that the upcoming elections would be held on the basis of the 2017 census data. Rana Sanaullah noted that Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) - an ally of the government in the Centre - was unsatisfied with the new digital census as well. "They don't even accept this new census," he added. The minister stressed that there should be consensus on census results and "any decision in haste could lead to a controversial situation" in the country.

Joint press conference

Islamabad: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba address a joint press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.



Photo: PID

Pakistan, Ukraine agree to expand cooperation in areas of mutual benefit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ukraine on Thursday agreed to expand cooperation in all areas of mutual benefit including trade, investment, agriculture, food security, defense cooperation, cultural exchanges and people to people contacts.

"In our meeting today, we agreed on the importance of regular dialogue and engagements to further strengthen the bilateral ties. We have also agreed to hold meetings of various institutional mechanisms in due course. We will continue to build on our conversation to add more substance to our relations," Minister for Foreign Affairs

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in a joint press conference here along with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba.

He said building bilateral trade and economic ties was a priority area for Pakistan.

The Ukrainian Foreign Minister said the both sides agreed to reinvigorate the bilateral mechanisms as both looked forward to holding the inaugural meeting of the Ukrainian and Pakistani Commission of the economic cooperation.

Pointing to an important issue of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Dmytro Kuleba said during the meeting he briefed the minister about the Russian withdrawal from this initia-

tives on Monday and about its consequences for global food security.

"We regret that it will be Ukraine and countries of Asia and Africa, who will suffer the most from Russia's withdrawal", he said adding that by doing so Russia significantly undermined global food security that would result in hike in global food prices.

He said Ukraine considered Pakistan a good partner and it was ready to work in all areas especially in the area of food security.

Bilawal said it was in larger interest of Pakistan as well as the developed world that this grain deal should be restored.

"I will be reaching out to

the United Nation Secretary General and to my counterparts in Turkey and Russia to discuss Pakistan's concerns and our desire the black sea grain initiative to be restored", he assured his Ukrainian counterpart.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said during the meeting, the current Ukrainian situation was also discussed and he expressed Pakistan's deep concern at the prevailing situation and offered condolences on the loss of precious lives and immense human suffering.

"In a gesture of solidarity with the people of Ukraine and despite our own economic challenges, we have sent

humanitarian assistance, he said adding that prolonged conflict brought immense hardship and suffering to the civilian populations.

He hoped that peace will prevail so that the people of Ukraine and Russia could enjoy peace dividends. He also emphasized the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts through dialogue and engagement and Pakistan's readiness to support peace initiatives which can bring peace to the region.

Bilawal said Pakistan had vested interest in promoting peace and reconciliation. "We hope for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy."

Huawei to roll out 5.5G network equipment next year

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Huawei Technologies Co will launch a complete set of commercial 5.5G network equipment next year, as part of a broader push to speed up the evolution of 5G and kick off the 5.5G era for the information and communications technology industry.

"The plan comes amid rapid progress in 5G deployment over the past four years that is already yielding significant financial gains, experts said, adding that the fast-approaching 5.5G will be a key milestone in 5G evolution," China Daily reported.

Huawei proposed the

concept of a "5.5G Era" to protect telecom operators' investment in 5G and improve network performance by 10 times.

"The 5.5G era will feature 10-gigabit peak downlink speeds and gigabit peak uplink speeds to meet increasingly diverse service requirements. It will also use new technologies like passive Internet of Things to unlock a market of 100 billion IoT connections."

"With a clearly defined standardization schedule, the 5.5G Era is already poised for technological and commercial verification," Yang Chaobin, president of ICT Products & Solutions at Huawei, said during the



Mobile World Congress Shanghai 2023 in June.

"In 2024, Huawei will launch a complete set of commercial 5.5G network equipment to be prepared for the commercial deployment of 5.5G. We look forward to working with all industry players to embark on the new journey toward the 5.5G era," Yang said.

"Huawei has been working with multiple players across

the industry on R&D and verification of key 5.5G technologies, with significant progress, specifically in extremely large antenna arrays which underpin 10-gigabit downlinks, flexible spectrum access that helps in realizing gigabit uplinks, and passive IoT that can enable 100 billion IoT connections."

According to the company, "5G PON is another key technology that can enable 10-gigabit speeds for F5.5G ultra-broadband networks and is expected to be extensively used in homes, campuses, and industry in the future."

"Huawei has worked with over 30 operators around the world on technological verifica-

tion and application pilots for these technologies," the company said.

"The industry is still in its earliest stage of developing a vision for 6G and has only just begun related research into key technologies. This is the reason why many have turned to 5.5G as their milestone for future development. The 10-fold improvement in network capabilities in the 5.5G era is set to enable numerous industries to unleash the productivity of digital technology," Huawei said.

"There are more than 260 commercial 5G networks worldwide today, serving over 1.2 billion users," according to data compiled by Huawei.

UN remembers 77 personnel, who died in line of duty last year

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations family came together on Wednesday to pay tribute to the 77 members of staff, including seven Pakistanis, who lost their lives serving under the U. N. flag in 2022.

"We are here to mourn together, to remember together, and to pay our respects together," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the solemn ceremony, held in the iconic Trusteeship Council chamber at UN Headquarters in New York.

Relatives of the fallen personnel, members of the diplomatic community and UN staff from around the world attended the event, both in-person and online.

Dr. Mariam Aamir, wife of martyred Major Faizan Ali, a Pakistani peacekeeper who lost his life in a helicopter crash in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), attended the solemn ceremony.



Word Bank, FBR reviews progress on PRR Project

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Country Director World Bank Najy Benhassine and the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad held a meeting on Thursday at FBR Headquarters to review the progress of the Pakistan Raises Revenue (PRR) Program during the last financial year.

The World Bank team included the Operations Manager Gailius Draugelis, the Lead Country Economist Tobias Haque, the Senior Economist Lucy Pan, the Public Sector Specialist Irum Touqeer, and the Manager Shahib Ali Mohib.

Member Reforms, FBR, Ardesher Tariq and members of the project team were also present in the meeting, said a press release issued here.

It may be noted that FBR has been publishing detailed tax expenditure reports to improve transparency.



Both sides agreed to continue the focus on the upgradation of IT infrastructure and automation of FBR and for timely completion of project targets. Asim Ahmad highly appreciated the contributions and efforts put in by the teams on both sides.

The Country Director also appreciated the progress and termed the GST harmonization as the flagship achievement of FBR.

The FBR and World Bank agreed to continue cooperation in pursuing the reforms agenda under the project.

PM thankful to Allah over acquittal in "false" money laundering case

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that he was thankful to Allah Almighty as the Accountability Court of Lahore acquitted him and his son Hamza Shehbaz in a "false and baseless" case of money laundering based on political revenge.

He said that that was the same case in which the National Crime Agency of Britain with a global reputation, searched the 40-year record, collected from three countries, for two years and gave him clean chit after finding nothing.

The prime minister recalled that a news item was deliberately published in UK's Daily Mail about the alleged embezzlement of DFID



funds, but even in that, Allah vindicated him and the publication had to apologize.

"This was the same case in which I was wrongfully arrested twice, Hamza Shahbaz was kept in prison and Hamza was not even taken to a doctor despite being seriously ill during the Corona pandemic. He was not even allowed to meet his minor daughter," Prime Minister Shehbaz recounted in a Tweet.

ECC okays Rs42.528bn for conduct of general elections



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Thursday approved a summary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding the demand for funds of Rs42.528 billion as a Technical Supplementary Grant (TSG) for conduct of general elections fiscal year 2023-2024.

The Cabinet Committee that met here with Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in the chair allowed Rs10 billion as the first release and further release on a need basis, said a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dasgir Khan, Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, Minister of State for Petroleum Masudik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Coordinator to the PM on Economy Bilal Azhar Kayani, Coordinator to PM on Commerce & Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, Federal Secretaries, and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The ECC also approved TSG of Rs 200 million in favor of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) of the PM Secretariat, which has been established to attract invest-

ment from GCC and other countries in the fields of Defence, Agriculture, Mineral, IT, and Energy.

The ECC considered a summary of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding charging electricity rates to Cinema houses. In order to revive the film industry in Pakistan, the ECC approved the proposal that Cinemas may be charged electricity as per rates admissible to the industry.

The Committee also considered a summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding the export of vegetable ghee/cooking oil from export processing zones to Afghanistan through land route and approved the omission of Para 7(6) and Para 7(7) of Export Policy Order (EPO) -2022, which specifies the conditions for exports to Afghanistan.

It further allowed amendment in Schedule -II of EPO-2022 to the extent of removing the exception regarding the export of vegetable ghee/cooking oil from EPZs, manufacturing bonds, and export-oriented units to Afghanistan.

The ECC also considered a summary of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research regarding the revision of Cess rates of Tobacco for the year 2023-24. The ECC approved revised Cess rates for the year 2023-24 as per Section 9 of PTB Ordinance 1968, on the basis of MIPs for the year 2023-24.

Met Office forecasts extended monsoon season with heavy rains

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a forecast of more monsoon spells from July to September in Pakistan.

Talking to APP here on Thursday Director of PMD, Zaheer Ahmad Babar said that urban flooding due to torrential rains is expected during the extended moon soon season and urged disaster risk management institutions to adopt comprehensive strategies to safeguard human lives.

Zaheer provided a detailed roundup on the current monsoon spells and said that monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea are likely to penetrate the upper and central parts of the country starting from Tuesday which would be intensifying on July 19. "These spells will cause widespread rains across the nation", he added.

He highlighted that the latest advisory from PMD predicted rain/wind-thundershowers with heavy falls in various regions of Pakistan, including Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Murree, Gallyyat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and many others from July 18 (night) to 23, with occasional gaps. Addressing major concerns for

Pakistan, Zaheer expressed the need to address altered patterns of river flows, melting glaciers, Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), and other intense climatic events, along with reduced water storage capacities in water reservoirs caused by siltation and sedimentation. He warned that these factors would lead, n to deteriorating water quality, decreasing wetland areas, and an impending

water crisis. With heavy rain expectations, Zaheer cautioned about potential urban flooding in low-lying areas of cities such as Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala, and Lahore from July 18 (night) to 22. Moreover, he warned of possible landslides in vulnerable regions like Murree, Gallyyat, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, and hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during this period, advising tourists and travellers to exercise extra caution when heading towards northern areas, Gallyyat, AJK, and GB.



