

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
 نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے حوالے سے
 ابوخیان تمیمی اکثر اس حدیث کو نبی کریم
 صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے موقوف کر کرتے تھے
 کہ جنہوں سے پوچھا جائے گا تو بھرتی گئی وہ
 کہے گی «علیٰ بن مرید» کہ چنگ اور بھرتی
 ہے؟ پھر اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ انہما قدم اس پر رکھے
 گا اور کہے گی کہ میں اس۔
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RAWALPINDI



People asked to eliminate PTI with vote power in up-coming polls: Interior Minister

Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was cancer for national politics and the people should eliminate it with their vote power during upcoming elections. (Details on Page 8)



AJK PM urges world to address Indian state terrorism in occupied Kashmir

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq expressed deep concerns on Sunday over the alarming political and human rights conditions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Calling for immediate attention, the AJK Premier implored global leaders to take effective cognizance of the rampant state-sponsored terrorism by Indian forces in the region. (Details on Page 8)

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Groundbreaking ceremony

FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the ground breaking ceremony of Faisalabad Satyana Bypass Road on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Iran's Khamenei says Sweden in 'battle-array' over Quran desecrations

News Desk

DUBAI: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that people who desecrate the Quran should face the "most severe punishment" and Sweden has "gone into battle-array for war on the Muslim world" by supporting those responsible.

Protests have raged across Iran and Iraq after Sweden allowed the burning of the Quran under rules protecting free speech. Protesters in Iraq set alight the Swedish embassy in Baghdad on Thursday.

An Iraqi immigrant to Sweden burned a Quran outside a Stockholm mosque last month. Protesters in Sweden kicked and partially destroyed a book they said was the Quran outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm on Thursday, but did not burn it as they had threatened to do, Reuters witnesses said.



Swedish officials have deplored the acts but said they cannot prevent them.

Iran's state media reported that Khamenei had demanded Sweden hand over those responsible for prosecution in Islamic countries.

"All Islamic scholars agree that those who desecrate the Quran deserved the most severe punishment... The duty of that (Swedish) government is to hand over the perpetrator to the judicial systems of Islamic countries," Khamenei said in a statement carried by state media.

Iran, which has delayed the posting of a new ambassador to Sweden, also said it was not accepting a new Swedish envoy.

PM urges masses to defeat political masquerades of PTI in elections

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday urged the people to avenge the rigging of 2018 general elections with the power of their mandate during the upcoming general elections by defeating the political masquerades of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He said during 2018 rigged polls, Imran Niazi and his clique was brought to power but the people of Faisalabad would defeat them in the general elections by massively supporting the PML-N candidates.

Addressing a ceremony after laying foundation stone of development projects, including Faisalabad Satyana bypass linking Motorway-3, the prime minister said during the PTI's four years rule, not a single brick was laid on the projects initiated by the PML-N government rather a barrage of baseless and awkward allegations were levelled against the opposition leadership.

"Imran Niazi was made a prime minister through rigged polls (Jhurloo elections), with

malfunctioning of RTS and the PML-N was deprived of its seats," he added.

The prime minister sneered that contrary to Imran Niazi's tall claims for a vast network of public welfare projects, nothing tangible could be witnessed. Where were those 300 billion dollars, they claimed were parked abroad! he remarked and jeered that not a single penny could be brought back.

The prime minister further castigated the PTI chairman for his claims against seeking financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and said rather he reneged on the agreement and conspired and burdened the coalition government.

The ceremony was attended by ministers, parliamentarians, relevant authorities, party leaders and a large number of people.

The prime minister said if the people give mandate to the PML-N in the next general elections, Nawaz Sharif would be the prime minister and under his guidance, he would work as an ordinary worker.

"We, all along with our coalition

partners in the government, shall set the country on path of progress and prosperity," he declared.

The prime minister also commended Nawaz Sharif for initiating billions dollars CPEC projects and said during his tenure, inflation was locked at 3.5 per cent.

If the people decided to bring Nawaz Sharif to power in the upcoming elections, within a decade, the former prime minister would transform the country to compete India on the economic fronts, he added.

He assured that if given a chance, they promised to fight for Pakistan and secure its lost place among the comity of nations and will break the begging bowl by sending its pieces to be decorated around Banigala.

He opined that such achievement would not be possible with witchcraft but by hard work, sincerity and devotion.

Under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif during 2013 to 2018, he said, the development journey of the country continued with its economy sky rocketing, but through a conspiracy involving former

chief justice Saqib Nisar who was then heading the coterie, disqualified the former prime minister in Iqama case.

That journey was ended, he said, adding that he had reminded the officials at that time that a day would arrive when they would repent of bringing Imran Niazi to power.

He said that his government had distributed Rs 100 billion across Pakistan after the last year's devastating floods that had affected millions of people.

He said they had steered the country out of default due to the joint efforts of coalition government.

The prime minister also announced to give millions of laptops to the young people if came to power besides, developing agriculture, natural resources and minerals sectors.

About hike in prices of electricity, the prime minister maintained that it was not applicable to those consumers using upto 200 units.

He regretted that 190 million pounds fraud story and proceeds from Toshakhana watch sale should have been deposited in the

national exchequer or donated to the students of Danish schools instead making way into pockets of PTI's leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood said that the mega road network projects were initiated and completed under the PML-N governments and the leadership of Sharif brothers.

Criticizing the PTI's government, he said they had played havoc with the country and its institutions, adding under the leadership of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, amir of JUI-F, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was formed which constitutionally get rid of PTI's corrupt regime.

The person who claimed to have restricted the federal government within the jurisdiction of the federal capital, had been restricted to Zaman Park in Lahore now, he said without naming PTI chairperson Imran Khan.

The minister expressed the confidence that the next government would be formed by the allied parties in the federal government.

Asif Zardari to meet Nawaz Sharif in London: sources



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari will meet Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) premier Nawaz Sharif in London.

According to sources with PPP, the former president will soon leave Dubai for London on a two-day visit but the visit can be extended further.

Sources said that the Zardari-Nawaz meeting is a continuation of the early meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Both the leaders will discuss matters related to the dissolution of assemblies, caretaker setup, and the name of the caretaker prime minister candidate.

Last week, former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhut-

to Zardari met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House.

The prime minister received both leaders on their arrival, a PM Office statement said. In the meeting, they discussed the overall political situation in the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that assemblies will dissolve in August after the completion of their tenure. He said that the preparation for the elections have been commenced and the assemblies will dissolve in August.

He stated PDM led government had the choice to dissolve assemblies immediately but it would have deepened the economic crisis and Pakistan would have defaulted 14 months ago.

PML-N wants Ishaq Dar as interim-PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is likely to become caretaker prime minister as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) becomes active to convince coalition parties in this regard. Ishaq Dar is the current finance minister and is considered to be a close ally of former prime minister and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif.

Meanwhile, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal speaking to a private news channel - said Ishaq Dar, or anyone, could be the caretaker prime minister provided the government and opposition agreed.

Ahsan Iqbal said it would be premature to comment further on the matter, stressing again that consensus of the coalition parties in the government and the opposition was required on the candidate.

Helicopters spare parts worth Rs7b 'illegally cleared' at air freight units

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The spare parts of helicopters worth Rs7 billion were 'illegally cleared' from the air freight units (AFUs) with the nexus of the Customs officials and clearing agents.

The nexus of the Customs officials and clearing agents were exposed in a new corruption case as the spare parts of helicopters worth Rs7 billion were cleared from the shades of the air freight units (AFUs).

Customs Collector Islamabad constituted a new two-member committee for investigating the illegal clearance of helicopter spare parts. The committee members include additional collector headquarters and deputy controller preventive.

The newly-formed committee will initiate a new investigation into the case.

The previous probe committee had given a clean chit to the



Customs officials in the corruption scandal including a superintendent who had admitted to be on duty at the Royal Shade.

Earlier, a Customs officer was suspended after a video of his demanding bribe from a passenger went viral.

In the video, a customs officer, Imran, can be seen demanding a bribe from a passenger at the Lahore airport.

The Customs officer was demand-

ing \$100 from a Canada-bound passenger, who was carrying \$9,500. He threatened the passenger with seizing all his money in case of denial.

According to Customs law, passengers cannot carry \$9,500 dollar abroad.

The video of the incident was made viral after which the deputy collector customs suspended the officer and directed him to report to the headquarters.

Punjab govt to issue red alert after flood threat

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Sunday decided to issue a red alert in the province due to heavy rains and flood situation.

Holding a press conference after the cabinet meeting, caretaker provincial information minister Amir Mir said the cabinet reviewed the flood situation, adding River Ravi was 90 percent full and Bhim dam

on Sutlej river was 70 percent full hence there was a risk of flooding in both the rivers.

He further said that a rail of 22,000 cusecs was passing through Shahdara in the Ravi river, adding Delhi was completely submerged and if there were more rains in India, Shahdara may also be submerged like in 1988.

SCN approaches Sherry Rehman for halting indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in KP

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Conservation Nature (SCN), a non-governmental organization striving for conservation of environment, culture and heritage, has approached Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman to take notice of planned and indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over the pretext of diseased and windfallen trees.

In a letter sent to Federal Minister for Climate Change on Sunday, the SCN office bearers urged Sherry Rehman to divert her attention to a matter of grave concern that requires her immediate attention and intervention.

"It has come to our organi-



zation's attention that certain senior officials within the Provincial Forest Department of KP are engaged in the indiscriminate cutting down of forest trees in specific parts of the province," reads the letter.

The SCN is committed to preserving and safeguarding our natural resources, including the invaluable forests that contribute significantly to the reduction of Greenhouse Gases as well as the well-being of the environment, climate change and society, it added.

Satiana Bypass

FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is addressing a public gathering during a groundbreaking ceremony for dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway (M-3) via Satiana.



Photo: PID

People asked to eliminate PTI with vote power in up-coming polls: Interior Minister

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was cancer for national politics and the people should eliminate it with their vote power during upcoming elections.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway M-3 via Satiana here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan was making progress by leaps and bounds in 2018 when PTI Chief Imran Khan was clamped on the nation. Imran Khan promoted the culture of hate and hatred only during his tenure. "Although we have saved Pakistan from nefarious designs of PTI Chief, yet public cooperation is imperative to completely weed out his hate politics"

he added.

The minister said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage as multifaceted crises choked its development pace. These crises were the outcome of ill-conceived policies of previous government, he said, adding that Imran Khan firstly made an agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and then violated it due to which the entire Pakistani nation had to experience unprecedented price spiral.

He said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had taken the government during very tough situation. However, with the help of Allah Almighty, it succeeded in saving the country from default.

He said that Imran Khan was neither sincere with the nation nor loyal with the country and it was clearly evident

from the mayhem of 9th May when the arsonists of his party not only vandalized the monuments of national heroes but also disgraced and put them ablaze. Now, the accused would have to face the music and they would be punished according to the law because they committed national crime, he added.

He said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was the best combination of politics and masses' service. This party always preferred the national interests against its personal gains. Whenever the people posed confidence in PML-N during tough situation, its leadership dragged the country out of crises.

