

## CAA protests: Saad Rafique invites unions' heads for talks

The federal government has decided to hold talks with the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) officers and employees unions who are protesting against the outsourcing of airports. Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique invited the heads of the CAA unions for holding talks on the issue of airports' outsourcing. (Details on Page 8)



## Asad Umar rejects Shabbar Zaidi's claims about Pakistan's default in PTI regime

Former general secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Asad Umar on Friday reacted to former Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman Shabbar Zaidi's claims that the country's economy would have collapsed, had the PTI government completed its tenure. Taking to Twitter, Umar said: "Hello Shabbar bhai, where did this story come from?" He said that the PTI government was formed in August 2018... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

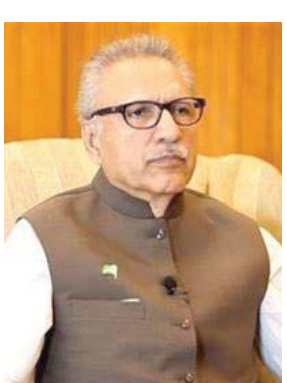
## Condolence

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday meets President of UAE H.H. Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Makhtoum during his visit to offer condolences upon the sad demise of Sheikh Saeed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.



Photo: PID

## President grieved over death of UAE president's brother



grief over the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the brother of the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

The president condoled over the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and prayed for peace for the departed soul.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

"In this hour of sorrow, my sympathies and those of the Pakistani nation are with the people and the royal family of the UAE," the president remarked.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday expressed

## PM arrives in UAE to condole over death of UAE President's brother

News Desk

Faisal Niaz Tirmizi.

The Prime Minister conveyed the profound sympathies and condolences of the leadership, Government and people of Pakistan to the president of UAE on his brother's demise, which was received with great warmth by His Highness Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Pakistan and the UAE are bound by close fraternal ties. His Highness Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was a sincere friend of Pakistan. His invaluable contributions will be long remembered by the Government and the people of Pakistan.

# People of Balochistan have first right on province's resources: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the people of Balochistan had the first right to the resources of the province as the betterment of their lives would make them own the development. "The people of Balochistan have the first right to the resources of the province. When their lives and those of their children change for the better, they will own development and become a partaker in it," the PM wrote on social media.

## Sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA) reminds Muslims to stand against tyranny: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA) gave the precious lesson of unwavering faith, piety and struggle for justice, reminding Muslims that it was their moral responsibility to stand up against oppression and tyranny.

In a message on the occasion of Youm e Ashura, he said Ashura, 10th Muharram, had profound historic and spiritual significance for the Muslims all over the world. The PM spent an "eventful" day in Gwadar on Thursday along with federal ministers, army and naval chiefs, the governor and chief minister of

projects that would change the destiny of the region. "Despite sporadic attempts here and there, Balochistan has been a victim of our collective neglect. The province has not progressed at par with other federating units, which is a shame," he remarked.

He recalled that he had toured all the affected regions of Balochistan during the devastating floods last year and saw the conditions for himself. PM Shehbaz said that his idea of development was rooted in the uplift of the standards

of living of the people as it was their socio-economic well-being and welfare that formed the core of real development. He reiterated that Pakistan's progress was linked to that of Balochistan. "My meeting with the youth of the province on the occasion of the distribution of laptops was a high point of my visit. Their beaming faces reassured me that the future of Balochistan and Pakistan is in safe and responsible hands. The old guard only needs to do their bit," the PM remarked.

## Karbala tells us that great goals need tremendous sacrifices: Bilawal Bhutto



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the tragedy of Karbala teaches us that great sacrifices have to be made for great goals and in the end victory is always for truth. According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal

House on Friday, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said in his message on the occasion of Ashura Day that Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) sacrificed his life and that of his loved ones, which taught all of us that the one who stands with the truth can get his head can be cut, but it cannot bend. He further said that all the companions of Imam Hussain (RA), including his sister Bibi-Zainab's courage, patience, independence, and prudence, are also a beacon of light.

## Rana Sanaullah says 'no deadlock over assembly's dissolution'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that there is no deadlock between the government and the coalition partners over the dissolution of the assembly. While talking to a private news channel, Rana Sanaullah said that the assembly will be dissolved two days before the formal completion of its tenure. He confirmed that coalition partners are mulling over the appointment of a politician on the caretaker prime minister's (PM) slot. He said that Ishaq Dar or any other



politician could be appointed as the caretaker PM if the coalition partners made a final decision. Sanaullah added that PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif will return to the country very soon. He detailed that Nawaz Sharif will appear before the courts after securing protective bail before actively taking part in politics after being acquitted in all cases. Earlier, Interior Minister and Paki-

stan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah expressed outrage over the criticism on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's name for the caretaker prime minister's (PM) slot. Rana Sanaullah said in a statement that no one should launch criticism on Ishaq Dar's name being taken for the caretaker PM's slot. He said that recommendations are being given to appoint a politician on the caretaker premier's slot then the names of politicians would be suggested. He, however, clarified that PML-N and other political parties have not taken a decision about the caretaker premier so far but they are only recommendations being considered.

## Ishaq Dar, Mohsin Naqvi lays foundation stone of Data Darbar expansion project



Bureau Report

App would be helpful for Overseas Pakistanis to share their contribution in Langar (sacred food) through "Nazrana Online App" while sitting abroad and one could visit the interior of the shrine round the clock. Later, talking to the media, Ishaq Dar congratulated Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on the commencement of the Darbar expansion project and called it the third major expansion. They prayed for the safety and prosperity of the country. PML-N leader Bilal Yaseen and others were also present.

LAHORE: Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday jointly laid the foundation stone of expansion project of the shrine of sufi saint Hazrat Hassan Ali Hajveri (RA) popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhsh. They also bathe the shrine with rosewater and laid Chaddar on the shrine. The leaders also launched the "Nazrana Online" App. Briefing the media, the administrator informed that the

# Islamia University videos scandal: HEC forms fact-finding committee

Choudhary Abdul Khaliq

BAHAWALPUR: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has formed a five-member fact-finding committee on the Islamic University Bahawalpur videos and drugs scandal. The HEC fact-finding committee headed by Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ali will prepare a probe report. The committee members include National University Islam-

abad Lt Gen (R) Moazzam Ejaz, International University Lahore Pro-Vice Chancellor Najma Najam, Imperial College of Business Studies Lahore Rector Tahira Aziz Mughal and P&D Finance Advisor Mazhar Saeed. Over 5,000 obscene videos: The scandal of over 5000 obscene videos in Islamia University has shocked Bahawalpur. According to sources, the police are trying to suppress the video scandal whereas the report has been presented to the caretaker chief minister of Punjab. Three officers including the university's director of finance Dr Abuzar, Chief Security Officer Syed Ejaz Shah, and the transport officer Altaf however the university administration termed the arrest of three officers a conspiracy against the university. The report which was sent to the caretaker chief minister revealed that hundreds of student videos and eight grams of Ice drug were recovered from Ejaz Shah's possession. On the other side, DPO



Abbas Shah challenged the Islamia University allegations. He said that it was revealed that 113 drug-addict students are in the university

and there is prejudice against any institute. The DPO further said that the police's target is drug dealers, not universities and the police will expose them to stop the drug addiction in institutes. On Wednesday, the National Assembly's Standing Committee for Education discussed Islamia University Bahawalpur scandal. NA committee's members urged to summon the Regional Police Officer instead of the DPO. The new vice chancellor of the university attended the session online. The NA body had summoned the university officials with regard to the scandal. Recent scandal of over 5000 obscene videos in Islamia University Bahawalpur and alleged involvement of three university officers, sent shockwaves across the country. A report which was sent to the caretaker chief minister of Punjab revealed that hundreds of students' videos and eight grams of Ice drug were recovered from Chief Security Officer Ejaz Shah's possession.

## Mourners attending

A large number of mourners attend the procession of 9th Muharramul Ul Haram observing Youm e Ashur at Karbala Rohri.



## Tragedy of Karbala: A lesson in sacrifice, devotion, and resilience

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani said the incident of Karbala stands as an unparalleled example of unwavering faith in Allah Almighty, unmatched devotion to the cause, bravery, patience, and the spirit of martyrdom, as mentioned in the Holy Quran, to be remembered until the Day of Judgment.

He praised the Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions for exemplifying Quranic teachings, endurance, sacrifice, and the fervour of martyrdom.

"As Muslims, it is our social responsibility to stand firm against tyrannical forces that seek to spread chaos in society to achieve their reprehensible goals," the speaker asserted.

He emphasized that paying tribute to the martyrs of Karbala is best achieved by dedicating ourselves to the betterment of humanity and the development of the country.

He declared the sacrifices made on the Day of Ashura against falsehood as a guiding light for future generations,

truth and justice.



stating that they would not hesitate to make any sacrifices for the protection and preservation of Islam, the homeland, and its integrity.

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, stated that the incident of Karbala serves as a lesson for Muslims to firmly stand

against the forces of falsehood.

"This is the same path our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) taught us to follow, and which Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions exemplified through their timeless sacrifices," he said.

Durrani added that the tragedy of Karbala instills in us the spirit to be ready at all times to make any sacrifices for the elevation of religion and the welfare of the nation.

The messages from the speaker and the deputy speaker of the National Assembly resonate with the significance of Youm-e-Ashura, as it continues to inspire millions of Muslims worldwide to uphold the values of truth, justice, and sacrifice for the greater good of humanity and their nation.

The nation observes this solemn day with prayers and reflections, vowing to uphold the spirit of Karbala in the face of adversity and commit to the path of righteousness for generations to come.

## Asad Umar rejects Shabbar Zaidi's claims about Pakistan's default in PTI regime

### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Former general secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Asad Umar on Friday reacted to former Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman Shabbar Zaidi's claims that the country's economy would have collapsed, had the PTI government completed its tenure.

Taking to Twitter, Umar said: "Hello Shabbar bhai, where did this story come from?" He said that the PTI government was formed in August 2018, adding that the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) stood at \$9.8 billion at the end of the PTI govern-



ment's rule. The PTI leader said the SBP's reserves were \$8.7 billion when he left the finance ministry in April 2019. "From where did the default story come?" Zaidi assumed the charge in

2019. He was removed from the post in April 2020.

"Had the PTI government continued, the party would not have even secured 5 percent votes as the country would have economically collapsed," Zaidi said while talking to a

private TV channel.

He said he had advised the PTI chief to rectify his government's shortcomings and settle things, but he was not in the mood of listening to anyone.

Zaidi mentioned when he pointed out the economic crises, the PTI chief had removed Asad Umar as the finance minister.