Respect for Simplicity

Hamdard Karachi Shura highlights simplicity as path to prosperity

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The monthly meeting of the Hamdard Karachi Shura was held at Hamdard Pakistan Corporate Headquarters yesterday, presided over by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan. The meeting centered around the theme of "Respect for Simplicity." Renowned philanthropist and Senior Member of Shura Hamdard, Naushaba Khaleel Sattar, served as the keynote speaker and addressed the attendees, stating that Shura Hamdard is a congregation of intellectuals, established by Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. Today, if there is a role model worthy of emulation on the subject of simplicity, it is indeed Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said himself. He was a great personality, embodying good manners, eloquence, and an all-encompassing character. His life is a beacon of inspiration for

Pakistanis. Allah Almighty had blessed him with all comforts, yet he chose to adopt a simple way of living.

She further stated that the reason for not embracing extravagance is that it leads people to corruption and an increase in crimes. To instill precious virtues like patience and gratitude within the nation, proactive steps are needed, both politically and socially.

Deputy Speaker of Shura Hamdard, Colonel (R) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, emphasized that today's topic holds significant importance for our society from various perspectives. Over the span of 75 years, our nation has experienced a decline in moral and intellectual values, a distressing situation. The lesson of simplicity is not only relevant to our religion but also holds particular significance for our culture.

Zafar Iqbal stressed the importance of having faith in our nation

and understanding that simplicity means maintaining balance and moderation in worldly affairs, avoiding excess and extravagance, expressing gratitude for Allah's blessings, being patient in times of adversity, and placing trust in the Almighty.

Dr. Amjad Ali Jafri highlighted that as Muslims, it is our responsibility to follow Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a role model. We should strive to adopt his prophetic ways and learn how he, despite having access to abundant means and resources, detached himself from worldly pleasures. Despite the vastness of available resources, he turned away from worldly delights and established unmatched examples of self-discipline for the people of this world.

Professor Dr. Tanveer Khalid acknowledged that despite all our weaknesses and shortcomings, there is a great awareness within the nation regarding the

value of simplicity. However, there is a lack of implementation of simplicity in practical domains. People primarily emulate their role models. Therefore, to inspire future generations, we must present the life stories of those great Pakistanis who lived their lives with simplicity and served the nation with dignity and patriotic fervor through the media.

Justice (R) Zia Pervez stated that both extravagance and miserliness are highly condemned traits according to Islamic teachings. In our society, the visible consequences of display, unnecessary extravagance, and the relentless pursuit of material progress have become the norm. Illicit and forbidden means are employed to increase income, leading to despair, envy, and animosity among underprivileged segments of society. As a result of this behavior, depression is increasing on the one hand, while corruption and an



unjustified increase in wealth and possessions are taking place on the other. Huma Baig, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Cdre (r) Sadeed Anwar Malik, Prof. Dr. Ikhtlaq Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Shaheen Habib, and Dr. Abubakr Shaikh also spoke on the occasion.

Entry ban

ISLAMABAD: Police personnel stop the bikers on a check post at Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, following the instructions as authorities impose ban on the entry of motorcycles to Constitution Avenue till 10th Muharram-ul-Haram in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Razia appeals to world community to force Indian govt to suspend Yasin's death sentence

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Razia Sultan, daughter of a senior Huriyat Leader, Yaseen Malik appealed to the United Nations, all the International Human Rights Organisations, world community and people of Kashmir to force notorious Indian government to put an end to her father's death sentence, who was a symbol of resistance and believed in peaceful struggle for the cause of Kashmir.

In her historic address to a Special Session at Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Assembly in Muzaffarabad, Razia Sultan urged the international community and world power to make it possible for her to meet



her father, as she met him nine years ago.

Razia Sultan said that she was daughter of Yaseen Malik and a daughter of Kashmir; therefore, she requested on behalf of her father's dedication for the Kashmir cause, to raise the voice against this injustice of sentencing him with a death penalty.

"I dedicate my entire life to the cause of Kashmir," she

added.

Razia Sultan stated that Yaseen Malik was renowned globally as a symbol of resistance against a mighty army, who was shackled by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a cell, where he was sentenced to death.

She went on to say that Yaseen Malik, who, sacrificed everything; including health, family, wealth, for the sole

purpose of freedom for the Kashmiris.

"I was only two years old, when I met my father. Now, I have turned 11. I miss my father like anything. Our family is incomplete, without him. I crave to listen to his voice," she mentioned.

Razia Sultan vowed that she would like to take this opportunity to send a message to Narendra Modi, from Muza-

farabad that her father was a beacon of light for the cause of Kashmir.

She went on to say that this death sentence was a measure to bring down his courage and determination to the Kashmir cause. "Let it serve as a reminder that the Kashmiri nationalism stands beside my father. I pray to Allah SWT, to bless my father with longevity," she added.

Razia Sultan expressed optimism that she was hopeful in the mercy of Allah that her father would be released from this fake-case, and would be amongst them, soon. "In Sha Allah, I would love to meet my father and spend quality time with him," she added.

Important development and good plan for the population: Mahar Iqbal

Quaratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: New Project of Green Star Social Marketing GSM (TCI) The inaugural function of The Challenge Initiative was held today in the hall of a local hotel in Multan.

The event was named World Population Day Seminar. Today's opening ceremony and prestigious seminar was organized with the collaboration and cooperation of Green Star Social Marketing, Environmental Welfare Department, Multan District and Health Department.

The ceremony started with the recitation of Holy Quran and Naat Rasool Maqbool. Director General of South Punjab Health Department Maher Iqbal was the chief guest in the event



CEO Health Multan Faisal Raza Qaisrani, District Popular Welfare

Officer Multan Fayaz Ahmed Chaudhry and District Health Officer Dr. Liaqat Mehman were the special guests. Inamur Rehman, Maudt Zahra Naqvi and Ghazanfar Abbas from TCI made their participation compulsory.

Green Star, Multan Population Welfare Department and Multan Health Department officers and staff members participated fully. The speakers addressed the participants and said that this project has been started in Multan.

The new work has started. Inshallah, it will prove to be an important development and a good plan for the population. The participants listened carefully to the speakers and expressed their interest.

Muharram procession to be held at Imam Bargah Hussainia

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S) for religion Islam are unique and give us a lesson of patience scarifies and tolerance. The religious scholars and other speakers said this while addressing participants of procession taken out on first muharram ul Haram from K Block Hussain House. The speakers in their sermons threw light on the philosophy of martyrdom and said that Hazrat Imam Hussain A. S through his and his family members martyrdom gave such a unique lesson of patience and sacrifice which can not be forgotten till the dooms day and the world cannot present its example. The speakers said that we all must learn lesson from the sacrifices of Imam Hussain A. S and practice them in our practical life. Latter a procession was taken out from K-Block Attock City residence of Late Tehseen Ul Hasan Zaidi. The procession passed through differNent roots and ended at Imam Bargah Husania AttockCantt Evening. On the occasion police had made elaborate security arrangements. Police were deployed on the roots of procession and on the roof tops. DPO Attock Ghayas Gul DC Attock Atif Raza CSO Taimoor khan, DSP Sana Ullah SHO police station Attock Hamid Abbas Kazmi, SHO sadar Haider qamar, Chief officer TMA Mubarak Ali and chief senetary inspector Amir Ilyas and other officials were also present.

Strict action ordered against illegal housing schemes and commercializatin: Umar Jahangir

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that strict action has been ordered against illegal housing schemes and commercialization to improve the infrastructure of the city. In this regard, joint working committees of MDA, Municipal Corporation and District Council have been formed. He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the District Planning and Design Committee in the District Council Hall.

On this occasion, the district departments also gave a detailed briefing regarding the commercial policy. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that The infrastructure of the city will be built according to the master plan. While agriculture and gardens will be protected by allocating site development zones. Umar Jahangir directed that bogus commercial activities will be stopped to protect gardens and agricultural areas, while agricultural areas will be given special consideration in the approval of housing colonies. Umar Jahangir further directed that the procedure of services and commercial facilities should also be determined according to the population.

Javed Intizar demands probe of Iqbali's 'cypher' statement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's face was not supporting his tongue while waving the cypher in a public meeting. Azam Khan was an accomplice in creating the cypher statement. The testimony of his statements of 164 and 161 will clarify the legitimacy of the cypher case. In Pakistan, the case and the chair sometimes become strong and sometimes weak. The government conducted an impartial investigation of the cypher case and brought the facts before the public. Former independent candidate NA 53 Islamabad Javed Intizar, while reacting to the Iqbali statement of the former prime minister's principal secretary Azam Khan, said that Azam Khan was a missing person. There are doubts and inconsistencies in confession statements that suddenly came to the public. However, the explanation of the American cypher was denied by the national security agencies and the United States. There are ambiguities and question marks in the investigation of the news that used a secret document for political purposes. If the cypher American conspiracy and false statement are proved, the involved characters should be severely punished

Pakistan have always mourned in a peaceful and fraternal environment: Bisharat Qureshi

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Shia Ulema Council South Punjab General Secretary Bisharat Abbas Qureshi said that in Pakistan we have always mourned in a peaceful and fraternal environment. Shia Ulema Council South Punjab Chief Syed Nadeem Haider and General Secretary Bisharat Abbas Qureshi have expressed in their joint statement.