He said that in 1998, the India made atomic explosions which put the entire Pakistani nation under extreme stresses. The world community was

pressurizing Pakistan to avoid from atomic explosions. In this connection, American presidents made five phone calls but the then Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif despite international pressure and threats made six atomic explosions to equalize the balance of power in the region.

Similarly in 2013, the country was facing unprecedented load shedding of 20 hours daily whereas rampant incidents of terrorism further aggravated the situation. At that time, the nation had posed confidence in PML-N and its supreme overcame the menace of load shedding and terrorism within 4 years and put the country on road to progress and prosperity.

He said that national development was the top priority of PML-N. That's why it launched a number of devel-

opment projects in the country when it came into power. It constructed motorways, hospitals, universities and airports in addition to establishing metros and educational institutions.

In Faisalabad, the PML-N government not only expanded the capacity of Allied Hospital and DHQ Hospital but also established general hospitals, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology and Children Hospital at this metropolis.

Now, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated two mega projects in Faisalabad which would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs.10 billion.

The PML-N would continue its performance with the same spirit to make the country as a developed state if the people reposed confidence in it during upcoming general elections, he added.

15 prisoners escape from Sindh jail after breaking roof

Waseem Channa

LARKANA: 15 prisoners have escaped from a judicial sub-jail in Sindh's Qambar city after breaking the roof of the building.

The jail administration said in a statement that the prisoners who escaped from the jail include drug peddlers, thieves and murder suspects.

Following the incident, Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Toheed Rehman and Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Ijaz inspected the sub-jail.

SSP Toheed Rehman said that the inmates escaped from the jail due to negligence of the jail administration. He added that steps were taken to arrest the absconding inmates again.

Earlier in June, several inmates had escaped the prison in Balochistan's Chaman after overpowering guards when they were allowed out of cells for Fajr prayers.

The incident unfolded as the inmates of barrack no 4 were being led out for prayers. Seizing a moment of opportunity, the prisoners launched a sudden and coordinated attack on the prison guards, overpowering them and taking control of the situation.

Sources within the prison reported that many of the prisoners involved



in serious criminal cases, including murder and other heinous crimes, had been housed in barrack no 4.

The prison authorities revealed that one inmate was killed in the ensuing retaliatory gunfire by the police. Two others sustained injuries during the clash and are currently receiving medical treatment.

Meanwhile, a comprehensive search operation was launched in the vicinity of the prison to apprehend the escaped prisoners.

Two-day int'l conference to mark CPEC & BRI-decade celebrations starts on Monday

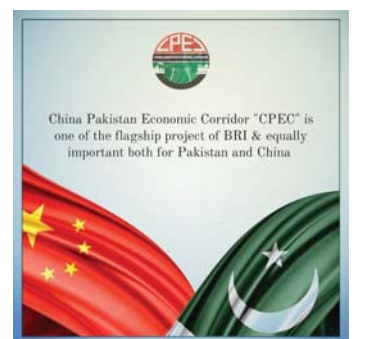
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A two-day international conference on "Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) - From Vision To Reality" will start here on Monday.

The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of China, a news release said.

The CPEC being a strategic principal component of the BRI focuses on infrastructure development and socioeconomic cooperation between China and Pakistan, the two all-weather friends.

The conference aims to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to economic, social, environ-



mental and geopolitical impacts of the CPEC and BRI.

Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue and Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal would be chief guest at the occasion.

The conference would explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation, sustainable development and inclusive growth in the subsequent phase of CPEC.

Caretaker PM: PPP, JUI-F reject agreeing on Ishaq Dar's name

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The ruling coalition parties, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) have rejected to receive any suggestions from PML-N regarding Ishaq Dar for caretaker prime minister's (PM) slot.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman-led JUI-F and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari-led PPP rejected such reports regarding their agreement on appointing Ishaq Dar as the caretaker PM.

Sources closer to PPP told that no agreement was made on Ishaq Dar's name for the slot. They said that Dar's name was not suggested and PPP would suggest an impartial candidate for the post.



Moreover, PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said that they do not hold any discussions regarding Dar's appointment as the caretaker PM. "PML-N has not shared Dar's name with the PPP. When names will be shared, then PPP will hold discussions."

"The caretaker premier will be finalised with the consensus

of the prime minister and the opposition leader but no names were suggested nor shortlisted so far. Moreover, three names would be shortlisted by the coalition parties."

Faisal Karim Kundi also rejected the reports of any important meeting in Dubai. The PPP categorically said, "Neither any meeting is being

held in Dubai nor it is scheduled."

He added that PPP would prefer a caretaker finance minister who can take the International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal forward. He said that PPP has many names for the caretaker PM's post.

It was learnt that Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is likely to become caretaker PM as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) becomes active to convince coalition parties in this regard.

Ishaq Dar is the current finance minister and is considered to be a close ally of the former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Sources claimed that the finance minister's name came under discussion during a

meeting between PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari.

Meanwhile, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal - speaking to a private news channel - said Ishaq Dar, or anyone, could be the caretaker prime minister provided the government and opposition agreed.

Ahsan Iqbal said it would be premature to comment further on the matter, stressing again that consensus of the coalition parties in the government and the opposition was required on the candidate.

The tenure of the National Assembly is set to expire on August 12 and meetings are underway between the members of the government on the details of the interim set-up.

AJK PM urges world to address Indian state terrorism in occupied Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq expressed deep concerns on Sunday over the alarming political and human rights conditions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling for immediate attention, the AJK Premier implored global leaders to take effective cognizance of the rampant state-sponsored terrorism by Indian forces in the region.

Prime Minister Haq condemned the ongoing bloodshed and violence that continued to plague the restive territory. He highlighted the grave atrocities



committed by Indian occupation forces, including what he termed as "genocide" and "ethnic cleansing" of Kashmiri civilians.

Drawing attention to the urgency of the situation, the prime minister called upon the United Nations and other international organizations to intervene and put an end to the ruthless killing of innocent Kashmiris.

He accused India of implementing an apartheid regime and breaking records of barbarism and brutality in the occupied territory.

Citing the revocation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5, 2019, the AJK PM raised concerns about India's attempts to alter the region's demography through the issuance of fake domiciles to ex-servicemen and non-state residents.

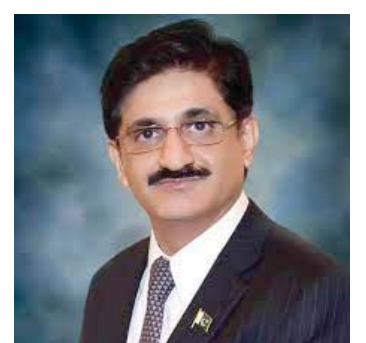
CM reviews law, order situation, directs for necessary security measures in Muharram

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Sunday chaired an important meeting to review law and order situation in the province.

The meeting was attended by Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Advisor to CM on Law and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Mohammed Sohail Rajput, IGP Sind Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGPs and through video link DIGs, and SSPs.

The CM issued necessary directives to maintain law and order situation



in all districts of the province. He also directed for necessary security measures during the month of Muharram ul Haram.

CM KP for urgent relief measures in rains hit areas

Haroon Ahmed

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan on Sunday issued strict directives to the relief department and district administrations to remain on high alert and provide relief to people of the area hit by torrential rains and flash floods.

The chief minister also directed relevant officials to ensure immediate assistance to those affected by the heavy downpours.

He said that rescue and relief operations must be promptly launched to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population as the situation

demand urgent attention. People in the distress should be provided immediate relief and support. We must take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and well being, he said.

The chief minister further assured that the caretaker provincial government would leave no stone unturned in providing every possible assistance to those facing difficulties during this challenging hour. We will stand by the affected people throughout this difficult time and every possible help will be extended to them, he added.

He said that relief and rescue teams had been deployed to affected areas to provide immediate aid and assess the extent of the damage.

Before fall of NA, bill of Saraiki Province should be passed: Dharija

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Before the dissolution of the National Assembly the bill of the Saraiki province should be passed. If the treatment of stepmothers in Wasib is not stopped, they will protest, there will be sit-ins and long marches. Chairman Pakistan Saraiki Council Zahoor Dharija during a press briefing after a banquet given in honor of journalists at a local hotel. On this occasion, Saraiki leaders Malik Javed Chand Advocate, Malik Talal Vance, Malik Naeem Iqbal Advocate and Sharif Khan Lashari.

Rashid Khan and others were also present. Allah Nawaz Vance said that after sending Nawaz Sharif home, the powerful forces formed the province of Mahaz to bring a new captain to the field, the feudal lords, tamandars and residents of Wasaib were included in the province of Mahaz. He said that governments were formed from the vote bank of Saraiki Wasaib in the center and the province, but after

coming to power, there was a 'night gone, talk went' issue. He said that what was the province to be built in 100 days, the captain did not even mention the name of the province in three and a half years.

He said that the solution to all the problems is the establishment of Saraiki province, all the people living in Wasaib should come forward for Saraikistan province, that it is a question of the stability of Pakistan and the future of our coming generations. Zahoor Dharija thanked the journalist community and said that the journalists of Wasaib fully supported the Saraiki parties on the issue of the province. He said that the Saraiki people have their own homeland; they ask for their rights and not charity, just as other peoples in Pakistan have been given recognition and provincial rights, the Saraiki people also want their own identity and province.

He said that we do not ask for a superior province and we will not accept an



inferior province. The powerful forces should take action on the issue of Saraiki province, which needs millions of people of Wasaib province as well as Pakistan. He said that the bill of the province has been passed by the Senate, if the National Assembly does not pass the bill, the Saraiki parties will prepare their future plan. Zahoor Dharija said that there will be protests, sit-ins and long marches, the authoritarian parties will also have to clarify their position before the elections and if the author-

itarian politicians do not apologize to Saraiki Wasaib for their previous shortcomings, they will be greeted with dirty eggs in Wasaib. He said that we also convince people of our Wasaib.

The Civil Secretariat was made a doom for Saraiki Wasaib. He said that the people of Wasaib used to be pushed only by Lahore, now along with Lahore, Multan and Bahawalpur were also included. Malik Javed Chanar Advocate said that Malik Talal Vance, Malik Naeem Iqbal Advocate and Sharif Khan Lashari said that crores of people of Saraiki Wasaib are being exploited step by step, now it is time for them to change their ways and give their rights to the deprived sections of the country.

And Saraiki, which is the oldest and largest nationality of Pakistan, give Saraikis their own province of Saraikistan. At the end, tributes were paid to the services of late senior journalist Mumtaz Tahir, Fatima was recited and prayers were prayed for him.

Do well economically for the people or leave the system: Voices of people

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: The people have been subjugated in all respects and they cannot even complain about themselves like abandoned corpses, because no listener is awaking to save & secure the drowning nation.

Sources pointed out, Alas! the people of the country were drowning in darkness & in such situations there is no more need for the name of government or such set up working in the name of democracy. Business community said that, currently the nation is under historical financial crises. This bombing has taken towards the brink of suicides which is more dangerous than actual war bombardment.

They elaborated that, no corner is safe to live where from earn bread & butter? It is wonderful that, nothing is affecting upon government because it is not a democratic government.

They expressed adding further that, the luxuries of the government institutions and the indifference created huge helplessness of the people & government finally strangled the people.