The former FBR chief also spoke about influential people forcing him to drop the cases against people close to them or those who were politically important.

Zaidi said he "mistakenly" sent a notice to a landowner in Multan. "I asked him to reconcile his wealth with his agricultural income." In response,

40 parliamentarians "barged into my office", led by then-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, he added.

Zaidi said he tried bringing the tobacco industry people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the frontier regions into the tax net, but faced strong opposition from then-NA speaker Asad Qaiser.

"You cannot do this...you cannot enter our areas," Zaidi quoted Qaiser as saying.

The PTI's tenure was cut short in April 2022, when the government was ousted after the PTI chief was removed as the prime minister through a no-confidence motion, paving the way for Shehbaz Sharif and allies to come into power.

## CAA protests: Aviation minister invites unions' heads for talks

### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The federal government has decided to hold talks with the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) officers and employees unions who are protesting against the outsourcing of airports.

Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique invited the heads of the CAA unions for holding talks on the issue of airports' outsourcing.

The heads of the protesting CAA unions will hold a round of talks with Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique in Lahore on July 30. The unions have been informed by the CAA headquarters and the heads were instructed to bring written recommendations and concerns in

the upcoming session.

The CAA employees' unions will be represented by Samiullah, Azizullah Memon, Ayaz Butt, Ashraf Waheed and others in the upcoming talks.

The CAA officers and employees unions launched a protest movement against the federal government's decision to outsource airports in phases. The CAA employees have also threaten to shut down all operations. On July 19, CAA employees had staged protests against the outsourcing of airports, the CAA employees staged protests in several airports including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Sukkur, Gilgit, Rahim Yar Khan and Skardu.

## Jammu and Kashmir PM hails Imam Hussain for his sacrifice in Karbala

### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) sacrificed not only his own life but also his loved ones for the establishment of truth and justice.

In his message issued on the eve of 10th Muharram (Ashura), the PM, while highlighting the matchless sacrifices rendered by Imam Hussain (RA) and his followers, said, "Hussain is the symbol of sacrifice and struggle for right against wrong and for justice and truth against injustice and falsehood".

Terming Karbala as an unforgettable incident in the history of Islam, he said, the tragic incident speaks volumes about the patience, fortitude, courage, and perseverance Hazrat Imam Hussain, his family and followers have shown



for the protection of Islam", he said.

Urging India to shun its policy of intransigence, the PM said that it was high time that the Indian government must accept the ground reality and gave Kashmiris their birthright, the right to self-determination.

He said that Kashmiris' struggle for the right to self-determination would continue till every inch of occupied Kashmir was freed from India's illegal occupation.

## OIC's extraordinary CFM moot on July 31 to discuss Quran's repeated desecration

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will hold an extraordinary virtual session for the Council of Foreign Ministers of Member States (CFM) on July 31 to discuss the repeated incidents of desecration and burning of copies of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark.

This session has been convened at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Chair of the 14th Islamic Summit, and the Republic of Iraq.

This urgent meeting of ministers has been called in response to the final statement issued by the OIC Executive Committee after an extraordinary meeting held at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on July 02, this year.

The statement addressed the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran in



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Sweden and called for high-level emergency meetings as needed.

The meeting is being held considering the OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha's consultations with the member states regarding the implementation of the final statement issued by the Executive Committee.

Further measures are also being considered in response to the repeated provocative actions that represent deliberate religious hatred and intolerance.

## PTI chief's arrest warrant suspended

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a written verdict of July 25 hearing in which it suspended the arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief in a contempt case.

In the written order, the ECP suspended non-bailable arrest warrant for the PTI chief in the contempt case.

The PTI chief has been summoned in personal capacity before the election commission on August 2. Moreover, the commission also accepted the request of the PTI chairman's lawyer for the provision of case records.

The commission ordered the concerned wing for providing relevant records to the PTI chief's counsels and temporarily suspended the non-bailable arrest warrant.

On July 24, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had issued non-bailable arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman in contempt case.

The non-bailable warrants were issued in the case related to the contempt of Election Commission of Pakistan. The ECP ordered



police to arrest and produce the PTI chairman.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had decided to indict former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar in a case related to the contempt of the electoral body.

In August 2022, the ECP issued notices to Imran Khan and others for allegedly using "intemperate" language against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja and the electoral watchdog.

The political leaders repeatedly lambasted the commission and CEC Sikandar Raja and termed electoral body as a "subsidiary of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz".

A four-member commission headed by Sindh member Nisar Durrani announced the reserved verdict on the reservations raised by the PTI.

## Housemaid torture: Victim girl Rizwana, father record statement



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A minor housemaid, Rizwana, who was allegedly subjected to torture at the house of a judicial officer in Islamabad on Friday recorded her statement along with her father.

According to the spokesperson for Islamabad police, the team recorded statements of the victim girl and her father.

During the statement, the victim girl bravely confirmed the allegations of torture at the hands of the judicial officer's wife.

The father expressed his determination to seek justice for his daughter and dismissed any talks of reconciliation.

The police have assured that a thorough investigation is underway, and all individuals involved in the crime will be held accountable, in accordance with the law.

The case involves child labor, which is a punishable offense under the law, and provisions related to this will be considered, the police said. 14-year-old maid was alleged-

ly 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.

The wife of a civil judge namely Asim Hafeez deputed at the Federal Judicial Academy - Sargodha allegedly tortured her maid namely Rizwana after blaming her for stealing gold jewellery.

The family of the affected maid said that the girl was working as a servant at the civil judge's house in Islamabad for six months and she was subjected to brutal torture by the civil judge's wife. They added that the owners did not pay a single penny of salary to the girl.

Police said that more than 15 torture marks were found on the affected girl's face and body. The seriously wounded maid was immediately shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital for medical assistance.

The doctors of the DHQ Hospital referred the girl to the Lahore Hospital for further treatment. Police said that the torture case will be lodged at a police station in Islamabad.

# Truth and truth will live, Hussaini and Yazidi conflict has been going on 1400 years: Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former Pakistani Foreign Minister and Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that truth and truth will live, Hussaini and Yazidi conflict has been going on for 1400 years. Hussain and Hussainity are alive and will remain, Yazidism has perished. On 9 Muharram, Mumtazabad's ancient, traditional and central procession is going to be held. Despite the intense heat, there is a huge rush of people. By which his Hussaini spirit is showing. People have taken exemplary steps in this procession. 9 Muharram Al Haram arrangements are very good. The people of Mumtazabad have installed sabils in different places. It is a good thing that all classes in Multan celebrate Muharram Al Haram days together.

And from here the message of peace

goes to the whole country. He expressed these views while talking to the media before the main procession of 9th of Muharram in Mumtazabad. Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi was also with him. He said that processions, sabils, funeral processions, all these measures are being celebrated together by the Shia Sunni brothers in Multan. There is no distinction here. It is necessary to be human to celebrate Hussaini Day. There is no limitation of jurisprudence. The tradition of Tazia also started from Multan. Symbols of devotion and love have been planted in various places.

He said that me and Zain Qureshi participated in the 45th annual Hussainiya Conference at Raza Hall Multan today. Scholars of all schools of thought were gathered there who paid homage to Imam Malik. My father late Makhdoom Sajjad Hussain Qureshi founded the Hussainiya conference



in Multan 45 years ago and I and my sons are continuing this tradition. From the platform of this conference, the message of peace, love, brotherhood and tolerance goes across the country. He said that I inspected the campuses of various institutions including 1122. Exemplary arrangements have also been made by the administration. While the licensees are also cooperating fully. I pray that Allah Ta'ala passes the day of Ashura with goodness. He said, I pray to Allah to make the whole country, including Multan, a cradle of peace. Later, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi participated in the main procession of Mumtazabad. He met Syed Qamar Naqvi, licensee of the procession, and other dignitaries. He remained in the procession for some time. He attended Niaz Imam Hussain at various places in Mumtazabad.

## Langar

ISLAMABAD: Volunteers are preparing "Langar" for mourners of 9th Muharram procession at Sector G-6/2 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Police killed chief of Janu Andhar dacoit gang and 8 other members: Amjad Sheikh

Asim Tanveer

KASHMIRE: Intelligence-based targeted operation in Kashmir and Rahim Yar Khan Kachcha area of River Indus. District Police Officer Amjad Sheikh Said Kashmir Police Killed. Police Confirmed Janu Andhar the leader of the Andhar Robbery Gang, known as a symbol of fear and terror, was killed along with 8 associates. Govt Of Sindh 1 crore rupees head money fixed to Janu An Notorious dacoit Prince Dashti and Bhuri Shar injured during police encounter.

A major operation in Kachcha Area Of Punjab Sindh Bordering Area Of Kashmir, an Janu Andhar along with 8 accomplices were killed and two bandits were injured, police spokesperson. The slain bandit Janu Andhar was seen as a symbol of fear and terror in the Andhar area, and attacked a petrol pump in the Chowk Mahi Near Kashmir area two years ago, in which he was the main suspect in the murder of 12 people.

Mishi Andhar, Somer Shar, and Katta Shar were also among the dead robbers, Notorious dacoit Prince Dashti and Bhuri Sher injured during police encounter. The slain dacoits belong to the notorious Andhar gang.

The police acted on a tip-off in Kutch Kashmir In the operation, the police had the help of modern weapons, armored vehicles.

Under the supervision of ASP Shahzeb Chachhar, in-charge CIA Bhong Naveed Nawaz Wahla, ISHO Kotsabzal Saifullah Malhi and ISHO Machchka took part in a heavy police force. The search operation of the area by heavy police force is going on.

## Exemplary law and order is being demonstrated on the occasion of Muharram ul Haram: Amir Khattak



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: All the meetings and processions of Muharram-ul-Haram ended on time. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak, RPO Multan Region Captain R. Sohail Chaudhry visited various places of the city for the inspection of the procession routes and asked the peace committee members. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak said that exemplary law and order is being demonstrated on the occasion of Muharram Haram on the instructions of the Punjab government.

156 mourning processions, 263 congregations ended peacefully on the 9th of Muharram Al-Haram in the division. The scholars of all Sects demonstrated brotherhood and tolerance. They said that The Punjab government has delegated full powers to the district administration for the establishment of peace. Monitoring of processions, restriction of working hours will be ensured on Ashura day as well. RPO Multan Region Captain R. Sohail Chaudhry said that

Full security has been provided to the participants of processions and assemblies in Muharram. Sohail Chaudhry said that more than 7,000 policemen will perform duty on Ashura Day in the division. Literature based on religious hatred, controversial speeches are banned.