It is very inappropriate for DPO Muzaffargarh to ban the funeral gatherings and take a short bond for many years. He has said that during Muharram-ul-Haram, the peace of the area may be disturbed by stopping the gatherings, which may give strength to miscreants. But we should not be punished for this. We have always cooperated with the administration but we should not be punished. DPO Muzaffargarh should change his behavior so that Muharram will pass peacefully.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:32 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 Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 921334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224

Countrywide petroleum shutdown and strike on 22 July: Sami Khan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: After the government did not accept the demands, the Petroleum Dealers Association Announce Country Wide Petroleum Shutdown on 22 July, strike from July 22 in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan to KPK. The closure of the pumps will stop the road transport in the country. In this regard, the Chairman of Pakistan Padwalim Dealers Association and Satara Intiaz Abdul Sami Khan says that Padwalim Dealers Association has been fighting for rights since 1999, but the government deviates every time after making promises. Due to electricity, utility bills, labor and cyber rates, financial cost and other expenses, the profit of low-cell pumps has completely disappeared. Apart from this, due to the open delivery and sale of smuggled Iranian petrol and diesel, the sale of the pumps has fallen by 30%, as a result of which the pump owners have become bankrupt. In this regard, Petroleum Minister Mossadeqh Malik has assured that he would meet the association in Karachi, but he did not come and neither did he accept our legitimate demands, on which we are forced to shut down our pumps across the country for an indefinite period from tomorrow, July 22, from 6 am in the morning. Sources say that when the pump is stopped, the economy will be destroyed due to the shutdown of road transport across the country.

PANAH honours champion parliamentarians, stakeholders for their role in reducing disease burden

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today we are here to pay tribute to stakeholders and policy makers who have contributed in policy formulation to reduce the consumption of unhealthy foods. Their role will be remembered to reduce the disease burden in Pakistan.

This was said in an event organized by PANAH at a local hotel in Islamabad to present Trophy and Shield to champion parliamentarians and stakeholders as token of appreciation for their role to increase taxes on unhealthy sugary drinks in finance bill 2023-24.

Maj. Gen. (R) Masud ur Rehman Kiani, President PANAH was the chief guest of the occasion. Trophy of champion parliamentarian was presented to MNA Dr. Nisar Ahmad Cheema. Those who were given shields were Parliamentary Secretary on Health Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, MNA Dr. Samina Matloob, MNA Wajihah Qamar, MNA



Zahra Wadood Fatmi, MNA Ramesh Lal, MNA Naz Baloch, General Secretary Diabetic Association of Pakistan Professor Dr. Abdul Basit, National Coordinator Nutrition & NFA ministry of national health services regulation and coordination Dr. Khawaja Masud, Director Planning ministry of law & justice Muhammad Javed, Director General competition commission of Pakistan Shehzad Hussain, Secretary Law & Clarification FBR Tariq Iqbal, Senior Joint Secretary ministry of finance Munir Ahmad, from National Assembly Muhammad Ashfaq Ashraf, Additional Secretary legislation Muhammad Mushtaq, PANAH ambassador in KPK Amjad Ali Khan

Yousafzai, President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Muhammad Afzal Butt, Secretary Federal Tax Ombudsman Sarwat Tahira Habib, Consultant physician and additional vice president PANAH Col. Shakeel Mirza, Consultant at global health advocacy incubator Mr. Munawar Hussain. A large number of people from civil society, Ulema, youth, religious leaders and media participated in the event.

Gen. Masud ur Rehman Kiani said that PANAH is working from last 40 years to save its countrymen from heart and related diseases. Today its matter of great satisfaction that now common people, civil society, religious leaders, youth, government official and policy makers are jointly raised their voice with PANAH to reduce the non-communicable diseases from the country.

Today I pay tribute to those stakeholders and policy makers who played their role in national cause to reduce the disease burden from Pakistan. Today we

are celebrating this policy victory and as token of appreciation we are presenting them shields from PANAH.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Cheema said that public health is the key priority of the government. PANAH has raised its voice in every forum to reduce the disease burden. This was our responsibility to play our role for this national cause.

Sanaullah Ghumman said that PANAH is raising public awareness to save people from heart and related diseases from last 4 decades. We learn one thing that if you save one life from awareness, you can save hundreds of thousands of lives from policy intervention. More than 106 countries in the world has reduced the consumption of unhealthy sugary drinks by increasing taxes on them as first and most effective policy step. You people are champions of the nation to play your role to reduce the disease burden in Pakistan.

Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan thanked the participants to participate in the event.

Patrolling

ISLAMABAD: Armed vehicle of Pak Army is patrolling at Constitution Avenue to maintain security, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Day Trip learning launching ceremony held by PEC at NUTECH

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Project of PEC Pakistan Development Committee. It is one of the need awaited remarkable projects for engineering students and faculty, with the potential to revolutionize the learning methodology with familiarization and industrial practical exposure. This event was graced by renowned engineers, researchers, academicians and appraised by Engr. Lt Gen Kashif Nazir HI(M) as Chief Guest.

"Day Trip Learning" will provide engineering students with an opportunity to learn practically through interaction, working methods and occupational practices. It gives the students exposure to modern work practices complementing theoretical knowledge.

Engr Mir Masood Rashid advisor to chairman PEC and



convenor PPDC welcomed all valuable guests, engineers, researchers, and academia personals. He highlighted that "Day Trip Learning" initiative holds the potential to transform the way we educate and inspire the next generation of engineers. As we all know, engineering is not merely about theory and equations; it is about practicality, innovation, and the drive to solve real-world problems. He also mentioned on the successful delivery of remarkable key projects launched by PPDC including Graduate Internee Training (6 months 75% sponsor by PEC),

17-UNSDG's adoption roadmap, Yearly CAPSTONE EXPO, Final Year Design Projects sponsorship (Industrially viable projects) and E-GATEWAY (e-procurement portal for engineering services export).

Engr Lt General Moazzam (Retd) rector NUTECH university, welcomed all being technical support partner University in this project, appreciated the efforts of PEC and PPDC committee on launching of such great initiative as biggest current challenge is engineers' exposure and right Jobs, with such initiatives it will bridge the gap between Indus-

try & Academia. He appreciated other initiatives of PPDC especially the CAPSTONE EXPO, Graduate Internship Training (GIT) & PEC E-Gateway bringing motivation to engineering community to work on commercially viable projects.

Engr Muhammad Najeeb Haroon Chairman PEC highlighted the efforts of PPDC to create a bridge between academia & industry for the excellence of Engineers profession.

Engr Lt General Kashif Nazir, E-in-CHI(M) chief guest of the ceremony appreciated the efforts of PEC and briefed audience that through "Day Trip Learning" initiative students will have the opportunity to step outside the confines of traditional classrooms and textbooks, immersing themselves in the heart of engineering marvels and technological wonders.

Raof says they may enact this course, crooked drama, but can't escape polls

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Spokesperson Raof Hasan lashed out at the imported government said that existence of the cypher was a reality.

He said that the threat of "dire consequences" contained in the cypher if Khan's government was not removed is a reality.

Raof Hasan said that declassification of the cypher by the cabinet was a reality, adding that sharing a copy thereof with the President, Speaker, National Assembly and Chief Justice was a reality. Moreover, he said that demand for judicial probe was a reality.

He revealed that 36th NSC meeting chaired by the then prime minister Imran Khan, calling the cypher "grave interference in Pakistan's internal affairs" was a reality. Similarly, he added that serving demarche on the US, both in Washington & Islamabad, was a reality.

In addition, PTI CIS stated that 37th meeting of the NSC chaired by Shabbaz Sharif, ratifying the minutes of the 36th NSC meeting, was a reality.

He went on to say that removal of Imran Khan's government through a combination of internal and external factors was a reality, leading to the rule of a gang of convicts, absconders and under-trial criminals, which proved to be gravely detrimental to Pakistan's interests.

Raof said that those who have brought the country to the verge of economic and political ruination were now orchestrating a vicious media trial to insinuate that all realities cited above were actually not realities. Why because all other methods to neutralise Khan have failed, adding, "What remains is hollow, senseless hollering and yelling for which the crime minister has received special training."

He said that people will take it for what it was really worth: a jaundiced attempt to hide their own grievous crimes. "You may enact this course and crooked drama, but how will you escape elections? Go on as your political demise beckon!", he added.

Universal access to clean and affordable energy crucial

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr Hassan Daud Butt, Research Fellow and Advisor, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) remarked that increasing access to clean affordable energy remains the biggest challenges for government. Energy access has crucial linkages with all aspects of human security and without reliable, clean energy the health, education and economic sectors will continue to demonstrate poor performance. He was speaking at Roundtable Discussion on "Fostering Green, Affordable, and Inclusive Energy Transition in Impoverished Regions of Pakistan" jointly organized by SDPI and UNESCAP here today.

Resilient infrastructure, investment, and financing are crucial to develop the ecosystems and building on the wisdom of rural communities and including local, indigenous knowledge are at the heart of universal access to clean and affordable energy, he added.

Micheal Williamson, Chief of Section, UNESCAP, stressed that transition to clean, renewable energy is an essential component of climate action under SDG7 in terms of its carbon emission mitigation potential, efficient energy model and social justice and stressed that everyone should have access to reliable clean energy, reiterating that no one should be left behind. Energy inequality and climate action with renewable energy can cause a paradigm shift that can present viable solutions to the challenges of import dependence, price fluctuations of fossil fuels, emissions reduction, and recovery from events like Covid-19.

Roots Millennium Faculty Wins Regional Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Roots Millennium Future World School, a leading educational institution dedicated to nurturing young minds, is delighted to announce that Ms. Uzma Siraj, a distinguished member of Roots Millennium Future World Schools faculty, has been honored with the prestigious Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award (Regional Winner 2023) says a press release. This remarkable achievement not only recognizes the outstanding dedication of The Millennium Education teachers but also highlights Millennium Education's unwavering commitment to providing the highest standards of education

and fostering a culture of excellence.

The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award, presented by the renowned Cambridge University, is a distinguished accolade that pays tribute to exemplary teaching practices and the remarkable contributions of educators worldwide. The Millennium Education Group is immensely proud to share that Uzma Siraj from the Future World School, Karachi has been recognized as the Regional Winner of the 2023 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards for the Middle East, North Africa & Pakistan region. This accomplishment is a testament to her exceptional abilities and relentless commitment to

the growth and success of her students.