They highlighted that the current set up has changed the real direction of the country.

No one could hold the electric supply companies accountable? They said sadly that Only Allah will ask them, how many rich officers and ministers who are robbing the citizens of Pakistan with taxes, tariffs, dam funds and what are they going to do to this country?



Younis Khan Niazi elected president in Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Press Club elections

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Press Club elections, Sardar Muhammad Younis Khan Niazi was elected president, while Gulshad Ahmed Butt was elected senior vice president unopposed, Qazi Muhammad Saeed Abbasi senior vice president, Javed Mir first vice president, Sayeqa Awan second vice president, Iftikhar Ahmed Abbasi general secretary, Rana Ilyas Finance, Naeem Khan information secretary, Zubairuddin Arifi district liaison secretary elected. Leaders and members of Jamaat International Khatman Nabubat Movement and Bizm Sheikhul-Hind and Ittehad Organizations Madrasas Deeniya Azad Kashmir have congratulated all the newly elected members including Ilyas Rana and Sardar Yunus Qazi Iftikhar Saeed Abbasi Gulshad Butt. Azadi Kashmir.



WAWA launched campaign to Grafting five lakh wild olives in Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) has launched a campaign to Grafting 5 lakh wild olives in Wana, Lower South Waziristan. A seemingly Challenging and hard-ship task being undertaken by Friends of WAWA, together with the youth of the community.

General Secretary of Wana Welfare Association Jalal Wazir said that this is a program spanning many years, If the community understands its benefits and income in the true sense, believe that these people will not go to foreign countries or cities for employment. Rather, this treasure on the mountains will be consumed comfortably for many generations, it will stop the cutting of trees, it will have a good effect on the environment.

Jalal Wazir said that the recent olive grafting will be a means of sustaining our agriculture and it has many benefits, but all sections should actively participate in this good work.

He said that some work cannot be done only by an association or a single group, Rather, some work has to be done at the national level at the beat of the drum, the grafting of wild olives is the easiest way to give our nation a respectable position economically at the world and national level.

The General Secretary said that this work should strengthen the hands of Wawa and everyone should fulfill their national duty, I guarantee that if we accomplish this feat, believe me, the annual ADP and all the government grants we get will be a thousand times more beneficial.

Jalal Wazir further said that every family should graft 100 wild olive trees in their mountain range, after 3 or 4 years they can receive income of 15 to 20 lakh rupees every year, neither water nor spray nor boundary wall will be needed.

Wana will be an example for the world, let's do Bismillah, if you can't join, then you can talk, Join with WAWA in the mobilization.



Sacred items

CHINIOT: A vendor displays sacred items used in Azadari for Muharram-ul-Haram at his workplace alongside a road, in the city.



Photo: Online

Punjab govt's first priority solve the problems of the business community and public: Umar Jahangir

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir said that the first priority of the current government is to solve the problems of the business community and Public so that they can play their full role in the stability of the country's economy. Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir said that on government instructions, a meeting has been scheduled with the business community in a month, but if the business community wants, this meeting can be held two to three times in a month so that steps can be taken to solve the problems quickly.

He said that the purpose of the establishment of the committee is to make it possible to solve the problems faced by the businessmen related to the provincial departments and get feedback from the relevant departments.

On this occasion, DC Multan in consultation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan also announced the formation of a sub-committee on Green Multan which will select an area of the city and work to make it green.



And the work on the first section will be completed in two to three months DC Multan fully agreed with the business community pointing out that most of the roads in the city are in a state of disrepair.

On the inquiry of the business community, he said that the waterworks road has been tendered, while the work on Nawabpur road will also start soon.

On the identification of encroachments in the city, DC Multan said that encroachments cannot be established in front of the shop without the connivance of the shopkeeper, therefore, in the anti-encroachment operation, action will be taken first against the shopkeeper who has established encroachments in front of his shop. A committee was also formed

on the spot to eliminate the encroachments

Which will meet before 10th of Muharram and after Ashura day, a full operation against encroachment will be started.

On the recommendation of Sheikh Faisal Saeed, president of the Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, DC Multan issued orders to the officers of the MDA and Metropolitan Corporation, including the PHA officers, to immediately upgrade the websites of their respective departments and not only indicate their areas, but also indicate the various taxes, duties and rates so that the citizens do not face any problem.

The administration has been working on the Multan master plan for a long time.

There is a sewage canal

along the Head Mohammadwala Road which creates an unpleasant atmosphere as the stench is overwhelming. The road resurfacing work has already been started and the sewerage canal is requested to be properly covered which will provide a clean environment for businesses and industries. President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Mian Rashid Iqbal, Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, President of Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Sheikh Faisal Saeed, Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, Khawaja Muhammad Usman, Zafar Iqbal Siddiqui, Ehtisham-ul Haque, Syed Saqib Ali, Sheikh Fahim Sattar and others were present.

Wana political alliance demands, COAC & Corps Commander KP to take notice of FC's illegal occupation of civil Dept lands

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: An important meeting of Wana Olasi Pason/ Wana Political Alliance and Lawyers was held Sunday in Wana Bazar.

In which the FC in South Waziristan Lower district stopped work on civil departments in Wana, higher secondary section building of Government High School Wana, vacated the staff quarter, stopped the construction of women's hospital and 1122 building on the site of old Civil Hospital Wana along with Aman/peace post and the Wana District Press Club Regarding not giving permission.

The meeting was attended by Noor Zaman Wazir from ANP, Asad Wazir from Jamaat-e-Islami, Imran Mukhalis from PPP, Ishtiaq Wazir from Pakhtunkhwa Map Shah Mahmood from NDM, Ziaul Haq from Muslim League-N and Ajmal Wazir Advocate from lawyers.

All aspects were discussed during the meeting in which the recent actions of South Waziristan Wana Scouts Commandant and issuance of illegal notices were strongly condemned, and demanded immediate notice from Chief of Army Staff and Corps Commander Peshawar.

In this regard, contacted FC South and South Waziristan Wana Scouts officials twice to find out their position, Stance and point of view.

Rivers Indus, Chenab, Ravi, Kabul continue to run in low flood with rising trend: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that currently, rivers Indus, Chenab, Ravi and Kabul are flowing in low flood with the rising trend at Kalabagh-Chashma, Chashma-Taunsa, Marala-Khanki and Warsak-Nowshera reaches respectively.

According to the daily FFC report issued on Sunday, flash flooding of moderate to heavy intensity is expected in the Nullahs of Balochistan (Loralai, Kalat, Sibbi, Makran and Nasirabad divisions including hill torrents of D G Khan division during the next 24 hours.

The combined live storage of the country's reservoirs stands at 9.833 million acre feet of the total 13.443 MAF.

Yesterday's trough of westerly wave over northern parts of Pakistan has moved away eastwards. Yesterday's monsoon low over South-western Chattisgarh (India) moved West-Northwestwards and lies over southwestern Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Rajasthan (India).

Moderate to strong moist currents from the bay of Bengal and Arabian sea are penetrating into the lower half of Pakistan up to 7000 feet. Seasonal low lies over Northwestern Balochistan.

For the next 24 hours, Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) Lahore has predicted scattered widespread wind thunderstorm/rain of moderate to heavy intensity with isolated very heavy falls over South and Southeastern Sindh including Punjab (DG Khan Division), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (D I Khanm Bannu and Kohat Divisions) and Balochistan (Zhub, Loralai, Kalat, Sibbi and Makran and Nasirabad Divisions).



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:35 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:10 pm
Maghrib 7:15 pm
Isha 8:53 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 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

PIMS to remain high alert in rainy season

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on Sunday directed its staff to remain high alert to handle any untoward situation due to prevailing heavy rains.

Executive Director PIMS, Dr Imran Sikandar issued special direction to doctors and para medical staff of the hospital to remain vigilant keeping in view the situation and in case of any incident from rains.

According to spokesperson ED PIMS Dr Mubashar Mushtaq Daba, the hospital is fully prepared to manage any situation during the season.

He said that the hospital administration has cancelled the leaves of doctors and para medical staff deployed at emergency ward on Sunday.

He added all possible facilities have been provided at emergency ward of the hospital.

He said that cases of accidents are in high numbers due to recent rains.

He advised the citizens to take extra care in taking food particularly leftover food to avoid from diarrhea in present monsoon season.

Gandhara tourism aims high, 6 bln dollars targeted in 3 years: Rumesch Kumar

City Desk

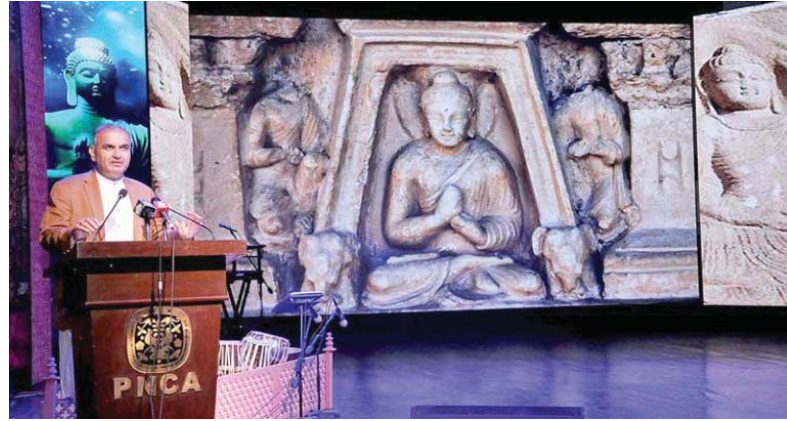
ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankvani has said that concrete measures were underway to propel Gandhara tourism to six billion dollars within the next three years.

"Efforts to promote Gandhara tourism will soon bear the fruits, as a result of which Pakistan will benefit one and half billion dollars in the first year, three billion in the second year and six billion dollars in the third year," he said while exclusively talking to media.

The chairman said that unfortunately Pakistan was not included in the United Nations Buddhist tourist circuit, on the contrary, 70% of Buddhist sites were situated in Pakistan.

Countries mentioned in the Buddhist tourism sites circuit encompassed merely 30% of the Buddhist civilization, therefore, efforts were being afoot to highlight Buddhist sites in Pakistan at international fora.

During the short span of time, since he joined the force as chairman he said differ-



ent visits to Buddhist sites were arranged at Shah Allah Ditta, Sawat, and Takht Bhai in order to highlight the Buddhist sites in the country.

"I have arranged a round table conference and symposium, which attracted numbers of monks from other countries who returned to their countries as ambassadors of Pakistan," he added.

Moreover, he said, the huge influx of foreign tourists would not only help to

generate economic activity in the country but also help eliminate terrorism from the country.

He said that the promotion of Gandhara tourism was expected to foster stronger government-to-government, people-to-people, and business-to-business connections.

At the end, the chairman said that the task force had a great surprise regarding Gandhara Civilization and tourism which would be soon unveiled.

Damage

ISLAMABAD: A view of damaged underpass of Rawal Dam due to heavy monsoon rains in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin Oversees Monsoon Preparedness for Kalma Underpass

Bureau Report

LAHORE: CEO of Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), Imran Amin, conducted an inspection at the Kalma Underpass on CBD Punjab Boulevard to assess the drainage and dewatering system's readiness during the ongoing Monsoon spell. The visit aimed to ensure the efficient management of rainwater and mitigate potential flooding risks in the area.

