



Senator Talha releases post-Hajj statistics; announces significant relief for pilgrims

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Thursday released the post-Hajj statistics, highlighting the successful efforts to provide enhanced facilities to the pilgrims despite expansion projects and logistical challenges at the holy sites.



Bilawal, UN SG discuss revival of Black Sea Grain Initiative

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a telephonic conversation with the UN SG Antonio Guterres and on Wednesday shared Pak perspective on the stalling of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) and its implications for food inflation worldwide. Lauding the positive role played by the UN Secretary-General in the finalization of the BSGI agreement last year, the Foreign Minister requested SG Guterres ... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Laptops distribution ceremony

GAWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes laptops among high-achievers of Gawadar University under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme 2023 on Thursday.



Photo: PID

President condoles with families of soldiers martyred in Sui terrorist attack

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday condoled with the family members of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom in a terrorist attack in Sui, Balochistan on July 13.



Ghafoor and Sepoy Shafqat Ullah, and expressed sympathies with them.

He called via telephone, the family members of those martyred and paid tribute to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country's security.

Paying tribute to the martyrs' patriotism and bravery President Alvi thanked their families on behalf of the nation for their sacrifices.

President Alvi talked to the family members of Naek Ismail Khan, Sepoy Abdul

He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls in Paradise.

Chinese President Xi meets Indonesian president in Chengdu



Spokesman Report

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

ing common development, and inject more certainty and positive energy into the region and the world.

Widodo is here to attend the opening ceremony of the 31st summer edition of the FISU World University Games and visit China.

China is willing to maintain regular strategic communication with Indonesia, strengthen the exchanges of state governance experience, initiate the "2+2" dialogue mechanism for foreign and defense ministers of the two countries, and build high-level strategic mutual trust, Xi said.

Xi noted the opening of a new chapter in building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future last year.

Major achievements have been made in synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative with Indonesia's vision of the Global Maritime Fulcrum, Xi said. Indonesian President Widodo said the bilateral relations have made substantial progress since he received Xi in Bali last year. Indonesia firmly upholds the one-China policy and is willing to continue to enhance cooperation with China in areas including investment, marine fisheries, food security and healthcare, he added.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Indonesia.

Xi said China is willing to take the occasion as an opportunity to deepen strategic cooperation with Indonesia, set an example for developing countries of sharing a common future, pursuing solidarity and cooperation and boost-

Gwadar sea port to be developed as one of the best in world: PM

Muneer Jan

GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterated the government's resolve to develop the Gwadar Sea Port as one of the best in the world.

He said the fate of the people of Balochistan especially of Gwadar would be changed through the ongoing development operation in across the province.

Addressing a laptop and cheques' distribution ceremony here, he said when Nawaz Sharif was elected prime minister

for the third time in 2013, he planned and launched multiple projects in power, infrastructure and other sectors in Gwadar.

However, he deplored that when he visited as prime minister last year here, he was shocked to note that, the previous government had abandoned work on all ongoing projects in the city.

He said despite 15 months of challenging time, the coalition government managed to lay foundation of development and prosperity in the country especially in Balochistan.

Balochistan, he said was rich in huge minerals and other natu-

ral resources which needed to be explored and the fruits of the development of the area would be given to the local people.

The local people must enjoy all the basic facilities in all sectors including health and education.

He said the draft of the Gwadar port was one the deepest among the world's top ports, however dredging of the port which was a continuous process to prevent accumulating silt, was not ensured by the previous government.

Now he informed that the current government initiated the dredging process which

would be completed by February next year.

He said in five years from 2017 to 2022, only 100,000 tons of goods could arrive here while goods of over 600,000 tons arrived here at the Gwadar Port during the 15 months of the incumbent government.

The prime minister announced that the laptop quota for Balochistan had now been increased to 14% against the 6% population share of the province.

He also directed the relevant authorities to further increase the laptop quota to 18% for next fiscal year.

PM Shehbaz said default risk for Pakistan had been averted due to support from the brotherly countries like China, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja said over one million laptops had been delivered since the launch of the laptop scheme by Shehbaz Sharif as Chief Minister Punjab.

Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Governor Balochistan, provincial ministers and top government officials were also present on the occasion.

IHC rejects PTI chief, Bushra Bibi's pleas for transfer of cases

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected the pleas of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and his wife Bushra Bibi for transfer of cases from one court to another.

The IHC rejected PTI chief and Bushra Bibi's pleas for transfer of cases against May 9 riots, financial fraud and others to another court. The PTI chief had sought transfer of trials of six cases to another court, whereas, his wife Bushra Bibi requested for the same in a financial fraud case.

The IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the reserved verdict today. He directed the petitioners to approach the relevant forums for the transfer of trials.

Pakistan slams Indian defence minister's 'provocative' remarks on crossing LoC

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday condemned the "provocative remarks" made by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Drass, Ladakh, boasting readiness to cross the Line of Control (LoC) and reminded the Indian leadership that it was fully capable of defending against any aggression.

"We counsel India to exercise utmost caution as its belligerent rhetoric is a threat to the regional peace and stability, and contributes to destabilizing the strategic environment in South Asia," the Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a press statement.

This was not the first time India's political leaders and



senior military officers had made highly irresponsible remarks about Azad Jammu, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

"This kind of jingoistic statements must stop. The Indian leadership is reminded that Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself against any aggression," she added.

The spokesperson further said that dragging Pakistan into India's populist public discourse to stoke hyper-nationalism and

reap electoral gains needed to end.

It added that Everything from history to law and morality to the situation on the ground belied India's claims about Jammu and Kashmir, an internationally recognised disputed territory.

"The relevant UN Security Council resolutions stipulated that the territory's final disposition would be made according to the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations," according to the press statement.

"India would be well-advised to faithfully implement these resolutions rather than entertaining notions of grandeur," the spokesperson said.

China rolls over \$2.4 billion loan to Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: EXIM Bank of China has rolled over its loan of \$2.4 billion with Pakistan for two years to strengthen Islamabad's foreign reserves.

The announcement was made by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on his Twitter handle.

Dar in his tweet said that Chinese EXIM Bank has rolled over the loan of US\$ 2.4 billion for two years including US\$1.2 billion due in FY2023-24 and US\$1.2 billion in FY2024-25: US\$ 1.2 billion. Dar said Pakistan will make interest payments only in both years.

On Wednesday, sources claimed that China has deferred the \$2 billion debt payment to Pakistan for two years.

China Eximbank officially wrote to Pakistan about the delay in the recovery of debt.

Judge's wife gets bail in maid torture case



Afraz Nazish

LAHORE: In a recent development, the wife of a civil judge has been granted protective bail in the case of the tortured maid in Sargodha.

According to the details, Justice Farooq Haider of Lahore High Court (LHC) heard the protective bail plea and granted the protective bail to the accused till August 1.

A case has been registered against the wife of a civil judge in Islamabad police station.

A 14-year-old maid was allegedly subjected to brutal torture by the wife of a civil judge in Islamabad and a case was lodged by the parents of the girl at a local police station.

No extra powers for caretaker govt as election amendment bill passed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Amendment Bill has been approved and no extra powers given for the caretaker government. Under the new amendments, a candidate can nominate up to three polling agents at one polling station but one polling agent will be allowed inside the polling station at a time. The bill stated the presiding officer is bound to notify the voter list outside the polling station.

The joint session also approved an amendment for the transparency of postal balloting which stated that the ECP will upload the details of the postal ballot on the website before elections and if the winning or losing ratio is five percent then recounting of votes will take place.

Senate passes Army Act amendment bill

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Thursday passed a bill proposing amendments to the Pakistan Army Act 1952.

The bill was moved by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and was rushed through without being referred to a standing committee.

The bill includes a section regarding

punishment for defaming army to two years and a fine.

According to the contents of the bill, unauthorized disclosure of information obtained in the interest of national security and interest in the official capacity will be severely punished for up to five years, the disclosure with the permission of the Army Chief or the empowered officer will not be punished.

The bill also said that officials that fall under the law will not be able to participate in political activities within two years of retirement, resignation or dismissal.

According to the bill, a person involved in electronic crime, whose purpose is to defame the Pakistan Army, will be prosecuted under electronic crime.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani opposed the bill and walk-

out from the upper house in protest. Raza Rabbani said that the Army Act Amendment Bill should be sent to the concerned Standing Committee.

"We were not provided even copies of the bill that just sailed through Senate," he said and marked the day as black in the history of Pakistan's parliament.

Senators from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf also walked out of the proceedings.

Souvenir

GAWADAR: A Chinese official presenting a model of an aircraft to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the completion of the airside infrastructure (runway, taxiway and apron) at New Gawadar International Airport on Thursday.



Photo: Online

75th Shahadat anniversary of Captain Sarwar Shaheed observed



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), is on an official visit to Australia from 24-28 July 2023 for Defence and Security Talks and 1.5 Track Security Dialogue.

During the visit, CJCS met high ranking civilian & military leadership including General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of Defence Forces Australia. In the meetings, both militaries agreed to further expand military to military cooperation.

CJCS also visited Royal Military College and addressed the participants of Australian Defence College.

Meanwhile, Director General Rawalpindi Garrison Security Area (RGSA) laid floral wreath at Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed's mausoleum in his native town Sanghori, Gujjar Khan.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented guard of honour.

People from different walks of life, civil and military officials and relatives of Shuhada attended the wreath laying ceremony.

'Road to Makkah' initiative paves the way for seamless Hajj pilgrimage: Saudi envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said the launch of 'Road to Makkah' initiative was a groundbreaking programme aimed at providing seamless services and enhanced facilities for the esteemed pilgrims traveling to the Kingdom for the sacred Hajj pilgrimage.

Addressing a conference, organized by Tehreek-e-Difa Harmain Sharifain the other day, he said the initiative was set to streamline their journey and ensure a hassle-free experience by efficiently managing essential requirements such as passports, customs procedures, health necessities, and luggage transportation all the way to their accommodations in the holy city



of Makkah.