The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award, organized by the Cambridge University Press, is a global competition that celebrates the efforts of teachers who go above and beyond to inspire and empower their students. Uzma Siraj has emerged as the outstanding candidate from a pool of 11,000 exceptional educators worldwide, showcasing her extraordinary teaching abilities and unwavering dedication.

Ms. Uzma Siraj has consistently demonstrated her passion for education, innovative teaching methodologies, and a deep understanding of her students' unique needs. Her unwavering



commitment to their holistic development, academic excellence, and character building has set her apart as an exceptional

educator. Through her tireless efforts and infectious enthusiasm, she has not only ignited a love for learning among her students but has also instilled in them the values of curiosity, creativity, and resilience.

At The Millennium Education Future World Schools & Colleges, we firmly believe that exceptional educators like Uzma Siraj are the backbone of our institution. Their dedication, expertise, and ability to inspire have a transformative impact on the lives of our students. This prestigious award reflects our commitment to recruiting and nurturing top-tier teaching talent and creating an environment where educators can thrive, innovate,

and make a lasting difference says by Ms. Abeer Rajput Senior Manager Department of International Qualifications DIQ at The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan.

Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI extends his heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Uzma Siraj for her outstanding achievement and express his deepest appreciation for her tireless efforts in shaping the minds of future leaders, and says that her dedication serves as an inspiration to the entire educational community, reinforcing our mission to provide a world-class education that prepares students to excel in an ever-evolving world.

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A rail link to reshape the region - I

Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan have signed an agreement to build a 760-kilometer-long (472-mile-long) railway track connecting the three nations. The railroad would travel from Termez, Uzbekistan to Kharlachi, Pakistan via Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027 at a cost of \$2.8 billion. The success of the rail link will depend on a number of factors, including the political stability of the region, the availability of financing, and the continued, unconditional, and willing cooperation of the three countries. Nonetheless, the potential advantages of the rail link are substantial, and the initiative has the potential to transform the region.

The concept of a rail connection between Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan dates back many years. In the 1970s, the Soviet Union proposed constructing a railroad connecting the three nations. Due to the 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, however, the project was never completed. The ratification of the agreement on July 18 in Islamabad, in the presence of "high-ranking" railway officials from the three countries, brought the age-old concept to fruition. According to plan, the rail route will traverse Termez, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan's Mazar-e-Sharif and Logar provinces, and conclude in Pakistan via the Kharlachi border crossing in the Kurram tribal district near the Afghan border.

Reportedly, the financing for this 760 km railway track has not yet been finalized, however, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European

Bank for Reconstruction and Development have all expressed interest in lending support to the project, but no formal commitments have been made. Russia has also said that it would be willing to assist in laying down the railway and supplying locomotives and rolling stock, provided the project is able to attract fundings. In the absence of any firm commitments from international financial institutions, it is possible that the signatory countries will have to fund it themselves which seems uphill task keeping in view the dilapidated financial outlook of both Pakistan and Afghanistan, but if financial arrangements are made, it would be a major boost to regional trade and economic development.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2027, and by 2030, trains will be able to transport up to 15 million tonnes of products annually. The line will facilitate both passenger and freight services, reduce cargo delivery periods between Uzbekistan and Pakistan by approximately five days and transport costs by at least 40 percent. With the signing of the protocol, it would begin the phases of meticulous planning, resource allocation, and project implementation, as well as a concerted, coordinated efforts to establish robust regional connectivity.

The project's strength rests in its capacity to stimulate regional trade and economic growth, generate employment, and provide cost-effective industrial raw materials and utilities to enhance the competitiveness of industrial services

and agricultural outputs. The project is expensive and may be difficult to finance, is likely to encounter security challenges, particularly while passing through Afghanistan, and may require years to complete. It will create numerous opportunities, including the possibility of linking with the Gwadar port, which would provide Central Asian countries with access to a warm-water port, and extending to other nations in the region. It may also face hazards such as political instability in one or more of the involved countries and imminent economic challenges, such as a decline in global trade and a dearth of export substitutes.

This project would provide Pakistan with an efficient and time-saving way to export its agricultural products, such as wheat, sugar, rice, maize, and vegetables and fruits such as apples, oranges, tomatoes, and potatoes, dairy products, such as milk, yogurt, and cheese, meat and poultry, such as beef, chicken, and lamb, and a variety of processed food products, including canned food, spices, frozen food, and snacks. Pakistan can export cotton, wool, and silk in the textile industry, as well as a variety of home appliances, including refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, and electronics besides sports goods and surgical instruments.

Uzbekistan is a major producer of cotton, which is used to create textiles such as clothing, home furnishings, and other products. In addition to cotton, Uzbekistan also produces grapes,

melons, and tomatoes. In addition, it is a significant producer of meat and dairy products, including beef, lamb, and milk. It grows wheat and other cereal grains. It also produces gold, silver, and copper, among other minerals. It has a developing manufacturing sector and produces a range of appliances, including refrigerators, televisions, and washing machines, as well as mobile phones, computers, and televisions, as well as a range of construction materials, including cement, steel, and lumber.

Afghanistan's mineral wealth allows it to export copper, iron, gold, and lithium for use as basic materials in the production of finished goods. In addition to being a significant producer of agricultural products such as fruits and vegetables, it can also export carpets and other similar items. Afghanistan has oil and gas reserves that could be used to produce gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel for export to Pakistan and Uzbekistan, where they could be used to fuel automobiles, generators, and other machinery.

The rail link could also be connected to the strategically located Gwadar port in Pakistan for the benefit of the entire region and the globe by giving Central Asian countries access to a warm-water port and giving Pakistan a new route into Central Asia and beyond. Once fully operational, it would help reduce poverty by creating a significant number of employment opportunities in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the rail link, and its increased trade and transportation efficiency would make it more attractive to investors.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Majority of women live in countries with largest gender gaps

Low women's empowerment and large gender gaps are commonplace in many parts of the world, the UN's lead agencies on gender equality and international development said in a new report.

Out of 114 countries studied, none has achieved full gender parity, the report by UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has revealed.

Moreover, fewer than one per cent of women and girls globally live in a country with both high women's empowerment and a small gender gap in areas such as health and education.

Meanwhile, 3.1 billion women and girls – more than 90 per cent of the world's female population – live in countries characterized by a large women's empowerment deficit and a large gender gap.

The report introduces two new indices to shed light on the complex challenges faced by women worldwide and provide a roadmap for targeted interventions and policy reforms.

The Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) measures women's power and freedom to make choices and seize opportunities across five dimensions: health, education, inclusion, decision-making, and violence against women.

The Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI) assesses gender disparities in key dimensions of human development, including health, education, inclusion, and decision-making.

Globally, women are empowered to achieve on average only 60 per cent of their full potential, as measured by the WEI. On average, they achieve 28 per cent less than men across key human development dimensions, as measured by the GGPI.

These empowerment deficits and disparities are harmful not just to women's well-being and advancement but also to overall human progress, the report said.

UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous recalled the international community's strong commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, she said the new indices reveal that women's full potential remains unrealized, and large gender gaps persist, thereby obstructing and slowing progress towards realization of the goals.

"Sustained efforts are therefore needed to deliver on the promise of gender equality, secure the human rights of women and girls and ensure that their fundamental freedoms are fully realized," she said.

The indices reveal the need for comprehensive policy action in the areas of health, education, work-life balance and support for families, and violence against women, which will in turn speed up efforts towards a more equitable and inclusive world.

"Too many women and girls are living in countries that only allow them to reach a fraction of their potential and these fresh new insights are ultimately designed to help to effect real change – for real people," Achim Steiner, head of the UNDP, said.



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

KVSL- A Great Initiative towards Healthier Kashmir - II

The set, or overhead pass, involves precise hand positioning and timing to provide the perfect setup for a hitter. Lastly, spiking, the act of forcefully attacking the ball over the net, requires explosive power, timing, and accuracy to outwit blockers and score points.

Volleyball is a game of strategy, where teams must constantly adapt to their opponent's tactics. Coaches and players meticulously analyze their opponents' strengths and weaknesses, adjusting their game plan accordingly. Tactics such as quick attacks, combination plays, and defensive formations are employed to gain an advantage. Furthermore, strategic serving, targeted blocking, and well-executed defense play vital roles in disrupting the opponent's rhythm and securing points. Volleyball demands a high level of physical fitness and athleticism. Players must possess agility, speed, and explosive power to react swiftly to the ball, jump for blocks and spikes, and dive for digs. The sport also requires excellent hand-eye coordination, balance, and flexibility. The continuous movement during a match leads to improved cardiovascular endurance and overall fitness levels. Volleyball has gained tremendous popularity worldwide due to its universal appeal and accessibility. It can be played on various surfaces, from indoor courts to beach sand. The sport welcomes participants of all ages and genders, making it a widely inclusive activity. Volleyball has also established itself as a global sport, with international competitions like the Olympic Games and the FIVB World Championships attracting millions of fans and showcasing the world's best talent. Volleyball's blend of skill, teamwork, and excitement has made it a beloved sport across the globe. Through its emphasis on communication, coordination, and technical proficiency, volleyball not only offers a thrilling spectator experience but also teaches valuable life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and adaptability. Whether played recreationally or competitively, volleyball continues to bring joy, camaraderie, and a sense of achievement to all who embrace its spirited nature.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

KVSL has been launched in Muzaffarabad with the spirit of building healthier society in AJK. The final phase of the Kashmir Volleyball Super League (KVSL) has started at the King Abdullah Campus Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Chatter klaas and Sports Stadium Jalalabad in the capital Muzaffarabad. All the matches of the event are being watched live through social media. The opening ceremony of the event was held on July 16 at the Jalalabad Sports Stadium, while the KVSL Night was held at the Neelum Stadium on Saturday, July 15 in which all the teams participated and the players got an opportunity for public interaction. The event trophy was also unveiled at the KVSL night. The captains of the teams participating in the event held a press conference at the Central Press Club on Saturday evening, after which the KVSL bus did tour the city of Muzaffarabad for the promotion of the event. There was also a photo shoot. Muzaffarabad Division is represented in the event by Muzaffarabad Bahadurs, Muzaffarabad Jambaz and Muzaffarabad Shooters while Poonch Division is represented by Poonch Panjal, Poonch Azad and Poonch Shooters. Mirpur Division is represented by Mirpur Badshah, Sher Mirpur and Mirpur Shooters.