During the inspection, CEO Imran Amin reaffirmed CBD Punjab's commitment to supporting the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) master plan. In alignment with this commitment, CBD Punjab has pledged financial assistance to upgrade WASA's infrastructure



in and around CBD Punjab.

As per the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, all departments are working collectively during the Monsoon season as part of their proactive measures, CBD Punjab has already constructed additional dry and wet wells to handle rainwater from Firdous Market and Ali Zaib Road. Moreover, two more dry and wet wells

have been constructed in Saint Mary Park to cater for rainwater from the vicinity. These enhancements aim to bolster the existing drainage capacity of the Kalma Underpass CBD Punjab Boulevard.

CEO Imran Amin highlighted that the current drainage system of Kalma Underpass is sufficient for its immediate needs. However, CBD

Punjab recognizes the need to accommodate the water flow from other areas like Liberty and Qaddafi Stadium. To address this, CBD Punjab has collaborated with WASA to devise a comprehensive plan that includes the installation of extra pumps. The implementation of these pumps is slated to be completed within the next few days.

With the joint efforts of CBD Punjab and WASA, residents and commuters can have increased confidence in the functionality and resilience of the drainage and dewatering system during the Monsoon season. The commitment to upgrading infrastructure reflects CBD Punjab's dedication to the welfare and safety of the public and the surrounding areas.

How to run the economy will go with the increase in price: Sarfraz Mughal

News Desk

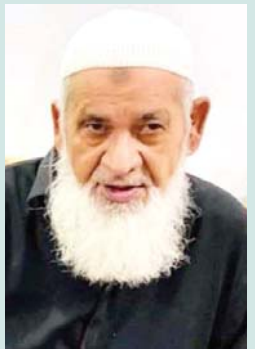
ISLAMABAD: Sarfraz Mughal, a prominent business leader and the leader of the conciliatory organization Mughalia Center of Pakistan, has said that the country's economy has been destroyed by the enormous increase in electricity, gas, flour, sugar, and basic necessities of life in the country, which has broken the back of the people. There is a dire need to improve the economy. The system of interest should be abolished according to the orders of the Holy Qur'an to please Allah. The economy can be managed by gaining the pleasure of Allah and the country can be taken on the path of development.



Missing Elderly Father: Karachi resident seeks public assistance

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Syed Waqee Shah, a resident of Karachi, is desperately searching for his missing father, Syed Nazeer Hussain Shah, aged 69, who disappeared on the morning of Friday, July 14, 2023. Syed Waqee Shah's father Syed Nazeer Hussain Shah's CNIC number is 42101-536414-7.



The residence of the missing Syed Waqee Shah is located at R-46, Malir Society, Sector 15-A, Gulzar-e-Hijri, Scheme 33, Karachi. The family has already filed a report at the Sachal Police Station regarding his disappearance. They appeal to the people of Karachi and various social organizations to provide any helpful information in locating him. Considering the sensitivity of the situation, the general public is also urged to cooperate and immediately report to the police or relevant authorities if they come across any information about the missing elderly man. Let us all join hands in this critical time and support the distressed family in their efforts to find their beloved father. Together, we can bring hope to their hearts and reunite them with their missing loved one.

IIUI extends last date of admission till August 07

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) has extended the last date for submission of online applications for admission (Fall 2023 semester) till August 07, 2023.

The decision has been taken to facilitate more candidates who intend to apply for admission. IIU has offered admission to BS/MS/PhD programs in 11 faculties including Social Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, Management Sciences, International Institute for Islamic Economics, Arabic, Usuluddin, Languages and Literature, Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Technology, Faculty of Education and Shariah and Law.

Applicants may apply online by visiting the IIU website.

PBM organizes awareness event on Thalassemia's impact on people

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A special event was held at the Pakistan Baitul-Mal (PBM) Regional Office here Sunday to raise awareness about Thalassemia and its implications for individuals and communities. The event took place with the guidance of Managing Director PBM Amir Fida Paracha.

The ceremony featured Dr. General (Retd) Pervez Ahmed from Armed Forces Bone Marrow Transplant Center (AFBMTTC) as the esteemed chief guest, while Dr. Zahra and Dr. Kamran also made special contributions by providing valuable information about Thalassemia to the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Dr. Pervez Ahmed appreciated the efforts of Managing Director PBM for starting Thalassemia awareness program across Pakistan and offered his support in this regard. The chief guest informed the participants about Thalassemia disease and how to prevent it.

He explained that Thalassemia was a hereditary disease that can be inherited from parents to children, often occurring in families with a history of intermarriage or cousin marriages.

He emphasized the importance of undergoing Hb electrophoresis testing before marriage to prevent Thalassemia. This crucial step helps in timely diagnosis of the disease, ensuring the protection of future generations from inheriting it, he told.

At the ceremony, officers from PBM Regional Office ICT, along with hundreds of women from the Women Empowerment Centers actively took part. Director PBM ICT, Sajjad Iqbal was also present on the occasion

NDMA calls for elaborate preemptive measures amid heavy rainfall prediction

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday urged the relevant departments to ensure elaborate preemptive measures to manage land sliding, urban and flash flooding incidents that might occur due to heavy floods.

The NDMA in its Monsoon update shared that according to the forecast of the Meteorological Department, there was a possibility that heavy to very heavy rain would continue in the country during the next 48 to 72 hours.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the risk of landslides, flash flooding and seasonal flooding would continue.

However, thunderstorm was expected in the South Punjab region Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur, Balochistan Makran and Dera Bugti areas.

Similarly, there was also the risk of flash flooding in the districts of Balochistan, Loralai, Kalat, Naseerabad, Sibi and Makran whereas, there was a risk of rapid flow in rivers and urban flooding in low-lying areas.

The NDMA advisory underlined that in order to remedy the possible dangers, the public should be notified in advance and the safety measures should be publicized.

Moreover, a systematic monitoring of traffic towards sensitive areas should be ensured and the machinery should be made ready to deal with any kind of emergency.

The people living in low-lying areas that arrangements should be made for relocation.

'The Valleys Our Ancestors Chose' wins big at the South Asian Short Film Festival

News Desk

KARACHI: 'The Valleys Our Ancestors Chose', a captivating documentary and part of the docuseries Voices from the Roof of the World, has been honoured with the esteemed Mrinal Sen Golden Award for Best Direction in Documentary at the sixth South Asian Short Film Festival.

Director Tazeen Bari's film gives an eye-opening and touching perspective into the lives of the Kalasha community, an indigenous group residing in the valleys at the foothills of the Hindu Kush Mountains in Pakistan. Living on the frontlines of climate change, the film captures how the remaining people of the Kalasha community come face-to-face with the devastating impacts of severe unusual weather conditions. The catastrophic floods in Pakistan in

2015 wreaked havoc on infrastructure, livestock, fields, homes, and livelihoods of thousands, including the Kalasha community, posing an existential threat to Pakistan's smallest indigenous group. 'The Valleys Our Ancestors Chose' documents the community's annual harvest festival, providing a profound exploration of their resilience and determination in the aftermath of historic floods that devastated much of Pakistan.

Expressing her gratitude for the award, Tazeen said, "I am deeply honoured and grateful for the recognition. This film is a testament to the strength and resilience of the Kalasha community and their unwavering spirit in the face of climate change.

Together, we hope to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive future."

"The record-breaking floods of 2010 and 2022 in Pakistan were two of the most devastating natural disasters that caused widespread damage and displacement. These floods were a warning to South and Central Asia that climate change is a serious and present threat to the region. We need to work together to prepare for the challenges of global warming, by developing innovative local solutions and capacity to support local governments and civil society for relief efforts," said AKU President Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin.

Voices from the Roof of the World is a joint initiative of the Aga Khan Development Network agencies: Aga Khan University, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Aga Khan Foundation, and the University of Central Asia. The docuseries aims to highlight the challenges faced by communities due to climate change, and local solutions adapted to tackle adversities. The series aims to create awareness around global warming and inspire government, business and civil society leaders to work on reversing the region's ecological destruction and conserve nature and wildlife.

'Shepherds of Naar', another documentary of the series Voices from the Roof of the World also gained recognition at the festival with the Satyajit Ray Golden Award for Best Documentary.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
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 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, 1-8 Markaz.
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

The Golden Chapter of Islamic History, Hazrat Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA)

A prominent figure in Islamic history, Hazrat Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA) was one of the closest companions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He (RA) was born in 584 AD in the city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and belonged to the Banu Adi tribe of Quraish. It is not easy to put the life and achievements of this historical figure into words. Hazrat Umar's (RA) reign was considered a golden era in Islamic history, known for his justice, expansion of state and rule.

Hazrat Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA) accepted Islam in the early years of the prophet hood of the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him). He (RA) was 30 years old when he accepted Islam. Umm al-Momineen, Hazrat Hafsa (RA), was daughter of Hazrat Umar (RA). At the time of acceptance of Islam of Hazrat Umar (RA), the number of male Muslims increased to 40, while 11 women had entered the circle of Islam before him. His conversion to Islam was an important event. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) expressed his desire to Allah to accept Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA) or Abu Jahl bin Hisham to strengthen Islam. Allah Ta'ala accepted Hazrat Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA) for the exaltation of Islam. He embraced Islam and strengthened the Muslim Ummah greatly. Hazrat Umar's strong personality, wisdom and deep understanding of justice made him a prominent figure in early Islamic society.

After the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in 632 AD, Hazrat Umar (RA) played an important role in establishing the first Islamic state. He was elected the second caliph of the Islamic State after Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA). During his ten-year reign, which lasted from 634 to 644 AD, Hazrat Umar bin Al-Khattab

(RA) expanded the area of the Islamic Empire to 2.2 million square miles through various conquests, including the capture of Jerusalem, Egypt, and Persia. Historians have written that if they (RA) it would take few more years; they would have made the whole world a part of the Islamic State.

Hazrat Umar (RA) implemented many social reforms during his caliphate. He introduced measures to alleviate poverty, such as providing stipends to the poor and establishing a welfare system. He (RA) also initiated public works projects including the construction of canals and roads to improve infrastructure and facilitate trade.

Hazrat Umar (RA) was a scholar of complete faith in Allah that he not only ruled the state but also ruled the soil, air and water. History is full of his great events. During the sermon in Madinah, hundreds of kilometers away, the one of companions, Hazrat Saria (RA) heard the words miles away. Once there was an earthquake in Madinah, he (RA) struck the ground with a whip and said, "Stop." He said, "Did Umar (RA) not do justice on the earth?" When he river Nile dried up. Umar (RA) wrote a letter to the river saying that if it moves by the command of Allah, then it moves. As and when his letter had arrived that the waves began to flow in the river. A fire broke out in a place near Madinah. He sent his cloak and by showing it with this cloak, the fire entered back into the place from where it had come out. On many occasions, Allah subhanahu wa ta'ali revealed the opinions of the Umer (RA) as the verses of the Qur'an. On many occasions, the opinions that came out of the tongue of the Umer

(RA) were revealed by Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala as the verses of the Holy Qur'an. In which some verses like about Nawafil on Maqam-e-Abraham (Surah Al-Baqarah verse-125). About the veil of mothers of the believers (Surah Tahirim verse-5). About the funeral of the leader of the hypocrites, Abdullah bin Abi (Surah At-Towba, verse- 84). About the prisoners of the Battle of Badr (Surat al-Anfal, verse 68-69) And many other Quranic verses, rulings were not revealed before. Some verses of the Holy Qur'an were revealed according to the opinions of Hazrat Umar (RA).