Ambassador Nawaf Al-Malki emphasized the deep-rooted and longstanding fraternal ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

He highlighted that the 'Road to Makkah' initiative was just one of the many efforts undertaken by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, in line with the visionary 'Vision

2030' framework. "This initiative reflects Saudi Arabia's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and providing unwavering support to Pakistan," he maintained.

Ambassador Nawaf Al-Malki said Saudi Arabia, its leaders, scholars, institutions, and people hold a profound affection, appreciation, and respect for the people of Pakistan across various domains, including political, religious, cultural, and educational aspects.

President Tehreek-e-Difa Harmain Sharifain Maulana Ali Muhammad Abu Turab, expressing his admiration for the historical and brotherly relations between the two nations, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Saudi Embassy and Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki for their dedicated and fraternal efforts in assisting Pakistan

and its people through thick and thin.

Religious scholars and dignitaries representing various denominations also attended the conference and conveyed their sincere appreciation for the unwavering support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

They recognized the pivotal role played by both nations in maintaining fraternal relations and fostering unity within the Muslim Ummah.

They emphasized that the 'Road to Makkah' initiative stood as a testament to the enduring bond between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, further solidifying their brotherly relations.

As the conference concluded, the religious representatives reiterated their commitment to nurturing strong and harmonious ties between the two nations.

AJK minister announces up to 35 % raise in govt employees' salaries

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government Thursday announced raise in salaries of the government employees up to 35 per cent at par with the Federal Government decision.

Addressing a press conference, the AJK Finance Minister Col Waqar Noor (ret'd) said a 30 per cent raise was given to those above 17 grade whereas employees from grade one to 16 will receive a 35 per cent hike in salaries. However 17.5 in pension was also increased.

Flanked by other cabinet members, the minister stated that the pay increase would have a financial impact of 16

billion rupees.

Nevertheless, he assured that the government was determined to leave no stone unturned in ensuring relief to the employees.

"We are in contact with the federal government, and we are hopeful that they will bear the financial burden of the pay raise," he added.

Divulging details about the availability of flour in AJK, he mentioned that flour was currently available in the market, and no decision had been made yet regarding a price increase.

He further explained that a 15kg sack of flour was currently priced at Rs. 1550 in AJK, while the same quantity of



flour was being sold for Rs. 3000 in other cities of Pakistan.

The AJK government had successfully recovered 200 government vehicles which were being used by unauthorized people, he apprised the

media and added that tangible actions would be taken to establish the writ of the state.

He stated that during the previous regime, the expense of the Prime Minister's house was 12.5 million rupees, but under the current administration, it

has been significantly reduced to just 1.2 million rupees.

"The health budget for hospitals, police stations and road repairment has been increased and the government also buying ten more cranes for the development projects," he added.

He mentioned that the AJK government was being facing numerous challenges due to financial constraints. The government's expenditure amounts to 190 billion rupees, while the state's revenue stands at only 166 billion rupees.

Despite these challenges, the current government in AJK is making every effort to provide maximum relief and support to the people.

Bilawal, UN SG discuss revival of Black Sea Grain Initiative

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a telephone conversation with the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and on Wednesday shared Pakistan's perspective on the stalling of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) and its implications for food inflation worldwide.

Lauding the positive role played by the UN Secretary-General in the finalization of the BSGI agreement last year, the Foreign Minister requested Secretary-General Guterres to continue his valuable engagement for reviving the Initiative through a constructive dialogue that addresses the concerns of all parties.

Condemning the recurring incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran in Europe, the Foreign Minister appreciated the UN Secretary General's



advocacy for inter-religious harmony and peaceful co-existence. He called for collective action at the UN level by formulating a comprehensive strategy and action plan to tackle the growing phenomenon of Islamophobia.

The Foreign Minister and the UN Secretary-General also discussed Pakistan's ongoing cooperation with the United Nations in the wake of last year's devastating floods. The Foreign Minister also apprised the Secretary-General of the recent project launched in Sindh to provide land titles to women beneficiaries affected by floods.

PIA submits written payment plan to FBR

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has submitted a written payment plan to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to unfreeze their accounts.

As per details, the PIA spokesperson said that the matters between FBR and PIA have been resolved.

The spokesperson said that the PIA accounts will be restored after the paperwork is completed. PIA has to pay Rs 2 billion federal excise duty.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is grappling with a severe financial crisis, raising concerns about its ability to sustain air operations amidst mounting debts, ARY News reported on Thursday.

The national airline has found itself unable to make necessary payments as Federal Investigation Bureau (FBR) froze the bank accounts of the national flag carrier.

Khawaja Asif refuses to apologize over his remarks against PTI women

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif refused to apologize over his remarks against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) women lawmakers.

As per details, Addressing the National Assembly he said that PTI women senators demanded an apology from Khawaja Asif over his remarks.

However, he refused to apologize and defended his remarks, he said that if the PTI chairman apologize for his remarks on Maryam Nawaz then he will also apologize. He clarified that his remarks were not gender specific and he did not make any remarks about women.

Earlier, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's remarks about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) women lawmakers creat-

ed a furor in the National Assembly.

As per details, the federal minister termed the PTI women senators 'garbage' and 'remains' of PTI in the senate. At this, Law Minister Azam

Nazir Tarar requested the speaker to expunge the words said in a rash of emotions by PTI senator Ali Zafar and Khawaja Asif.

The PTI senator Ali Zafar said that the current members of the assembly are a herd of sheep. However, the speaker said that both words are expunged now from the assembly's proceedings. In 2016, Khawaja Asif came under criticism by opposition leaders for referring to Shireen Mazarri as a "tractor trolley" when she tried to record her protest following Asif's brief on the state of load-shedding in the country during Ramadan.

Senate passes 'The Defence Housing Authority Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2023'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Thursday voted in favour of 'The Defence Housing Authority Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2023', presented by Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif during the parliamentary session.

The bill aimed to introduce essential amendments to the existing Defence Housing Authority Islamabad Act, 2013, with the primary objective of enhancing governance, clarifying provisions, and ensuring the security and welfare of the community.

One of the key aspects addressed in the bill is the modification of certain definitions in the original Act.

PTI woman leader arrested in May 9 riots case

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) woman leader arrested by police for her alleged involvement in May 9 riots.

As per details, the police spokesperson said that PTI leader Seemabia Tahir Satti was arrested by police in connection with the May 9 violence.

However, PTI claimed that she was arrested after allegations from the SAPM Attaullah Tarar. He had said that Seemabia Tahir Satti was accused of training to bring PTI workers in lawyers' uniform to the court.

Earlier, a district and sessions court in Islamabad granted pre-arrest bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former prime minister in two cases related to May 9 events - wherein military installations including General

Headquarters (GHQ) came under attack. The court ruled that the prosecution must prove that the accused, Imran Khan, instigated the violence - which erupted after the latter was arrested in 190 million pounds case.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief was arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9.

The protests were held in remote and major cities of Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.

Army installations and Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attack during a protest by PTI workers. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Ali Nasir Rizvi sustained severe injuries while clearing.

Increase the electricity rates is government terrorism: Dr Safdar Hashmi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi has said that the increase in electricity rates is government terrorism, the main reason for which is IMF conditions. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi while addressing the protest demonstration at Multan Kachhari Chowk said that elites are benefiting from loans and the burden is being put on the people. Inflation has already made life difficult for the people, the people are swinging on suicide traps, the nation is being mocked in the name of free electricity and new cars for the elite.

This system of cruelty and injustice must be changed. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi said



that due to inflation, elites are happy and people are forced to commit suicide. It is regrettable that the

current government has increased the electricity tariff, which has made the people miserable and grinded them in

the mill of inflation.. A large number of workers participated in the demonstration.

Danger of floods in rivers and mountains due to heavy monsoon rains



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In view of the danger of floods in rivers and mountains due to monsoon rains, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain R. Saqib Zafar has issued instructions to the officers of the Irrigation Department to stay in the field. In this regard, Secretary Irrigation, South Punjab Ejaz Khaliq Razaqi visited District Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan, checked various safety dams, drains and siphons and issued orders to the officials of the Canal department. He visited Manchan Flood Dam Chacaran Sharif

And ordered strengthening of super and hydraulic structure. He inspected the Musharraf Drain at Rajanpur which serves to bring water from the mountains to the Indus River. Instructions were issued to ensure availability of machinery at this location at all times. Ejaz Khaliq Razaqi reviewed the strength of Fakhar flood dam and Rojhan Ring flood dam

And also checked the repair work of siphon of Dajal Canal. Apart from this, he also inspected the left bank flood dam of Fazil Canal. Secretary Irrigation South Punjab The officials of the Inhar department have been instructed to monitor the water fluctuations in the rivers 24 hours a day and not neglect the monitoring of safety dams, drains and siphons.

Imam Hussain's A-Z Life is a real role model for all & sundry: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: Imam Hussain's life from A-Z is an extraordinary lesson for whole human beings.

It distinguished the wrong from right for sack of humanity's betterment, said Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan.

According to the details, The Deputy Secretary General of the Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahir -Ul- Hasan said that undoubtedly, Hazrat Imam Hussain's life is an alive example to set real parameters for success here & hereafter enlightenment for paradise.

Allama Tahir-ul Hassan further informed while media talk that "World needs of real inter-faith harmony based on Imam Hussain's demonstrations.

Under the guise of Islam, vested interests have adopted sectarianism for a long time." They are not letting the message reach the common person in the world, so It is necessary that the learned scholars with wisdom and knowledge must explain the real background and purpose of the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain(RA) to all & sundry.

What message did He sent to humanity by refusing to pledge allegiance?"

He further expressed that there should be unity to establish democratic parameters and welfare system of Islam conveying message of Islam appropriately.

Allama Tahir highlighted that yet Imam Hussain(RA) was not merely the sacrificial victim, he was also the exemplar of bravery and fortitude for saving the real path.