The final phase is continued from July 17 to July 21 in which separate matches of Smash and Shoot are being played. The matches of the event are being held at Azad Jammu and Kashmir University's King Abdullah Chatter Klas Campus and Jalalabad Sports Stadium in Muzaffarabad. The biggest and unique volleyball tournament of its kind in the history of Azad Kashmir is getting great response from the public. The event sought to promote local talent so that the well-known sports talent of Azad Kashmir can be promoted at the national and international level. This is a great initiative and is warmly welcomed by people and sportsmen. People of AJK are thankful to the management and are expecting to see more events like this in the State in future. The tournament is acting as a roadmap for healthier Kashmir and this great initiative is highly appreciable.

Concluded

(Write is senior defense analyst)

Hidden menace of drug addiction - a Silent Obstacle to the Progress of Pakistan

Drug addiction is a pervasive problem that poses a significant obstacle to the progress of Pakistan. This issue impacts individuals, families, communities, and the nation, hindering social development, economic growth, and overall stability.

The detrimental effects of drug addiction can be observed in various aspects of society, ranging from health burdens and reduced productivity to increased crime rates and strained social fabric.

One of the most pressing concerns associated with drug addiction is its impact on public health.

Substance abuse leads to a wide range of physical and mental health problems, placing a tremendous burden on healthcare resources. The costs associated with treating drug-related diseases and injuries divert funds that could otherwise be allocated to important developmental initiatives, such as improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare systems. Additionally, drug addiction contributes to the spread of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, through unsafe injection practices and risky behaviors.

According to a research article published in 2020 in Elsevier, the first step towards drug addiction starts with smoking. Researchers also state that drug usage in movies also influences the behavior of drug consumption among university students. Abuse of cannabis and heroin, both of which are extremely cheap and easy to get, are rife in the country. Most of the drugs come from Afghanistan, the country that is responsible for at least 75% of the world's heroin. The UNODC calculates that more than 800,000 Pakistanis between the ages of 15 and 64 use heroin regularly.

It is also estimated that up to 44 tons of processed heroin are consumed annually in Pakistan. A further 110 tons of heroin and morphine from neighboring Afghanistan are trafficked through Pakistan to international markets. Furthermore, Pakistan's illegal drug trade is believed to generate up to \$2 billion (about \$6 per person in the US) a year.

The number of cannabis users is particularly high in the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, which neighbors Afghanistan, where close to 11 percent of the population is hooked on drugs (mainly Cannabis). In 2013, the number of drug users in Balochistan was 280,000. In Pakistan, the total number of drug addicts as per a UN report is 7.6 million, 78% of whom are male, while the remaining 22% are female. The number of these addicts is increasing at the rate of 40,000 per year, making Pakistan one of the most drug affected countries in the world. The number of injection drug users in Punjab has also increased sharply in recent years. In 2007, Pakistan had an estimated 90,000 injecting drug users, but the number had risen to around 500,000 by 2014. This increase has also been accompanied by an increase in HIV positivity. According to research, in 2005, about 11 percent of Pakistani drug users were HIV positive. That number had risen to 40 percent in 2011.

Despite the alarming increase, governmental response has been minimal. Few programs are active in the country to help drug addicts, while smuggling and availability of drugs in the country has gone almost unchecked. Though the Anti-Narcotics Force (government agency responsible for tackling drug smuggling and use within Pakistan) plays a significant role, addressing the issue of drug addiction requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach.

Prevention and awareness campaigns must be implemented to educate the public, particularly the youth; about the dangers of drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles. Access to affordable and quality addiction treatment services, including counseling, detoxification, and rehabilitation programs, should be expanded to ensure that those struggling with addiction can receive the necessary support. By combining these efforts, Pakistan can create a supportive environment that discourages drug use, helps individuals recover, and promotes a healthier and more prosperous society.

The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad. She can be reached at sarwamalaika18@gmail.com

Internship program highlights Indonesian experience of democracy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The second session of the online internship program being co-hosted by Indonesian Embassy and Bahria University, Islamabad, was held on Thursday highlighting Indonesia's transition to democracy.

The Internship Program was launched virtually by Dr. Teuku-Faizasyah, Indonesian Deputy Foreign Minister on its inaugural session on July 18, at the Bahria University, Islamabad. Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Tugio and Director General Bahria University Rear Admiral Zakaur Rehman were also present on the occasion.

The program featuring prominent experts and scholars from Indonesia provides excellent opportunity to the participants to learn various significant aspects of the modern Indonesia and explore ways to further deepen the historic ties between Indonesia and Pakistan.

The OIP which is an initiative by Ambassador Adam Tugio has been appreciated by the participants for encouraging the vital role of the academia to the strength of the bilateral relationship of the two countries.

At the Session 2, the Speaker Prof. Firman Noor, the Head of the Political Research Center of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, enlightened the participants about the Indonesia's transition to become a full fledged and active democracy.

The Session explored Indonesia's history of democracy, emphasizing democracy being the continuum process and the need for consistent fostering by government, political parties and all the stakeholders to function and deliver for socio-economic development.

Prof. Firman Noor argued that though constitutionally Indonesia is not an Islamic country but believes Islam and democracy are compati-



ble and that democracy contributes to progress and prosperity.

He stated that the democratic process in Indonesia has not been linear, with political experiments and reforms introduced and implemented during its transition towards the right political system for Indonesia. He mentioned that some reforms result-

ed in political instability that harmed the economy.

The speaker gave an overview about the 1945 Constitution highlighting the amendments to accommodate democracy development in the country. He went into detail in explaining about the liberal Democracy, Guided Democracy or Pancasila Democracy that Indone-

sia experimented. He also elaborated that how Pancasila being the Indonesian philosophical foundation served the nationhood and preserved Indonesia's diversity during the testing times of political instability and transition.

He mentioned that reformation era that began in 1998 has seen democracy taking root in the society. The Reform Era is characterized by the vast growth of political parties, civil supremacy, decentralization and local autonomy, freedom of expression, free media and people electing their leaders and governments in free and fair presidential and local government elections, he elaborated.

In the Q&A session the speakers said that Indonesian Muslims accept democracy due to Islamic teachings' guiding principles and belief in democracy as a practical government model and ideal tool for struggle. He stated that Islamic teachings inspire respect for differences, pluralism, unity, and

cultural diversity, reflected in Indonesia's national motto of Unity in Diversity.

He said that Indonesian Muslims support the state ideology of Pancasila and the democracy that should be implemented in its true spirit and reject any notion of extremism and violence.

While pointing out certain weak areas that needed more attention and improvement, he said that the future of democracy in Indonesia was bright as all the essential elements were in place for the democracy to flourish in the country.

He concluded that democracy has empowered Indonesians to develop political capacity and promote national interest and they continue to strive for the ideal goals and values of a democratic society.

The next session on "Indonesian Economy: Surviving from Turbulent Multidimensional Crisis" will be held on July 25, 2023 at 12:45 PM.

Fostering empowerment through psychological care

News Desk

PESHAWAR: This highly anticipated groundbreaking event organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the National Institute of Psychology (NIP), Quaid-i-Azam University, took place on July 18th and 19th, 2023, at Serena Hotel in Peshawar, Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif (Director, NIP), Dr. Humaira Jami (Assistant Professor, NIP) from National Institute of Psychology and Dr. Marseela Nyawara, Dr. Shahid Irfan, and Dr. Gul Ghuttai Khalid were coordinating representatives from IOM for the event; respectively. Eminent scholars from academia and esteemed international NGOs and Government Institutes (CISMS, UNDP, National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights ABPAW, UNHCR, Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees, Ministry of State for Poverty Alleviation



and Social Safety and International Medical Corps) joined hands together to unlock the wealth of knowledge and kick-started comprehensive conversations in panel discussions, providing fertile ground for practice based solutions to emerge. Director NIP, Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif took the stage to share her profound insights and explored all the international organizations present in the event to explore and implement practice based culturally informed policies and intervention plans that involve all the relevant stakeholders to

address the difficulties faced by Afghan Migrant Community. Our Guest of Honour Dr. Tehsin Fatimha (Director Operations, Commissionerate of Afghan Refugee), and Chief Guest Mr. Mahmood Aslam (Health Secretary KPK) provided helpful insights and event was ended at note of commitment for strengthening displaced Afghan community after shields distribution.

In-lieu to the International Conference on "Fostering Empowerment Through Psychological Care, Safety and Protection Among

Displaced Afghan Children, Youth and Women" International Organization for Migration and National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-i-Azam University arranged training workshops for Psychological Care, Safety and Protection of displaced Afghan children, youth, and women on the 18th of July, 2023. Training workshops were coordinated by Dr. Nelofar Kiran Rauf (Assistant Professor, NIP) and Dr. Arooj Mujeeb (Lecturer, NIP). Training sensitized the audience regarding vulnerability of displaced Afghans

including physical, psychological, emotional, socio-economic, and sexual violence through power and vulnerability walk activity including various scenarios where the safety and protection of the displaced people can be at risk within the host community. Training workshops included five sessions on Gender-based violence, mental health issues, assessment of the risk factors and vulnerabilities, as well as indigenous interventions for the target community. Mr. Amir Hamza (Senior Project Assistant Protection, IOM), Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif (Director, NIP) and Dr. Nelofar Kiran Rauf (Assistant Professor, NIP) trained the trainers for identification of violence and psychological issues, protective and risk factors, indigenous tools for assessment, as well as customized interventions including narrative therapy, family therapy and Behavior Cognitive Therapy.