Hazrat Umar (RA) was known for his simplicity and accessibility to people. He was fair in his rulings, which earned him the title of "Al-Farooq", which means "the one who distinguishes between right and wrong". Among the characteristics of Hazrat Umar's (RA) caliphate were his strictness on justice and his concern for the welfare of the Muslim Ummah. He implemented many reforms that the nations of the coming world implemented in their territories. These include the establishment of a comprehensive administrative system, known as Diwan to ensure fair governance. He also introduced a standard currency and established a public treasury, which further strengthened the economic stability of the state.

Hazrat Umar (RA) encouraged the pursuit of knowledge and established many educational institutions during his reign. He emphasized the importance of education and tried to ensure that both men and women had access to learning. Therefore, in today's developed countries, there are all those reform systems that started in that

Islamic period. The Quran was compiled in book form in the era of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiqui (RA), with the insistence of Umer (RA). After that, he established the practice of teaching and learning in his era, fixed the salaries of Hafiz Quran and Adhan givers.

He was present at the Battle of Badr, the Battle of Khandaq, the Battle of Uhud, Khyber, Hunain, and Tabuk, besides the Pledge of Allegiance of Rizwan, the Peace of Hudaibiyah, and the occasion of Hujjat al-Wada.

Hazrat Umar's great achievement is the victory of Bait al-Maqdis. Hazrat Amro bin Al-Aas (RA) was assigned to the campaign of Palestine; he captured Nablus, Ladd, Amwas, and Bait Jibreen etc. and besieged Bait-ul-Maqdis in 6 AH. Meanwhile, Hazrat Abu Ubaidah (RA) also completed this campaign and met him. After a few days of defense, the Christians of Bait-ul-Maqdis expressed their willingness to reconcile and for their own satisfaction expressed their wish that Amir-ul-Mu'minin Umer (RA) himself would come here and write an agreement with his own hand. Umar (RA) was informed of this. After consulting Akbarien-e-Sahaba, he appointed Hazrat Ali (RA) as his deputy and in Rajab 16 Hijri; he left Madinah for Bait al-Maqdis for agreement.

Hazrat Umar (RA) was stabbed by a Persian slave, Abu Lulu Feroz, while he was praying in congregation in Madinah. Due to which they could not bear the wounds they drank the cup of martyrdom on 1st of Muharram in 644. And was buried by the side of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). His (RA) martyrdom was a great loss to Muslims, and his contribution and legacy are cherished by Muslims around the world.

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



Analysis

Javed Ullah Raja

Secure cotton future

Nothing holds the significance of being the second most important component of life after food. Owing to its global relevance, cotton production countries thus enjoy special privileges worldwide – cotton export being their major source of income generation.

The cotton sector, therefore, is going through more advancement globally with more research providing ways to enhance yields.

Agriculture scientists are trying to develop numerous cotton varieties in Pakistan too since the day Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation of the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) back in 1948.

"Several cotton research institutions started working under the umbrella of PCCC and delivered 59 cotton varieties including 36 credited to Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan alone," says Sajid Mahmood, the technology transfer head of CCRI Multan, adding developing a traditional cotton variety takes almost 8-10 years.

A cotton saga in Pakistan remained greatly marred by pest attacks, poor management by small farmers owing to lack of knowledge or resources or both, fake fertilizers, pesticides, and sometimes due to climate change phenomenon.

"There are 150 reported cotton enemy pests in Pakistan, highest than any other cotton-producing country in the world," said Sajid Mahmood.

"Traditional cotton varieties did wonders and there were occasions when Pakistan touched 14 million bales mark or remained just below, thanks to CCRI Multan variety CIM-496, Niab-78 by Nuclear Institute of Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad, MNH-93 and S-12 by CRI Multan and some others," said Khawaja Shoaib, who added that Pakistan had the potential of producing at 18-20 million bales if the crop was managed properly.

In 1948-49, Pakistan's lint per hectare (KG/HA) production was over 700 kilograms, higher than India, the largest cotton producer in the world of cotton.

According to statistics of last decade from 2009 to 2022, the country's kg/ha was 707kg in 2009 and it gained 12.914 million bales production from 3.106 million hectares. It rose to 724kg per hectare in 2010 but production reduced to 11.4 million owing to area reduced to 2.689 million hectares.

However, come 2011-12, lint production blinked at 815 kilograms per hectare and production of 13.595 million bales from 2.835 million hectares strengthened the economy. During the next two years lint kg/ha was recorded at 769 and 773 kilograms and production remained above 13 million bales in 2012-13 and 12.769 million bales in 2013-14.

However, 2014-15 was a remarkable year when Pakistan again crossed 800-kilogram lint production per hectare and registered a record 13.983 million bales. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the production declined to 10.074, 10.671 and 11.93 million bales respectively. Cotton area started decreasing in 2018-19 when it was 2.373 million hectares and the country gained 9.861 million bales at the rate of 707-kilogram lint per hectare.

In the next three years, production remained between 7 to 8 plus million bales. In 2021-22, cotton area was reduced to 1.937 million hectares only, however, a good 731-kilogram lint per hectare figure yielded a heart-consoling production of 8.328 million bales. However, the major shock came in 2022 when torrential rains triggered by climate change swept away standing crops across the cotton belt in Sindh and Punjab and though the area of 2.144 million hectares was slightly higher than last year, Pakistan ended up gaining only 4.9 million bales, the lowest in history with lint per hectares also reduced to country's lowest, 472 kilograms.



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

Cypher Drama- Another anti-state crime of captain

Was against debts but Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) was left with a debt of 997 billion. Promised 350 dams but failed to build a single one practically. Promise of 70 universities in KPK but couldn't show a single new university on ground in KPK. How many colleges PTI govt built in KPK give the name and location of the college? Name and location of any new hospital constructed in KPK? Explain why 16 girl's colleges in KPK were closed during the PTI Government. 355 primary and middle schools in KPK were closed by saying that they are a burden on the exchequer, what progress was made by closing them? Peshawar metro bus was going to be built in 8 billion, it reached 97 billion, after the completion of 6 stations, it was found that the bus could not go inside the station, so an attempt was made to fly the bus over the station, which was not possible, so all the stations were demolished and the new cost was above 122.35 billion. According to Captain, Multan Metro was built at a cost of 64 billion. Later his government while giving a report on its transparency said that there was no corruption in the metro and it was built at a cost of 27 billion. PTI leader Nazar Gondal had a case of corruption of 82 billion from the government treasury, on what merit was he taken into the party and what happened with the case? What happened to the corruption of 284 billion in Babar Awan's Nandipur project? Where did Aleema Khanum get 140 billion? What happened to the case of the Captain's use of the KP helicopter? What happened to the KPK Chief Minister's corruption of 34 billion in the Malam Jabba case? What punishment did you get for Riasat e Madina?? What about Pervez Khattak and his brother's long story of corruption, what happened to 46 billion? Your government was in KPK for the last 5 years, how did its treasury empty? Who is responsible for the sinking of Khyber Bank? Why was the inquiry closed?

Then, why was the project stopped after spending 80 crores on the reforms of KPK NAB? Why were the doors of KPK NAB locked?? Where did PTI Speaker Asad Qaiser's Islamabad bungalow of 35 crores come from and what

happened with the inquiry? In the previous governments, there was a loss due to the increase of the dollar, but how is it a benefit in your Government? Earlier, pollution was spreading from Thar coal, but how did that change its fate? (Both statements are yours). Captain, who talks about taxes day and night, showed his assets of 2 billion 34 crores in cash, 322 kanal's Bani Gala House and 28 flats in the luxury Grand Hyatt Hotel Islamabad in the Election Commission and why did he pay taxes of 1 lakh 5 thousand? If there was debt in previous governments, how was it in your tenure? If the Captain's Government was taking loans to repay the previous governments' debt, then why was the debt not decreasing, why was it increasing? Why did your government fail to collect the annual tax?? Why did the GDP decrease?? Why do you plan to privatize PIA and Steel Mills while earlier your Finance Minister was saying that PIA's deficit has reduced?? Why did Aleema Khanum not pay the fine even though the deadline of FBR was expired? From where Captain's second Sister Uzma Khanum got 60 billion?? The Captain's government was going to be 4 years old, tell me any 3 things among the necessities of the people, which became cheaper and the people got relief?? According to Captain, there were 12 billion corruptions in the country which was stopped, and then what was the need for a loan? Asad Umar said that PML-N gave us 18 billion dollars in treasury, Captain said that the treasury was empty, who was the liar among them? Did Captain steal the tax on the show of his assets? These are very valid points which I received from a very reliable source. The complete list of Captain's lies and u-turns is very long and needs a number of pages and days to cover.

Then the day is not so far when Pakistan and Israel traded blame in a rare diplomatic spat over human rights issues, as Islamabad condemned Tel Aviv for criticising our country on human rights. The diplomatic spat was triggered by Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN, who during the session of Human Rights Council in Geneva voiced concerns over the rights situation in Pakistan.

To be continued

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

In Mirror of Pakistan Railway Performance

Pakistan Railways travels always considered to be the safest, cheapest, interesting and informative journey. It is an organization that is directly related to the people and the feedback from the people always improves the railways. Capacity is created. Of course, by seeing the increasing crowding at the railway station, it is known that the people are starting to prefer railway travel.

The quality of cleanliness including security in the railway stations and trains has improved. It is part of the priorities of the present administration and leadership to provide the latest facilities of Pakistan Railways to its passengers and to make their journey safe and also to provide adequate business opportunities to the people doing business through railways. After assuming the portfolio of the Ministry of Railways in the current government, Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique had said that the development work will start from where it stopped in 2018.

All projects will be faithfully carried out to completion, railways will also have to be put on track and its speed will also have to be advanced, work on war footing will have to be done for the rehabilitation of the institution, satisfactory sanitation arrangements in railway stations and trains. Providing all possible facilities to the passengers and providing facilities to the business community in the delivery of goods through railways will be part of our priorities. Efforts were being made with the railway authorities with renewed zeal and determination to implement this as the worst floods hit the country and badly affected the railway infrastructure. Heavy rains lashed the country, especially in Sindh and Baluchistan, paralyzing life.

The approval of land rules will also increase revenue from railway lands. Valuable land was divested from the encroachment mafia on the railway network Shops with expired leases were auctioned under the new policy, which increased revenue.

It is hoped that with the cooperation of China, the work on the important project ML-1 of the railway line between Karachi and Peshawar will start soon Plans were made for branding trains and railway installations to generate revenue for the rail ways. On which the pilot project of 15 coach-

es, 5 railway stations and 3 billboards will be started in this month of July 2023.