## Lahore High Court Bar Association pledges support for promoting sports in Lahore

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A special meeting was held with Ms. Rabbia Bajwa, Vice President of Lahore High Court Bar Association, and Mr. Shahrukh Shahbaz Warraich, Finance Secretary of Lahore High Court Bar Association, along with Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair, Secretary General of Pakistan Cycling Federation, and Mr. Sheikh Mazhar Ahmed, Secretary General of Pakistan Baseball Federation, under the leadership of Vice President Chaudhary Kabir Ahmed Khan.

During the meeting, Ms. Rabbia Bajwa and



Mr. Shahrukh Shahbaz Warraich expressed their strong commitment to collaborate with Pakistan Cycling Federation and Pakistan Baseball Federation to promote cycling and baseball in Lahore.

They acknowledged that sports play a crucial role in a nation's progress and contribute significantly to physical well-being.

Additionally, they highlighted how cycling, being an eco-friendly sport,

helps conserve resources and fosters a healthier environment. The Lahore High Court Bar Association pledged their full support and cooperation to work towards the advancement of sports.

Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair extended his gratitude to all the members of the Bar Association for their dedication to promoting sports and emphasized their valuable contribution to the development of the sports community. The meeting concluded with a shared determination to work together and take pride in contributing to the progress of sports in Lahore.

## CTD operations in Punjab and arrested 10 terrorists from banned organizations

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: According to the Spokesman The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 10 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 132 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 134 suspected persons were interrogated and 10 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are the terrorist belong to banned organizations Tehreek Taliban Pakistan, Daesh, Sepah e Sahaba Pakistan, Lashkar Jhangvi and other organizations.

## Cotton Research: Pakistan needs a giant leap, big R&D money to secure cotton future

Iftikhar Ahmad

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

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

Agriculture scientists are trying to develop numerous cotton varieties in Pakistan too since the day Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation of the Pakistan Central

Cotton Committee (PCCC) back in 1948.

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

Moreover, 72 varieties were developed by Cotton Research Institute (CRI) Multan which was working under the provincial government and operational well before the partition, said retired Director Cotton Punjab Dr. Sagheer Ahmad, nowadays heading Tara CropSciences' Research and

Development wing as chief scientist.

There are other prestigious research institutions like the Nuclear Institute of Agriculture Tandojam, National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (Nibge), Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad, Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB) Punjab University Lahore.

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

"There are 150 reported cotton enemy pests in Pakistan, highest than any other cotton-producing country



in the world," said Sajid Mahmood.

"Traditional cotton varieties did wonders and there were occasions when Pakistan touched 14 million bales mark or remained just below, thanks to CCRI Multan variety CIM-496, Niab-78 by Nuclear Institute of Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad, MNH-93 and S-12 by CRI Multan and some others,"

said Khawaja Shoaib, who added that Pakistan had the potential of producing at 18-20 million bales if the crop was managed properly.

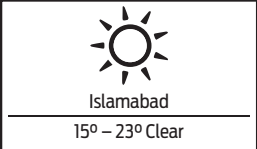
In 1948-49, Pakistan's lint per hectare (KG/HA) production was over 700 kilograms, higher than India, the largest cotton producer in the world of cotton.

According to statistics of last decade from 2009 to 2022, the country's kg/ha was 707kg in 2009 and it gained 12,914 million bales production from 3.106 million hectares. It rose to 724kg per hectare in 2010 but production reduced to 11.4 million owing to area reduced to 2.689 million hectares.

However, come 2011-12, lint production blinked at 815 kilograms

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

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



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 3:40 am  
 Zohr ..... 12:14 pm  
 Asr ..... 5:08 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 7:12 pm  
 Isha ..... 8:48 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

*India cannot weaken freedom spirit of Kashmiris through brute force: APHC-AJK- Chapter*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Information Secretary of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Imtiaz Wani, has said that India cannot weaken the freedom spirit of Kashmiris through use of brute force.

Imtiaz Wani in a statement in Islamabad said India is increasing the number of its troops in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to prolong its illegal rule over the territory, which is condemnable.

He said India is actually converting the occupied territory into a military garrison to occupy the lands of the Kashmiris in the Israeli style and now the Indian soldiers are being allotted lands in different areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He said India wants to change the demography of Kashmir by issuing domicile to non-Kashmiris.

He has said that despite the deployment of millions of Indian soldiers, India has failed to weaken the freedom spirit of the Kashmiris and would continue their freedom movement till taking it to its logical conclusion.

# Gwadar airport best example of Pak-China cooperation: Senator Sana Jamali

**Spokesman Report**

BELJING: Gwadar airport's construction in a short span of time is the best example of cooperation between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), said Senator Sana Jamali.

Talking to Urdu Service of China Media Group (CMG) during her visit to China, she particularly highlighted the rapid progress of Gwadar development project.

She said that the construction of Gwadar airport was the best example of success in a short time and wished to start direct flights from Beijing to Gwadar soon.

About the Balochistan's progress, she said that the largest province of Pakistan was experiencing a significant development under the CPEC, a pilot project of the BRI launched by the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Senator Sana Jamali, who is also a member of Senate Committee on Power Affairs, National Health Services Regulation and Coordination Committee, appreciated the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

She expressed the confidence that both Pakistan and China would achieve a lot of benefits from the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China a decade ago.

Senator Sana Jamali also expressed gratitude for China's support on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Belt and



Road Initiative and appreciated the commendable progress in the Gwadar project.

Stressing a need for Chinese language learning programs, she said that the Chinese learning

centers were being introduced in Pakistani universities to further promote bilateral cooperation and understanding.

She informed that more special economic zones would be set up

in the province and also highlighted that there was a wide scope for cooperation in the agricultural sector in Balochistan.

Senator Sana Jamali termed China's modernization as an ideal

model of peaceful development and said that Pakistan and other developing countries can learn a lot from it.

She highly appreciated China's peaceful development and its positive impact on regional peace and stability. Stressing cooperation in tourism sector, she said that there was lot of potential in the field of tourism and youth exchange between the two countries.

"The cooperation in these fields will help the people of both countries to know and understand each other better," she added.

Senator Sana Jamali said that China-Pakistan relations were strong and inclusive and added, both countries will continue to work together for mutually beneficial development and progress.

## Illuminated

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Parliament House illuminated with colours of the Pakistan and Chinese flags in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Incident of Karbala is great lesson of sacrifice for humanity: Sardar Attique

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the incident of Karbala is a great lesson of self-sacrifice and struggle for humanity. In a special message on the occasion of Ashura Day, he said that Imam Hussain, may Allah be pleased with him, gave a new color and harmony to the history of sacrifices by sacrificing himself and his



family. This sacrifice teaches the humanity that in comparison to oppression and coercion, one should pay the heavy price of raising the knowledge of truth. He said that the inci-

dent of Karbala is a metaphor of struggle and resistance against injustice. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, said that Hazrat Imam Hussain who is a beacon of light for the world of humanity.

He further said that today in occupied Kashmir, India has martyred millions of Kashmiris due to its cruel oppression and Kashmiri Muslims are sacrificing their children by showing practical devotion to Hazrat Imam Hussain. He said, That temporary victory and defeat are of no impor-

tance in such a conflict. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the sacrifice of Imam Ale Maqam is a torch for all times and worlds. Paying tribute to the martyrs of Karbala, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the philosophy of the incident of Karbala teaches us that no matter how much sacrifice should be made for the sake of the right, because the right always wins and falsehood is eradicated and the oppressor. No matter how powerful he is so called he always faces defeat he added.

## Alam-o-Zuljannah procession ends peacefully amid tight security

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: The 9th Muharram procession of Alam-o-Zuljannah was taken out from village Sheen Bagh Attock amid tight security on Friday morning. The azadars recited Nohas in groups and also performed Zanjeer zani and Matum. Sabeels of water, milk and Nayaz stalls were set up by local organizers at different point for the mourners, while a special

mobile medical team from DHQ hospital and Rescue 1122 provided treatment to the mourners. The procession after passing through its traditional route ended peacefully on Imam Bargah Hussainia Sheen Bagh latter a Majalis was held at the imam Bargah Sheen Bagh in which zakareen highlighted the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain A. S and the brutality of Yazediati at Karbala. They said "Hazrat Imam Hussain

A. S is the symbol of a unique philosophy and way of life which draws a line of demarcation between noble and civil forces"

Karbala is an incident that gives the message of upholding righteousness and truth to the mankind for their eternal success, they added. As many as 96 procession and 684 majalis had so far been held peacefully at various part of the dist and no untoward incident

was reported.

Police source said. Besides the department of fire brigades, civil defense and bomb disposal squad, all hospitals and Edhi centers have been put on high alert during ashura. Directives have been issued to make all necessary arrangements at the emergency ward of hospitals and to ensure the presence of ambulance and medical staff along the routes of Aushura processions.

## Turi says we should maintain the atmosphere of peace and brotherhood during Muharram



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Sajid Hussain Turi visited the Crisis Management Cell/Control Room established in the office of Deputy Commissioner Kurram, where he met the peace committee members, leaders and officers of the line departments. Besides, Deputy Commissioner Kurram gave a detailed briefing to the Federal Minister regarding the comprehensive plan prepared regarding Muharram.

Expressing his views, the Federal Minister said, "That Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) is a benefactor of humanity and the world of Islam, Islam teaches us brotherhood. We should maintain the atmosphere of peace and brotherhood during Muharram and perform our duties well." At the end of the meeting, special prayers were offered for the safety and survival of the country and the successful conclusion of Muharram.

Later, the Federal Minister participated in the procession along with the leaders of the 'Peace Committee' and met the officials and leaders of Muzkri Imambargah Parachinar. Deputy Commissioner Karam Mr. Syed Saiful Salam Shah and District Police Officer Mr. Muhammad Imran were also present on this occasion.

The District Police Officer gave a detailed briefing to the Foreign Minister regarding security for Muharram.

## Chilean woman reaches Pakistan, marries Charsadda TikToker



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Social media cannot be painted negatively always as in recent days it is responsible for uniting lovers across borders.

After Indian and Pakistanis who became friends on social media platforms, a woman from other side of the globe came to Pakistan to tie the knot.

The Indian and Pakistanis befriended on PUBG and Facebook. Nikoli Anara Gulsalos, a citizen of South American country Chile, landed in Charsadda earlier this week, embraced Islam and married her social media friend Ikramullah of Bhusakhel village on Thursday. Gulsalos is given Islamic name Noreen.

Ikramullah and Noreen contracted marriage in a local court. According to Ikramullah, he used to upload videos on TikTok. He said he saw Noreen for the first time in April and they soon developed a friendship.