He fought a brave and fierce fight against so many. Such was his power and strength, such was the aura of his person-and he was by no means a young man-that the only way his enemies could kill him was by a whole group of them attacking him at the same time and stabbing him together. The humiliation of the death was total; the vindictiveness and wickedness of this action by men is illustrated by the fact that his clothes were ripped from his body and then horses ridden over it, but proved that there can never be any compromise of right with wrong.

Lawyers block road to protest against Attock police over colleague killing

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: legal community block Rawalpindi-Kohat road for several hours by placing the body of the their slain colleague to register their protest against Attock Police for failing to stop target killing of the lawyers in PIndigheb town. It was the second target killing a lawyer in the town during last two months as a target killer has shot dead a senior female lawyer named Kubra Sheikh in the broad daylight in the same town on June 23.

Police sources while quoting eye witnesses said that Atif Ali Qureshi-former general secretary PIndigheb bar association was going back his house in his car from after appearing in different cases at tehsil court complex when he reached at Khan chowk, two masked men showered bullets at him resultantly he died on the spot. The assassinator managed to escape from the scene successfully. Later rescue 1122 has taken the body to tehsil headquarters hospital. After getting information, a large number of lawyers reached at hospital, taken the body to Rawalpindi-Kohat road and stage sit in to register their protest against Attock police by placing the body in the middle of the road.

Daraz to empower South Asian users

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Daraz, South Asia's leading e-commerce platform in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Myanmar, announced the latest integration of Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service in Daraz to launch "AskDaraz", an AI ChatBot, to simplify the shopping experience for South Asian users. Powered by OpenAI's ChatGPT, AskDaraz will enable users to naturally discuss with the AI chatbot and get offered personalized recommendations, streamlining the entire shopping process.

Integrating Azure OpenAI Service model into Daraz's new Discover section creates an inclusive shopping experience, especially for users who have yet to interact with an e-commerce platform. "AskDaraz" will enhance the shopping experience on Daraz by refining and analysing user requirements, sifting through millions of products across multiple categories, and recommending products, styles, and collections based on the user's specific needs. This in turn bridges the gap between offline and online shopping by providing high-quality conversational and engaging experiences that consumers are used to.

Encroachment

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Anti Encroachment Cell of CDA seize the chiller of shopkeeper during anti encroachment operation at Melody Food Park in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

A delegation of the Emersonians meets to VC of Emerson University

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Vice Chancellor of The Emerson University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ramzan has said that together with the Emersonians, they will make it the number one university in the world.

Many departments will be designed in the style of Masjid Nabawi. Now all the students of Multan South Punjab and Pakistan will feel proud to enroll in Emerson University and the construction of their and their parents' dreams will be fulfilled.

The government has sanctioned Rs 111 million for the university and an earlier Rs 120 million which was unspent in the previous cycle and was returned.

We will get them very soon. For the first time, 7,000 applications have come from job seekers, which will be processed after HEC approval and test. 4,000 applications for admission have come from online students, he said, said yesterday on the occasion of a meeting with a delegation led by Professor Dr.



Hameed Raza Siddiqui, president of The Emersons, he added that very soon 20 new educational programs will be started in this university, now students from Multan and South Punjab. No need to go to any big city, we will provide world class education here

Attendance of students and teachers will be online, which will make their attendance 100%. They are on big posts and are doing good business abroad. Their services will also be obtained and all

kinds of support will be provided. Today, under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, the university is developing well. The delegation will play a role in the delegation of Vice-President Sheikh Motal Ahmad Rao Akbar General Secretary Chauhari Bilal Naem Joint Secretary Mohsin Shaheen Finance Secretary Chaudhry Abdul Khaliq Member of the Executive Council Muhammad Farooq Rana Shahbaz Adnan Mottal participated.

CBD Punjab's successful drainage pit testing sets

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has announced the successful completion of drainage pit testing at the Walton Road upgradation project. This milestone marks a significant step forward in addressing the longstanding issues of the drainage and sewerage system, including the ADA Nullah.

Following the directive of Prime Minister Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Naqvi, CBD Punjab will initiate the Walton road project after the Monsoon spell. The project's commencement aims to enhance the road's infrastructure and improve the overall urban landscape.

Karbala is a lesson-teaching incident of human history: Allama Syed Farhan Haider

Raza Naqvi

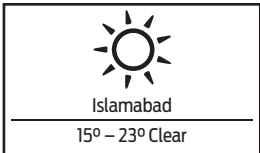
ATTOCK: Muharram's procession of Alam-o- Zuljanah, surrounded by heavy police and elite force, was taken out from Imambargah Punjtani Attock city on Thursday with religious enthusiasm under auspices of Anjumane Janisarhan Hussain, which was participated by a large number of mourners. The Azadars were reciting Nohas in groups, who also performed "Zanjeerzani" and "Matum" by beating their chests and offered Zuhra prayer at Fowah chowk.

Addressing the mourners, Allama Syed Farhan Haider has said that Karbala is a lesson-teaching incident

of human history, which gives the message of upholding righteousness and truth to the mankind for their eternal success. Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) is not only a great hero of our Islamic history but is the symbol of a unique philosophy and way of life which draws a line of demarcation between noble and evil forces, he further said. Similarly this incident foiled the nefarious designs of devilish forces of Yazidiat against the righteousness of Hussainiat, he maintained. However it is need of the hour, that we should realize our responsibilities as nation and fails the designs of anti-Islam forces by promoting unity and religious harmony among our ranks, he urged.

Later on, the procession after passing through its traditional routes ended peacefully at Imambargah Hussania Attock Cantonment at evening. Following the recent terrorism incidents, the law enforcement agencies have made unprecedented security arrangements for the peaceful holding of 8th Muharram processions. All roads leading to the venue of the procession were heavily guarded and procession routes were barbed with iron wire and manned by elite force and rangers to handle any untoward situation. The personnel of intelligence agencies were also remained busy for identification of outlaws and troublemakers. While deputy commissioner

Rao Atif Raza district police Officer Attock Sardar Ghais Khan, Assistant Commissioner Shahgufta Jabeen SDPO Sadar Circle DSP Azhar Shabbir, SHO City Imran Kazmi and other Distt Administration Officials visited Imambargahs and procession's route with intervals to monitor the security arrangements. Under strict security Sabeels of water and milk were also setup by the procession organizers with the collaboration of tehsil municipal administration at the different points to facilitate the mourners; while a special mobile medical team and Rescue 1122 also provided medical treatment among the mourners on the spot.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:39 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:12 pm
Isha	8:49 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
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MH	561116
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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
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PIMS	9261170-79
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Shifa International	4603666

AIOU announces admission schedule for merit-based programs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the admission schedule for merit-based (face-to-face) programs offered in the first phase of semester autumn 2023 admissions. Face-to-face programs offered in this phase include BS, MBA, M. Sc (Hons), MPhil, MS, and PhD programs. Admission forms and prospectuses of these programs are available on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). New students can apply online till August 15th, while current students in these programs (continuing students) can enroll in the next semester till August 22. The entrance test/interviews for admission to MPhil, MS, and Ph. D programs will be held from August 17 to 23. According to the details, the tests/interviews of the Faculty of Education will be held on August 17-18. Tests/interviews for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities are scheduled on 18-19 August, Faculty of Science on 21-22 August while Tests/Interviews for the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies will be held on 22-23 August 2023. Merit Lists of successful candidates will be uploaded on the university website within two weeks.

Omar strongly condemns police raid, sealing of Zulfi's house in Islamabad

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan strongly condemned the Islamabad Police raid and sealing of Zulfi Bokhari's house in Islamabad, saying that the federal government would soon be out in the cold and would be facing the same treatment. PTI Secretary General said that Islamabad Police cannot control crime in ICT but was using its resources for targeting PTI members. "This Fascist Federal Government's time is almost over. They will soon be out in the cold and will be facing the same treatment," he added. Omar reminded: "There is a Pushto saying 'Mah kawa pa chaa che ubh-shae pa ta' which means that don't do onto others because it will be done to you."

Mariyum launches online registration process for artists' health insurance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Thursday launched an online registration process for the artists' health insurance scheme by uploading its form on the dedicated website.

"Registration for artists has been started from today under Prime Minister's Health Insurance Programme which will enable them to get comprehensive and quality health facilities from private hospitals without any cost," the minister said while addressing a news conference here.

She said artists could easily fill out the form on WWW. DEMP. GOV. PK by providing all the relevant details for a 360



health facility.

Mariyum said a health insurance scheme had already been launched for the working journalists and media workers under a transparent system. Funds for both schemes were allocated in the federal budget for the financial year 2023-24. She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

would formally launch the schemes after Muharram (10th) by issuing health insurance cards for journalists and artists.

The minister said the government had made history by launching a health insurance scheme for journalists and artists.

She said the government took the initiative to protect the artists who had been promoting the culture and heritage of the country. "Culture and heritage of the country are our assets and so they are," she added.

Mariyum extended her gratitude to all those who guided the government to work out a comprehensive health initiative for artists and journalists.

She urged the artists, journalists and media workers to get registered online, to avail the health insurance scheme.

National day

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Climate Change of Pakistan Sherry Rehman, Senior Politician Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan Tarek Dahroug and others during ceremony regarding the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

"The Voices from the Roof of the World" Season 2 Wins John B. Oakes Award

News Desk

KARACHI: The second season of the documentary series, The Voices from the Roof of the World (VRW), has won the prestigious John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Reporting on the Environment at Columbia Journalism School. The series explores the climate crisis in high-mountain Asia and the billions of people that depend on the rivers that flow from these mountains.

This award comes barely a month after the documentary

series was selected to participate in the prestigious TV Series Festival Berlin. This month, one of the episodes in the series, "The Valleys our Ancestors Chose" won an award at the South Asian Short Film Festival.