The administrative and financial affairs of railways are being digitized while e-tendering has been started in railways. According to the fact that foreign exchange should be saved by preparing the parts that can be produced locally, the expert engineers of Pakistan Railways have prepared the VHF antenna used for railway engines locally, which has also been successfully tested. There is a mill. Out of 230 coaches imported from China under the current Minister of Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, 46 coaches were received by Pakistan in finished condition and the rest were received by Pakistan in the form of parts, which will be manufactured in the Carriage Factory Islamabad.

Apart from this, 820 wagons were imported from China for the freight sector, out of which 70 freight wagons were received by Pakistan in finished condition and the remaining 750 wagons were remanufactured in railway workshops. Advertisements have been issued nationally and internationally to gradually convert railway stations and installations on the railway network to solar energy. They are being made more active by bringing reforms in the welfare sectors. After the appointment of IG Railway Rao Sardar Ali Khan, the process of reforms in the Railway Police was accelerated. After the covid and floods in the country, several closed trains were restored including the Green Line Express with the addition of newly imported Chinese coaches and AC parlors.

Besides, the Jafar Express for Quetta, Shalimar Express, Bahauddin Zakaria Express, Farid Express, Shah Latif Bhatai-Express, Hazara Express, Millat Express and Mohenjo Daro Express are included. During the period of Khawaja Saad Rafiq as the Minister of Railways, the situation was very difficult because the economic conditions of the country were not good, yet in the current ministry of Khawaja Saad Rafiq, the railways earned a total income of more than 62 billion 57 crores in the financial year of 2022-23. It broke all the records of the previous decades which is very welcome and the credit goes to the Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq and he is a beacon for political leaders who believe in hard work.

Analysis



Syed Ijazul Hassan

Third Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum focusing on the 'Decade of CPEC'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "The transformational China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), remains at the core of Pakistan-China relationship and is pivotal to Pakistan's future economic progress and prosperity." This was stated by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), while addressing the Third Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum, convened in Beijing on 21 July 2023, as part of the series of commemorative events being held in connection with completion of 10 years of CPEC.

The 15-member Pakistan delegation visiting China participated in the Seminar jointly organised by ISSI and the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), at the CICIR headquarters in Beijing.

Led by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, the delegation includes diplomats, leading academics, researchers, and media persons.

Following the plenary, the separate sessions of the Seminar, titled "Decade of CPEC: Review

and Outlook", were moderated by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), ISSI; Dr. Hu Shisheng, Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR; and Dr. Lou Chunhao, Executive Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR.

The speakers at the event included Ambassador Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director-General, Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), China; Head of the Pakistan Delegation Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI; Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University, Pakistan; Dr. Wang Xu, Executive Deputy Director, Centre for South Asian Studies, Peking University; Ambassador Babar Amin, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Norway and Australia; Dr. Mukesh Kumar Khatwani, Associate Professor, University of Sindh; Dr. Wang Shida, Deputy Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR; and Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali, Associate Professor and Director, Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab.

Ambassador Zhang Maoming, Deputy Director-General Department of Asian Affairs, in

his keynote address during the plenary extended felicitations to ISSI and CICIR on organising the 3rd Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum. Amb. Maoming emphasised that Pakistan and China are good neighbours, good friends, and good brothers. He underlined that regardless of the dynamic of international politics, China and Pakistan always firmly support each other. He added that President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had agreed to continue to deepen bilateral strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Amb. Maoming underscored that the China-Pakistan friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. China extended its support to Pakistani people in the last year's floods, supported Pakistan in its temporary financial problems, and helped in evacuating the Pakistani nationals from Sudan.

He added that in the second phase of CPEC, China was resolved to enhance cooperation in the fields of agriculture, mining, science and technology, and information technology. He said that China wishes to make CPEC a demonstration project of high-quality development and contribute to progress and prosperity of Pakistan and countries



of the region and beyond.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his keynote remarks, underlined the importance of the first in-person session of Pakistan-China Think Tank Forum. He said that ISSI valued its institutional relationship with CICIR and wished to further deepen mutual collab-

oration.

Amb. Sohail Mahmood reaffirmed that friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and the two countries' time-tested strategic cooperative partnership is based on strategic mutual trust and commonality of views. The two countries support each other

on their respective issues of core interest including Pakistan's steadfast support to China on 'One-China' policy and Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and South China Sea. For its part, Pakistan appreciated China's consistent support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and economic devel-

opment as well as its principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Dr. Fu Xiaoqiang, Vice President, CICIR, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC, Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University, Dr. Wang Xu, Executive Deputy Director of Centre for South Asian Studies, Amb. Babar Amin, Dr. Lou Chunhao, Executive Director of Institute of South Asian Studies,

Dr. Mukesh Kumar Khatwani, Associate Professor, University of Sindh, Dr. Wang Shida, Deputy Director of Institute of South Asian Studies and Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali, Associate Professor and Director, Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab, highlighted that China attaches great value to its relations with Pakistan. They said that over the past decade, CPEC has secured many achievements by creating jobs, improving the energy sector, and adding over 500 kilometres to roads and motorways.

The speeches and presentations were followed by an interactive question-and-answer session. The session concluded with a clear message of high hopes for the future of CPEC and unwavering Chinese support for Pakistan.

5th China Xizang

LHASA: A visitor prepares to unleash an arrow at the 5th China Xizang Tourism and Culture Expo held in Lhasa last month.



Indian woman Anju reaches Pakistan to meet Facebook friend

Tariq Jan

UPPER DIR: An Indian woman namely Anju has reached Pakistan's Upper Dir to meet her friend namely Nasrullah who she befriended on social media platform Facebook.

An Indian woman Anju, who is married and belonging to India's Uttar Pradesh (UP) state, reached Upper Dir - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to meet her 29-year-old Facebook friend Nasrullah.

Nasrullah is associated with the medical field and he and Anju became friends on the social media platform Facebook a few months ago.

Police told the media that Anju is visiting Pakistan on a one-month visit visa and she wants to spend some days there. They added that she did not come here to marry him and is currently residing at her Nasrullah's home.

In May, a young boy from India had reached Pakistan along with his



family and tied the knot with a girl in Sukkur.

According to reports, a resident of Mumbai, Mahindra Kumar married a Pakistani girl Sanju Kumari in Sukkur after they befriended each other on social media.

In March last year, in a cross-border love story, an Indian girl had tied the knot with a Pakistani boy after they befriended each other through social media platform.

According to details, the woman

named Shehnaz, who belonged to India's Chandigarh- the capital of Punjab and Haryana, married a Pakistani youngster, Zeeshan, who is a resident of Mawlapur.

The Nikkah ceremony between Shehnaz and Zeeshan was held in Mawla pur and both of them had valid passports from their countries.

The police while commenting on the entire episode said that an Indian girl came to Pakistan on February 28 and is currently staying in the country. "Police have a complete record of her arrival, departure and other travel details," they said.

Cross-border marriages are not rare and the most prominent example of it is Pakistan cricketer Shoaib Malik married Indian tennis star, Sania Mirza.

Sania Mirza is a resident of India's Hyderabad while Shoaib Malik is a resident of Sialkot city of the Punjab province in Pakistan.

New exhibition, trading center completed at Gwadar Free Zone

News Desk

BELJING: The South China Commodity Exhibition and Trading Center in Gwadar Free Zone, Gwadar, Balochistan was successfully completed on July 21.

The project covers an area of about 2,000 square metres.

The centre consists of an exhibition hall, business area, meeting rooms, sports area, office, dormitory, etc.

It will exhibit Pakistani and Chinese commodities to visitors from home and abroad, noted CCC-FHDI Engineering CO, LTD, the project constructor.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

As per the project constructor, the new centre as a comprehensive exhibition and sales centre as well as a window for international exchanges in Gwadar in the future - will boost the development of manufacturing, trade and logistics and other industries in Gwadar, further promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and further promote the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Gwadar, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. "Completed ahead of schedule, the project will become a centre for exhibition and sales, trade and logistics in Gwadar.

All the hard work and toil in the process will be worth it," CCC-FHDI Engineering CO, LTD, said.

Non-Bengalis in East Pakistan deserve our attention

Atrocities frequently go unreported in history because they are eclipsed by more notable occurrences. One terrible chapter that has to be acknowledged and remembered is the genocide of non-Bengalis in East Pakistan during the 1971 War. While the suffering of Bengalis is recognized by the international community, non-Bengali minorities' hardship has mostly gone unnoticed. It's time to bring attention to this forgotten massacre and give those who have been kept silent for too long a voice.

Bloody fighting during the 1971 War led to East Pakistan's separation from Pakistan. Non-Bengali communities were targeted for systematic brutality and mass murders during this time, including communities of Biharis, Urdu-speakers, and other racial and religious minorities. These communities, which had ties to West Pakistan historically, were

marginalized and used as scapegoats. The Mukhti Bahni and its allies carried out a planned effort to expel non-Bengalis. Numerous non-Bengali citizens were targeted, and their homes and families were destroyed. There were several cases of rape, torture, and unlawful killings. This was not a random act of violence; rather, it was part of a well-thought-out scheme to wipe out entire towns.

The lack of attention given to the genocide of non-Bengalis in East Pakistan in popular narratives is one of the reasons it is still not recognized. Even though it is important to concentrate on Bengalis' pain, it has unintentionally resulted in the deletion of other victims' stories. Because of this, there is still an imperfect

knowledge of the dispute, and those who were equally impacted were not treated fairly.

It is not intended to minimize the suffering of the Bengali people by acknowledging the genocide of non-Bengalis, but rather to support the universality of human rights.

In cultures currently dealing with the aftereffects of such conflicts, acknowledging past crimes is a step towards promoting healing, reconciliation, and inclusivity. The dominant narrative must be contested in order to give all victims a voice and honor their suffering.

If the genocide of non-Bengalis in East Pakistan is not addressed, it will affect global justice and accountability more broadly. Regardless of political expediency or historical narratives,

it emphasizes the need for thorough and objective inquiries into all incidents of genocide and human rights crimes. We can build a more just and compassionate society that respects the rights and dignity of every person by taking lessons from the past.

We must pay attention to and take action in response to the ongoing genocide of people who are not Bengalis in East Pakistan.

In addition to being morally required, remembering and honoring these victims is essential for comprehending the intricacies of conflicts and promoting a more inclusive and just society.

In order to create a better future for future generations, let's work to correct the historical record and make sure that the suffering of all groups is acknowledged.

The writer is former member of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan



Analysis

Anees Ali Shah

UN chief hails Mandela as 'one of humanity's greatest heroes'

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations on Saturday held its annual ceremony to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, the first black President of post-apartheid South Africa who died in 2013.

The commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day pays tribute to his fight for freedom and equality, both at home and around the world.

Mandela, who was affectionately known by his Xhosa clan name, Madiba, spent nearly three decades in jail for standing up to human rights abuses and severe injustices against black South Africans.

He was released from prison in 1990 and elected President four years later in the country's first-ever multiracial elections.

Csaba Korosi, President of the UN General Assembly, said Mandela's remarkable journey serves as an example of transformation through forgiveness as he bequeathed a multiracial, democratic South Africa vastly different from the racist state into which he was born.

"Madiba's lifelong commitment to human rights embodies a founding principle of this organisation: We cannot leave anyone behind," he added.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called Mandela one of humanity's greatest heroes.