## Sector Commander (S) visits DHQ Hospital Tank along with DC, reviewed health facilities

**Adam Khan Wazir**

TANK: Sector Commander (South) visited District Headquarter Hospital Tank along with Deputy Commissioner Tank Mohammed Shoiab and reviewed the health facilities provided to patients.



On arrival at the hospital, MS Dr Ghazala Hidayat and other doctors warmly welcomed them.

During visit, they visited different departments of the hospital and examined the facilities being provided to patients.

MS Dr. Ghazala Hidayat gave detailed briefing about the hospital to Sector Commander South and Deputy Commissioner Tank Muhammad Shoiab.

On this occasion, MS Dr. Ghazala Hidayat said that with the efforts and cooperation of the Sector Headquarters South, the three chillers that were provided for the different wards of the hospital have been installed, while the faulty ACs of the hospital have been repaired and has been made functional.

MS thanked the Sector Commander South for his full cooperation and support.

## Zali Khel tribe will not allow anyone to interfere in the internal Jirga, consensus

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: In Lower South Waziristan district headquarter, Wana, Zali tribal elders gave a briefing to the journalists and on this occasion the leading 9-member committee of Zali Khel tribes Malik Saeed Ullah Wazir, Malik Sardar Ali Wazir and Malik Saif Ullah Khan Wazir addressed the media, said during a detailed briefing to the representatives that the elders of the Zali Khel nation have a very positive role for the region, many enmities turned into friendship with the efforts of Elders,



The political and non-political lead-

ers of the area and the Government are requested not to interfere in the internal tribal traditional jirga of the Zali Khel tribe.

They further said that Zali Khel tribal chiefs are responsible people, they have sacrificed their lives for the country and the region before and will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice in the future.

The elders made it clear that we will not oppose the police system and will cooperate in the field of stability. But unfortunately, the police neglected their responsibilities and could not stop drugs, theft, robbery and other negative activities.

The elders said that they are solving their tribal problems in the area through Jirga talks, thank God that the problem of Dana Azam Warsak bridge has been solved and many other problems have been solved which you cannot even imagine can. God willing, in this way, we will continue to play a positive role for the region and resolve national disputes etc. through negotiations.

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# Broken Myth of Gwadar Port

**D**uring a ceremony in Dera Ismail Khan on July 25th in the presence of the Prime Minister, Moulana Fazal ur Rehman made a stunning revelation about Gwadar port. He stated that Gwadar, which we trumpeted all over the world as the deepest sea port in the region capable of harbouring mother ships, which no other port in the area or neighbouring countries could, is no longer as deep as we thought, having already lost its depth from 18 metres to 11 metres and continuing to lose depth even now, and thus no mother ship or even large ship could dock here. This was such an eye-opening surprise that it prompted me to conduct further investigation on Maulana's heart-breaking remarks. Yes, the assertion is valid, and it is possible that this is one of the reasons why the Gwadar port has yet to emerge as a significant port in the region or all over the world.

According to one study, which was published in the journal "Marine Geology" in 2022, the port is losing depth at a rate of roughly 1.5 centimetres per year. The authors of the study attributed this to a combination of natural forces, such as Indus River sediment transfer, and human actions, such as dredging and deforestation. Another study, published in 2021 in the journal "Environmental Science & Technology", discovered that the port is also threatened by climate change. The authors of the study discovered that the sea level in the vicinity of Gwadar is increasing at a rate of roughly 3 millimetres per year, and that this is likely to accelerate in the future. Aside

from dredging, one option was to minimise the quantity of silt delivered into the port by the Indus River, create seawalls to protect the port from flooding, and plant trees to assist stabilise the coastline.

The success of dredging, which is now the only short-term solution to restore Gwadar Port's depth, is mostly dependent on the amount of sediments carried to the sea by Pakistan's river system. According to a survey, the Indus River transports an estimated 300 million tonnes of silt to the Arabian Sea each year, which is increasing due to fast melting glaciers, insufficient forest cover, a lack of river water treatment, soil erosion, and human rubbish dumping. This silt, however, is necessary for the formation of the Indus River delta, which is a crucial environment for a variety of plants and animals and serves to safeguard the shoreline by producing sea bed sedimentation.

But it is easier said than done; the cost of dredging a port where 300 million tonnes of sediment are added every year must be a perpetual and continuous process that is prohibitively expensive and unsustainable, necessitating a permanent solution that involves cleaning the Indus water of sediments before it is discharged into the sea. The Port of Los Angeles recently finished a dredging project that cost \$1.6 billion to dredge 20 million cubic yards of material, equivalent to 30 million tonnes of material, and transport it to a disposal location 20

miles offshore. Consider the cost of dredging 300 million tonnes of material transported to the sea each year by the Indus River alone.

During a preparatory meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s Joint Working Group (JWG) on Transport Infrastructure held on 22 May, 2022, it was observed that due to negligence of the previous regime, the depth of Gwadar port has decreased to 11 metres which should be 18 metres deep for navigation of big ships; which is preventing the anchoring of big ships on the port. The meeting proposed urgent measures to initiate the dredging process at Gwadar Port so that Gwadar port will be made a viable transportation of big ships.

The Gwadar port dredging project was started in 2015 and was supposed to be completed in 2017, but it was delayed due to our notorious incompetence, incapacity, and vested interests, and as usual, blame was placed on the political situation in Pakistan and the lack of dredging equipment. The China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) is now dredging Gwadar Port with the goal of increasing the depth of the port's navigational channel to at least 14.5 metres from its current depth of 11.6 metres. The dredging job is being done in two stages. Dredging the navigational channel is the first phase, which is presently underway. The second phase, which will commence after the first phase is finished, will include dredging the

approach channels and berthing areas, which would cost Rs. 4.7 billion and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. However, the price will be affected by currency fluctuations, fuel costs, and labour charges. Once completed, it will allow larger ships to operate smoothly, enhance port capacity, and ensure smooth ship movements in the entry channel, which is critical for Gwadar Port's future development.

Sedimentation is not the only issue confronting Gwadar port, which is preventing the anchoring of big ships on the port. Other issues include infrastructure and connectivity issues, political instability, law and order issues, a lack of trained and productive labour force, and the threat of terrorism and insurrection, to name a few. It is hampered by a lack of nearby road and rail networks, which are critical for efficiently delivering commodities to and from the port. It has formidable security problems because of its location in a sensitive region, Balochistan, which has been plagued by security issues and insurgency. Another factor discouraging international investors from committing to large-scale projects like the development of Gwadar port is Pakistan's precarious economic and political situations.

While Gwadar port is still under construction, regional countries have build several well-established ports, such as Dubai's Jebel Ali, which already has a strong infrastructure and connectivity advantage, and Chabahar of Iran, which provides the shortest and safest route to India, Afghanistan, and Central Asian Republic to warm waters and connects them with the rest of the world.

## Security arrangements

**S**indh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah during his visit to the route of the Muharram procession told the media that some terrorist incidents have taken place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan but "Alhamdulillah Sindh is safe because of intelligence-based targeted operation and close coordination among all the law enforcement agencies."

He said this while talking to the media at M. A. Jinnah Road during his visit to review the security arrangements made for the processions of 9 and 10 Muharram.

He was accompanied by Minister of Labour Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, and IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon.

Shah said "he has been reviewing the security situation in the province and giving necessary instructions to the police, Rangers, and other security agencies". "Our law enforcement agencies are alert and working hard for the peace and security in the province," he said.

Replying to a question, the CM said that the mobile phone service has been suspended due to security reasons.

"The terrorist threats can be averted through technology, therefore internet and cell phone services were suspended," he added.

The CM said he also visited the entire route of the procession, entry, and exit point, parking lots, and deployment of policemen and other security agencies personnel. "We have tried to make foolproof security arrangements and Inshallah everything will go as per plan," he said.

Earlier, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon briefed the chief minister and said that the route of the 9th and 10th Muharram processions would be Nishtar Park- Numaish-M. A. Jinnah Road- Mansfield Street - Preedy Street - Tibet Chowk M. A. Jinnah Road- Boulton Market - Bombay Bazar- Kharadar - Nawab Mohabbat Road and Termination at Hussainian Iranian Imambargah.

He said there would be 20 designated diversion points of the procession right from Teen Hati, Lasbela to Mansfield Street after Tahiri Masjid. Similarly, nine parking lots have been designated.

The CM was told that 4698 policemen have been deployed for the security of the processions. CCTV coverage of the procession has also been made and it would be monitored from the main Control Room set up at the IGP Office.

Earlier, the CM led the 9th Muharram procession at Taj Complex and then drove through the route of the procession and went to Imam Bargah Hosseinian Iranian.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



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

## Political and Moral Failure in Pakistan

**F**irst news: A man named Farmanullah who was pulling a Kulfli in front of Faisal Masjid. Four of his five children are physically handicapped and the cost of their treatment also comes from the same earnings which are about 10, 15 thousand rupees per month. He was arrested on July 11 by officials of the CDAs Enforcement Directorate in the federal capital and accused of "trespassing without permission" in the vicinity of Faisal Masjid for just one day. Farmanullah was later produced before the Senior Special Magistrate of CDA where Farmanullah "confessed".

And requested that he should be forgiven. Farmanullah said that he would not make this "mistake" again. I am a poor man, I have to feed my family. There is no one to take care of them except me." However, Senior Special Magistrate Sardar Muhammad Asif while imposing a fine of five lakh rupees and three months of rigorous imprisonment under Section 46 A of CDA And under Martial Law Regulation No. 63, he was sentenced to a fine of five lakh rupees and three months of imprisonment with hard labor. How a poor man is arrested just for selling Kulfli. A statement is then taken from him during the 'investigation' in which he 'admits' that he has set up the carriage. And during those 24 hours, he is neither allowed to advocate nor has any hope of a fair trial. However, according to lawyers, the maximum penalty for loitering in any prohibited place is Rs 400.

And there are also reports that the judge says in this case that if the punishment was more than that, I would have given that too. Although in the history of Islamabad, CDA has never sentenced a vehicle owner to three months imprisonment and a fine of five lakhs for the same crime, but in

this case everything was reversed. Now look at the second news that Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has been nominated as caretaker prime minister by PML-N for the central government that ends next month. According to Muslim League (N) sources, The consultation on the issue of Prime Minister is going on, People's Party and other parties are being taken into confidence in the name of Ishaq Dar. There is a possibility of consensus on the issue of Ishaq Dar in the meetings of the top leadership of both the parties. A meeting of the advisory committees of both sides is expected soon.