400KW solar system inaugurated at AIOU



Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain inaugurated the 400-kilowatt solar system in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. He said that AIOU is among the few institutions of the Federal Ministry of Education which have completed the solarization work on time. He congratulated the Vice-Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood for achieving this milestone. The Federal Minister further said that the country is going through an energy crisis. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif encouraged solar energy projects in the country, especially in government institutions to meet this challenge.

Rana Tanveer said that the solarization of AIOU will be an important source of green energy along with financial savings. He added that the importance of distance learning has increased after covid-19 and asked the university administration to strengthen its regional network further to provide educational opportunities to the people at their doorstep. It is pertinent to mention here that AIOU has 54 regional campuses across the country, striving for educational services.

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood said that keeping in mind the shortage of energy resources in the country, AIOU has started solarization of all the regional campuses including the main campus under the energy saving policy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. He said that the solarization of a few buildings has been completed in the first phase, solarization of the entire university will be completed by the middle of next year.

Dr. Nasir Mehmood said that we had the guidance of Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain in every step we took for the improvement of AIOU, including solarization. He further said that Solarization was the only solution that would save energy and the surplus units would be deposited to WAPDA. He said that funds spent on this project will be recovered in the shape of energy-saving in the next three years. Deans, professors, faculty members, and principal officers of the university participated in the ceremony.

10 dead as colossal landslide wipes out whole Indian village

At least 10 villagers in western Maharashtra, India, were killed in a deadly landslide on Thursday, while around 100 people mainly women and children are feared to be still trapped in there after the disaster.

The rescue workers in search of potentially trapped victims worked through the night as they battled difficult terrain and bad weather while the incessant rain soaked a mountain slope, officials said.

A wave of extreme heat, wildfires, torrential rain and flooding has wreaked havoc around the world in recent days, raising new fears about the pace of climate change.

The land collapsed in the middle of the night in the remote mountain hamlet of Irshalwadi, in the western state of Maharashtra, about 60 km (37 miles) from Mumbai, officials said. Ten bodies had been recovered and more than 80 people had been rescued.

Pak-Ukraine Relation

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari received Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad. Dmytro Kuleba's visit is also the first-ever ministerial-level visit from Ukraine since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Ukraine in 1993.



Silence of the administration, ice addiction is spreading rapidly in Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Ice addiction is spreading rapidly in Wana Lower South Waziristan, the district administration is sitting as a silent spectator and the addiction of ice is becoming a big obstacle in the bright future of our young generation.

On this occasion, ANP senior leader Ayaz Wazir while talking to the media said that all political parties, tribal elders and Ullamas/scholars should raise their voice at every forum about the prevention of drugs addiction and especially ice in the area, because the use of ice addiction is spreading very fast in Wana, due to which unrest, robbery, theft, murder and looting are increasing day by day in the area.

'Road to freedom of Kashmir passes through Islamabad': speakers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The road to freedom of Kashmir passes through Islamabad and all the roads to peace in the region pass through Kashmir.

These views were expressed by the speakers while addressing a seminar organized by the Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), constituent of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), held at the National Press Club Islamabad on the Day of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan.

The seminar was hosted by Zamarud Khan, head of Pakistan Sweet Home, while Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, convener of Hurriyat Conference, presided over the seminar.

Chief Guest of the Seminar, President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK, Raja Fahim Kayani, said that on July 19, 1947, Kashmiris passed the resolution of annexation to Pakistan. The road to freedom of Kashmir passes through Islamabad and all the roads to peace in the region pass through Kashmir. Whether it is

the problem of Palestine or Kashmir, all these problems are faced by Muslims. The people of Palestine say that you are lucky to have Pakistan in your neighborhood.

President TeK Kayani further added that, over the years we have not given even an inch of land to India despite oppression. As the policy of Pakistan exists, the policy of Kashmir should also be clarified. A lively policy has to be brought for the freedom of Kashmir. The state of Pakistan has a policy regarding Kashmir. Efforts should be made to take this policy in the right direction. Kashmiris are struggling for the completion of Pakistan. The rivers of Kashmir are facing Pakistan. India can stop the water at any time and make Pakistan barren.

Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Convener APHC, speaking on this occasion said that Kashmiris should be considered as one nation, we have passed the resolution of joining Pakistan. On July 19, Kashmiris passed a resolution that we want to join Pakistan. We are lucky that

Pakistan is there to support Kashmiris.

He further added that the Base Camp Government should play a role in the cause of Kashmir. The work and services of overseas Kashmiris for the cause of Kashmir are commendable. Congratulations to Raja Faheem Kayani and his entire team.

Zamarud Khan, Patron in chief of Pakistan Sweet Home, speaking on the occasion said that Kashmiris have maintained love and relationship with the people of Pakistan and expressed their commitment to Pakistan at every stage.

Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmad Bhat while addressing the occasion said that we welcome Raja Faheem Kayani, president of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK for his commendable service to the Kashmir cause globally. We have to move forward in a positive manner by leaving criticism and comments.

Former Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Abdul Rasheed Turabi, speaking, paid tribute to the leaders of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK and Europe, Raja Faheem



Kayani, Muhammad Ghalib, and other leaders, for playing a dynamic role in the Kashmir cause on an international level.

He said that the government of Pakistan should strengthen and clarify its narrative and the political leadership of Pakistan should come out of the war of ego and play a role regarding Kashmir.

Convener of Tehreek Hurriyat Kash-

mir Ghulam Muhammad Safi said that Kashmir and Pakistan are inseparable. Power is also a thing in the world and we cannot ignore it. There is a need for struggle on all fronts, political and diplomatic.

Hurriyat leader Syed Manzoor Shah said that after August 5, 2019, India has intensified oppression and human rights violations in IIOJ&K.

Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmad Wani said that Pakistan is our benefactor and the spokesperson of our aspirations. Today we have to get out of doubts and complaints and give a message of unity and solidarity.

Presenting the resolution, Ghulam Mohi ud din Dar said that the rivers of Kashmir are facing Pakistan, and Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan, he demanded that the black laws should be abolished and India should end the measures taken on and after August 5, 2019.

Naeem Chaudhry from France said that Kashmiris love Pakistan dearly, Kashmiris demand their birthright, the right to self-determination, and by giving them this right, it is possible to establish peace in the region.

Afzal Butt, president of PFUJ, while speaking on the occasion, said that Kashmiris have eternal love for Pakistan, history is a witness of this. Some relationships require honor, Kashmir is a matter of our honor.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
45,398.31	45,095.11
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,451.64	45,067.95
Index Value	Change
7,936,240,867	+303.20
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	20 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,646.05	+57.85
Percentage	Time
+0.76%	20 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,302.31	+241.10
Percentage	Time
+0.69%	20 Jul, 1:52 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,490.52	-405.51
Percentage	Time
-1.23%	20 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198.5	201
Bahrain Dinar	747.45	755.45
Canadian Dollar	221.5	224.5
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	42.34	42.74
Euro	320	323
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	76.4	77.4
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.5	27.8
Swiss Franc	327.4	329.9
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	78.7	79.7
UK Pound Sterling	373.5	379
US Dollar	290	293

ICCI for focusing on halal industry to boost exports

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan has huge potential to enhance exports of halal products and stressed that the government should cooperate with the private sector in capitalizing on this untapped potential to boost exports and strengthen the economy. He said that the size of the global halal market is around USD 4 trillion, but Pakistan's share in it is negligible. He emphasized that the government should formulate conducive policies for halal industry to take exports of this sector up to USD 5-6 Billion in a few years. He said this while addressing a multi-sectoral stakeholders policy dialogue on "Inspiring Change by Export Oriented Halal Trade & Industry" organized by Global Halal Services (Pvt.) Limited.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the strict compliance of halal standards, quality certi-



ifications and government's support can help to make significant increase in the export of

halal products. He said that the Halal meat is one of the fastest-growing markets globally, contributing 16 percent to world trade and Pakistan being a Muslim country should take full advantage of it. He stressed that China, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia and Central Asian States should be targeted instead of relying on only Arab countries for halal meat exports.

ICCI President said that Pakistan has the potential to play a significant role in the global halal meat industry and become a market leader since it has all the required ingredients. He said that there is a massive economic potential for Pakistan to capitalize on its status as a Muslim country and build greater credibility to market its halal products around the globe.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI and other speakers also highlighted the export potential of halal industry and stressed that the government should cooperate with the private sector to boost exports of this sector.

Meeting

Islamabad: Noted industrialist, FPCCI Presidential Candidate, former chairman PVMA and former vice president FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh meeting with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif at a function. Chairman of Flour Mills Association Tariq Sadiq is also seen in the picture.



SECP registers 27,746 companies in FY2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 27,746 new companies in the FY 2022-23. This shows an increase of around 5 percent as compared to the previous fiscal year. The total number of registered companies now stands at 196,805.

As a result of end to end digitization of the company incorporation process, about 99.8 percent companies were registered online while 1,256 foreign users were registered from overseas. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the FY 2022-23 stood at PKR 36.6 billion.

Real estate development & construction sector led the number of new incorporations with 4,527 new companies registered, followed by information technology with 4,038 new companies and trading with 3,539 new companies.

SECP data shows services sector with 2,928 new incorporations, food & beverages with 1,106, tourism with 1,101, education with 1,048, e-commerce with 910, corporate agricultural farming with 732, marketing & advertisement with 672, textile with

634, engineering with 591, pharmaceutical with 468, mining & quarrying with 462, healthcare with 451, power generation with 447, transport with 423, chemical with 402, cosmetics & toiletries with 274, fuel & energy with 272, auto & allied with 271, communications with 268, lodging with 266, broadcasting & telecasting with 208, paper & board, and cables & electrical goods with 192 each, and 1,324 companies were registered in other sectors.

SECP has made significant reforms to facilitate the registration of companies by fully digitizing the registration process, along with company registration certificate. With this automation, companies can now be registered online from any part of the world, without needing to visit SECP offices.

SECP's e-services have also been integrated with Provincial Revenue Departments to facilitate registration of companies with Provincial Revenue Departments at the time of incorporation. Company tax number is also issued online.