"Nelson Mandela was a colossus of courage and conviction," he said. "How do we pay tribute to such a giant? Through words of respect, certainly. But we best honour Madiba through action."

Guterres called for action against racism, discrimination, hate, and to "extinguish the legacies of colonialism." He also appealed for promoting equality, human rights "and above all, justice."

The UN chief said the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed global inequalities and "three years on, the need to bridge the global justice gap is more urgent than ever."

He pointed to injustice at the heart of the international finan-

cial system that is rooted in colonialism. To this day, Africa is underrepresented in the global financial architecture and the continent lacks a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, he said.

He recalled that Mandela addressed these issues in a speech to the UN nearly 30 years ago, arguing against the uneven distribution of resources and decision-making power.

"The world is still waiting for change," said Guterres. "Ultimately, we need fundamental reform of the international financial system. But we must also support developing economies with concrete steps we can take today."

He called for urgently over-



hauling the business models of multilateral development banks, providing a sustainable development stimulus plan, and establishing debt relief that supports payment suspensions, among

other measures.

The American politician and activist Andrew Young, a former US Ambassador to the UN, shared memories of Mandela who was both a friend and brother.

"We hear things that seem impossible to us: that he invited his jailor to sit with his family at his inauguration and that he constantly made an effort to unite South Africa in spite of all of its divisions," he said.

Young, who is now 91, stated that his own country is today struggling with some of the same dynamics that plagued apartheid-era South Africa.

"We're grateful for the example that was set by President Madiba," he said. "And we're grateful for this institution for following in that tradition and keeping alive the hope of liberty and dignity, and a realization that we can be free in spite of the cultural chains that bind us."

UBL
Management's
cruel action of
stopping the
payment of pension
to employees



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Cruel action of UBL management stopped the payment of pension of forcibly dismissed employees. In this regard, on July 22, the management of UBL has stopped the advance payment of pension to more than 5 thousand forcibly dismissed employees, which will affect thousands of elderly employees and widows.

According to the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, since February 2018, the forcibly dismissed employees were receiving a monthly pension of about 10,000 rupees from the bank. To whom more than 5 years have passed, letters of pension withholding have been suddenly issued.

As it is a complete abuse and cruelty to the senior employees of the bank who were forcibly dismissed from service, the management of UBL Action Committee for Forced Dismissal Employees, Manzoor Khan Babar, Farhat Abbas, Khurshid Ahmad Khan and others have strongly condemned the decision of the bank and demanded the bank to pay the pension to the employees immediately. He has demanded to take notice from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Pakistan 'all set' for LNG purchase deal with Azerbaijan

KARACHI: State Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik announced Saturday that the government is set to finalise an accord with Azerbaijan to purchase cost-effective liquefied natural gas (LNG) within the next few days, The News reported.

During a media interaction in Karachi, the minister gave insights into the agreement, highlighting its benefits for Pakistan.

He said the deal allows the government to buy LNG when necessary, but it also grants them the "right of refusal" if not required.

Furthermore, Malik noted, the purchase of LNG will be contingent on its affordability in comparison to other energy sources.

The minister said that the availability of sufficient foreign exchange reserves will also influence the decision to buy.

The minister said the gas purchase would be considered if it proves cheaper, based on a thirty-day average of two international LNG standards.

He also extended the opportunity to private industry to procure cheap LNG, making it accessible to both large and small industries. However, he firmly stated that the resale of this cheap LNG would not be permitted.

In response to the demand of petroleum dealers to increase the margins on petroleum products, Dr Malik clarified that the margins would be tied to the wages of employees and their working hours at the petrol pumps.

A final report on the dealers' margins will be released on Monday, he said, adding that dealers must comply with all the conditions if they wish to receive an increase in their margins.

The Petroleum Division has commenced the data collection process for petrol pumps across the country, and this exercise is expected to be completed by Monday, the state minister added.

Energy crisis-hit Pakistan received LNG shipments offer for the first time in more than one year earlier this month — in an achievement after winning unlocking the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan.

Last month, Pakistan failed to secure LNG from the spot market in its first attempt in about a year, as no supplier seems to budge to the cash-strapped nation's offer.

Pakistan has two long-term supply deals with Qatar, one signed in 2016 for 3.75 million metric tons of LNG a year, and another signed in 2021 for 3 million metric tons a year. (Web Desk)

CM Gilgit Baltistan asks business community to tap investment potential in region

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari met with Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan to know about his health and wished him to get well soon. Gilgit-Baltistan Planning Minister Fathullah Khan was also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan thanked the delegation for visiting him to know about his health. He also apprised the delegation about business and investment opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that Gilgit-Baltistan has attractive business and investment opportunities in the fields of hydropower, tourism, minerals and dry fruits, so the business community of Islamabad should take full advantage of these opportunities, which will usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region. He said that many minerals including gold, platinum, copper and precious stones are found in Gilgit-Baltistan and the region is in need



of modern technology and capital to discover and utilize them. He said that the government of Gilgit-Baltistan will provide all kinds of facilities to the investors, so the members of ICCI should tap new business and investment opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan, while the government of the province will give them all possible support in this regard. He said that the world-famous mountain ranges of Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush are

found in Gilgit-Baltistan which are the center of interest of tourists from all over the world. He appreciated the initiative of ICCI to organize a tourism summit in Skardu in recent past in which a large number of members of the chamber and many foreign ambassadors also participated. He said that this effort of the Chamber will better highlight the tourism potential of the area and yield beneficial results for the economy. He assured that he

will visit ICCI at the first opportunity after his recovery to brief the business community in detail about business and investment opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that he will also play his role for close cooperation between the government of Gilgit-Baltistan and ICCI so that new business opportunities can be created for the business community in the province.

Speaking informally on the occasion, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari prayed for the speedy recovery of Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Gulbar Khan and expressed best wishes for him. He said that ICCI will provide all possible support to the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan to provide better opportunities for education and employment in the educational institutions and industrial sector of Islamabad so that the youth of the region can play an active role in the economic development of the country by utilizing their skills. Former Senior Vice President ICCI Khalid Chaudhry, Babar Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry and Rai Tanveer were present in the delegation.

Waiting

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are sitting alongside a road along with their tools and waiting for customer during Sunday holiday in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Recent hike in electricity and gas rates is a big threat to the economy: Mian Akram Farid

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Central Mian Akram Farid, chairman of Employers Federation of Pakistan, while addressing an emergency meeting, said that the rising prices of electricity and gas have become a big threat to the people and the economy. "If energy prices continue to rise, thousands of businesses will close, exports will fall and millions of people will be unemployed," he said. Mian Akram Farid said that the energy sector has become a major economic threat. The sector faces problems like capacity charges, inadequate bill collection, theft, line losses, subsidies, poor governance, and increasing corruption. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the power sector faces losses of Rs 600 billion every year and consumers have to pay 71% of the capacity in their electricity bills. 25 to 27,000 MW, so the government needs to install power plants of 27,000 MW capacity.

The business leader said that consumers will have to pay an additional Rs 800 billion annually for new power plants to meet the growing demand. He observed



the need for reforms in the sector, which would eliminate power losses and capacity payments to boost industry and promote trade, employment and exports.

The IMF has been assured that a plan has been drawn up to end the circular debt, the implementation of which will bring the situation under control, but it has not yet succeeded. The first assurance of debt relief was given in 2008 when it rose from Rs 51 billion to Rs 189 billion in five months. Neither the demands of the IMF nor our

excuses have changed for decades. Now the circular debt of electricity and gas sectors has increased by more than three thousand billion rupees and the government keeps on increasing the rates, he said that the increase in tariff has nothing to do with the reforms. He added that the revenue volume of the central government was more than the loans and interest payments before the previous government.

Yet the importance of debt and interest payments was also higher than total revenue during this regime. The government does not have the resources to modernize the country or the welfare state because it cannot ensure survival and if the loans are delayed, there will be big problems.

He said that increasing government expenditure, imports, circular credit, unemployment, inflation, declining exports, remittances, revenues and employment are rapidly pushing Pakistan towards crisis. It will bury us if shortcuts are taken to raise rates instead of fixing the damage through reforms. Otherwise, the economy will sink, he warned. Increase in electricity and gas rates is a major threat to the economy.

Economic plan of political and military leadership called excellent: HCCI

Spokesman Report

HARIPUR: The Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry said on Sunday that the business community across the country supports the economic recovery plan of the political and military leadership.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's determination to take IT exports to twenty billion dollars is commendable, it said.

The Prime Minister's economic views are a message of hope for the masses, traders, and industrialists, said Khurram Sheikh, Patron-in-Chief, Haripur Chamber of Commerce.

In a statement issued here today, he said that the entire nation is suffering the consequences of the wrong policies of the past, which should never be repeated.

He said that the government should use all resources and capabilities to increase investment, exports, and remittances because, until the country's income does not exceed its expenditure, it is impossible to achieve economic development.

He said that the people are currently stuck in the problems of inflation, unemployment, and uncertainty, and all possible measures need to be taken to give them relief, with the priority being a speedy economic recovery.



Khurram Sheikh said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif knows that the youth of Pakistan are very talented and are doing their best in every field.

With Pakistan's IT industry showing promising signs of growth in recent years, the government's focus on maximising the sector's potential is seen as a crucial step towards achieving sustained economic progress, he added.

The business leader noted that Pakistan's IT industry is uniquely positioned to become a major contributor to economic growth, job creation, and foreign exchange earnings.

The youth involved in the IT sector are bringing a good name to the country on an international level. If they are given proper facilities, it is not difficult to increase the output of this sector to twenty billion dollars, he observed.

He demanded that the decision to provide all required facilities to the youth and investors under one window is correct and must be implemented in letter and spirit.

Unprecedented hike in power tariff rejected

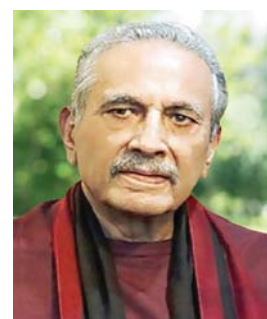
Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Sunday that the government has increased the power tariff by 27 percent which is not acceptable.

The decision will hit the masses and all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, industry, services, and exports, while pushing inflation to unprecedented levels, he said.

Shahid Rashid Butt said in a statement issued here today that the government has increased the cost of electricity up to Rs7.50 per unit and that it is not possible for the public and the business community to bear the burden.

The basic electricity tariff has been increased from Rs3 to Rs7.50 per unit and the government has submitted an application to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to increase the basic price of electricity and has proposed to implement the increase in



electricity prices from July. These rates exclude surcharges, taxes, duties, and levies, which means the real applicable average national tariff will be higher. The tariff will be around Rs50.40 per unit for those consuming over 700 units per month.

For many commercial consumers, the base power tariff has been raised by Rs7.50 per unit to Rs37.75, and the new tariff for electric vehicle charging stations will be Rs39.43 per unit.

For industrial consumers, whose minimum electricity rate will be Rs31.93 and the maximum will be Rs37.89 per unit, and the new tariff for agricultural tube wells will be Rs24.10 per unit after a Rs7.50 hike.