Now according to the laws of Pakistan and taking into consideration the traditions, it is said that the caretaker set-up should be neutral, so how is it possible that the finance minister of the ruling party and coalition will be the caretaker prime minister? This will be tyranny and oppression. And anyway, what feat have they accomplished except pushing the people into the mire of inflation. There are dozens of cases against them even now, in which they were declared as advertisers in the past, teams were formed to summon them. Contacts were made with Scotland Yard, requests were made at Interpol, but he arrived in Pakistan in a special plane. And once again took over the "treasure" of the country.

All the people of Pakistan, including me, are surprised that our politicians and rulers are all milk washed? When they are accused of corruption of trillions of rupees, but they are still considered reliable, they also get power and also the option of conducting voluntary elections. But the thief of this country turns out to be a thief.

And these traditions of Pakistan are not of today, but unfortunately, the bigger the thief, the bigger the reward.

When former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was the Finance Minister of Punjab and later became the Chief Minister, he was accused of corruption worth billions of rupees. Especially the auditor general's report of 1988/89, in which Nawaz Sharif was accused of damaging the national treasury by at least 35 billion rupees, which is about 35 trillion rupees today. After becoming the prime minister, he was accused of issuing illegal loans of several hundred billion rupees (at least Rs 675 billion), co-operative societies scandal, wheat fraud, motorway fraud and yellow taxi scheme.

In all these cases, Nawaz Sharif has been accused of corruption of at least 1000 billion rupees. For the same reasons, Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Nawaz Sharif's government. And the cases were established. At that time the people of Pakistan were thinking that his government might not come again. But after three and a half years, power was again at his doorstep. But in this country, only the poor (Qulfli Wala) is at fault.

However, I have no personal enmity with Ishaq Dar or any politician, but the people of Pakistan should think for themselves, ask their hearts and decide whether these rulers will take the right action. And then can they remain neutral? If not, then the decision-making powers should think about this country.

If this is to be done, then in my opinion Maulana Fazlur Rahman's brother or son should be appointed caretaker chief minister in KPK,

Faryal Talpur in Sindh, Abdul Quddus Bizenjo's brother or relative in Balochistan and Hamza Shahbaz in Punjab. And then, if possible, pass such a law or make such amendments that someone from these political families becomes the direct army chief or chief justice. Then the problems of this country will be solved.

Conclusion:  
So, if Ishaq Dar is made caretaker prime minister, then this will be a slap on the face of political parties and democracy. And then the world will definitely ask our diplomatic representatives what are the final reasons for all these pre-planned actions in Pakistan? Therefore, party leaders should think that if they participate in this action they will also participate equally in this cruelty.

Because the first principle of free and fair election is an impartial monitoring setup for which an honest, responsible and principled politician, judge, journalist or bureaucrat is hired. But if only Ishaq Dar meets all these criteria in this country, then what is the need to spend billions of funds, the government should give it to them. Money will also be saved and there will be no fights over the election. Well, as I gave the example of the rickshaw puller because there is a weak side in this country. The powerful are becoming more powerful. What you are seeing is corruption in government institutions, adulteration in the markets, profiteering, the rule of users and all kinds of corruption.

These are the results of the actions that our powerful rulers have been doing in their own interest. It is futile to expect good from what is happening today and what has been planned. If this situation continues, there is no need to look far for an example. We will become our own example!

Writer is analyst and staff member based at Multan

Analysis



Kiran Asim

## Army Chief on Forefront for Pakistan Green Initiative Program - II

**T**he government hopes to attract around \$50 billion investment under the scheme. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the other day that friendly countries like China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc., were reluctant to give further loans to Pakistan but were ready to invest here provided there's political stability so that they could set up businesses, earn profit and bring prosperity to the local population during the process.

Army Chief has shown remarkable commitment in bringing agriculture revolution in the country. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir assured the people and the government of army's full support for all the initiatives under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), including the launch of the 'Green Pakistan Initiative'. Addressing a seminar on agriculture and food security as the guest of honor, Gen Asim Munir praised the talents of the Pakistani nation, stressing the need for the people to contribute to the progress of the country together. The seminar was the sequel to the inaugurated Land Information Management System - Centre of Excellence (LIMS-COE). The 'Green Pakistan initiative' aims at enhancing food security, boosting exports and reducing agriculture-related imports. "We are all gathered here to make Pakistan green again, Allah has bestowed many blessings upon Pakistan," the army chief told the seminar. "We are a talented nation, the only requirement is that we contribute to its development together," he emphasized. "With full dedication and heart and soul to complete this stage, we assure all possible support for the economic development of Pakistan as an institution. Pakistan has to progress and no power in the world can stop it from progressing," he added. The army chief asked the nation not to despair, as he referred to a verse from the holy Quran. He stated that the Muslims hold on to patience [Sabr] when face any difficulty, and offer thanks [Shukr] when they receive bounties. The 'National Seminar

on Agriculture and Food Security', at the Jinnah Convention Centre, was attended by foreign dignitaries, potential investors and experts from UK, Italy, Spain, China, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and other countries.

Recently, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has said it has been decided to steer Pakistan out of the crisis. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Khanewal Model Agriculture Farm, the army chief said the armed forces are proud to serve its nation. The Khanewal farm, which was formally opened recently, comprises 2,250 acres. Army Chief said that the army is from the people and the people from the army, and it has been decided that Pakistan will be taken out of the current crisis. He said Pakistanis are a proud and talented nation and through their untiring efforts, they will throw away the begging bowl. Referring to the natural resources of the country, he said Allah Almighty has bestowed Pakistan with all the blessings and no power in the world can stop it from developing.

The army chief said Pakistan will definitely achieve the destination of agricultural revolution and model farms like the one inaugurated in Khanewal will be established all over the country. He said the state is like a mother, the relationship between the people and the state is one of love and respect. He said national security and economy go hand in hand as an economy without security and security without economy is unimaginable. The army chief read a couplet of Allama Iqbal to stress the importance of national development. He said the small farmers would benefit from the Green Initiative, whose scope would be extended throughout Pakistan.

Readers, it's heartening to see the Army and its head on forefront for this great cause which ultimately will lead to development and progress of the country. The day is not too far when the goals of excellence will be achieved in result of these sincere efforts.

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

The writer is a senior analyst

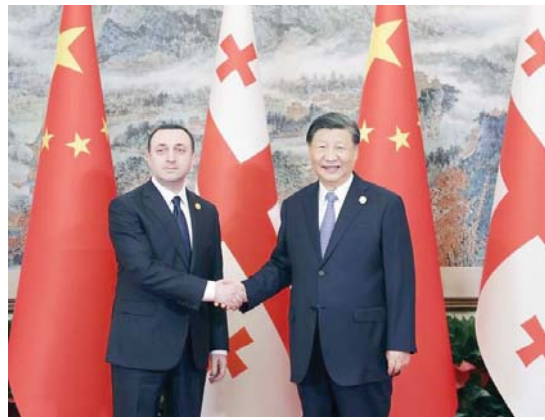
## Xi meets Georgian prime minister

Xinhua

CHENGDU: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday met with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

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

Over the past 31 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Georgia have consoli-



dated political mutual trust and scored remarkable achievements in cooperation in various fields, Xi said.

He said that during Garibashvili's visit, both sides will issue a joint statement and announce the establishment of China-Georgia strategic partnership.

Taking this as a new starting point, China and Georgia should plan bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, promote the sound and steady development of the strategic partnership, and provide momentum for the development and revitalization of both countries, Xi said.

## 15 injured after 'missile explosion' in Taganrog, Russia

Rostov region Governor Vasily Golubev said Friday as many as 15 people were injured after a blast near a cafe Chekhov Garden in the southwestern Russian city of Taganrog, bordering Ukraine.

"A rocket supposedly exploded. Rescuers are at the scene. There are no dead. There are several injured to whom ambulances have been dispatched," Governor Golubev said on Telegram.

He later added that 15 people suffered "light injuries." The explosion comes as the Russian defence ministry said in a separate statement that it intercepted a Ukrainian missile whose debris fell on the southwestern Russian city of Taganrog, near the border with Ukraine, where over a dozen people were injured.

## Chengdu Universiade: First gold set to be awarded in Wushu



Xinhua

CHENGDU: The first gold medal of the 31st FISU World University Games is set to be awarded from the men's Nanquan of Wushu tournament on Saturday, as Chinese athlete Cao Maoyuan aims for the top honor.

"As the Universiade approaches, I am adjusting my physical condition and hopefully I can try my best and enjoy the competition," Cao said.

The Wushu competition of the Chengdu Universiade consists of Nanquan, Changquan, Taijiquan, Gunshu, Daoshu, Taijijian, Jianshu, Qiangshu, Nandao and Sanda.

"When athletes begin to show Taolu, they set an imaginary enemy in their minds, and show the connotation of offense and defense with different movements and punches," said Yu Bo, Cao's coach, adding that the judges would score on drills, choreography and difficulty.

As a traditional sport that has a long history in China, Wushu is popular with the Chinese people and has gained a global reputation.

The Chengdu Universiade will open on Friday night and run through August 8. A total of 6,500 athletes from 113 countries and regions are competing in 269 events across 18 sports.

## Xi meets Guyanese president

Xinhua

CHENGDU: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday met with Guyanese President Irfaan Ali in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

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

Xi said that China and Guyana should be good friends who trust and count on each other, and both countries should share opportunities, meet challenges, seek cooperation and promote development together.

Xi urged the building of a more close-knit China-Guyana community with a shared future.

Guyana was the earliest country in the Caribbean region to recognize the one-China principle and establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Last year, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Guyana was celebrated.

Xi said China and Guyana, both developing countries, should strengthen communication and cooperation, firmly support each other, and advance bilateral relations steadily for the fundamental and long-term interests of the two peoples.

China is willing to deepen the alignment between the Belt and Road Initiative and Guyana's Low-carbon Development Strategy 2030, and elevate the



level of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation between the two countries, Xi said. Xi said China welcomes Guyana's participation in the China International Import Expo to introduce more of Guyana's distinctive and high-quality products into the Chinese market.

China encourages its companies to invest in Guyana, expand mutually beneficial cooperation in areas such as energy, mining, finance, agriculture, fisheries and infrastructure construction, and foster new sources of growth, he said.

Xi called on both countries to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, facilitate mutual travel and visits, and consolidate the foundation of public support for friendship between the two countries.

China and Guyana have broad common interests and similar positions in international and regional affairs, Xi said.

Xi congratulated Guyana on being elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2024-2025 term.

Xi said China supports Guyana in playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, and is willing to work with Guyana to practice true multilateralism, safeguard the common interests of developing countries, and jointly address global challenges such as climate change, food security and energy security.

He said China is willing to work with Caribbean countries to build a closer

community with a shared future.

Xi expressed the hope that Guyana will continue to play an active role in promoting relations between China and the Caribbean countries.