As a result of integration of SECP with FBR and various provincial departments, 26,125 companies were registered with FBR for registration of NTN, 819 compa-

nies with EOBI, 317 companies with PESSI/SESSI and 569 companies with excise and taxation department.

Moreover, an online portal has also been created for banks to facilitate companies in opening corporate accounts after registration. The SECP has also a dedicated WhatsApp facility for instant resolution of the queries pertaining to name availability and incorporation process. During FY2023, around 14,973 queries were responded with 96% satisfaction rate.

During fiscal year 2023, nearly 58 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 39 percent were registered as single member companies. Three percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, Trade Organizations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP).

Foreign investment has been reported in 841 new companies. Major chunk of investment was received from China with 448 companies, the US with 46, the UK with 36, Afghanistan with 35, Germany with 32, Turkey and South Korea with 16 each, UAE with 15, Singapore with 11, Nigeria with 10, and 176 companies from other countries.

Mobilink Bank collaborates with TIIES and PAFLA



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank signed two separate Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the International Institute of Entrepreneurship (TIIES) and Pakistan Freelancers' Association (PAFLA) respectively. These collaborative partnerships aim to bolster financial literacy, inclusivity, and entrepreneurship. Under the collaboration, Mobilink Bank, TIIES and PAFLA will organize events and workshops, provide support to freelancers, offer academic assistance and establish incubation centers across Pakistan. Through this strategic alliance and shared commitment, Mobilink Bank, TIIES and PAFLA strive to empower entrepreneurs and drive economic growth. The parties will also collaboratively conduct roadshows and executive events all across Pakistan.

The MoU was signed by Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO of Mobilink Bank, Dua Sukhera, Founder & CEO of TIIES, and Ibrahim Amin, Founder & Chairman of Pakistan Freelancers Association (PAFLA), in the pres-

ence of senior officials from respective organizations at Mobilink Bank's Headquarters in Islamabad.

Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO of Mobilink Bank said, "These collaborations are a testament to our shared mission of empowering young entrepreneurs and igniting innovation. These strategic partnerships harness the Bank's financial expertise alongside entrepreneurship programs from TIIES and PAFLA, creating an ecosystem that fosters and accelerates the growth of young entrepreneurs. By synergizing our strengths, we are confident in our ability to create a positive impact. Together, we are dedicated to cultivating a collaborative environment that nurtures creativity, fosters innovation, and drives economic prosperity."

Mobilink Bank remains committed to driving the entrepreneurial landscape forward with its ongoing pursuit of innovative initiatives, ensuring a thriving environment for emerging business owners and fostering their growth.

Real estate sector 'very important' for Pakistan's economy: RECA

Asad Hashmi

ISLAMABAD: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that the real estate sector is very important for the economy of Pakistan but unfortunately the importance of this sector is being neglected. Countless industries and sectors are associated with real estate sector. History proves that improvement in the real estate sector has always had the best effects in the economy of Pakistan and the trends of improvement in the country's economy have been strengthened. The effects of hitting this sector are very clear. The outflow of the country's treasury to abroad is at the highest level and the overseas remittances have come to the lowest level. In this situation, if incentives are not introduced for the real estate and construction sector, the country's economy will not be able to recover despite the IMF package. Adil Bhatti said that We appeal to the government houses to restore the announced package for overseas Pakistanis. Increase in 236 k and 236 c should be withdrawn.

Allotment of railway houses and complaints issues will be resolved: Hamad Hasan Mirza

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the instructions of Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq, DS Railway Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza organized an open house at the DS office in which he heard the problems of railway employees and other citizens. Railway employees informed DS Railway Multan about issues like transfer posting, promotion, repair of railway houses, allotment and cleanliness. DS Railway Multan while replying to the participant in open court said that allotment of houses and other complaints and issues will be resolved according to merit and railway policy and no injustice will be done to anyone. On this occasion DS Railway Multan He also instructed the officers to solve the complaints and problems quickly On this occasion, he said that open Fourm is the best Solution for direct communication between Pakistan Railways and Employees and Public, trying to solve as many problems as possible within the available resources.

Leaders competing for their own personal benefits

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Thursday that the country is going bankrupt but the politicians are still busy in their game.

Despite the clear instructions of the IMF, the tax net is not being extended, but the burden is being increased on the existing taxpayers, the salaried class, and the public, he said.

Muhammad Aslam Khan said in a statement issued here today that the instructions of the IMF are being violated, which will affect the targets and jeopardise the IMF deal.

He said that reforms are being delayed while agriculture, real estate, and shopkeepers are not

being taxed for political reasons. Thousands of wealthy taxpayers are also being quietly removed from the tax net to get their support in the upcoming election, which is dishonesty, he added.

He said that the politicians have failed to run the country because they are not focusing on national interests but on personal gains.

The ongoing political struggle has nothing to do with national interests, he said, adding that the decisions of politicians have turned a rich country like Pakistan into a failed state that is dependent on borrowing for survival.

Pakistan used to lend to countries like Germany, Japan, and China, and the Pakistani passport was respected all over the



world, but now it is the fourth-worst passport in the world for four years.

Those highly educated people who could have played an important role in the country's development are fleeing from Pakistan, but despite this, the political actors are not concerned.

Aslam Khan said that more

than 250,000 tonnes of sugar have been exported since January and that about 100 tonnes of sugar is being smuggled to Afghanistan through Balochistan on a daily basis.

Similarly, sugar and other food items are being smuggled from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is not possible without the connivance of the concerned government officials.

No action is being taken against the influential flour and sugar mafia to provide relief to the masses, and authorities are only relying on hollow threats.

Currently, the price of sugar has reached at least one hundred and fifty rupees per kg, and if the smuggling continues like this, its price will exceed two hundred rupees per kilo in the market, he warned.

TikTok publishes its Q1 2023 Community Guidelines Enforcement Report



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: TikTok, the leading destination for short videos, has released its latest Community Guidelines Enforcement Report for the first quarter of 2023 (January-March 2023), furthering its dedication to combat misinformation and creating a safe and inclusive space. The report underscores TikTok's ongoing commitment to earning trust through accountability and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for its community.

During Q1 2023, a total of 91,003,510 videos were removed globally, which accounts for approximately 0.6% of all videos uploaded to TikTok. Out of these, 53,494,911 videos were removed through automated systems, while 6,209,835 videos were restored after review.

In Pakistan, 11,707,020 videos were removed for violating Community Guidelines in Q1 2023. To compare, Pakistan saw the removal of 12,628,267 videos for violating Community Guidelines in Q4 2022. Alongside addressing Community Guidelines violations, TikTok proactively targeted spam accounts and associated content, taking preventive measures to curb the creation of automated spam accounts.

During Q1 2023, 83% of the violative videos in Pakistan were removed before anyone could view them, and approximately 92.2% of such videos were eliminated within a day. The proactive removal rate for Q1 2023 stood at 98.8%.

Naila Kiani creates history as first Pakistani woman to summit Broad Peak

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Naila Kiani, the renowned female mountaineer of Pakistan, has once again made headlines by achieving another remarkable feat. This time, she has successfully summited Broad Peak, the world's 12th highest mountain, which stands at a height of 8051 meters above sea level. It hasn't been long since her triumphant ascent of Nanga Parbat, the world's 9th highest mountain.

With this extraordinary accomplishment, Naila has etched her name in history as the first Pakistani woman to summit Broad Peak. Moreover, she has become the first Pakistani woman to successfully climb all five of Pakistan's 8000-meter peaks and the first Pakistani woman to summit the eight



highest peaks in the world. It is worth

mentioning the invaluable support Naila received throughout her journey from BARD Foundation, an organization that played a vital role in her success.

Naila expressed her joy at setting a remarkable record in Pakistan's history, stating, "My passion to make my country proud on a global level always keeps me motivated. When I begin my journey, I envision the feeling of victory, which makes the difficult path seem easier or at least that is what I tend to believe. I am immensely grateful to my sponsor, BARD foundation, whose support and belief in my aspirations have been instrumental in my journey."

The Managing Director of BARD Foundation Mehreen Dawood says, "Naila's achievements have strengthened our belief that our efforts are paying off. Each piece of news about her becomes a

source of pride for BARD Foundation. Women like her are the true representation of Pakistan, showcasing their perseverance and determination to lead the way forward."

BARD Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure by becoming a part of their transformative journey.

6th Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) Jinnah Development Tour Golf Match that concluded

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 6th Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) Jinnah Development Tour Golf Match that concluded at the picturesque Piffers Golf Course, Abbottabad after three days of fervent golfing attracted attention for emergence of dexterous golf professionals who are acceptable as top tier masters of the golf game. While all participants battled it out exceptionally spiritedly in this golf event for second tier golf professionals of the national golf scene, the phenomenal ones managed to achieve refined positions of acclaim and admiration with their command over application of golfing skills. In the spotlight was Jafal Hussain of PTV who contested the final days 18 holes as if his life support depended on it. His shot making was perfection oriented and his nerves stayed calm and cool whenever he handled the putter. Excellence on and around the greens fetched him an 18 holes score of gross 63, eight under par, helped by



nine birdies. Supporting pars added upto eight and a single bogie also crept in to prove that he was human. All this distinction loaded golfing enabled Jafal Hussain to lift his standing from 14th at the start of the final round to the title winner, when the match ended. In the process he completely startled his adversaries who had eyes on the title. A momentous performance by Jafal that reflects on his capabilities and mastery and hopeful-

ly, his employers PTV will honor him abundantly. While ascendancy of Jafal Hussain remained noteworthy, there were others who came up with agreeable performances. Azmat Khan of Peshawar ended up the match with scores of 74,71 and 67 and an aggregate of 212. He won the second position and lost to Jafal by three strokes. Jafal had an aggregate of 209. M. Afzal of Okara came third and his scores were 72,70 and 72

and match aggregate score was 214. Other positions ;M. Asif Khan (Peshawar) 75 + 70 + 70 = 215; Yasir Rasheed (Margalla) 75 + 71 + 69 = 215; Kamran Shafiq (Gymkhana) 72 + 72 + 72 = 216; M. Arif(Peshawar) 73 + 71 + 72 = 216; Waqar ul Hassan (Rawalpindi) 73 + 71 + 72 = 216; M. Asif (Raya) 72 + 75 + 69 = 216; M. Azam(Quetta) 72 + 70 + 75 = 217; Akber Mehroz (Gymkhana) 74 + 76 + 67 = 217;

Ayesha Naseem puts shocking end to her budding career



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Young hard-hitting batter Ayesha Naseem on Thursday, announced her shocking retirement from international cricket.