Aga Khan University President Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin said, "These awards are testament to the need for impactful storytelling around environmental sustainability and climate change. Environmental stewardship is a priority for the AKDN and AKU for which a key part is

increasing the understanding of the horrific impact of climate change, especially on vulnerable communities, and the responsibility that all of us have in any way small or large to protect our environment."

The continuing stream of awards for the Voices from the Roof of the World Series shows is not only testimony to the incredible film making talent in the region but also shows that the appreciation for the importance of climate change is increasing. This is very encouraging, since many people in the mountains see

their habitats threatened today, making climate change adaptation an absolute priority," said Onno Ruhl, General Manager at Aga Khan Agency for Habitat.

The series captures the spirit and resilience of the people who call this region their home, providing an intimate portrayal of their daily lives, traditions, and struggles. The documentary series has garnered widespread acclaim for its captivating storytelling, breathtaking visuals, and its ability to foster cross-cultural understanding.

Muharram processions' drone coverage banned in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab imposed a complete ban on drone coverage on the 9 and 10 of Muharram to prevent any potential security risks and maintain order during the religious events.

According to the details, a crucial meeting focusing on law and order was convened under the chairmanship of the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab aimed to maintain public order and safeguard people during religious observances.

The key discussion of the meeting was centered on reviewing the security plan, with a specific emphasis on Ashura Day, where large processions and congregations are expected.

During the meeting, special attention was devoted to ensuring the safety of



foreign nationals, particularly Chinese nationals, in light of recent security concerns. To bolster security efforts, it was decided that joint flag marches will be conducted by the Army, Rangers, and police forces to demonstrate a show of force and deter any potential threats. The caretaker Chief Minister Punjab directed all Commissioners and RPOs to prepare advanced plans for processions and gatherings, taking into account the possibility of rains that might affect the arrangements. In line with promoting

religious harmony and maintaining peace, the meeting stressed the enforcement of a compiled code of conduct to ensure discipline and safety during Muharram. The security of mosques, Imam-bargahs, and other places of worship was singled out as a top priority.

Participants in the meeting also recognized the vital role that members of peace committees and elected representatives play in fostering unity and understanding among different communities.

Additionally, Commissioners and RPOs were tasked with closely monitoring the performance of District JITs (Joint Investigation Teams) concerning incidents that occurred on May 9, demonstrating a commitment to addressing past incidents and ensuring accountability.

Bank Entrance test fee not being collected in PMDC

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Entrance test fee is not being collected from the bank in PMDC. Due to which there is deep concern among the students. Chief Justice, Government and President PMDC should investigate and bring out the facts.

Chairman Career Group of Institutions Javed Intizar said in his demand that the bankers are saying that our portal is not working with Pakistan Medical Dental Council (PMDC).

The entry date is 31st July, which is the holiday of Muharram. Already three or four days of students have been lost because of the bank. In order to solve this, the date of fee submission should be extended.

Javed Intar said that online fee submission is being done, but a large number of students do not have this facility and are not aware of it. There is a fear of being,

25 billion increase in national wealth due to tax increase on cigarettes

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) issued a press release to accentuate the success achieved from the revenue collected due to increase in taxes on cigarettes. According to the health activists, this progress has been achieved due to government's good judgement and strong resolve.



Malik Imran Ahmad, country head, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), contentedly shared that the national treasury has bloomed with Rs: 25Billion additional revenue after the tax increase on cigarettes. This tax increase is a way forward for Pakistan into becoming an economically sustainable country. Much needed increase on cigarettes and other harmful tobacco products will aid in forming a better and stable economy. This is a win-win situation for Pakistan as it is helping government generate more revenue and saving youth from tobacco hazards by keeping cigarettes expensive.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, added that tax increase on cigarettes needs to be revised every year in order to meet Pakistan's international commitments of controlling tobacco. This extra revenue from increased tax will prove to be the savior of Pakistan's current and future economic crises. Cigarette smoking causes a number of non-communicable diseases. Practicing this tax increase in every fiscal year can become an ideal way of saving the health of our people by making cigarettes pricier, which will also cause the healthcare system less burdened.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, program manager SPARC, supported government's decision of tax increase and expressed hope about the future of Pakistan's youth and economy. He mentioned that this increase in tax on cigarettes has brought Pakistan closer to international standards and with more sustainable efforts, Pakistan protect its current and future generations from harms of tobacco.

Sonya Hussyn's Star-Studded Birthday Bash: A Night of Glamour and Celebrations!



News Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistani entertainment industry's barbie, Sonya Hussyn, born on 15th July 1996, marked her special day with a spectacular birthday celebration that was nothing short of star-studded! Known for her incredible acting prowess, captivating character portrayals, and fearless fashion choices, Sonya's birthday party was a reflection of her charismatic personality.

Surrounded by her closest celebrity friends, including Iqra Aziz, Hania Amir, Zaviyar Nauman, Ayesha Omar, Yasir Hussain, Ahad Raza Mir, Ushna Shah, Tariq Amin, Shoaib Malik, Sachal Afzal, Momal Sheikh, Shazia Wajahat, Wajahat Rauf, Sadia Khan, Zhalay Sarhadi, Mansha Pasha, Zoya Nasir, Sadia Khan, Sarwat Gillani, Rao Ali Khan, Khaqan Shah Nawaz, Yashma Gill, Ramsha Khan, Adnan Siddiqui, Waseem Badami, Khoji, Imran Ashraf and many others.

The birthday bash was a star-studded affair filled with laughter, love, and unforgettable moments. As the clock struck midnight, the festivities kicked off with a stunning cake cutting ceremony, as Sonya stood amidst her friends and colleagues, sharing the joy of the moment.

Dressed elegantly in a mesmerizing blue dress by the renowned designer Saira Noor, Sonya looked every bit the style icon she is known to be. Her fearlessness in experimenting with fashion has always turned heads, and this birthday event was no exception. Her makeup was done by Nabila, accentuated her natural beauty, and she completed the look with diamond studs from Kohar Jewelry and chic shoes from Steve Madden.

APPSCA strongly condemned the incident of Islamia University Bahawalpur

News Desk

The All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association strongly condemned the alleged video scandal incident of female students studying in Islamia University Bahawalpur. It called the incident a humanitarian tragedy. And demanded that the perpetrators of such heinous acts should be strictly punished, while the process of appointing retired persons in higher educational institutions should be reviewed.

Yesterday, the heads of various educational organizations, including Ishtiaq Bukhari, Advocate, Malik Safir Alam, Zaheer Anjum, Khalid Hayat Kumuka and Legal Advisor of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Muhammad Akhlaq Awan, Advocate Supreme Court and others, in a joint statement issued a joint statement to the Pakistani educational institutions strongly condemned the immoral activities.

Speaking on this occasion, the central president of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Malik Abrar Hussain said that this is a humanitarian incident. By doing their constitutional and legal right to prevent and punish those involved. Every patriotic citizen has bowed his head in shame due to such heinous incidents in Pakistan's higher education institutions, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, All concerned persons and institutions including the Department of Higher Education Punjab, Governor Punjab should hold a transparent inquiry into the incident of Islamia University Bahawalpur and punish the accused severely and take concrete steps to prevent such incidents in the future.



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Army Chief on Forefront for Pakistan Green Initiative Program - I

The agriculture sector is the backbone of human civilization, providing sustenance, economic stability, and the foundation for countless industries worldwide. From ancient times to the present day, agriculture has played a pivotal role in the development and progress of societies. As the global population continues to grow, the significance of agriculture becomes ever more evident, highlighting its crucial role in addressing food security, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity.

The foremost and most obvious importance of the agriculture sector lies in its ability to produce food and ensure food security for a growing population. Without a well-functioning agricultural system, billions of people around the world would face chronic hunger and malnutrition. The sector produces a wide variety of crops and livestock that form the basis of our daily diets, providing essential nutrients and energy necessary for human survival and growth. Agriculture contributes significantly to the global economy. It is a major source of employment for billions of people, especially in developing countries where it remains the primary livelihood for rural communities. The sector's activities span from farming and cultivation to processing, distribution, and marketing, generating employment opportunities throughout the supply chain. Furthermore, agriculture is a crucial component of inter-

national trade. Many countries rely on agricultural exports to boost their economies and foster international relationships. The agriculture sector contributes to foreign exchange earnings, allowing countries to import goods and services that they may not produce domestically. In many developing nations, rural areas heavily depend on agriculture for their economic development. By investing in agricultural infrastructure and technology, governments can empower rural communities, improving their living standards and providing avenues for economic growth. Access to modern agricultural techniques, credit facilities, and market linkages can uplift farmers and help alleviate poverty in rural regions. Agriculture is intrinsically linked to the environment, and sustainable farming practices are crucial for preserving natural resources for future generations. Sustainable agriculture focuses on efficient water management, soil conservation, biodiversity conservation, and reduced reliance on harmful chemicals. By adopting these practices, farmers can minimize their ecological footprint and ensure the long-term health of ecosystems.

Moreover, agriculture can contribute to mitigating climate change. Practices like agroforestry and conservation agriculture sequester carbon dioxide,

helping to offset greenhouse gas emissions and combat global warming. The agriculture sector acts as a vital link between primary production and various downstream industries. The raw materials produced on farms form the foundation for food processing, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and various other industrial sectors. Robust agricultural productivity and supply chains bolster these industries and contribute to economic growth. Agriculture has come a long way from traditional farming methods to adopting cutting-edge technologies. Advancements in agricultural practices, precision farming, genetic engineering, and digital agriculture have significantly increased productivity and efficiency. Embracing innovation in agriculture is essential for meeting the challenges of food security in the face of a growing global population.

The agriculture sector holds an indispensable place in our societies, encompassing far more than simply cultivating crops and rearing animals. It is a dynamic force that nourishes the world, drives economic growth, and supports the livelihoods of billions of people. As we confront the challenges of feeding a burgeoning population while safeguarding the environment, sustainable agricultural practices and innova-

tion will be paramount. By recognizing and investing in the importance of the agriculture sector, we pave the way for a more secure, sustainable, and prosperous future for all.