Noting that Guyana and China have enjoyed sound relations and solid political mutual trust, Ali said the past 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations have been years of friendship, cooperation, and mutual support.

Guyana firmly adheres to the one-China principle, highly admires President Xi's outstanding leadership, and highly values China's international influence, Ali said.

Ali said China has played an important role in the economic and social development of Guyana and the Caribbean region, not only by sharing its experience but also providing valuable assistance in developing infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare and other areas.

Ali said Guyana regards China as a highly reliable cooperative partner and welcomes Chinese companies to invest and do business in Guyana.

Guyana supports a series of major initiatives put forward by President Xi and actively participates in the Belt and Road cooperation, Ali said.

Guyana is ready to closely communicate and collaborate with China to promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity and establish a fairer and more equitable international order, Ali said.

Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Wang Yi, and Shen Yiqin attended the meeting.

## Faisalabad CTO issues special traffic plan for Muharram

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: The Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Faisalabad Maqsood Ahmad Lone in compliance of the orders of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, vision of DIG Traffic Punjab Mirza Faran Baig & the instructions of Police Officer Faisalabad Usman Gondal, has planned and organized the specific & extraordinary district-wide protests strategies on 9- Muharram Al-Haram.

He checked the traffic duty persons posted on the various processions points and briefed the traffic police officers and also other employees posted on the various processions with reference to Muharram's safety.

While giving briefing, he exposed that the traffic police Faisalabad from 1st Muharram to 10th of Muharram especially on the day of Ashura saved and will secure from any unpleasant incident at any cost with people's support too.

He pointed out that, a specific & special traffic plan has been issued to keep the smooth traffic flow on alternate routes to deal with any untoward situation and to maintain law and order situation.

He elaborated that, the processions taken out during Muharram will be conducted in a peaceful manner while proceeding on their designated routes. For this purpose, all traffic will be directed to alternate routes to make the flow of traffic more smooth & efficient, further said & added.

He calculated that, about 1136 officers and employees of City Traffic Police Faisalabad have to perform their duties specially for processions and gatherings of 10th of Muharram including CTO Faisalabad 5 DSPs, 137 Traffic Incharges, 627 Traffic Wardens, 116 Constables and Head Constables and 250 Traffic Stunts will perform their duties.

The traffic duty on 10th of Muharram will start at 5:30 am in the morning.

## Feature: China-Pakistan power project facilitates economic growth, cements friendship

Xinhua

LAHORE, PAKISTAN/XIAN, CHINA: As the sun rises and street lights turn off in Lahore, capital of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, the city wakes up and gets bustling with life.

As the day begins, Zubair Tufail, a team supervisor of operations at a converter station of 1160 kilovolt Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project in a suburb of Lahore, starts his daily work.

A 26-year-old native of Lahore, Tufail joined the project as an electrical engineer after graduating from the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

"At the start, we were just fresh engineers from the university and there was no other project in Pakistan related to HVDC, so we had

no knowledge of HVDC technology. An experienced Chinese engineer was assigned to every Pakistani engineer on the project, who used to teach us like a university teacher. So whenever we need help, we can call them and they are always available," Tufail said.

This was Pakistan's first HVDC transmission project funded, constructed and operated by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The project was officially put into commercial operation in September 2021.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

In 2015, the two sides signed more than 50 cooperation deals and agreed to center the development of the CPEC with four key areas, namely, the Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation. It is the first project to adopt 1160 kilovolt direct current technology outside China with complete Chinese intellectual property rights, according to Shan Shewu, chairman of China Electric Power Technology and Equipment Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of SGCC.

The converter transformers, one of the most important components of the project, were developed in China's northwestern ancient city of Xian, Shan said.

Xian, a city with a history of more than 3,100 years, served as the capital for 13 dynasties in Chinese history, including Tang Dynasty (618-907), when the city was known as



Chang'an.

In 1992, Lahore and Xian became sister cities, and the development of the two cities has since been interwoven together.

Zhao Qi, the general manager of China XD Electric Co. Ltd., told Xinhua that at the end of 2014, the XD group provided technical solutions for the project, and on top of

that, the company successfully won the bid for the project's converter transformers, said Zhao.

Xian XD Transformer Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of his group, produced

28 converter transformers and 47 reactors that are being used in the Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission project, he added.

The eastern part of Pakistan is hot with the temperature exceeding 50 degrees Celsius most of the time in summer. For this reason, the design team of XD Group optimized the structure of the main components and the installation method of bushings.

From design and production to installation and application, the Chinese-built converter transformers have played a major role in the country's power grid, said Tufail.

"Our project has greatly reduced the loss in Pakistan's north-south power transmission and reduced power outages caused by transmission loss, which is why our industrial sector is now functioning well," he said.

## Popular Culture: A Push to Political Unconsciousness

Jamal Nasir

Jannat Mirza is claiming to have been offered the role in the drama Parizaad, Murtasim is representing the face of the infamous patriarchal structure in Pakistan, and a debate of changing personalities while watching Barbie and Oppenheimer are some hot topics in the popular culture of Pakistan, which is erroneously connected to the culture of masses, while a layman is combatting with the chaotic condition of Pakistani society. A society engulfed with the fledgling economy, political instability, and social disruption. Still, the question of playing a role in the drama and buying coffee at Starbucks seems more important in popular culture.

The existence of this popular culture includes a wide range of areas in society, from cinematography to the drama indus-

try and from the debate on popular things on social media to furnished hype of a single segment of fashion. It follows with micro things like a 'reel culture'. On the whole, Popular culture represents society's consciousness and a symbolic lexicon toward a society's journey. Semiotic analysis of popular culture tells us that art, cinema, the drama industry, and fashion are pivotal points around which it revolves.

Recently, Amazon Prime released a Spanish movie, Culpa Mia, which is fundamentally a romantic-thriller movie delineating the relationship of a step-brother and sister and ends with a glimpse of deep love among the couple. Netflix released 'Obsession' series describing the secret affair between a girl and an expected father-in-law. While particularly referring to Pakistani society, we can see the trends of dramas in recent times as 'Mere

Pas Tum Ho' and 'Tere Bin'. The whole episteme of what's been watched and admired in society is the totality of thoughts of society. A connection to totality refers to the moral order, collective conscience, and existence of discourse on the upper as well as lower veneers of society.

Today, the coverage of the young mind's cells encapsulates the absurdity of fashion. The presence of fashion in society is undeniable; Rather, it indicates a person's individuality, which eventually leads to the formation of identity, but trending details of fashion and following it can lead young minds toward burnout. As George Simmel, in his famous essay on fashion, argued that fashion was the key to connecting people with the larger concept of sociability, but making it the centrality of mind can disperse the positionality of a young mind resulting in the identity crisis which we have been witnessing in today's

Pakistan. As 'Shalwar Kameez' in Pakistan is losing its essence because of the changing patterns in fashion. Eliminating fashion or making a fashionless society is not an option, but if the whole discourse of this generation is limited to what's trending, it might be a worrying position. If the consciousness of the young mind is about getting a bunch of suits, wearing the brands, and highlighting the 'self', then it'll put the future of the next generation at stake.

While highlighting the self and forgetting others would lead society toward disintegration, history has witnessed that social disintegration creates political unconscious and unstable politics. Mughals were doing fine with everyday life, economy, and politics but shutting their eyes on social integration damaged the political episteme of society, which caused the fall of their empire.

The disintegration of society

is a reparable process. Sometimes social change and sometimes weakness of collective consciousness produce disintegration in the society. Still, as soon as structures of society realize the conundrum, they try to repair the damages, but the political unconsciousness does not go with this flow.

In his book One Dimensional Man, Herbert Marcuse criticized modern-day culture. As a critical theorist, he was able to communicate with the happenings of society and lambast different situations, from consumerism to technological advancements and from social control to repressive tools of modernity. The institutionalized mechanism to sell desires and make a cage of desires to lock the individual in it, is the crucial point of Marcuse; on which he called the man a one-dimensional man, but he missed the key point about the political unconsciousness of an individual.

Nowadays, a man may entrap in all these things, but he must understand the political unconsciousness. As we can see, a young man in Pakistan is the biggest victim of this political unconsciousness while supporting a man full of egoism, Imran Khan. The popular culture of Pakistani society supports Imran Khan unthinkingly because they are influenced by charm and popular strings rather than political consciousness. Supporting a man blindly without paying attention to his politics, having faith in his speech but not analyzing the facts in it, and following him without making the dialects, are what we can say is the political unconsciousness of today's one-dimensional man. Marcuse wrapped the cultural side in this sense but somehow forgot to comment politically on the modern agency.

Popular culture has been the voice of people to communicate with socio-political problems.

The voice of Bob Dylan echoes in the ears of elites and is a captivity for marginalized communities. The writings of Alexander Solzhenitsyn still play a revolutionary role against the suppressive elements of the state. We had a culture of simplicity, compassion, and dissent in Pakistan.

Now, the condition is worsening. Popular culture is dominated by disillusionment and a sense of denial. Popular culture has become a puppet of populists to instrumentalize it for political purposes. The Instrumentum of this culture leads to political unconsciousness. There is a need to revise the dissent voices of Pakistani society, there is a need to refine the art, and there is a need for a political consciousness.

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**Smuggled smartphones, accessories seized at Faisalabad airport**



News Desk

FAISALABAD: Customs officials have seized a large number of smuggled smartphones, drone camera and other accessories worth millions at the Faisalabad airport.

Sources told media that Customs officials arrested three suspected smugglers at the airport who had arrived in Faisalabad from Sharjah.

The Customs officials seized 971 smartphones, 78 iPods, drone camera, game hardware from the passengers' luggage. The suspected smugglers hid the items in their bags and shoppers.

In a separate action today, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested a passenger at the Karachi's Jinnah International Airport who had returned from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The FIA spokesperson said that the accused Abdul Razaq was wanted to Punjab police in criminal cases. The accused was wanted to the Punjab police in a murder case.

The FIA handed over the suspected man to the police officials for further action.

A few days ago, Customs officials foiled a bid to smuggle iPhones at Sialkot airport and recovered 30 smartphones worth nearly Rs100 million from a passenger.

Customs officials recovered 30 iPhones worth nearly Rs100 million from a passenger named Adeel who reached Sialkot airport from Sharjah via flight number PK-910. It was learnt that the accused is an employee of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The officials told the media that the accused flight steward Adeel used to supply smuggled smartphones to Karachi and Lahore.

AC Haseeb Bajwa said that an accomplice of the accused PIA flight steward named Ali Ahmed was also involved in the smuggling of the smartphones. He added that both suspects are PIA employees.