According to the details, the 18-year-old batter made the decision in a bid to spend the rest of her life as per the teaching of her religion.

Details further suggested that Ayesha Naseem also informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) regarding her shocking decision to retire.

Notably, Naseem made her international debut for Pakistan in March 2020 against Thailand.

In her budding career, she represented Pakistan in four Women's ODIs and four Women's T20Is. She scored a total of 402 runs in her international career.

Naseem rose to fame in January 2023 with her quickfire cameo against Australia in the first T20I.

The right-handed hard-hitting batter scored 24 runs in 20 balls, with the help of three sixes and a four.

Her brief yet brilliant cameo inspired legendary Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram, who termed her a serious talent.

ICC releases World Cup promo featuring Shah Rukh Khan

A Sports

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday, spiced up the hype for the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup by releasing a promo video for the mega event featuring superstar Shah Rukh Khan.

To hype the ICC Men's World Cup, the cricketing governing body produced a promotional video for their forthcoming extravaganza and called one of India's most famous stars Khan to be the face of their advertising.

The remarkable 2-minute long video, centred on the tournament's ethos and tagline — "All

it takes is one day", is narrated by Shah Rukh Khan.

"The difference between making history and being history: one day. Jerseys will be worn, and chests will swell with pride, on that one day. Passion will triumph logic, and memories will be etched, on that one day. Fears will be conquered, and odds will be braved, on that one day. From the highs of joy, to the lows of anguish, it will all be embraced, on that one day," narrates Khan.

"Rivalries will be redefined on the pitch, and respect reimagined in the stands. The power of belief will emerge from the hearts of a billion. Songs will be sung, dan-

ces will be danced, and eyes will widen in wonder, on that one day. And when that day comes, and when that day finally comes, glory will be immortalized," continued Khan.

"This is the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, for everything ever dreamt for, pushed for, lived for, it takes one day," concludes the movie star in the video.

The video features montages of iconic moments from the previous editions of the World Cup. It also stars guest appearances from 2019 World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan, Dinesh Karthik, Jonty Rhodes, Muttiah Muralitharan, Shubman Gill



and Jemimah Rodrigues dancing with cricket fans.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the ICC Men's World Cup — featuring 45 matches — and compete for the prestigious silverware across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19.

Like the previous edition, the ICC Men's World Cup 2023 will also be played in a round-robin format — each team playing nine matches with the rest of the oppo-

nents.

The top four teams by the end of the group stage will qualify for the semi-finals, scheduled to be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16.

Whereas, the final of the tournament will take place on November 19 at the grand Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Notably, all three knockout matches of the ICC Men's World Cup will have a reserve day.

Pak team greeted on Test match victory

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to CM Punjab on Sports Wahab Riaz has congratulated Pakistan cricket team for winning the first Test match against hosts Sri Lanka by four wickets at Galle.

In his greeting message on Thursday, Wahab Riaz said the Pakistan cricket team exhibited wonderful teamwork and fighting spirit and chased down the target of 131 runs on the fourth day of first Test match of the series.

He said that the national cricket squad and team management deserved huge appreciation for their magnificent performance. He showered praise on young batter Saud Shakeel for scoring a magnificent double century (208 runs not out).

He also appreciated the performance of batter Agha Salman (83 runs), Imamul Haq (50 runs) and bowlers Abrar Ahmed (six wickets) and pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi (five wickets) for their match-winning performances.

Muhammad Asif to face former Welsh champion Perry in European Masters

News Desk



NUREMBERG: Pakistan's professional snooker player Muhammad Asif will take on former Welsh Open champion Joe Perry in the first round of the upcoming European Masters.

The 2023 edition of European Masters will run from August 22-27 here with Kyren Wilson to defend his title, which he won by beating Barry Hawkins 9-3 in the final.

Meanwhile, renowned Pakistan cueist Muhammad Asif, who turned professional in June last year is slated to face former Welsh Open champion Joe Perry in the first round.

Additionally, Asif's professional countrymate Asjad Iqbal will face off against Thai Snooker sensation Thepchaiya Un-Nooh in the opening round of the tournament.

Notably, both cueist earned a two-year professional card of the World Snooker Tour (WTS) following their dominant run in the Q School 1 Asia & Oceania. After earning the professional card, both Asjad Iqbal and Muhammad Asif participated in several ranking titles but failed to make it big.

Asjad Iqbal had a dream run in the Snooker Shoot Out in January this year when he downed England's counterpart, Jimmy Robertson 73-33 to book a spot in the Round of 32.

Asjad, who stunned David Gilbert in the first round, carried on his momentum to add Robertson to the list of scalped opponents.

In the Round of 64 clash against Robertson, Asjad displayed utter domination as he outclassed his opponent with a gigantic margin of 40 points. The Pakistani cueist was trailing by five points till the eighth minute before he scripted yet another astounding comeback and sealed the victory; courtesy of a Break of 64.

With his precision and by holding his nerves calm, it was an easy affair for the national cueist in the closing moments before the match timer ran out.

Faisalabad shooter Mohsin receives Lifetime Sports Achievement Award

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Esteemed Pakistani long-range F Class shooter and sports psychologist, Mohsin Nawaz, was awarded the prestigious Sports Lifetime Achievement Award, in a glittering event held at Old Pindi Club here.



Mohsin Nawaz's outstanding achievements as both an athlete and a sports psychologist earned him the Sports Lifetime Achievement Award, reserved for those who have dedicated their lives to their respective sports and made significant impacts.

The award ceremony was graced by the presence of Special Assistant to the prime minister of Finance, Mr Tariq Bajwa, who was delighted to acknowledge the exceptional talent and dedication of Mohsin Nawaz.

The event was dedicated to honouring several other sports achievers for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

As a long-range F Class shooter, Mohsin Nawaz has consistently displayed precision in competitions worldwide. His accuracy and prowess on the shooting range have earned him accolades.

Faisalabad's Mohsin Nawaz achieved an incredible milestone in the world of International F-class shooting in April this year when he became the first Pakistani shooter to complete 400 shots in international matches, earning him the prestigious National Rifle Association (NRA) USA classification. Mohsin completed these shots by participating in two International competitions, Rocky Mountain at Montana and NRA US Nationals.

The Pakistani shooter has also won multiple championships around the world and has made his country proud several times, not just internationally but also nationally. He has won an incredible 25 medals on his home ground.

This achievement is a true testament to the skill, dedication, and hard work that Mohsin has put into his sport.

According to Nawaz, his goal is to discover and cultivate talent in Pakistan, particularly in the area of F-class long-range shooting. He aims to train students to compete in international championships and bring accolades to the country.

Pakistan beats Sri Lanka by 4-wickets in Galle Test to take 1-0 lead

Sports Desk

GALLE (SRI LANKA): Pakistan defeated host Sri Lanka by four wickets in Galle Test by taking 1-0 lead in the two Test series and securing their first victory in the World Test Championship 2023.

Pakistan needed 83 more runs to win with their seven wickets left. The highlight of the match was the brilliant batting of the young batsman Saud Shakeel. The technique and patience of this young player made the fans in the field, as well as the experts, appreciated him.

Saud Shakeel scored a wonderful double-century in the first innings and scored 208 runs. The young gun Saud remained not out and scored 30 runs in the second innings wherein Pakistan

chased up a meager total. He was also declared as the Man of the Match.

He was given a beautiful trophy as well as a cash prize. It was the first double century by any Pakistani in Sri Lanka. Earlier, no batsman from Pakistan had a double century, but Younis Khan scored 177 runs in 2014 and Mohammad Hafeez scored 196 runs in 2012.

Galle has been a mixed bag for Pakistan and Sri Lanka in terms of results. Out of the 8 Test matches played here, Sri Lanka have won four Tests while this was Pakistan's fourth victory as well. Pakistan won the Test match by an innings and 163 runs in 2000, by ten wickets in 2015 and by four wickets last year.

On the fifth day of the match, Pakistan needed 83 more runs

and they had seven wickets left. When the game ended on the fourth day, Pakistan scored 48 runs for the loss of three wickets with Imam-ul-Haq 25 and Babar Azam at the crease on six runs

On the fifth day, both of them started the game and added 31 runs to the score, then Babar Azam became a victim of Jayasuriya by scoring 24 runs. At that time, Pakistan's score was 79 runs and still needed 52 more runs. When Saud Shakeel came in to support Imamul Haq, both of them added 43 more runs to the score and when the total score was 122 runs, Saud Shakeel scored 30 runs and was caught out by the wicketkeeper on the ball of Mendes.

Meanwhile, Imamul Haq completed a wonderful half-centu-

ry. Sarfaraz Ahmed also scored just one run. He couldn't stay on for a long time and became the fourth victim of Jayasuriya by scoring only one run. When Salman Agha joined Imamul Haq, he on the very first ball hit a brilliant six, succeeded in giving Pakistan a victory by four wickets

Imamul Haq 50 and Salman Agha six runs at the wicket. The innings of Imamul Haq, who remained not out, included four fours and a six. On behalf of Sri Lanka, Jayasuriya dismissed four players by giving 56 runs.

Sri Lanka had scored 312 runs in the first innings and 279 runs in the second innings, while Pakistan scored 462 runs in the first innings and 133 runs for the loss of six wickets in the second innings.



During Sri Lanka's second innings, the Pakistani players fielded brilliantly and took several uncertain catches, which were applauded by the experts sitting on the field.