Pakistan's Army chief is showing keen interest in all national issues of Pakistan. He showed grave association towards resolution of economic and defense related issues of the country as well. Recently, General Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander United States (US) CENTCOM, called on General Syed Asim Munir, COAS. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and defense cooperation were discussed. Both reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all fields. The visiting dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan Army's successes in fight against terrorism and Pakistan's continued efforts for bringing peace and stability in the region.

The Green Initiative programme has been launched recently. As per the programme, more than 4 million cultivable waste land will be cultivated to increase agricultural production, cut down import of edible oil and food items worth over \$11 billion and thus make the country food secure. Under the initiative, smart agricultural practices and latest machinery will be introduced for reducing cost of production and inspiring local farmers to also adopt good agricultural practices.

To be Continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Effects of climate change increasing in Asia

Extreme weather events ranging from large-scale floods — like last August's deluge in Pakistan — to droughts and other effects of climate change are on the rise in Asia and bound to affect food security and the continent's ecosystems, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a Geneva-based agency, said.

In a report published on Thursday, WMO said Asia was the world's most disaster-impacted region, with 81 weather, climate and water-related disasters recorded last year, the majority of which were floods and storms.

Melting ice and glaciers and rising sea levels threaten more socio-economic disruption in future, according to the agency's latest State of the Climate report for the region.

The mean temperature over Asia for 2022 was the second or third warmest on record and was about 0.72degrees Celsius (°C) above the 1991–2020 average, which was itself roughly 1.68°C above the WMO 1961–1990 reference period for climate change.

Asia is also the world's most disaster-prone region, according to the agency's new report.

In 2022, there were more than 80 disasters on the continent, mainly floods and storms, which killed upwards of 5,000 people and affected 50 million more. Overall economic damage exceeded \$36 billion.

WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas noted that last year, many areas in Asia experienced drier-than-normal conditions and drought.

He highlighted the case of China, where prolonged drought conditions affected water availability and the power supply. The estimated economic losses were over \$7.6billion.

"Most glaciers in the High Mountain Asia region suffered from intense mass loss as a result of exceptionally warm and dry conditions in 2022," Taalas said. "This will have major implications for future food and water security and ecosystems," he added.

Last year also saw severe flooding in Pakistan. The country received 60 per cent of its normal monsoon rain within just three weeks of the start of the monsoon season.

More than 33 million people were affected, or roughly 14 per cent of the population, and more than \$15 billion in losses were recorded.

Asia also shows an overall surface ocean warming trend beginning in 1982. In the northwestern Arabian Sea, the Philippine Sea and the seas east of Japan, the warming rates exceed 0.5°C per decade, roughly three times faster than the global average surface ocean warming rate.

The report was released during a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's (ESCAP) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. It is accompanied by an interactive story map, with a special focus on agriculture and food security.

WMO said the expected increase in the frequency and severity of extreme events over much of Asia will impact agriculture, which is central to all climate adaptation planning.



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

The distressing Epidemic of Rape — Is Pakistan safe for Women?

Rape is a heinous crime that inflicts immense physical and psychological suffering on its victims. In Pakistan, this distressing epidemic has become a prevalent and alarming concern, posing a significant threat to women's safety and security. Despite legal and social efforts to combat gender-based violence, the country continues to grapple with a pervasive culture of violence and discrimination against women. The prevalence of rape culture in Pakistan is a significant factor contributing to the epidemic. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms and attitudes perpetuate a culture of victim-blaming and trivialization of sexual violence. The social and legal barriers to reporting rape cases further exacerbate the problem, leaving many victims without recourse or justice.

Such an environment emboldens perpetrators and dissuades survivors from speaking out, perpetuating a cycle of violence and impunity. Socioeconomic disparities also play a crucial role in exacerbating the vulnerability of women to sexual violence. Women from marginalized communities, impoverished backgrounds, and rural areas often face increased risks due to limited access to education, economic opportunities, and legal support. Poverty and lack of resources can lead to increased incidences of sexual exploitation and abuse, with perpetrators taking advantage of vulnerable women. Pakistan faces a stagger-

ing rape epidemic, evident from the alarming statistics.

In 2020, the United Nations Development Program ranked Pakistan top among the 75 countries with an anti-women bias in courts. Moreover, the lack of sensitivity and training among law enforcement officials and medical professionals further traumatizes victims during the reporting and investigation process. Furthermore, Media coverage of rape cases in Pakistan has a profound impact on public perception and response to the issue. While it can serve as a tool for raising awareness and mobilizing public support, it can also perpetuate harmful stereotypes and sensationalize incidents, potentially compromising the privacy and safety of survivors. Media outlets must adopt responsible reporting practices and prioritize the dignity and well-being of survivors.

Despite the challenges, there have been significant grassroots efforts and activism to combat the rape epidemic in Pakistan. Women's rights organizations, civil society groups, and individuals are working tirelessly to raise awareness, provide support to survivors, and advocate for policy reforms. These efforts have sparked public conversations about gender-based violence and the urgent need for societal change. To address the

distressing epidemic of rape, the Pakistani government must take bold and comprehensive actions. Strengthening the legal framework for sexual violence, ensuring swift and fair trials, and improving victim protection and support services are crucial steps.

Additionally, investing in education that promotes gender equality and sensitivity training for law enforcement and judicial personnel can foster a more empathetic and responsive approach to handling rape cases. Eliminating rape culture requires creating an environment where survivors feel empowered to speak out against their attackers. Legislators should prioritize laws that protect survivors rather than favoring rapists. Raising awareness about the importance of not being a bystander is crucial. If you witness any form of sexual assault or inappropriate behavior, it is essential to act. Society needs to reject the harmful practices of slut-shaming and victim-blaming. Challenging traditional notions of masculinity is also necessary in the fight against rape culture.

Additionally, media that objectifies women and portrays them as mere sex objects contributes to the problem and should be publicly criticized. Educating children about consent, boundaries, and respect

for all genders is vital. For instance, Pakistan could follow the example of the United Kingdom, where sexual assault referral centers provide comprehensive medical, practical, and emotional support. Specially trained medical professionals assist survivors, giving them the choice to report the assault to the police or not.

This system ensures victims receive necessary medical attention to prevent STIs and unwanted pregnancies. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, victims often face harassment and demands for medical reports when reporting assault to the police. Establishing support centers like those in the UK would provide much-needed help and justice to rape victims in Pakistan. Moreover, the rape epidemic in Pakistan is a distressing reality that demands immediate attention and concerted efforts. Ensuring safety for women requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of gender-based violence, challenges societal norms, and strengthens legal and support systems for survivors. It is crucial for all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, media, and individuals, to work collaboratively to create a society where women can live free from fear and violence. Only through collective action can Pakistan strive towards becoming a safe and inclusive society for all its citizens.

The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad. She can be reached at sarvcarimalaika18@gmail.com



Analysis

Malaika Sarwar

A Pro-People Champion Making Waves in Politics

The Pakistan People's Party has often faced criticism regarding its media management and limited investment in social media, which has hindered its efforts in shaping a positive public perception of its leadership. However, to the astonishment of many, the party displayed an exceptional impact through the involvement of one of its finest representatives in the recent dealings with the IMF delegation. Senator Saleem Mandviwala, renowned for his decorum, eloquence, and esteemed reputation among the media, fellow politicians, and the general public, played a pivotal role in this regard. His expertise in financial and business matters led to his well-deserved appointment as the esteemed chairman of the Senate's standing committee on finance and revenue. Beyond his remarkable leadership in matters of finance, Senator Mandviwala is esteemed for his unwavering dedication to pro-people policies and his compassionate approach to governance. Throughout his tenure as a senator, he has embarked on numerous initiatives, one of which exemplifies his commitment to upholding the rights of marginalized sections of society — the government employees. Recently, he took a bold and audacious stance in defense of Mr. Shahid Ilyas Khan, an Assistant Director in the Federal Investigation Agency, who had endured five years of victimization. Despite being exonerated in a departmental inquiry, Mr. Shahid Ilyas found himself unjustly suspended due to his refusal to acquiesce to the unlawful demands of a corrupt faction within the FIA's ranks. Senator Mandviwala, acting as a mover, skillfully presented Mr. Shahid's case before the Senate's standing committee on interior in an unprecedented and compel-

ling manner. Remarkably, this diverse committee, comprising members from various political parties, both ruling and opposition, unanimously concurred that Mr. Shahid's mistreatment was unlawful, and the inquiry against him was driven by malafide intentions. Senator Mandviwala's persuasive arguments captivated the entire committee, leading them to wholeheartedly embrace his stance. This momentous occasion marked the first instance in which a public petition from an honest law enforcement officer was not only acknowledged but unanimously endorsed by the Senate Standing Committee on Interior. The significance of this achievement cannot be overstated, as it signifies a profound departure in the upper chamber of the Pakistan Parliament, courageously identifying and addressing malafide practices and bureaucratic red tape within a powerful ministry like the Interior. In social, political, and media circles, the term "Mandviwala Factor" has now become synonymous with effective and transformative leadership. Employee unions and honest civil servants alike have hailed him as the "Messiah of the poor public servants," and their hope in seeking redress for their grievances lies with him. It remains intriguing to observe how Senator Saleem Mandviwala will continue to champion this pro-people approach in the future. His exceptional lobbying acumen and statesmanship skills, whether demonstrated within domestic standing committees or during critical international negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, have time and again proven instrumental and decisive.



Analysis

Syed Fawad Ali Shah

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Envoy calls for strong efforts to increase Pak-Swiss bilateral trade

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Georg Steiner, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan said that many Swiss companies were doing successful business in Pakistan and more were interested in Pakistan as they considered it an attractive market for business and investment. The Swiss Embassy will play a role in bringing more Swiss companies to Pakistan to tap its untapped investment potential. He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President and discussed with him matters for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. Ajwat Arslan Khan, Commercial Advisor of Swiss Embassy was also present on the occasion.