**Muharram 9, 10: Mobile services suspension hits parts of Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: Mobile services were suspended in several parts of the country on the occasion of Ashura (Muharram 9 and 10 — July 28 and 29) as authorities sought to avoid any untoward situation.

In Islamabad, the Ministry of Interior has asked the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to suspend the mobile services not only on Muharram 9 and 10, but 11 as well.

On Muharram 9, mobile service will remain suspended from 1pm to 10 pm in sectors G6 and G7. The service will be blocked from 6pm-6am on the same day in Sector 10-1 and adjoining areas.

On Muharram 11, mobile phone service will be suspended in Shah Allah Ditta from 2am to 7pm. The services will also remain blocked from 12pm-7pm in the areas around Noorpur Shahan/Bari Imam.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's 14 districts, mobile services will remain suspended on Muharram 9 and 10, sources in the provincial home department told Geo News.

The areas where the services will remain suspended include Sadar, Pishatkahra, Hassan Ghari, inner city Peshawar, Mardan, Abbottabad, Manshara, Hariapur, Kohat, Hangu, and Bannu. They will remain blocked until 10pm. The local authorities in Balochistan's capital of Quetta have decided to suspend mobile services on Muharram 9 and 10 to avoid untoward situations.

The additional chief secretary added that the provincial government has already placed a ban on pillion riding in Quetta division from Muharram 1 to Muharram 12 (i.e., the restriction will remain in place till July 31).

**ICCI asks CDA to focus on better development of Blue Area Business Centre**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Blue Area is the largest commercial center of Islamabad, which plays an important role in the development of the economy and urged that CDA should focus on its better development to facilitate the growth of trade activities. He said that parking is the most serious issue of the Blue Area, so parking should be allowed on the green area of Fazal Haq Road until the construction of a parking plaza. He said this while addressing a delegation of the Traders Welfare Association, Blue Area, Islamabad that visited ICCI led by its President Raja Hassan Akhtar and highlighted the key issues faced by the traders.

Ahsan Bakhtawari further said that ICCI intends to organize a mega shopping festival in the Blue Area in collaboration with Association so that trade activities can flourish and the customers can also get a chance of shopping at reasonable rates.



Raja Hassan Akhtar, President, Blue Area Traders Welfare Association, highlighted the important issues of traders of his market. He said that non-availability of parking, old sewage system and non-functional street lights are the main issues of the Blue Area, so CDA should

solve them on an urgent basis. He stressed for a flower market in Blue Area besides pruning of trees, and said that CDA should take steps in this regard.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI, said that the Blue Area Association is very impor-

tant in trade politics as its members are more than any market or industrial area association.

Yousuf Rajput, Group Leader, Blue Area, said that the traders of his market are standing like a strong wall with Ahsan Bakhtawari and will continue to cooperate with ICCI to solve the problems of the traders.

On this occasion, Mian Basharat Kakakhel, Secretary General of Blue Area Association, announced joining the Founder Group. He demanded from the CDA to establish a food street in Blue Area, which is the need of the hour for the traders and citizens.

President Jinnah Supermarket Asad Aziz said that the traders of the Supermarket, Jinnah Supermarket and Blue Area are standing with ICCI as a unit.

Amin Pirzada, Raja Humayun Sarwar, Atiq ur Rehman, Shafiq Gondal, Riaz Khan, Abdul Razaq, Tehmas Butt, Yusuf Khan, Chaudhry Wasim, Sheikh Kaleem, Raja Hamid, Adil Barkat, Chaudhry Imran, Naseer Abbasi, Imran Khan, Azhar Khan, Yusuf Balti and others also spoke on this occasion.

**ML-1 railway project: Pakistan, China likely to sign agreement in August**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are likely to sign an agreement for Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project in the first week of August.

Informed sources privy to the development told media that Pakistan and China finalised the financing matters for the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project.

In October 2020, Pakistan and China had agreed to start a \$10 billion Main-line-1 (ML-1) railway project from Karachi to Peshawar and extending CPEC's scope from government-to-government to business-to-business cooperation.

Sources added that the agreement for the ML-1 project will be signed between Pakistan and China in the first week of August. The ambitious project will be completed at the cost of \$6.5 billion under the agreement which was reduced from \$8 billion.

The ML-1 project aims upgrading and doubling of the 1733-kilometre railway track from Karachi to Peshawar besides the installation of modern signaling and



telecom systems. The upgradation of the railway tracks will enable the trains to run at 140kilometres per hour.

For reducing its cost, the fencing plan of entire railway track was postponed and the tracks will be fenced on in populated areas.

In the first phase, overhead bridges will be constructed and railway crossings will be closed in populated areas.

Pakistan and China had signed the Main Line-1 (ML-1) framework in May 2017 and

the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the project in August 2020.

Earlier in the month, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the work on ML-1 project will begin by the end of this year.

He said the talks on ML-1 project have moved ahead and hoped that an agreement on the project will be finalized by the end of current year.

**UK flights restoration: British DfT schedules visit to Pakistan**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Progress was made on the restoration of direct flights between Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK) as the British Department for Transport (DfT) scheduled a visit.

A British Department for Transport (DfT) delegation will visit Pakistan from August 1 to August 4 for conducting inspection of flight arrangements and security.

The DfT delegation will be led by the head of the agency's aviation security that will inspect the passengers' check in, security search, immigration and boarding at the airports, sources told ARY News.

Moreover, a delegation of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) will visit Pakistan in September this year to review a ban on Pakistan International Airline (PIA) flights to Europe. EASA is responsible for ensuring safety and environmental protection in air transport in Europe.

The EASA delegation will undertake a physical audit of PIA as well as the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Successfully clearing the audit could lead to a rever-



sal of the ban on PIA flights to European Union, say sources.

After three-year ban, the national carrier is expected to be allowed to resume direct flights to European countries after getting clearance from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Earlier, Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique said that Pakistan International Airlines is likely to resume flights to Britain in the next three months.

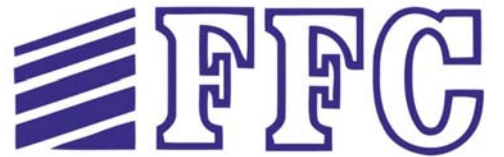
Rafique told parliament that new legislation this week has removed the final

hurdle for Pakistan's national carrier to fly to the United Kingdom.

He gave no details about the legislation or why it was required to resume the flights. He said the resumption of services to Britain did not include other European destinations.

PIA flights to Europe and the UK were suspended after the European Union's Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) revoked the national carrier's authorisation to fly to the bloc in 2020 following a fake pilot licence scandal in the South Asian nation.

**FFC announces Half Yearly Financial Results 2023**



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has announced its half yearly financial results for the period ended June 30, 2023 in its Board of Directors' meeting.

By the Grace of Allah SWT, the Company has posted highest ever six months profitability of Rs 13.08 billion compared to Rs 9.60 billion last year, despite the high level of inflation, devaluation of current and imposition of additional super tax. Earnings per share stood at Rs 10.28. The profitability in dollar terms however declined by 8% to USD 48 million compared to USD 52 million last year.

The increased profitabil-

ity is attributable to significant cost optimization measures and operational efficiency enhancement initiatives implemented by the management.

The Company produced 1,278 thousand tonnes in line with last year.

It is pertinent to mention that selling prices of urea varied significantly within the fertilizer industry, with FFC marketing urea at the lowest price of Rs 2,565 per bag, compared to average market prices of around Rs 3,000 per bag and international price of Rs 5,700.

The Board of Directors of FFC also announced second interim dividend of Rs 3.15 per share for the period with an aggregate distribution of 7:41 for the period.

**Govt decides reducing gas sector circular debt on IMF demand**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to reduce gas sector circular debt on the demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Sources told ARY News that the federal government decided to reduce the gas sector circular debt from Rs1,600 billion to Rs1,200 billion. Sources added that the finance and energy ministries prepared a plan for reducing the circular debt which was also shared with the IMF.

After the approval of the proposal, the concerned authorities will disburse the funds.

Moreover, it was learnt that Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar also wanted to reduce the circular debts in the gas sector by next week.

Earlier, the finance minister presented the documents related to the Pakistan-IMF agreement to the National Assembly (NA) and gave assurance that new taxes will not be imposed on agriculture and construction sectors.

Dar also asked the legislators to present their recommendations to the parliament for bringing key

policy changes. He added that the details of the IMF agreement were presented to the parliament and public for maintaining the transparency.

He refuted the reports regarding new taxes on real estate, construction and agriculture sectors and termed them rumours.

Earlier in the month, it emerged that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) asked Pakistan to further hike the power and gas tariffs as details of the IMF-Pakistan deal emerged.

The details of the Pakistan-IMF deal emerged which stated that Pakistan needs to strict the monetary policy further to decrease the inflation in the country. IMF also welcomed the increase in the interest rate by Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention here that the IMF executive board approved the bailout loan program of \$3 billion after months of delay, boosting Pakistan's financial stability ahead of elections this year.



**Coffee, candy makers question new law**

Spokesman Report

Chocolate and coffee makers including Italy's Lavazza and Cadbury-maker Mondelez are concerned about the "practicalities" of a new European Union law aimed at stopping deforestation.

The pushback comes despite voluntary, public commitments by the companies themselves and the broader coffee and cocoa industry to clean up supply chains using audits carried out by third parties like Fairtrade.

Agreed in December, the law is expected to come into force at the end of 2024. Importers of coffee, cocoa, beef, soy, rubber and palm oil must prove their supply chains aren't contributing to the destruction of forests, a cause of climate change, or be fined up to 4% of

their turnover in the bloc. Several major investors told Reuters last month that concerns about their exposure to the issue could lead them to quit consumer goods makers with "risky" supply chains.

"It will be very difficult to implement this law in practical terms, because the coffee supply chain is very complex and traceability is very difficult," Lavazza Group Chairman Giuseppe Lavazza told Reuters. "We are talking to the European authorities through our association to try to find a way."

The EU rules will be hard to implement without more guidance, Lavazza said, pointing to the large number of intermediaries involved in coffee.

"These inherent characteristics of the coffee supply chain make

traceability at the parcel level a huge challenge for the sector, as information on geolocation and contacts may not be available for



small plantations," he added.

Christophe Hansen, who led negotiations on the law for the European Parliament, said: "I don't think it's impossible. It will

be a challenge for them for sure because coffee sector producers are often quite small.

"But we have integrated into the text (of the law) the obligation of the European Commission to help especially small-holder farmers to be able to comply with the requirements."

Oreo-maker Mondelez told Reuters it is "not clear on how they (EU authorities) will control or implement this" law.