New Pakistani-American company RevSoft aims to revolutionize the Tech Sector

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Helmed by accomplished technology leader Saima Ali, RevSoft Global, a pioneering Pakistani-American IT company, is bringing a fresh perspective and innovative solutions to the rapidly growing IT and software development sector in Pakistan. RevSoft aims to propel Pakistan's IT industry forward while making gender diversity and empowerment a central pillar of its philosophy.

RevSoft offers a comprehensive range of

services including custom solutions Software Development, Artificial Intelligence development, Extended Reality (including AR and VR), User Experience & Design, Business Intelligence, and IT Consulting. By leveraging cutting-edge technologies and industry best practices, RevSoft aims to deliver world-class solutions tailored to meet the evolving needs of clients.

RevSoft's commitment to inclusivity is represented in its innovative business model. RevSoft offers 100% remote opportunities,

opening a spectrum of possibilities for women seeking flexible work schedules, ensuring that talented individuals, regardless of their circumstances, have the opportunity to contribute to the tech landscape.

Speaking on the launch Saima Ali said: "Having spent the better part of three decades in the American tech sector, RevSoft was the natural next step; To contribute to the growth and development of Pakistan's IT sector. Our mission goes beyond delivering cutting-edge technology solutions;

By fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment, we will not only drive innovation but also create meaningful opportunities for talented individuals. Together, we can revolutionize the tech sector and make a positive impact on society."

Pakistan's IT sector has been gaining significant traction globally, with projections indicating even more remarkable growth. Pakistani freelancers alone attracted export remittances of nearly \$400 million in FY22 and rank fourth on Payoneer's list of top freelancing countries.



Pakistan defeat India to win ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Pakistan A defeated India A by 128 runs to win the title of the Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 for the second time.

Pakistan A spinners bowlers stopped Indian batters from chasing a huge 353-run target, collapsing the whole batting line-up at just 224 runs in 40 overs.

The India A remained unbeatable till the final.

Pakistan scored 352 runs in the first inning at the loss of eight wickets. Pakistan A openers, Saim Ayub and Sahibzade Farhan built a strong partnership of over 120 runs.

Later, Tayyab Tahir's ton Omair Yousuf's 35 gave strength to the other batters for setting a huge target in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 final.

Rajvardhan Hangargekar and Riyan Parag took two wickets each.

During the second inning, Sai Sudharsan 29 and Abhishek Sharma 61 took a storming start for the 353-run chase, however, the other batters except skipper Yash Dhull 39 failed to build a strong partnership.

Sufyan Muqem took three wickets



while Arshad Iqbal, Mehran Mumtaz and Mohammad Wasim grabbed two wickets each. Mubasir Khan took one wicket.

Pakistan's Hamza Khan wins World Junior Squash Championship



Sports Desk

KARACHI: After 37 long years, Pakistan has again become World Junior Squash champion as young Hamza Khan made a comeback to beat his Egyptian rival Mohamed Zakaria to win the finale in Melbourne on Sunday.

Khan claimed a 3-1 victory over Zaka-

ria in the finale, with a scoreline of 10-12, 14-12, 11-3 and 11-6.

This was Pakistan's first World Junior Squash title in nearly four decades as the last Pakistani player to lift this trophy was Jansher Khan, who won the title 37 years ago in 1986.

The final between Hamza and Zakaria started off in an exciting manner with



two back-to-back games, ending up in tiebreakers. However, Hamza convincingly took the following two games to complete a 3-1 win.

Hamza qualified for the final of the

World Junior Squash Championship on Saturday. French player Melvil Sciannico fought back from two games and match ball down but Hamza prevailed in the decider to qualify for the final.

German Consul General honours Pak special athletes for winning medals in Berlin Special Olympics

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The national heroes who won the honours for Pakistan in the Special Olympic World Games played in Berlin, Germany recently, are being welcomed all over the country.

In this regard, a special ceremony was organized in their honour by the German Consul General Dr. Rudiger Lotz in the German Consulate in Karachi to celebrate the athlete's victory in the World Games. Medalists, unified partners and coaches along with Special Olympic Pakistan Advisor Yasmin Haider, National Director Taha Tahir, Media Advisor Asif Azeem and National Sports Director Farkhunda Jabeen and other personal-



ities attended the event.

While delivering the welcome speech on this occasion, the host Consul General Dr. Rudiger Lotz said that the Special Olympics World Games hosted by Germany for the first time were held wonderfully and memorably in all respects in which six and a half thousand athletes from 176 countries participated.

Pakistani athletes have

won more than 80 gold medals in the World Games and have proved that when there is a determination to win and a strong belief in hard work, no difficulty or hurdle can stop them from achieving success.

Consul General Dr. Rudiger Lotz further said that Pakistan's Athletes are the best second to none in the world. Along with medals in the Berlin World Games,

they have also won the hearts of all with their good morals and attitude as representatives of their country, for which I congratulate them and the Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ronak Lakhani.

SOP Adviser Yasmeen Haider thanked Consul General of Germany Dr. Rudiger Lotz for organizing the event to laud the performances and said that the German Embassy in Islamabad and Karachi have made it possible for the athletes to participate in the World Games in obtaining visas.

The support of the consulate has been exemplary. Our special children have achieved the feat in Berlin that the nation was waiting for a long time, she said.



Lahore: The Punjab Squash Association Vice President Sheraz Saleem greet to Hamza Khan after achieving the Victory in Final of World Junior Squash Championship at Melbourne, Australia. He said that young Hamza Khan has made the entire nation proud by winning the coveted squash title. He said Squash legend Jansher Khan before that in 1986 won this title and now after 37 year Hamza repeated the same feat after 37 years. He said that Pakistan Squash Federation and Punjab Squash Association will continue to work for promotion of Squash in the Country

PM Youth Hunt Women Football League kicks off

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Youth Talent Hunt Women Football League, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) got underway in a colourful ceremony at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex on Sunday.

Former Governor and senior politician of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Zafar Iqbal Jhagra was the chief guest on this occasion who formally inaugurated the League wherein five teams constituted from all 36 districts across from Dera Ismail Khan to Chitral were taking part under the aegis of Directorate Sports Bacha Khan University Charsadda.

Vice Chancellor Bacha Khan University Professor Dr. Bashir Ahmad, Director Sports and

former international athlete Shahbana Khattak, District Sports Officer (DSO) Charsadda Tehseen Ullah Khan, football officials and players from Swat Regions including Chitral, Shangla, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Kohistan Upper, Kohistan Lower, Mardan Region with players from Buner, Nowshera, Malakand Division, Hazara Region with players from all six districts, Bannu Region and Peshawar taking part.

The ceremony was started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Qari Kaleem Ullah, followed by the National Anthem and March Past of all the participating teams. Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program was in progress under 10 female and 12 male Games across Pakistan with the aim to hunt talented players' age 15-25 are eligible.

Speaking on this occasion, former Governor Zafar Iqbal Jhagra appreciated Prime Minister Main Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for launching the Talent Hunt Program under which thousands of talented youth would get a platform to come and show their hidden talent.

He said it would be a milestone as far as Pakistan's image in the world of sports is concerned. Under the Program, the youth talent would be highlighted by providing them good playing conditions and facilitation.

He said the Program was first introduced by the then prime minister in 2013 where-in he allocated Rs6 billion for the Program. He expressed the hope that the youth would do their online registration in 10 female and 12 male games and exhibited their hidden talent

both at provincial as well national leagues.

He also appreciated Higher Education Commission (HEC), Vice Chancellor and Director Sports Bacha Khan University Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmad and Shahbana Khattak and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja for supervising the program in a successful manner. He said, Program turned out to be a real success as national and international athletes groomed well to represent departments and national teams, respectively.

Vice Chancellor Bacha Khan University Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmad said that they would try to facilitate the players during the Provincial as well National League in Football awarded to them by HEC. He said that a total of 54,000 youths from



various regions in the country have been positively engaged through diverse sporting activities under the umbrella of the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt and Sports League.

This program, he said, marks a significant step towards promot-

ing sports and providing young football enthusiasts with a platform to showcase their skills on a national level.

with great enthusiasm witnessed among the female football players. "We love to play football and it is a great opportunity for the females to come and showcase their talent," Mariyum Khan, a Martial Art player, now playing football, told APP here.

She said girls have good talent but due to lack of opportunities, they could not come to the national and international sides but with the launching of PM talent Hunt Program, wherein girls can take part in 10 different Games, more talented girls would come up.



LAHORE: Under the auspices of Pakistan Karate Association a one day Workshop was organized. There were so many boys and girls from Martial Arts Sports who took part in the Workshop. According to Andleeb Sindhu due to organized this workshop and huge talent will be produced in Martial Art and Karate and fruitful result will be produced. In this workshop the skill and Technique work also done for young boys and girls

President praises Hamza Khan on winning World Jrn. Squash Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday appreciated Hamza Khan for winning the first World Squash Championship 2023 for Pakistan.

On his Twitter handle, the president said that Pakistan had an unprecedented and yet unmatched supremacy in squash.

"I had personally watched many finals among our giants. After a long time a resurgent ray of hope. Well done," he posted a tweet.

Mariyum felicitates nation on Pakistan's victory in squash

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Sunday felicitated the entire nation on Pakistan's victory in the world squash after a hiatus of four decades.

"Congratulations to Hamza Khan for becoming the World Junior Squash Champion," the minister said in a tweet.

Jan Sher Khan honoured the country in the same way back in 1986, she added.

"May the Almighty make every youth of Pakistan a source of pride for the country," she said while praying for promotion of sports and games in Pakistan.

Zaka Ashraf congratulates Shaheens on ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup Triumph

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) extends its heartfelt congratulations to Pakistan Shaheens on their victory in the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup. Mohammad Haris-led Shaheens displayed exceptional talent, teamwork, and determination, emerging triumphant by defeating India A by 128 runs at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday evening. This victory marks the second time the Shaheens have clinched the title, previously triumphing over Bangladesh in the 2019 edition.

Chair of the PCB Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf, expressed his elation at the remarkable performance put forth by Pakistan Shaheens, praising their unwavering spirit and outstanding skills throughout the tournament. He commended the players for their dedication and hard work, which culminated in a well-deserved victory.

Mr Zaka Ashraf said: "This victory is a testament to the immense talent and dedication of our young cricketers. Pakistan Shaheens have once again demonstrated their ability to compete at the highest level, and I am incredibly proud of their achievements. They have shown great character and determination, and this triumph is well-deserved under the leadership of Mohammad Haris.

Pak women squad to leave for China on Tuesday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A six-member Pakistan women squad, comprising five athletes and one official will fly to China on Tuesday to feature in the International University Sports Federation (FISU) Summer World University Games. Also known as Universiade, the Games are taking place in Chengdu from July 28 to August 8.

The squad is comprised of athletes - Amtul Rehman, Uzma Azam, Manisha Ali, Maliha Ali, Fiza and official Sumera Sattar. Amtul Rehman, who is a student of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) will participate in long jump and triple jump events of the Games.

Uzma Azam of Government College Women University Faisalabad will showcase her skills in the hammer throw. Lahore Garrison University's Manisha and Maliha will be vying in the taekwondo event, while Fiza will contest in the wushu event.