The Envoy stressed for strong efforts to further increase Swiss-Pakistan bilateral trade as both countries have good potential to improve trade ties in multiple areas. He said that Switzerland was keen to improve business relations with



Pakistan and stressed that the private sectors of both countries should develop strong business linkages to explore new avenues of bilateral cooperation. He said that in case the business community was interested in promoting Swiss brands in Pakistan, his embassy would

cooperate in connecting them with the right companies.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Switzerland was quite advanced in tourism and it should

cooperate with Pakistan in promoting its tourism industry. He said that Pakistan possessed very attractive spots for tourism and Swiss cooperation in developing modern tourism infrastructure would help attract tourists from around the world towards Pakistan.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the close cooperation of Pakistan with Switzerland would help it in getting easy access to many potential markets of South-Central Europe. He said that both countries should facilitate collaboration between their chambers of commerce to improve trade ties.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that no European airline was currently coming to Pakistan while due to technical reasons, flights of PIA to EU were banned. He stressed that Swiss airline and airlines of European countries should start direct flights with Pakistan that would help in promoting trade relations as well. He said that ICCI was also planning to start its own airline to connect Pakistan with potential markets.

FISU World University Games to open in Chengdu



Xinhua

CHENGDU: The 31st FISU World University Games, which was postponed twice due to COVID-19 concerns, is set to open on Friday in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Chengdu will become the third city in the Chinese mainland to host the biennial Summer Universiade, following Beijing in 2001 and Shenzhen in 2011.

The Universiade, which runs from July 28 to August 8, will feature 269 events across 18 sports. In addition to 15 mandatory sports, it also includes three optional sports — rowing, shooting, and Wushu.

China's delegation for the Chengdu Universiade comprises over 700 members, including 411 athletes from over 100 universities across the country who will compete in all the sports.

In order to minimize the impact of the pandemic and guarantee participation of students, FISU raised the maximum age of participants from 25 to 27.

Additionally, a rule that only current students and those who have graduated within one year can participate was also relaxed, allowing for the participation of students who graduated in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Chengdu has completed the construction, renovation, and expansion of 49 venues and facilities, which boast top-tier infrastructure and service.

The opening ceremony will take place in the Dong'an Lake Sports Park on Friday evening.

Known as the hometown of giant pandas, Chengdu has also laid on a series of sporting and cultural activities involving giant pandas and Sichuan Opera.

The Universiade is a celebration of international university sports and culture, and brings together thousands of student-athletes, making it one of the world's largest multi-sport events.

Pak-Iran relations

ISLAMABAD: JI's Liaqat Baloch calls on H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan and discusses different aspects of the relations between the two brotherly, friendly & neighboring countries of Iran & Pakistan based on history and Commonalities & links.



Chinese Scholars visit ISSI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a 4-member Chinese delegation led by Mr. Yuan Jianmin, Counsellor of Xinjiang Autonomous Region Government. The delegation included Mr. Liu Zongyi, Secretary of China South Asian Study Centre, Shanghai Institute of International Studies; Mr. Wang Shida, Deputy Director of South Asia Studies, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR); and Mr. Li Jingfeng, Associate Professor, Sichuan Academy of Social Science.

The wide-ranging exchange of views covered the evolving global environment, developments in major-power relations, impact of 'Indo-Pacific' strategy on South Asia, achievements during the 'Decade of CPEC', and the salience of Pakistan China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership in international dynamics.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his introductory remarks, extended a warm welcome to the visiting scholars.

UNODC and FIA Commemorate World Day against Trafficking



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency with Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University successfully commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 27 July 2023. The event witnessed an overwhelming display of solidarity from medical students, faculty members, distinguished guests, and esteemed partners, all joining hands to raise awareness and combat human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a grave human rights violation affecting millions worldwide, exploiting vulnerable individuals and subjecting them to various forms of exploitation, including organ removal, forced labor, sexual exploitation, and domestic servitude. In recognition of the urgent need to address this critical issue, the event focused on the broader issue of trafficking while specifically shedding light on the distressing concern of trafficking for organ removal.

The FIA building and Shifa Hospital Building were illuminated in blue, symbolizing hope, and solidarity in the fight against trafficking. A highlight of the event was the commemoration held at Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, attended by medical students who are at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking. Speakers from UNODC and the FIA delivered powerful messages on the urgency to combat trafficking, emphasizing the role of medical professionals in identifying and addressing this crime.

"It is with immense pride and gratitude that we gather today to stand united against trafficking in persons. As a leading institution of education and healing, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University recognizes the significance of our collective responsibility in combating this grave human rights violation," said Prof. Dr. Mohammad Iqbal, Vice-Chancellor of Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University.

"We are humbled by the overwhelming response and support we have received for this important cause. Trafficking in persons, particularly for organ removal, is a grave human rights issue that demands our urgent attention," said Mr. Alam Shinwari, Director Anti-Human Smuggling of the FIA at Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University.

Mr. Alam Shinwari, further expressed gratitude to UNODC and specially to Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University for their commitment and collaboration, emphasizing the significance of collective efforts in the fight against trafficking.

Finland sets high hopes for Chengdu Universiade

Xinhua

HELSINKI: Over 100 Finnish student-athletes and team managers have traveled this week to Chengdu, China for the 31st FISU World University Games.

Markku Rantahalvari, events and training specialist from the Finnish Student Sports Federation (OLL), told Xinhua that Finland is looking forward to the games and has high hopes for success.

Rantahalvari said winning Finland's first ever Universiade medal in basketball is feasible, adding that Finland have historically had better results



at the Winter Universiade, but have also done well in the Summer Universiade lately, especially in track and field. Finland will participate in 11 events at the games. "The

National Olympic Committee (NOC) has selected the participants based on the suggestions from respective discipline federations, considering their expected performance," Rantahalvari said.

Rantahalvari elaborated that Finland's team in Chengdu includes three recent European under 23-year-old medalists, namely 5,000m silver medalist Emil Helander, javelin silver medalist Topias Laine, and Jessica Kahara, triple jump bronze medalist.

Finnish universities do not have sports programs for students. "Being active in sports, or even achieving

success, does not provide students with practical benefits in their studies," Rantahalvari underlined.

While the discipline federations take care of the top hopefuls during their studies, actual student sports pursuits are mainly on a hobby and leisure basis.

Founded in 1924, OLL is financed based on a grant from the Ministry of Education and membership dues from student unions of universities.

"We help develop sports services as a whole and support individual students," said Rantahalvari.

Chengdu ready to embrace the world

Xinhua

CHENGDU: Chengdu, the hometown of giant pandas and one of the most vibrant cities in China, is set to play host to the 31st FISU World University Games, which is to officially open on Friday.

The capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province will become the third city in the Chinese mainland to host the biennial Summer Universiade, following Beijing in 2001 and Shenzhen in 2011.

The Universiade, running from July 28 to August 8, will feature 269 events across 18 sports. In addition to 15 mandatory sports, it also includes three optional sports — rowing, shooting, and Wushu.

The Chengdu Universiade has been postponed twice, with the COVID-19 pandemic posing substantial challenges to its

preparatory work. Despite the difficulties, Chengdu has completed the construction, renovation, and expansion of 49 venues and facilities, which boast top-tier infrastructure and service.

The aquatics center features an intelligent water treatment system, which automatically monitors water quality and controls temperature, and the scoring system can reach an accuracy of one ten-thousandth of a second, said Bai Xue, deputy executive director of the center.

"We are now going through pre-match checks and will do our best for the Games," Bai said.

The Main Media Center was opened to registered media on Tuesday, providing various facilities and services in transportation, catering and language. It will operate around the clock during the Games.

The Chengdu Universiade

Village, located on the campus of Chengdu University and opened on July 22, can accommodate approximately 11,000 people. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, it offers top-notch services in catering, fitness, commerce, leisure, and cultural exchanges.

From broadcasting to security and medical services, a wide range of new technologies like 5G, cloud computing and artificial intelligence have also been employed to create a smart Universiade.

The torch relay of the Games was completed on Wednesday, and the flame will be lit during the official opening ceremony on Friday evening.

"The World University Games offer a fantastic opportunity for student-athletes to compete at the elite level in a multi-sport event," said Carrie Graf, a former Olympic gold medal-winning

coach who leads Australia's team.

According to the organizers, around 20,000 volunteers are working around the venues, park greenways, transportation hubs, and commercial areas to offer comprehensive services during the Games.

"Young people like me are looking forward to the Summer Universiade," said Zhao Yuxi, a student volunteer from Sichuan University.

Chengdu is also laying on a series of sporting and cultural activities, such as observing giant pandas and performances of Sichuan Opera, designed to highlight the host city's distinctive features.

"Chengdu is truly ready, and the organizing committee has done everything possible to welcome athletes from around the world," said FISU acting president Leonz Eder.



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
47,076.99	46,682.52	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
47,393.47	46,779.74	
Index Value	Change	
15,776,483,344	+394.47	
Percentage	Time	
+0.85%	27 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,692.76	+15.87	
Percentage	Time	
+0.21%	27 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
35,640.40	+120.28	
Percentage	Time	
+0.34%	27 Jul, 1:02 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,891.16	+222.82	
Percentage	Time	
+0.68%	27 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	766.54	774.54
Canadian Dollar	224	226.2
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	42.34	42.74
Euro	319.5	323
Hong Kong Dollar	35.97	36.32
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.95	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	939.13	948.13
Malaysian Ringgit	63.13	63.73
New Zealand \$	179.36	181.36
Norwegians Krone	27.95	28.25
Omani Riyal	748.62	756.62
Qatari Riyal	79.18	79.88
Saudi Riyal	76.8	77.6
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.5	27.8
Swiss Franc	333.43	335.93
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	80	80.9
UK Pound Sterling	372	375.7
US Dollar	289	292

Ayaz Sadiq hails WB, ADB economic support for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday appreciated the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) support for Pakistan during the devastating floods of 2022.