"There should be more dialogue about how do we practically make something happen on the ground," Chief Executive Dirk Van de Put

said in an interview with Reuters last month.

The EU says it introduced its landmark deforestation law because years of voluntary commitments by food companies to rid their supply chains of environmental harms had largely failed to have an impact on the ground.

Non-profit organisations including Earthsight, Fern and Solidaridad said the law mostly requires companies to put into action their voluntary pledges to stop sourcing from deforested areas.

"It is entirely possible to trace coffee supply chains, despite their complexity. Other sectors such as cocoa are well on their way to doing so," said Julia Christian, a lawyer who works on forest campaigns for Fern.

# Grandhomme aids Brampton Wolves to edge Montreal Tigers in GT20

**A Sports**

**BRAMPTON:** An all-round effort from Colin de Grandhomme bolstered Brampton Wolves to sink Montreal Tigers by 15 runs in the top-of-the-table clash of the ongoing GT20.

The former New Zealand all-rounder backed his first-innings half-century with two wickets and a run out to dent the Tigers' expedition of emerging victorious in the GT20 top-of-the-table clash.

Put into bat first, the Wolves could accumulate 143 before being bundled out in the final over despite Colin de Grandhomme's gutsy half-century.

The Wolves had a dismal start to their innings as Shakib Al Hasan castled Aaron Johnson (6) to push the visitors on the back foot.

Wicketkeeper batter Usman Khan, however, stitched an anchoring second-wicket partnership with Mark Chapman before falling to Aayan Afzal Khan in the seventh over.

He scored a brisk 21-ball 33, laced with six boundaries.



The Wolves coped another blow in the same over when Hussain Talat perished for a three-ball duck.

Click to watch GT20 Canada Live on ARY ZAP

Following back-to-back dismissals, Mark Chapman joined forces with his

countrymate Colin de Grandhomme and the duo stitched a crucial partnership for their side.

The Kiwi pair added 36 runs to their fourth-wicket partnership before Abbas Afridi got rid of Chapman, who contributed notably with a 22-ball 21.

Chapman's dismissal sparked a frustrating collapse in the Wolves' batting lineup. Meanwhile, Grandhomme kept the scoreboard ticking singlehandedly whilst losing partners at the other end at an alarming rate and scored a fighting half-century before finally perishing in the final over.

He top-scored for the Wolves with a 40-ball 56 which featured seven boundaries and a six.

Carlos Brathwaite and Aayan Afzal Khan led the bowling attack for the Tigers with four wickets each while Abbas and Shakib made one scalp each.

Set to chase a modest 144-run total, the Tigers' batting lineup failed completely and bundled out for a paltry 128.

Shakib Al Hasan (28), Dipendra Singh Airee (28) and Dilpreet Singh (24) offered brief resistance with their cameo while the rest failed clueless against the Wolves' bowling attack.

For Brampton Wolves, Saad Bin Zafar returned with 3/20, followed by Colin de Grandhomme and Shahid Ahmadzai taking two each.

## Pakistan to face Cambodia in preliminary round of FIFA Asia WC Qualifiers



**Sports Desk**

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan men's football team will face Cambodia in the Preliminary Round One of the upcoming FIFA World Cup Asia Qualifiers.

The game's apex body on Thursday, unveiled the draws for the first and second rounds of the qualifiers.

The first-round matches will be played on the basis of one home and one away match on October 12 and 17, with the 10 winners advancing to the second round.

Those 10 nations will then join the remaining 26 teams, already slotted in the second round on the basis of FIFA Rankings, which will feature nine groups of four nations, with the winners and runners-up then progressing through to the third round.

A total of 18 nations that reach the third round will be divided into three groups of six, via a draw conducted at a later date, with the top two nations in each group qualifying for the FIFA World Cup.

The remaining six teams that finished third and fourth in the third round will then be divided into two groups of three teams for the fourth round, with the victor of each group earning a direct entry ticket to the FIFA World Cup.

Finally, in the fifth round, Asia's representative in the FIFA play-off competition will be decided by a two-legged, home-and-away match between the two runners-up from the fourth round.

Notably, in the 2019 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, Pakistan took on the same opponent and received a 1-4 thrashing.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan men's football team recently partook in the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship last month.

The national team was drawn in Group A with hosts India, invitee Kuwait and Nepal.

Pakistan received a 0-4 thrashing each from India and Kuwait respectively before Nepal edged them 1-0 in the dead rubber Group A clash.

Thus, the green shirts concluded their SAFF Championship without a win.

## British boxer Benn says he has been cleared over positive drugs tests



**News Desk**

**LONDON:** Conor Benn says he is free to resume his boxing career, announcing he has been cleared by a UK Anti-Doping investigation into the two failed drugs tests that forced the cancellation of his fight with Chris Eubank Jr.

Benn was formally charged by UKAD in April after twice testing positive for the female fertility drug clomifene in the build-up to October's domestic catchweight showdown.

But the 26-year-old son of British great Nigel Benn revealed in a social media post that the charge has been dismissed.

"Today marks the end of a gruelling 10-month process, during which the WBC (World Boxing Council) had already decided I was innocent of any wrongdoing," Benn said.

He said he has been "vindicated for the second time" after a hearing with the National Anti-Doping Panel and UKAD.

"Hopefully, the public and various members of the media can now understand why I have maintained my innocence so strongly all the way through," he added.

"The UKAD process has now formally ended and I remain free to fight."

October's proposed bout was intended to be a continuation of the Benn v Eubank feud in which the rivals' fathers — Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank Sr — battled it out in two ferocious contests in the early 1990s.

A catchweight of 157 pounds (71.2 kilograms) was agreed for the sons to continue the family feud, meaning Benn would have had to move up two weight divisions and Eubank lose three pounds.

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

**Sports 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 Bhatta 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 Arsalan and Abdal 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.

# Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr draw with Inter Milan in Osaka friendly

**News Desk**

Cristiano Ronaldo was replaced at half-time as Al Nassr drew 1-1 with Champions League finalists Inter Milan in the second game of their pre-season tour in Japan on Thursday.

Abdulrahman Ghareeb opened the scoring for Al Nassr midway through the first half before Davide Frattesi equalised for Inter a minute before half-time.

Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo joined Al Nassr from Manchester United in January, a moment that brought Saudi football to world attention.

Since then, the Public Investment Fund — one of the world's richest sovereign wealth funds — has continued to recruit players for Saudi clubs from Europe's biggest leagues, including France striker Karim Benzema who joined Al Ittihad from Real Madrid.

Alex Telles followed in Ronaldo's foot-



steps by signing for Al Nassr from United on Sunday, making his first start in Osaka.

The Brazilian left-back created the first clear chance in the 20th minute, but compatriot Talisca's header was saved by Inter goalkeeper Filip Stankovic.

Cristiano Ronaldo then sent an ambitious effort from range wide two minutes later before Ghareeb struck in the 23rd minute, guiding home beautifully as the ball dropped to him from a chipped Talisca pass. Lautaro Martinez and Joaquin Correa both spurned opportunities to equalise for Inter, but Frattesi made no mistake with a header from a Denzel Dumfries cross in the 44th minute.

Cristiano Ronaldo was one of many to depart at the break, as both Al Nassr manager Luis Castro and his Inter counterpart Simone Inzaghi opted to make mass substitutions.

Martinez went on to miss a couple of gilt-edged chances in the second period but neither team could break the deadlock, leaving Al Nassr with their second draw of the week after a 0-0 against Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday. PSG are next up for Inter, with the European heavyweights set to meet in Tokyo next Tuesday.

# Holder USA held by Netherlands at Women's World Cup

**Sports Desk**

Captain Lindsey Horan scored a second-half equaliser as holders the United States came from behind to draw 1-1 with the Netherlands at the Women's World Cup on Thursday in a rematch of the 2019 final.

Midfielder Jill Roord fired home a first-half opener to threaten a momentous result in the Group E clash in Wellington in front of a crowd of 27,312.

But Horan responded just after the hour as the Americans maintained their proud unbeaten record at the Women's World Cup stretching back to the 2011 final, when they were beaten on penalties by Japan.

The stalemate leaves the two teams locked on four points and neither is yet assured of a berth in the knockout phase heading into their final group games on Tuesday, when the US face Portugal and the Dutch play Vietnam.

Horan's 62nd-minute equaliser from substitute Rose Lavelle's corner came moments after a flashpoint between US midfielder Horan and her Lyon teammate Danielle van de Donk.

"I respect her so much because that's how it should be, competitive at all times," Horan said.

"Once we got to that tackle, all I wanted to do was score. Heat of the moment, but Rose put in an absolute dime and I got on the end of it."

US coach Vlatko Andonovski described Horan's response to the altercation as a turning point.

"It's a really good example of the leader that she is. She gets fouled, kicked, hurt and obviously it's a very difficult moment," Andonovski said.

"And instead of crying about it, she just goes and makes a statement.

"It shows everyone the direction that the game is going to take."

The most highly anticipated game of the tournament group phase was vastly

different to the decider four years ago in France, which the US won comfortably 2-0 to retain their title.

This time the Dutch had the better of the first half, finding the United States which were also evident in the United States' opening 3-0 win over minnows Vietnam.

The Americans recovered to dominate the final stages but couldn't find a winner and this was a patchy performance which ends a string of 13 successive Women's World Cup match wins and casts some doubt on their status as favourites to lift the trophy again.

Andonovski said the Dutch were given too much leeway to control the tempo in the first half.

He said that changed in the second spell and believed his team's increased assertiveness provides a template for the rest of the tournament.

"This team is not just young, this is also a fresh team that hasn't spent a lot of minutes together," he said of a squad which features veterans such as Megan

Rapinoe and Alex Morgan mixed with 14 World Cup newcomers.

"What you saw in the second half is what you're going to see going forward as a baseline. In game three we expect to grow from there."

Having opened with a 1-0 win over Portugal, the ninth-ranked Dutch looked like repeating that result when Roord struck smartly in the 17th minute.

The new Manchester City signing — who came off the bench in the Lyon final four years ago — finished with a low drive from the edge of the box to silence thousands of travelling US supporters.

However, following Horan's goal, the resurgent US twice came close to unearthing a winner.

Striker Morgan found the net only for the offside flag to cut short her celebrations and a bullet strike from Sophia Smith was kept out by a goal-line clearance from Lieke Martens.



Netherlands coach Andries Jonker was content with a point given the late pressure heaped on his team.

"We performed brilliantly and at times it was really fantastic... you have to be happy with 1-1," he said.

"These games are battles from the first second to the last. The only thing you can say is that women's football has evolved incredibly.

"We're there, along with the US, and I'm very satisfied with that."