The minister highlighted that WB and ADB cumulatively greatly helped Pakistan in dealing with the adverse impacts of the devastating floods of 2022, the balance of payment issues, and improving the implementation progress of the development portfolio, said a press release issued here.

"Due to joint and well-coordinated efforts of WB, ADB, and EAD, we were able to achieve disbursement of US\$ 4.4 billion during FY2023. Together, we have set a remarkable precedent, setting the stage for even greater achievements in the future," said the Minister. The Secretary expressed gratitude to the WB, ADB, and his highly motivated team for responding to Pakistan's development needs and ramping up support, especially during emergency situations.

This level of disbursement is attributed to the tireless efforts and rigorous follow-up by EAD and both the banks with all stakeholders to proactively address the bottlenecks.



The Ministry of Economic Affairs hosted an Appreciation Ceremony to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of relevant EAD officers and the esteemed partners, the WB and ADB in achieving an exceptional level of disbursements during FY 2022-23. Najy Benhassine, the Country Director of

the World Bank in Pakistan, and Yong Ye, the Country Director of ADB in Pakistan, delivered heartfelt appreciation remarks, acknowledging the relentless commitment of the team of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

They praised the unwavering dedication of the team of EAD and emphasized the harmo-

nius partnership between the organizations and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The highlight of the event was the distribution of appreciation certificates by the Minister to the outstanding team members of the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Pakistani Oil Companies Collaborate with Saudi Aramco for \$10 Bln Greenfield Refinery Project

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: In a historic collaboration, four leading Pakistani state-owned companies will join hands for Greenfield Refinery Project in Baluchistan. The momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony took place at OGDCL House Islamabad.

The Pakistani state-owned entities, Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL), will collaborate through a joint investment strategy. The project will have significant foreign investment from world-class oil and gas giants through equity participation.

The project envisions setting up an integrated refinery petrochemical complex with crude oil processing capacity of minimum 300,000 BPD along with petrochemical facility in Pakistan. The integrated refinery petrochemical complex shall comprise of various components such as marine infra-



structure, petrochemical complex, storages for crude oil and refines utilities, pipeline connectivity etc.

Secretary Petroleum – Captain (R) Muhammad Mahmood in his opening remarks shared salient aspects of the Greenfield Refinery Policy and underscored the commitment of the Petroleum

Division towards the development and growth of the Petroleum Sector.

MoS (petroleum Division) – Dr. Musadik Masood Malik highlighted details of the project and its benefits to national economy by way of economic growth, foreign exchange savings, energy security, employment opportunities and social upliftment.

SECP Registers Life Insurance Company as a Pension Fund Manager

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Promoting healthy competition in the pension management field, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered M/s IGI Life Insurance Limited as a Pension Fund Manager under the VPS Rules established under the Voluntary Pension System Rules, 2005.

The Pension Funds established under the VPS Rules are professionally managed savings-cum-investment vehicles, that enable salaried and self-employed individuals to contribute during their employment period, to accumulate savings available after retirement. The employer can also contribute in the pension funds for

their employees.

SECP believes that being long term products, Pension and Insurance can have natural synergies, and it is encouraging to see life insurance companies entering Pension markets.

The SECP aims to continue its reform agenda for the development of the private pension and annuity market in Pakistan. Currently the annuity regulatory framework for asset management sector and structural reforms in VPS are in process.



FBR launches IRIS 2.0, redefining user experience, efficiency

Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad on Thursday launched IRIS 2.0, an upgraded version of the tax filing system developed by Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL).

On this occasion, Member Inland Revenue (IR) Operations, Member Information Technology (IT), Chief Executive Officer PRAL and heads of IR and IT wings were also present, said a news release issued here.

IRIS 2.0 marks a significant milestone in tax administration with improved user experience, enhanced efficiency, and cost-saving for the FBR.

IRIS 1.0 and its successor IRIS 1.1, while pioneering, faced several challenges which impacted its performance and user satisfaction in addition to its costly hardware requirements during peak loads.

Addressing these concerns head-on, IRIS 2.0 has undergone a major transformation, with focus on robust backend enhancements and an intuitive frontend design, ensuring a seamless experience for both users and the FBR.

This was made possible with the leadership and directions of Chairman FBR, Member IR Operations and Member IT by transforming technologies, updating PRAL culture and optimizing PRAL teams.

By upgrading to IRIS 2.0, the FBR will enhance its tax filing operations for achieving greater efficiency, and significantly reducing hardware expenditures. Ultimately, the improved user experience will elevate overall user satisfaction, making IRIS 2.0 a valuable asset for the FBR.

IRIS 2.0 is indicative of the FBR and PRAL's resolve to utilize cutting-edge technology for improved service delivery and greater efficiency.

It reflects the vision of the Chairman FBR to see FBR as a modern, technology-driven and efficient organization, in the best service of the nation.

Media briefing

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik and Secretary Petroleum briefing the media about MOU signing of Greenfield Refinery Project on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Telecom Operators' Association formed – vows to boost digital economy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's long-awaited Telecom Operators' Association has been formed and held its first meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. The members include Jazz, Ufone/PTCL, Telenor, Nayatel, Cybernet, and TWA while new membership is open to all license holders of Cellular Mobile Operators (CMO), Long Distance International (LDI) Operators, Wireless Local Loop Operators (WLL), and Local Loop Operators (LL) (Fixed Line).

The board members nominated Mr. Aamir Ibrahim (CEO Jazz) as the first Chairman of the Association, while Mr. Wahaj us Siraj (CEO Naya-

tel) was appointed as Vice Chairman, Mr. Naveed Butt (Group Chief Regulatory Officer PTCL & Ufone) as President of the Management Committee and Mr. Syed Fakhar Ahmed (Chief Corporate & Regulatory Affairs Officer Jazz) as Interim Secretary General. The Association's ultimate objective is to accelerate the digitization of the Pakistani economy by advocating for policy and regulatory interventions in the telecom and broadband industries. The goal is to find favorable solutions that facilitate foreign investment, foster growth within the telecom industry, and provide innovative and exciting services to the hundreds of millions of customers in Pakistan. Furthermore, the Association aims

to foster digital inclusion, especially of marginalized communities and geographies, especially rural, youth, and women.

Sharing his thoughts on occasion, the 1st Chairman of the Association, Mr. Aamir Ibrahim, said, "This association will focus on creating awareness and a sense of urgency to help Pakistan get on the digital highway. An informed and healthy dialogue with the key policymakers is essential for the growth of the broadband services that serve as the backbone of the IT industry. Through this Association, the industry now has a robust platform to advocate for and drive the change that's needed for digital inclusion and empowerment in Pakistan."



On the occasion, Mr. Wahaj us Siraj (CEO Nayatel), Mr. Saad Muzaffar Warraich (CEO TWA), Mr. Maroof Ali Shahani (COO Cybernet), and Mr. Irfan Wahab Khan (CEO Telenor Pakistan) also shared their thoughts on the importance and way forward for the Telecom Operators' Association. The meeting featured some key

policy interventions that would later be brought to the govt through the Association's platform. All members pledged to optimize the platform to materialize the Digital Pakistan vision and consolidate efforts to foster inclusion, boost digitalization, and advocate for necessary changes to uplift the IT & telecom industries of Pakistan.

More powers to the caretaker govt is a good decision: Shahid Butt

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt said on Thursday that the business community supports the decision to give more powers to the caretaker government as it is the need of the hour.

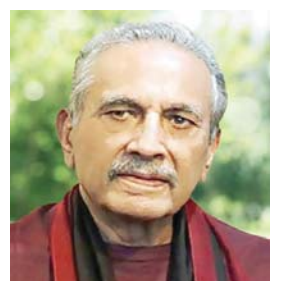
An interim setup is appointed to run day-to-day administrative affairs and not to make important decisions, but at this time the country's economic situation is critical and the threat of a default is looming, so giving them additional powers was necessary for the economic interests of the country, he said.

Shahid Rashid Butt said in a statement issued here today that in the presence of powerless caretaker government, several agreements and projects, including the agreement made with the IMF would have

been exposed to risks, and the opportunity to hold negotiations with the creditors would have been lost, which would have affected the people, traders, and industrialists.

To save the economy from destabilisation, the government has taken the right decision by amending the election laws in line with the economic situation of the country, which is laudable, he said.

The business leader said that now the interim setup will be able to hold negotiations with the IMF, other international creditors and take care of big projects.



Kristin Harila, Tenjen sherpa become fastest climbers to summit all 8000ers

Quratul Ain

ISLAMABAD: Norwegian woman climber Kristin Harila and her Nepali sherpa guide Tenjen (Lama) on Thursday scaled Mount K2 (8611m), the world's second highest peak in Pakistan, becoming the fastest persons to complete the 14 8000ers in three months.

"They have summited K2 at 10:45 am today (Monday), creating a new True Summit World Record," Karrar Haidri, secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan said in a statement.

"They have completed the feat of ascending 14 above 8000-metre peaks in a remarkable 3 months, 17 hours, and 45 minute period of time," he added.

Following is the detail of the 14 peaks they conquered



Shishapangma

26/04/2023

- Cho Oyu - 03/05/2023
- Makalu - 13/05/2023
- Kanchenjunga - 18/05/2023
- Everest - 23/05/2023
- Lhotse - 23/05/2023
- Dhaulagiri - 29/05/2023
- Annapurna - 05/06/2023
- Manaslu - 10/06/2023
- Nanga Parbat - 26/06/2023
- Gasherbrum II - 15/07/2023
- Gasherbrum I - 18/07/2023
- Broad Peak - 23/07/2023
- K2 - 27/07/2023

"This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to their extraordinary skills and determination," Haidri added. Haidri also shared the complete list of climbers, who ascended K2 on Thursday.

- Summiteers:
- Kristin Harila
- Tenjen Sherpa, a LAMA

Sherpa named Chhiring Namgel

- Sherpa Mingma Tenjen
- Sherpa Ang Dawa
- Lakpa Muktu Sherpa
- Susan Adbovais
- Lakpa Thendu Sherpa,
- Josette Valloton
- Sherpa Nima Rinji
- Fedor Kuprichenkov
- Phurba Sherpa
- Garbriel Tarso
- Mikel, a.k.a. Mingtemba Sherpa
- Sherpa Fura Tshering
- Ibrahim Flutura UTA
- Sherpa Tenjing
- Sherpa Pasang
- Pekova, Alina
- Laza, Adrian
- Team of Fixing Ropes on K2 from Seven Summit Treks:
- Pasang Nurbu Sherpa
- Mingtemba Sherpa
- Sherpa Ngima Dorchi

Pakistan Para Sports Foundation great performance and received winning trophy and award

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Special persons Umar Farooq and Ali Hamza from Multan have won the honor of introducing hard breaking and self defense stick sports in para international sports. Wheelchair Taekwondo stick fight and hard breaking sports demonstration in Dubai. It was conducted in a seminar. This first Para International Sports Seminar was organized by Pakistan Overseas Community Global. In the seminar, the team of Pakistan Para Sports Foundation showed great performance and received a trophy and award for the best performance.



Secretary of Para Sports Foundation Naecem Shehzad and coach Jamal Ghani accompanied the team. The first International Para Taekwondo Championship will be held in Dubai next year in which ten teams from eight countries will participate. The team of Pakistan Para Sports Foundation will also participate in the championship. Hard breaking and self defense stick will also be included in the international competitions of Para Sports.

Congratulations

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Cycling Federation's Secretary General, Moazzam Khan Klair, and President of PCF, Syed Azhar Ali Shah, proudly announced a monumental victory in the Squash Junior World Championship after three decades. The remarkable achievement of Mr. Hamza Khan, following in the footsteps of Jaan Sher Khan, celebrates Pakistan's extraordinary talent. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to President of Pakistan Squash Federation, Air Chief Marshal Zahcer Ud deen Babar, for his invaluable support in this success. The federation calls upon the government and private sector to generously back young and talented athletes like Hamza Khan, inspiring them towards even greater triumphs in future events.

Nepal's Nima Rinji becomes youngest climber to summit K2

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Nima Rinji Sherpa of Nepal on Thursday became the youngest climber at the age of 17 years 99 days to reach the top of Mount K2 (8611), the second-highest peak in the world, Alpine Club of Pakistan said in a statement.



Nima Sherpa reached his eighth 8000-meter summit by climbing Mount K2 (8611m) with Pasang Nurbu Sherpa as part of his quest to summit all 14 peaks while still a teenager.

Nima reached the summit of Nanga Parbat (8125 metres) earlier in June 2023 at the age of 17 years and 68 days, making history as the youngest climber to ever do so. That feat was achieved on June 26, 2023, at 7:15 am local time (Pakistan).

Earlier, in the previous spring season, Nima also broke the world record on Mount Everest and Lhotse at the youngest age by climbing double headers (8000ers) at 17 years 35 days on 24 May within 10 hours. After climbing Mt. Manaslu's actual summit in 2022, Nima from the Seven Summit Treks and 14 Peaks Expedition made history. He was the youngest person ever to do so.

- Details of Nima's summits:
1. Manaslu, 30 August 2022
 - Everest 24 May 2023
 3. 25 May 2023 Lhotse
 4. 26 June 2023 Nanga Parbat
 5. Gasherbrum II (18 July 2023)
 6. 19 July 2023 Gasherbrum I
 7. Broad Peak on 23 July 2023
 8. K2 27/07/2023

Pakistan down Australia in Asian Volleyball C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan displayed an outstanding performance and secured a remarkable victory against Australia in the highly anticipated match of the 1st Asian U-16 Volleyball Championship on Wednesday.

According to details, with an impressive score line of 3-0, Pakistan emerged triumphant, showcasing their exceptional skills and determination on the court.

The set points were 25-13, 25-19, and 25-14, demonstrating the team's dominance throughout the match.

The young players of the Pakistan team exhibited a brilliant show of talent, drawing applause from the spectators and fans.

Special exceptional contributions were Talal Ahmed (Setter), Muhammad Yahya (Opposite), Muhammad Anas (Middle Blocker), Muhammad Hasan (Middle Blocker) and Muhtad Ali (Outside Hitter).

PSB issues NOC to PHF for Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in India

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) on Thursday, issued a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to the national men's Hockey team to partake in the upcoming Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in Chennai, India.

According to the details, the national men's hockey team has already received the visa for India and will now travel to the neighbouring country on July 31.

Earlier this month, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) selection committee unveiled an 18-member squad for the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.

According to the details, the 18-member squad with seven stand-by players were finalised after the conclusion of two-day trials and was approved by PHF President Brigadier Khalid Sajjad Khokhar.

Umar Bhutta will continue to lead the national men's hockey team while Abdul Waheed Ashraf will serve as his deputy in the Asian Champions Trophy.

The recently-announced squad includes Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq



Khan, Muhammad Abdullah, Muhammad Sufyan Khan, Ehtisham Aslam, Osama Bashir, Aqeel Ahmed, Arshad Liaquat, Muhammad Imad, Abdul Hanan Shahid, Zakaria Hayat, Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf (vc), Muhammad Umar Bhatta (c), Roman, Muhammad Murtaza Yaqub, Muhammad Shahzaib Khan, Afraz and Abdul Rahman. Meanwhile, Ali Raza, Muhammad



Baqir, Muhammad Nadeem Khan, Abdul Wahab, Waqar Ali, Muhammad Arsan and Abdul Qayyum have been included in the stand-by players' list.

Last month, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) unveiled the schedule of the upcoming Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.

As per the statement released by the AHF, the six-team tournament will run

from August 3 to 12 in Chennai.

The tournament will begin with Korea and Japan playing the first game, while hosts, India will play the third game of the opening day when they take on China.

The six-team tournament will see Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, China, and India battle it out for top honours. All the participating teams are placed in one pool and the positions on the points table will be decided by a league system.

Pakistan will start their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy campaign against Malaysia on August 3 before taking on Korea on August 4, Japan on August 6 and China on August 7.

The green shirts will then lock horns with arch-rivals India in their last round fixture on August 9.

The final of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy will be held on August 12.

Notably, Pakistan and India are the most successful sides of the tournament, having won the title thrice each while Korea will participate in the upcoming edition as the defending champions, who won the previous edition in 2021.

Appreciation

ISLAMABAD: IPA, arranged a friendly football match between the Street Children Football team of Pakistan with Diplomats Football Team containing members from Spain Italy Afghanistan France and others at Jinnah Sports Complex Islamabad with the collaboration of Maidan NGO which is part of Muslim Hands UK. It was a great event Dr Shoiab Suddle IGP (R) President IPA Pakistan was the chief Guest of the event. The Pakistan Street Children Team won the match. The event was followed by dinner. Prize distribution ceremony and photo session with the team was also done. The contribution of IPA Region Islamabad was highly appreciated. Street Children Team of Pakistan will participate in the Norway cup being held from 30th of this month.



Pakistan U16 volleyball team advance to Asian Volleyball C'ship semifinal

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan under 16 volleyball team showcased an outstanding performance, defeating Thailand and earning a well-deserved place in the semifinals of the 1st Asian U16 Volleyball Championship in Uzbekistan on Thursday.

In an exhilarating match against Thailand, the young Pakistani athletes demonstrated exceptional skills and determination, resulting in a well-deserved victory with a final score of 3-0, according to information received here.

The spirit and agility exhibited on the court

were indicative of the immense talent and potential possessed by the rising stars of Pakistan's volleyball. Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) in a statement acknowledged the team's accomplishment.

Chairman PVF Muhammad Yaqoob was effusive in his praise for the U16 team, emphasizing their commitment and hard work, which enabled them to surpass a formidable opponent like Thailand.

He expressed his delight at the team's achievement and expressed confidence in their ability to excel in the forthcoming matches.

President PVF Sohail

Khawar Mir also extended his warmest congratulations to the victorious athletes, highlighting their extraordinary teamwork and skill set.

Mir attributed the success to the relentless efforts of the coaching staff and the undying spirit of the players, who showcased resilience and never-give-up attitude throughout the match.

Associate Secretary, former xaptain Pakistan Volleyball Team Naseer Ahmed appreciated young players and announced Rs1,00,000 for the team.

The Pakistani team, under the able leadership of their coach, has been displaying exceptional teamwork, resil-

ience, and technical expertise, making the nation proud with their remarkable performance in the championship thus far. With their recent victory, the U16 team has elevated the expectations for future volleyball tournaments.

The Pakistan Volleyball Federation is dedicated to nurturing and promoting volleyball at various age levels, providing a platform for young athletes to develop their skills and achieve their dreams.

Chairman Ch Muhammad Yaqoob and President Sohail Khawar Mir both reiterated their commitment to supporting the team and ensuring



they receive the best training facilities and resources to unleash their full potential.

As the journey continues for Pakistan's U16 Volleyball Team in the Asian U16

Volleyball Championship, the entire nation eagerly awaits their upcoming semifinal clash with bated breath. With their exceptional talent and unwav-

ering determination, Pakistan's young players have the potential to bring home the championship title and place their country at the forefront of Asian volleyball.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mirza Sami-ul-Haq s/o Mirza Muhammad Banaras, allottee of plot No. 51-B, Satellite Town Scheme, Rawalpindi have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mirza Imtiaz Ahmed s/o Mirza Muhammad Banaras vide registered deed at No. 239/A dated 18-02-2015 from Sub Registrar (U-1), Rawalpindi. Furthermore, General Power of attorney holder wish to transfer Sheikh Arif Mehmood Sathi s/o Sheikh Muhammad Zaffar Sathi of the above mentioned plot.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi