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Ahsan Iqbal highlights CPEC achievements, Sino-Pak deepening ties

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal highlighted milestone achievements made under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the last 10 years and the deepening relations between the two countries also known as "Iron Brothers" with each passing day. (Details on Page 8)



British High Commissioner-designate 'delighted' to arrive in Islamabad

British High Commissioner-designate to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, has arrived in Islamabad to take up her new posting at British High Commission Islamabad. Jane arrives at an important time for UK-Pakistan relations, with a significant uplift in UK aid spend in Pakistan focussed on strengthening climate resilience and reducing humanitarian risks. Last month the UK also launched the new Developing Countries Trading Scheme... (Details on Page 8)

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40 killed, 150 injured in blast at JUI-F workers convention in Bajaur

Nafeesullah/ Correspondent

BAJAUR: At least 40 were killed and more than 150 injured in a bomb blast that took place in Khar tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district on Sunday. According to Rescue 1122.

Rescue teams and police contingents rushed to the scene and started shifting the injured persons to a nearby hospital.

It was learnt that nearly 400 people were attending the JUI-F workers convention on Shanday Morr near the NADRA office. Law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area.

JUI-F Khar Ameer Maulana Ziaullah Jan and Hamidullah were killed in the incident. A private news channel's cameraman Samiullah was also among the wounded persons.

Caretaker KP Information Minister said that 200 persons got injured in the bombing. Hospitals in Bajaur and nearby areas were put on high alert and critically wounded persons will be shifted to Peshawar.

Three Pakistan Army helicopters took part in the rescue mission and 10 critically wounded persons were shifted to Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital.

Inspector General Frontier Corps (IG FC) Major General Noor Wali Khan also reached Bajaur and supervised the rescue activities.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner (DC) confirmed that 35 persons were killed in a powerful bomb blast near the NADRA office on Shanday Morr in a JUI-F workers convention.

Nearly 150 wounded persons including several in critical condition were shifted to the nearby hospital, he added.

KP Governor Ghulam Ali also confirmed the 30 deaths in the bomb explosion.

JUI-F central leader Hafiz Hamdullah said that he was also going to attend the workers convention but he did not join the public event due to his busy schedule. While condemning the bombing incident, Hafiz Hamdullah said that it is terrorism and chaos.

JUI-F supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed sorrow over the bomb explosion and demanded the prime minister and caretaker KP chief minister conduct a high-level inquiry.

He prayed for eternal rest for the departed souls and the early recovery of the injured workers. He appealed to the JUI-F workers



BAJAUR: Suicide blast that took place on Sunday at the JUI-F workers' convention in Khar.

to stay peaceful and immediately reach the hospital to donate blood for the injured persons.

He also demanded the federal and provincial government to provide the best medical facilities to the wounded persons.

Several politicians strongly

condemned the bomb blast and expressed condolences to the affected families. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured persons.

He demanded the federal and KP governments bring the terrorists and their facilitators to justice. He urged that the masterminds behind the terrorist attacks should be eliminated.

PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari condemned the blast and urged to clear all parts of the country from nurseries of the terrorists like Swat.

Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervaiz Ashraf condemned the bomb explosion. He said that terrorising innocent citizens is a shameful action and such elements are enemies of humanity and the country. He added that the nation is united to eliminate terrorism.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Sirajul Haq strongly condemned the bomb blast at JUI-F public gathering and said that the attack aims to create chaos in the country.

He said that government has a responsibility to protect the lives and properties of all political leaders and citizens. Sirajul Haq demanded to conduct a probe into the bombing incident and bring the culprits to justice.

Ashura, the 10th of Muharram observed

Naveed Ahmad Khan



Muharram ul Haram. Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Ashura, the 10th of Muharram, was observed across the country with due solemnity on Saturday to pay homage to Hazrat Imam Hussain (R. A) and other martyrs of Karbala amid strict security.

The day marks the undeterred resilience of the Prophet's (PBUH) grandson, Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A), his family and devoted companions who all fought to uphold Islam amid opposition and cruelty.

In this connection, mourning processions were taken out in all cities and towns of the country.

Ulema and zakireen highlighted the various aspects of the Karbala tragedy in their sermons.

Elaborate security arrangements were made across the nation to avoid any untoward incident and offer safety to mourners during the processions.

Meanwhile, mobile signals remain shut in several cities following interior ministry's directions to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) seeking suspension of mobile services not only on Muharram 9 and 10, but 11 as well.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday lauded the efforts of Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah, provincial home ministers, federal and provincial authorities, and the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for maintaining law and order on Ashura.

While expressing satisfaction over the peaceful observance of Ashura, the prime minister praised the chief ministers, provincial and district administrations, and inspector general's of police for chalking out excellent arrangements during

The main Ashura procession in the city was taken out from Nishtar Park and concluded at Hussainian Iranian Imambargah in Kharadar.

The main procession in the city was emerged from Nisar Haveli and concluded at Karbala Gamay Shah in the evening. Sabeels of water, milk and tea have been set up along the route of the procession in remembrance of the famine-like situation faced by Hazrat Imam Hussain (R. A) and his companions.

In Peshawar, the central procession of Ashura was taken out from Imam Bargah Agha Syed Ali Shah Qissa Khwani Bazaar.

The procession after passing through its traditional routes concluded at its starting point in the evening. Similar processions are also taken out in Kohat, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Kurram and Dera Ismail Khan districts.

In Quetta, the main procession was taken out from Imambargah Nichari Alamdar Road. The procession culminated at its destination after Maghrib prayers.

The central procession of Ashura emerged from Imambargah Col. Maqbool Hussain and concluded at its culmination point at Imambargah Qadeemi after passing through its designated route.

Ground breaking

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque to mark the ground breaking of Lahore Medical City, Sunday.



Photo: PID

FM to visit UAE on Sunday to discuss bilateral ties, offer condolences

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will undertake an official visit to the United Arab Emirates on Sunday to discuss bilateral ties and offer condolences on the death of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed.

During the visit, the foreign minister will hold a meeting with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement on Saturday.

They will discuss entire spectrum of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

The foreign minister will offer condolences to the UAE leadership on the sad demise of Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed.

Inefficiency, criminal negligence of PTI's govt cost country dearly: PM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday lambasted the criminal negligence and inefficient performance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) government led by former prime minister Imran Khan Niazi, saying that the country paid a heavy price for their blunders and political vendetta.

The prime minister expressed these views after performing the soft launching of various development projects which included Rs 50 billion Medical City, Rs 52 billion National Health Support Programme, and Rs 30 billion Population Welfare Programme.

On the occasion, he also broke grounds for the SL-3 Lahore Ring

Road project, Shadara to Kala Shah Kaku Metro Bus extension project, and inaugurated 1263 MW Punjab Thermal power plant in Jhang with a capacity of generating 10 billion inexpensive units annually.

Addressing the ceremony, the PM said Imran Niazi had neglected the completion of the gas-fired Haveli Bahadur Shah power plant due to his animosity with the PML-N leadership and the country had to pay an additional whopping amount of Rs 77 billion besides, its original cost of Rs 74 billion at that time due to non-functionality.

He said the project was to be inaugurated in 2019 but it was stalled due to criminal negligence of Imran Niazi and the lack of interest of the previous government.

A huge amount of the nation

went down the drain, causing huge losses for the poor country, he opined, adding it was one of the worst examples of PTI's bad governance.

"Who will be held accountable for such a blunder? It is the continuation of a saga of 75 years for which they were all responsible," he quipped.

Why the judiciary did not take suo motu for such negligence? the prime minister questioned and maintained that he had no intention of victimization and did not want injustice with anyone, but there should be transparent accountability of all those responsible for such failures whether it was done in a dictatorship or democratic regime, justice should be dispensed without any victimization, he said.

Marriyum condemns explosion in JUI-F workers' convention

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday condemned the blast that occurred at the workers' convention of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) in Bajaur.

The minister, in a condolence message, grieved over the martyrdom of JUI-F office bearers and workers including Ziaullah Jan. She also prayed for early recovery of the injured persons.

Marriyum said innocent people were targeted in a brutal way in Bajaur which was highly condemnable.

She termed terrorists the "mortal enemy" of Pakistan. All those who were involved in the blast would be brought to justice, she added.

Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng reaches Pakistan on two-day visit



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Vice Prime Minister (PM) He Lifeng has arrived in Pakistan on a two-day visit as part of high-level engagements and dialogues between Pakistan and China.

Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng was received by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal upon arrival.

During his visit, PM Lifeng will hold meetings with the Pakistani leadership. Lifeng's visit is part of high-level engagements and dialogues between Pakistan and China.

Sources told ARY News that the federal government finalised the preparations for a central event following the completion of a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

An event will be organised in Islamabad tomorrow over the completion of 10 years of CPEC project titled 'From vision to reality' in which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice PM He Lifeng will be the special guests.

The event will be attended by federal ministers, lawmakers from the National Assembly (NA) and Senate, secretaries and the business community.

Pakistan and China had launched the CPEC project on July 5, 2013, with an investment of over \$25 billion. The officials said that CPEC created employment for millions of people and Pakistan started generating 8,000 MW of electricity via the projects.

Under the CPEC, Pakistan started several economic development projects with the collaboration of China.

Meeting

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Chief Secretary and IG Punjab Police were also present in the meeting.

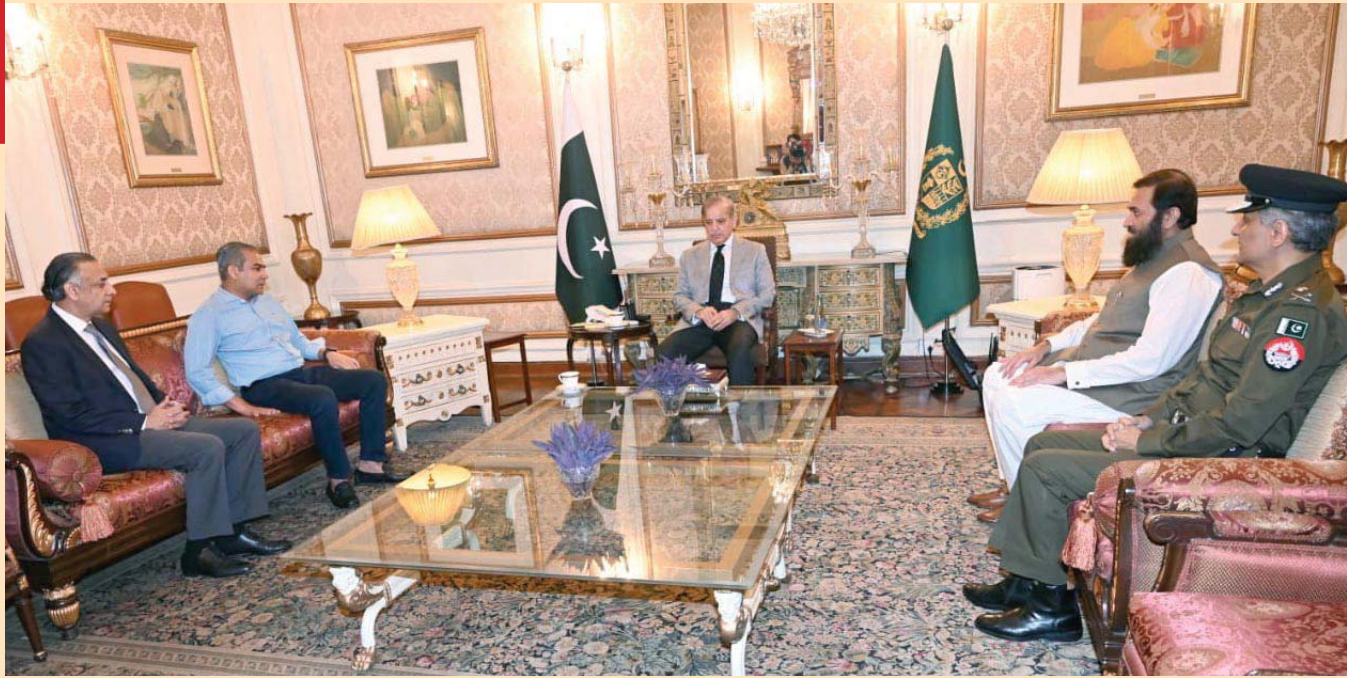


Photo: Online

Ahsan Iqbal highlights CPEC achievements, Sino-Pak deepening ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday highlighted milestone achievements made under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the last 10 years and the deepening relations between the two countries also known as "Iron Brothers" with each passing day.

Addressing a news conference here ahead of the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of China in connection with CPEC's 10-year celebrations, he signified the CPEC agreements signed in 2015, which transformed Pakistan's profile from a security state to an investment destination.

He lauded Chinese President Xi Jinping's role in elevating Pakistan's image globally as an attractive investment destination, fostering economic cooperation and development.

The minister highlighted that in the span of three years, CPEC saw the successful completion of numerous projects worth around \$25 billion.

These projects encompassed various sectors, including power generation, infrastructure development, education and more, he said adding the Thar coal project stood out as a monumental achievement, harnessing Pakistan's vast coal reserves for power generation, making it a significant contributor to the country's energy needs.



Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that CPEC provided opportunities for Pakistani workers and engineers to acquire training in modern technology and project management.

Additionally, he said, the collaboration between China and Pakistan in the education sector facilitated thousands of Pakistani students to pursue higher education in China.

The minister expressed gratitude to President Xi Jinping for China's unwavering support and investment in Pakistan during challenging times.

He stressed that China's investment of billions of dollars in CPEC projects illustrated its status as Pakistan's most reliable friend and a key partner in economic development.

Talking about the current government's approach to CPEC, the minister said the revival of CPEC initiatives under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership demonstrated Pakistan's renewed commitment to economic

growth and collaboration with China.

Ahsan Iqbal acknowledged the positive turnaround in Pakistan's economy, indicating renewed global interest in the country.

He cited examples of significant improvements in Gwadar Port's handling of cargo and the completion of pending projects that had been stalled for years, during the tenure of the previous government.

Regarding the upcoming visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of China, Ahsan Iqbal mentioned that the event aimed to commemorate the ten-year journey of CPEC.

He anticipated that the visit would lead to further progress in business-to-business links, industrialization, and cooperation in science and technology between China and Pakistan.

The minister also shed light on the ML-1 project, expressing optimism that its technical parameters had been agreed upon, paving the way for its implementation soon.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of continuing the policies that had propelled Pakistan's economic recovery and development under the CPEC framework.

He urged steadfastness in building upon the strong relationship between Pakistan and China, reaffirming that CPEC remained a symbol of bilateral friendship and successful economic cooperation.

Rajanpur accident claims five lives, 20 injured

News Desk

RAJANPUR: At least five people were dead and 20 others sustained injuries when a passenger bus overturned in Punjab's Rajanpur district.

As per details, the ill-fated passenger bus was going to Jacobabad from Sakhi Sarwar with pilgrims, when it met an accident in Fazilpur, Rajanpur.

The rescue sources confirmed that at least five persons were dead on the spot, while 20 others sustained injuries.

British High Commissioner-designate 'delighted' to arrive in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner-designate to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, has arrived in Islamabad to take up her new posting at British High Commission Islamabad.

Jane arrives at an important time for UK-Pakistan relations, with a significant uplift in UK aid spend in Pakistan focussed on strengthening climate resilience and reducing humanitarian risks. Last month the UK also launched the new Developing Countries Trading Scheme, which will help Pakistan to boost exports by reducing tariffs and simplifying trade terms.

Arriving in Islamabad, Jane said: "I am delighted to be here in Pakistan, a country that deeply matters to, and has a long-standing relationship with, the UK. With over 1.6 million people of Pakistani heritage in the UK making up every part of British society, we have a special and ever-growing special bond."

"Our friendship stems from our shared history and values, deep people-to-people ties, growing trade links and a renewed development partnership. I will be working hard to continue to expand these."



"With the climate emergency a growing threat to health and livelihoods across the world, I have a particular interest in ensuring the bilateral relationship between our countries is a green, sustainable one."

Jane joined the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office in 2001. She was previously posted as British High Commissioner to Kenya from September 2019 to June 2023, and has served as British Ambassador to Yemen. She has also been posted to the USA, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan as well as heading the UK's Joint International Counter Terrorism Unit.

She travelled from London Heathrow using British Airways, the only airline to offer direct UK flights between the UK and Pakistan.

Senate drops prevention of violent extremism bill

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday dropped the government's introduced bill for the prevention of violent extremism to bar "any extremist or violent" organisation from contesting elections.

According to details, the Senate session was chaired by its chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, in which Shahadat Awan

presented the bill. The bill was strongly opposed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senators.

The government also faced opposition from its coalition parties, including JUI (F), the Balochistan National Party and threatened to walk out if the bill is passed.

"You're probably cutting your hands today," said JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza. At least coalition parties should

have been taken into confidence before such type of legislation.

Balochistan National Party (BNP) Senator Tahir Bizenjo called the bill an open attack on democracy, saying we strongly oppose it. The PML-N has not taken them into confidence at any legislation, he said and added, unfortunately, all major decisions are being made by two 'big parties'.

Mariyum strongly condemns violence against 14-year-old Rizwana



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb has strongly condemned the incident of violence against a 14-year-old domestic worker Rizwana and demanded swift justice in the case.

The minister, in a news statement on Sunday, called the incident "shameful" and "condemnable." She emphasized that no society could tolerate such oppressive elements, especially when it involved child labor and the brutal treatment to young individuals like Rizwana.

Mariyum said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi to

take serious notice of the matter and ensure swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was committed to play its due role in ensuring that the accused were punished according to the law, she added.

She regretted that the courts were granting bails to the culprits instead of delivering justice to the innocent victim, Rizwana.

The minister stressed that delivering justice to Rizwana was a litmus test for the judiciary's reputation.

She pledged all-out efforts to ensure that the oppressed daughter, Rizwana, received the justice she rightfully deserved. The nation, she urged, should unite in prayers for her early recovery.

CTD arrests five suspects from Karachi

Raja Furqan Ahmed

KARACHI: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested five suspects during the combing operation carried out in parts of Karachi. According to the details, the operation was carried out in the surroundings of Sohrah Goth and Gulshan-e-Maymar areas.

The CTD officials said that 152 suspects were checked during the Information Based Operation (IBO). The officials said that one suspect was shifted to the custody of CTD for further interrogation.

Meanwhile, four suspects were shifted to the concerned police station for interrogation.

Earlier, the security forces apprehended 10 suspected terrorists across three cities in Punjab. According to the Counter-Terrorism Department spokesperson, CTD Punjab conducted 132 secret operations in various cities given terrorism concerns, during which 10 individuals have been arrested for suspicions of connections with banned outfits like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Daesh (ISIS) and others.

According to the CTD spokesperson, those arrested in Lahore, Multan and DG Khan had been involved in planning attacks on shrines and other places of worship. Another two have been arrested from Attock for plotting an attack targeting Chinese citizens.

The authorities have also recovered explosives, detonators, arms, bullets, maps of important buildings and cash during the operations. Those arrested have been identified as Azir, Adil, Ramzan, Abdul Rehman, Usman, Asif, Muawiya, Usama, Rehman and Hazrat Shiyani.



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PM AJK eulogizes the late Ghazi-e-Millat on death anniversary

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has paid eulogizing tributes to Ghazi e Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan on his death anniversary.

In his special statement, the AJK premier, while highlighting the deceased leader's peerless contribution and selfless service to the people of Kashmir, said that Ghazi e Millat played a key role in the freedom movement that culminated in the shape of Azad Kashmir.

He said that freeing the motherland from the clutches of the despotic Dogra Maharaja and making it part of



the state of Pakistan in line with the will and wishes of the Kashmiri Muslims was the mission of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan's life.

Reiterating his commitment to uphold the mission of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, the PM said that Kashmiri people would continue their struggle till the freedom of Kashmir and

the completion of Pakistan.

Highlighting Ghazi Millat's life-long struggle, he said that Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan served the people of Kashmir in various capacities.

It is worth mentioning here that after receiving higher education from abroad, Ghazi Millat was elected Assistant Advocate General of the Maharaja's Government.

Later, he was elected as a member of the legislative body called Jammu and Kashmir Prajya Sabha, from which he resigned shortly and joined the freedom movement.

The AJK premier said that when there was no place for the Kashmiri political leadership to meet, Ghazi e

Millat offered his residence in Abiguzar Srinagar and hosted the crucial meeting where a historic resolution known as Accession to Pakistan was unanimously passed nearly a month before the creation of Pakistan. He said that it was during this historic meeting that the Kashmiri representatives decided to align the political future of Kashmir with the yet-to-be born state of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister said that Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was amongst the towering leaders of Kashmir who played a significant role during the freedom movement and after the establishment of a revolutionary government in Azad Kashmir.

Sardar Attique hails Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan for his role in end of Dogra rule

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the founding president of Azad Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was a great and courageous leader who approved the resolution of accession to Pakistan during the worst era of Dogra Maharaja. In one of his messages on the eve of the death anniversary of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, he said that Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan led the people of Kashmir in adverse conditions and that was the period when the state of Jammu and Kashmir was under personal rule. It was difficult for people to breathe because of the atmosphere of fear and terror. In these circumstances, Ghazi Millat held a meeting of the General Council of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference in his home at the water-way Srinagar and passed the resolution of annexation to Pakistan.



Pay tribute to all institutions for maintaining foolproof arrangements on Ashura Muharram: Amir Khattak



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak said that there was an ideal situation of law and order on Ashura Day thanks to the determination and actions of the administration, political leadership and religious leaders including the peace committee. They are advocates and do not support any mischief. He praised the performance of the administration, police and related institutions and said that they pay tribute to all institutions for maintaining religious harmony and foolproof arrangements on Muharram. He expressed this while meeting the members of the peace committee in monitoring the main processions of Ashura Day.

Commissioner Aamir Khattak later inspected the main processions along with the administration at Chowk Haram Gate and took a briefing. All stakeholders have a role to play in creating peace.

Commissioner & RPO Multan visit the city during Ashura



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Commissioner Aamir Khattak later inspected the main processions along with the administration at Chowk Haram Gate and took a briefing. All stakeholders have a role to play in creating peace. He said that the Punjab government had formulated a comprehensive strategy to deal with all kinds of mischief on the occasion of Muharram, as a result of which all stages of mourning were completed successfully.

Noor dental clinic opened



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The grand opening ceremony of new Noor dental clinic was held in Lahore which announced that hosted esteemed chief guests to commemorate this special occasion. On this occasion prominent figures from the dental community, including renowned dentists, dental association representatives, and local government officials were present. The opening ceremony not only adds prestige to the event but also highlights the importance of oral healthcare in the community. Its honored to have these distinguished individuals join us as embarked on this new chapter in providing exceptional dental care to the patients.

Imam Hussain's sacrifice will keep Islam alive forever: Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Former Pakistani Foreign Minister and Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the trends of sectarianism and extremism can be stopped by publicizing the teachings of the Supreme Imam. The sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions conveys the message of self-sacrifice, love, brotherhood, tolerance and peace. The example of their eternal sacrifice is not found in the history of mankind. Despite the passage of 1400 years, this sacrifice of the Prophet's family is still fresh today and will remain fresh until the Day of Judgment. He expressed these views while meeting the licensees Holders and elders during a visit to various Imambargahs of Multan on Ashura night.

Training Workshop

Baloch political leader Mir Chaakar Bhugti and President RIPJA (Professional) Sajjad Haider in a group with the participants of Annual Training Workshop for the members of Rawalpindi Islamabad Photojournalist Association (Professional) at PID media centre



Photo: APP

Office of the Ombudsman Punjab: A beacon of relief for people in need

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has delivered a cumulative financial relief amounting to Rs.14,137,036 to applicants hailing from various districts, successfully resolving their complaints concerning the non-provision of financial aid, death grant, talent scholarships, outstanding dues, and employment-related issues, including non-payment of pension, leave encashment, GP fund matters, and creation of an OSD post, among others.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the spokesman announced that the intervention of the ombudsman's office resulted in the appointment of Rana Muhammad Ali's son as a junior clerk in BPS-11 in Okara by the Technical Education

& Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA). Similarly, the school education department appointed Abrara Saadia from Toba Tek Singh and Shahnaz Bibi's son from Bahawalnagar as naib qasid under Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974.

Moreover, the Punjab Government Servants Benevolent Fund Board released an educational stipend of Rs.22,000 to Atta-ul-Haq Bhatti's daughter from Okara, Rs.32,000 to Gulshan Parveen's son from Talagang, and monthly grant arrears amounting to Rs.187,000 to Rao Muhammad Anwar from Bhakkar. Additionally, Tariq Nazir from Chakwal received a farewell grant of Rs.95,750, the spokesman reported.

In another noteworthy development, the Workers Welfare Board

disbursed a death grant of six lakh rupees to the complainant Saima Razaq after the ombudsman office got involved. Furthermore, the ombudsman office successfully ensured the long-awaited release of petrol bills worth Rs.130,010 for a local petrol station in Narowal, the spokesman added. Additionally, the office's intervention led to the availability of clean drinking water from the newly installed tube well bore in the Jinnah Park locality of Rahim Yar Khan, benefitting the local population.

This accomplishment stands as a testament to the office's unwavering dedication and compassion in serving the people and safeguarding their rights. The spokesman emphasized the commitment of the ombudsman office to continue its endeavours in ensuring justice and fairness for all citizens.

Youm-e-Ausher was observe red with religious solemnity in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Youm-e-Ausher was observe red with religious solemnity in Attock also like other part of the country and Azadar bring out several Zuljannah procession through out the dist. to remember the great scarifies of Imam Hussain (A. S) at Karbala. Police and other law enforcement agencies kept strict vigil on the entry routes of these processions. The main Alam and Zuljannah procession was carried out from Imam Bargah Hussainia Kamalpur Sayadan in Attock and ended peacefully at Karbala Haleem Shah at 4 o'clock several small processions were merged in it during its journey. Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, DPO Dr. Gayias Gul, SSP Investigation Javeria.Jamil Assistant Commissioner Shagufta Jabeen, SDPO, Sana uhlla DSP Azhar Shabir, SHO city Imran Kazmi, CSO Taimoor Khan and other district administration officer's monitored and maintained the procession. Faithful were much disciplined in the procession and was server by water, tea; milk and food were arranged in the routes of procession. Ambulances and paramedical staff of DHQ hospital Attock and rescue 1122 for providing a medical aid to mourners. Police source said on Youm-e-Ashura 50 Alam-o-Zuljannah processions were carried out in five tensile of the district.

Muharram al-Haram gives us the message of great spirit of patience and tolerance: Jalaludin Romi

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former caretaker provincial minister and former president of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan Khawaja Jalaluddin Romi has said that spending in the way of Allah Ta'ala is actually a trade with God, the reward of which is his own. Muharram al-Haram gives us the message of great spirit of patience and tolerance

He expressed these thoughts while speaking on the occa-



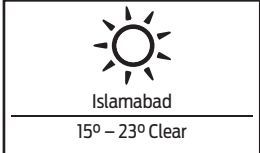
sion of Niaz and distribution of water works Road Chowk Ghanta Ghar, Multan on the 10th of Muharram. Distributes Tabrak, Niaz and Langar on

occasion. Due to the sacrifices of Aal Muhammad (PBUH) in Muharram, Islam has become alive and immortal due to the eternal survival. That is why

we see that as soon as Muharram begins, there is an endless stream of prayers in the whole country. A series begins, the scope of which is spread across

the country.

Therefore, we should make the message of martyrdom of Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) the manifesto of our lives, that the message of the fate of all of us is hidden in it. He said that the purpose of the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) was to stand firm in the face of falsehood that the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (peace be upon him) is the victory of humanity. This martyrdom is the message of Imam al-Maqam.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:43 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:07 pm
Maghrib	7:09 pm
Isha	8:45 pm

EMERGENCY

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RGH	9290301-7
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Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

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

AIOU commences final examinations from Sept 1

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is conducting examinations of open courses, certificate courses, Matriculation, F. A, and I. Com programs offered in the spring 2023 semester from September 1, 2023, to October 5, 2023, throughout the country.

The date sheet is available on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). Roll number slips are being uploaded to students' CMS portal and will be dispatched to the students at their addresses as well.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood has instructed the examinations department to ensure transparency and provide all facilities to the students during the conduct of examinations.

Examination centers are being established across the country in nearby and easily approachable vicinities of the students for their convenience.

Special teams will make surprise visits to the exam centers to eradicate the element of cheating and will check the identities of students.

Marriyum reiterates govt commitment to upgrade PTV, Radio Pakistan

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Sunday reiterated the government's commitment to upgrade Pakistan Television (PTV) and Radio Pakistan which were indispensable to promoting national heritage and narrative at the global level.

"The national broadcasting institutions are more than just structures as they hold a paramount position in representing the country's identity to the entire world," the minister said while talking to media men after laying the foundation of 1000 KW Digital DRM Medium Wave Transmitter Project at Radio Pakistan, Rawat.

Marriyum regretted that the previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was bent upon auctioning the national institutions including Radio Pakistan and others.

Highlighting the pivotal role of these national broadcasters, she stressed that the government was determined to leverage PTV and Radio Pakistan to enhance Pakistan's global presence and counter negative narratives about the country.

At the outset of the media talk, the minister said Radio Pakistan accomplished a milestone today as the first time in history a Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) technology had been launched.

She said Radio Pakistan was based on analogue and short-wave technology since 1947 and most of its transmitters had already completed their life. The broadcaster was in dire need of DRM as analogue and short-wave technologies

became obsolete a long ago, she added.

Marriyum said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to release funds for transforming Radio Pakistan on modern lines.

The minister extended gratitude to PM, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal for the initiative.

With the implementation of the 1000 kilowatt digital DRM medium wave transmitter, she said Radio Pakistan's reach would transcend borders, resonating in more than 52 countries.

She said the initiative would help promote Pakistan's narrative, news, heritage, and culture across the world. Out of 20 existing transmitters of Radio Pakistan, 14 had already become obsolete.

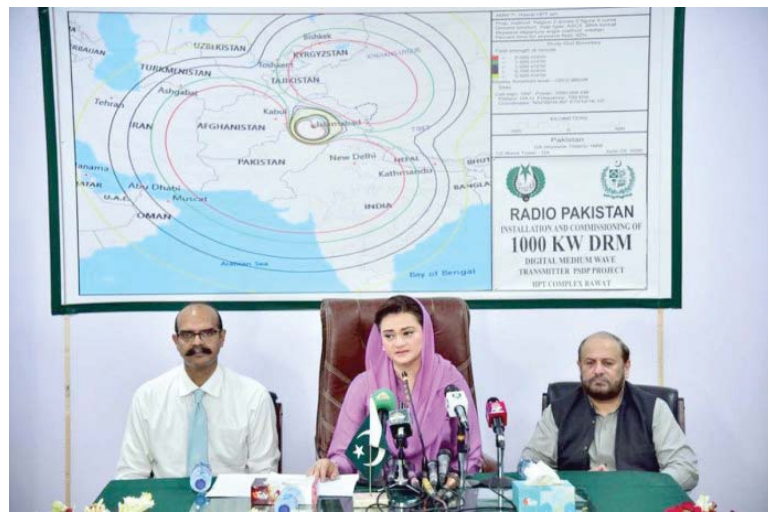
The cutting-edge technology incorporated in the 1000kw medium wave transmitter would yield significant cost savings for Radio Pakistan, with an estimated 33% reduction in electricity consumption, she added.

Marriyum said the project which was launched today would complete in the next two years.

She recalled that a group of arsonists set the Radio Pakistan archive and building on fire in Peshawar on May 9. Similarly, the same people attacked the building of Pakistan Television in 2014.

The minister said the building of Radio Pakistan in Peshawar and Chaghi Studio had been restored. Meanwhile, the upgradation of Radio Pakistan was started today.

It was a historic initiative that would enable overseas Pakistanis to access the Radio Pakistan broadcast across the



world, she maintained.

The minister said PTVflix had also been launched by digitalizing the entire archive of Pakistan Television.

Likewise, the national archive of Radio Pakistan had been digitalized and would be inaugurated by PM Shehbaz Sharif this week.

She said apart from the subcontinent, audiences in Central Asia, the Middle East, the Far East, Turkey, and Greece would now be able to access Radio Pakistan.

"This initiative translates the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding digitalization," she said adding the 1000KW transmitter installation would create job opportunities for the youth by increasing their engagement with Radio Pakistan.

She said the initiative would also improve efficiency of the Radio Pakistan.

Marriyum congratulated Secretary Information Sohail Ali Khan, Director General of Radio Pakistan Tahir Hassan, and all the employees of the national broadcaster on the launch of the project.

She said the problems of the employees would be addressed by ensuring the efficient working of institutions and financial viability.

The minister said business models for the institutions of the Ministry of Information had been worked out in consultation with the finance ministry which would eventually address pension and salary-related issues of its employees once and for all.

She said a media city would be set up in Rawat soon after completion of its feasibility study which was underway.

"Our vision and mission are aimed at increasing job opportunities and efficiency of Radio Pakistan," she said, adding this was a reflection of the vision of the PM who wanted the same for other institutions through digitalization.

Marriyum said, "The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been established with the aim of promoting the development of Pakistan's institutions and youth."

The country could get rid of its debts and ensure economic stability by attracting investment in various sectors.

She said in 2016, Nawaz Sharif charted the country on the path of progress and prosperity by completing the IMF programme for the first time in history. The country could ensure its sustainable development through the use of information technology, she added.

The minister said, "Radio Pakistan had been transformed on modern lines today, and our aim is to make such institutions the identity of Pakistan."

She thanked all the ministries that contributed to the digitalization of all the institutions working under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

To a query, she said the PM would announce the caretaker set-up after holding a consultation with the opposition leader.

The decision to dissolve the parliament would be taken by the coalition government and the prime minister.

She said the names of the caretaker prime minister would be made public once it was decided.

Illuminated

ISLAMABAD: A view of the Monument illuminated with colorful lights due to visit of Chinese Vice Prime Minister He Lifeng to Pakistan on July 30 to attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

NDMA alerts flood, GLOF risk due to rain in northern parts of country

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Sunday issued an advisory indicating flood and glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) risk due to expected rain in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The NDMA advisory underscored that according to the

forecast of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, rain was likely to occur in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the next 48 to 72 hours.

The flooding conditions were expected in the tributaries of the Kabul River and Hill Torrent of Dera Ghazi Khan Division from July 27 to 30.

Due to the confluence of flows at Taunsa, Panjand and

Guddu Barrages, the high flood level may be reached on July 30 and the high flood level at Sukkur Barrage on July 31.

An increase in the flow of rivers and streams of Gilgit-Baltistan and the occurrence of GLOF in mountain valleys was also expected.

The NDMA issued instructions to the relevant departments indicating that in order to remedy the possible

dangers, the public should be notified in advance and safety measures should be publicized and the traffic towards sensitive areas should be systematically monitored.

However, the relevant departments should keep machinery ready to deal with emergency situations.

The departments concerned should also take measures for relocation of the people living in low-lying areas.

Outsourcing of airports: Aviation minister, CAA unions hold talks

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique held talks with the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) officers and employees' unions who are protesting against the outsourcing of airports.



Sources told ARY News that partial progress was made on the issue of airports' outsourcing during the talks between the aviation minister and the unions. It was decided that a meeting will be held between CAA representatives and the standing committee for outsourcing led by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

Sources added that the unions expressed their reservations over the outsourcing of airports in the meeting held at Mayo Garden Lahore which was attended by the aviation minister, secretary aviation division and DG CAA Khaqan Murtaza.

The CAA unions were represented by Samiullah and others. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar summoned a key session of the cabinet committee on Tuesday.

Khawaja Saad Rafique asked the unions to present their written reservations to the cabinet committee.

The cabinet committee members include Federal Minister Naveed Qamar, Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique, three federal ministers and World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) representatives.

After the meeting, the unions announced to continue the protest movement until written assurance from the federal government. Additionally, Rafique also formed a committee headed by the secretary aviation to address issues of the aviation employees.

Earlier, the federal government 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 CAA employees' unions were represented by Samiullah, Azizullah Memon, Ayaz Butt, Ashraf Waheed and others in the upcoming talks.

The CAA officers and employees' unions had launched a protest movement against the federal government's decision to outsource airports in phases. The CAA employees have also threatened to shut down all operations.

Moreover, the CAA unions unveiled a schedule for the next series of protests at different airports. The civil aviation authority workers will hold a protest on August 1 at the Islamabad airport, August 8 at the Lahore airport and August 17 at the Karachi airport in which they will also organise a rally.

AJK President urges political parties to unite, promote Kashmir cause

Bureau Report



MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry urged all political parties to stand united joining hands to promote the Kashmir cause.

He called upon all political parties within and outside AJK to stand united to promote the Kashmir cause and galvanize world support in favour of the Kashmiri's right to self-determination.

The AJK President made these remarks while talking to a delegation of Jammata-e-Islami (JI) Azad Kashmir, which was led by its Amir Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Khan, at President House in Jammu Kashmir House in federal metropolis on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Chaudhry, while referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that at this critical juncture of the Kashmir issue, all parties inside and outside the country should work together and redouble their efforts to resolve the issue of Kashmir and stop continued bloodshed and violence in the Occupied Kashmir.

Appreciating the Jammata-e-Islami's role and contribution in the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir, the president said that the JI has always played its role to highlight the Kashmir issue in an effective and strong manner.

He said that in view of the highly volatile situation in the region, there was a dire need to apprise the international community about the importance of an early and amicable solution to the Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

Turi reiterates Pak govt's support for ship breaking industry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sajid Hussain Turi, the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, visited the Gaddani ship breaking yard and had a detailed meeting with various stakeholders, including Jan Sher Bazejo, Chairman Municipal Corporation Gaddani, Zulfikar Ahmad Secretary Workers Welfare Fund, Tariq Qamar, Secretary Labor Balochistan, Wali Kakar, Chairman Balochistan Development Authority, Capt (Rtd) Javed Director BDA, Rizwan Dewan, Chairman Shipbreaker Association and representatives of workers and different organizations. This visit was



a continuation of his engagements in Geneva during ILC regarding Occupational Safety and Health and Decent Work Program for ship breaking and

mine workers.

During the meeting, Sajid Hussain Turi assured that the government of Pakistan will ratify the Hong Kong Con-

vention and address Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and other related problems in the ship breaking industry. The safety and health of ship breaking workers are a top priority for the government, and they are taking measures to provide facilities in line with international standards and ILO conventions. He said that Bilwal Bhutto Zardari and other leadership of PPP, PM Pakistan prioritize health and safety of workers. All stakeholders actively participated in the discussion.

Various issues and challenges faced by the ship breaking industry were discussed, and Chairman BDA informed that the Hong Kong Convention is

awaiting approval in the cabinet. Sajid Hussain Turi pledged efforts to facilitate its approval.

Sajid Hussain Turi expressed displeasure over the issue of 8000 ship breaking workers being jobless due to the non-ratification of the Hong Kong Convention, leading to a decline in ships coming to the yard. He directed all concerned to address this issue promptly and assured that all efforts will be made to resolve the problems of the ship breaking industry. He also directed to ensure environmental protection measures in the industry according to international conventions. The stakeholders appreciated his commitment and support.

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TTP, TTA and PTM Nexus - I

Abdul Basit Alvi

Pakistan has long grappled with the scourge of terrorism, which has posed significant threats to its stability, development, and international relations. Despite numerous efforts to combat this menace, the country is still struggling to eradicate the roots of terrorism fully. Pak Army is ensuring the security of citizens by sacrificing their blood.

Terrorism in Pakistan can be traced back to the late 1970s and early 1980s when the country became a frontline state in the Afghan-Soviet War. During this period, Pakistan's involvement in supporting the Afghan mujahideen against the Soviet Union. The rise of sectarianism, fueled by religious intolerance and extremist ideologies, has played a major role in fostering terrorist activities within the country. Sectarian outfits have been involved in deadly attacks against each other, leading to a cycle of violence and reprisals.

The consequences of terrorism in Pakistan have been devastating. Thousands of innocent lives have been lost, and countless others have been injured or displaced. The socio-economic fabric of the nation has been severely damaged, with vital infrastructure and industries suffering from recurrent attacks. The fear and insecurity caused by terrorism have stifled progress, hampered foreign investments, and eroded public confidence in the state's ability to protect its citizens. Moreover, terrorism has had a profound impact on the psyche of the Pakistani people. Fear of public spaces and gatherings has become ingrained, affecting everyday life and constraining

social interactions. Educational institutions and religious places have been targeted, instilling fear among students, teachers, and worshippers alike. Pakistan has undertaken significant efforts to combat terrorism and has made progress in weakening the militant groups.

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has emerged as one of the most formidable terrorist organizations in Pakistan's recent history. Since its inception in 2007, the TTP has conducted numerous attacks that have claimed countless innocent lives and destabilized the nation.

The TTP traces its roots back to the turbulent aftermath of the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Many militant groups, including Afghan Taliban factions, sought refuge in Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, leading to the amalgamation of disparate elements under the banner of TTP. The group aimed to establish its version of an Islamic Emirate and impose strict Sharia law across Pakistan. Led by the enigmatic Baitullah Mehsud initially, and later by Hakimullah Mehsud and Mullah Fazlullah, the TTP harbored deep-seated grievances against the Pakistani state, viewing it as a puppet of the United States in the "War on Terror." Their objectives included overthrowing the government, eliminating perceived collaborators, and enforcing their extremist interpretation of Islam through violence and intimidation.

TTP attacks have resulted in the tragic loss of thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children. Targeted bombings, suicide attacks, and mass shootings have caused immense suffering and grief to families and communities across the country. The unrelenting

violence has taken a heavy toll on Pakistan's economy. Foreign investments have dwindled, tourism has suffered, and vital infrastructure projects have been hampered due to security concerns, affecting overall economic growth. TTP's attacks have forced many people to flee their homes in conflict-ridden areas, leading to internal displacement and straining already limited resources of hosting regions. The TTP has also been involved in sectarian attacks, fueling tensions between different religious groups and undermining Pakistan's social cohesion. In response to the TTP's escalating threats, the Pakistani government and security forces have launched extensive counterterrorism operations to dismantle the organization.

Large-scale military operations, such as Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad, have targeted TTP strongholds in the tribal areas and beyond. These operations have resulted in the killing and capture of many TTP leaders and militants. However, the TTP has proven resilient, regrouping and adapting its tactics. Pakistan has also increased intelligence-sharing with regional and international partners to curb TTP's cross-border movement and funding networks. Despite significant strides in countering TTP, several challenges persist. The risk of radicalization remains high, especially in marginalized communities with limited access to education and economic opportunities.

Recently TTP have once again targeted Pakistan where Additional SHO Adnan Afridi was martyred in an explosion in Jamrud area of Khyber district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the limits of Ali Masjid police station. 2 policemen

were also injured in the Jamrud suicide blast and have been shifted to Peshawar, the injured policemen were admitted to Hayatabad Medical Complex where their condition is satisfactory. Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Ashfaq Anwar, explaining the details of the incident, said that a suspicious person was arrested before the place of explosion. Called the person present to search, but instead of searching, the person ran towards the mosque, the Additional SHO ran after the suicide bomber and meanwhile the attacker blew himself up with the bomb, the Additional SHO was martyred in the suicide blast. According to IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, the explosion took place inside the mosque in the area of Du sarka within the limits of Ali Mosque. During the search, the suicide bombers escaped and hide in the mosque. According to the IG, Additional SHO Adnan Afridi chased the assailant to catch him and as soon as he reached the mosque, he blew himself up. Adnan Afridi, Additional SHO of Police Station Ali Masjid, was martyred on the spot while the mosque building was completely destroyed by the blast. Bomb disposal unit has prepared the suicide blast report in Khyber Masjid, 8 to 10 kg of explosives were used in the blast. The bomb disposal unit said that pieces of suicide vest and ball bearings were found from the blast site, the bomb disposal unit has collected important evidence from the blast site.

Within seven months, the TTP also martyred another mosque. The martyrdom of the police line mosque and desecration of the Holy Qur'an at the hands of TTP was not yet over when another mosque was martyred. TTP is at the

CPEC model of two nations adherence to joint construction

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a model of the two nations' adherence to joint construction and sharing of high-quality resources, which has promoted the socioeconomic progress of Pakistan, Li Yong, a senior research fellow at the China Association of International Trade said on Sunday.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, acting as the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, kicked off an official visit to Pakistan on Sunday to attend the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) celebrations.

The two countries, all-weather strategic cooperation partners, have enhanced comprehensive cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) during the past 10 years.

The CPEC is a flagship of the BRI, which has helped improve Pakistani people's livelihood, and created many jobs for locals, experts said, noting that Western countries disparaging CPEC won conceal Chinese enterprises' contribution to Pakistan nor hurt the iron-clad friendship of the two neighbours.

Gwadar was once an old fishing town, and now it is on a high tide of success with tangible socioeconomic progress, including the establishment of free trade zones there, the Eastbay Express Way, and the inauguration of the New International Gwadar Airport, according to Yasir.

Zhang Baozhong, chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Co, told the Global Times that with the improvement of local ports and infrastructure including hospitals, airports and schools, Gwadar has now been transformed into a modern seaside city with a permanent resident population that grew from 80,000 in 2013 to 220,000 in 2023. Zhang said that his company aims to build Gwadar into a smart port city by 2050 with a total population of more than 1.7 million and an annual GDP of \$30 billion.

The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM), the largest transportation project under the CPEC, was completed in 2019. The project gave priority to hiring Pakistani employees, providing more than 23,000 local jobs, according to a statement China State Construction sent to the Global Times.

The PKM project has also helped propel the development of services industries such as catering, retailing and transportation, indirectly creating more than 45,000 jobs.

Danish, a manager of Power-China's construction project group in Pakistan, told the Global Times that in the field of green energy, Pakistanis are impressed by the technology accumulation and construction efficiency of Chinese companies.

Power-China has completed the construction of 22 wind power projects in Pakistan, with a total installed capacity of 1.14 million kilowatts.

In connection with the 10th anniversary of CPEC, the CPEC Industry Chain Cooperation Platform was launched to kick-start a comprehensive services system covering key industrial cooperation in new energy, smart manufacturing, and the digital economy between China and Pakistan.



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

Pakistani Youth Fleeing Out

Muhammad Usman

Can you imagine a country? Whose 40-60% of youth population want to depart from it for the sake of prosperity, more prolific and secure life, that they assume is available in Europe and America. Which can be hardly imagined in a country like Pakistan facing default with stumbling economy, augmentation in the militancy, soaring unemployment, sky high inflation and most concerning among all_ political instability. This very brain drain process has been seen since 1971 but recent statistics, which elicit shocking numbers, are record breaking. Due to scarce economic opportunities, shrinking freedom, political instability and security threats due to militants, which proves to be the base for any nation, is hurriedly fleeing out of this complex woven country. If these leading factors, behind this boom immigration, are not addressed according to the needs, one day it will result, only powerful elites including government officials, establishment and militants groups will be left behind in the country, leaving all lower-middle class in foreign countries. It will no more be called as state as it will be left bare a laboratory where all sorts of experiments will be made and executed by everyone holding reins.

Firstly let us look at the shocking statistics about the escalation in the immigration. According to data released by Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment about 832339, out of which 92000 (STEM) degrees holders, have departed the country in 2022, as far as it will concerned, this numbers will be doubled this year as just in first five months of 2023 year it has reached 315787. It is feared that this year more than a million people will fly out of the country for the sake of job. Among these are the people, who

are the highly qualified engineers, doctors, accountants, managers and proficient skilled labor who are fleeing out of the motherland in a very deplorable situation being harbored domestically. Extravagances, better resources being provided to the citizens, healthy and secure life, these are the appeasements that act as the driving force behind this implicit act of immigration, against the society being provided by Pakistani state. So people in the persuasion of that ideal lifestyle blindly follow the visa agents, by any mean legally or illegally they just wanted to quite Pakistan. They fall a prey to the human traffickers in this process, as last month Greece boat incident severely caused the death of 300 Pakistanis, because they were illegally going Europe for better life there being sick of Pakistani life overwhelmed in the strings of high inflation and unemployment but unfortunately their rotten boat sank.

By keeping in view these vicious reasons among so high immigration rate, one can derive solutions by keeping in mind the social, economic and political order being offered to the citizens. For the sake of prosperity, people have left only option of working abroad as state is offering no such platform where they can work and uplift their social status. If government want to recede in the number of people going out of country it should invest more and more to create better jobs for them so that they can live prosperous life. Another reason which need to address on urgent base is the threat posed by militants groups. Irrespective of agreements between state and militants groups, there has been many attacks in the province of KP and Balochistan. It is argued that these groups are being harbored under the flag of Taliban regime. So security policy with Taliban Government need to review so that peace can prevail in the region. Deplorable situation among youth has been prevailed due to political instability, which since the

inception of Pakistan remained the main realm. Barracks in the way of democracy has been seen many times in the form of martial laws. So all Pakistan need is the stable democracy under the strong leadership and political will that solely will aim to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and to get economic stability which will garner strong society being provided required resources to meet its needs. There is another thing which needs to mention is that state often rely on Forex Reserves and admires the foreign Pakistanis as they send dollars in the form of remittances in the name of support of economy, but one ever thought what benefits they can cause to the economy if they are provided with job opportunities domestically. A sovereign nation cannot inspire its citizens going out of country just for the sake of remittances.

In the end it is strongly recommend for the government of Pakistan that it needs to review the current situations and threats posing to the society so that it can become a sovereign state. It needs to provide better opportunities to students as well as other labor. Economic stability is much needed at this time so that soaring unemployment rate and inflation can be receded and people can live prosper lives. Pakistan also needs to review its foreign policy with Afghanistan, so that severe challenge of militants groups can be handled professionally. In the country strong political commitments are urgently needed to address above posing threats to the society so that it can become a develop nation with stable economy, better resources and specific population matching those resources. As LalBahadurShastri said;

"We can win respect in the world only if we are strong internally and can banish poverty and unemployment from our country."

Writer is BS Sociology student in 2yuid IAzam University Islamabad. He can reached at usmanislam352000@gmail.com

Broken Myth of Gwadar Port-II

Qamar Bashir

Turkmenistan	1,700	900
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For example, while Gwadar Port was inaugurated on November 14, 2007, and Chabahar Port in Iran was inaugurated on December 3, 2017, Chabahar is attracting far more business than Gwadar, despite the fact that, unlike Gwadar, which is located on the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz, Chabahar Port is located on the Gulf of Oman and is a shallow-water port developed by India as a way to bypass Pakistan and connect India to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The following is a comparative statement of the business won by these three ports in the last five years:

Year	Gwadar Port	Jebel Ali Port	Chabahar Port
2018	\$100m	\$15.3b	\$150m
2019	\$120m	\$16.2b	\$170m
2020	\$140m	\$17.1b	\$190m
2021	\$160m	\$18b	\$210m
2022	\$180m	\$18.9b	\$230m

The myth of Pakistan offering a warm water port of Central Asian is also broken as Chabahar is nearer to Central Asian countries. It is fully operational and well connected with the interior of Iran and Central Asian countries by road and rail links without being marred by any security or safety, law and order or political instability issues. Whereas, Gwadar port is poorly linked via road links, has no train links as it now suffers from security and safety, law and order and uncertain economic and political issues. Have a look at the country wise distance of Central Asian countries to Gwadar and Chabahar:

Country	Distance from Gwadar Port (km)	Distance from Chabahar Port (km)
Afghanistan	1,060	760
Kazakhstan	2,500	1,500
Kyrgyzstan	2,800	1,800
Tajikistan	2,300	1,300

The pace of development of Gwadar port is though facing multiple challenges but fact remains that Gwadar Port is more suitable for regional and international trade compared to other ports in the region for a number of compelling reasons including but not limited to; it is located on the Arabian Sea, at the mouth strait of Hormuz, which gives it easy access to major trade routes in the Indian Ocean and the Middle East, the Strait of Hormuz is a major shipping lane that connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea and has the potential to boost economic development in Pakistan and the region, create jobs, attract investment, and facilitate trade.

It is a valuable asset to Pakistan and the region. It was a deep sea port with a depth of 14.5 metres (now 11.5 metres), allowing it to handle huge container ships, something many other ports in the region do not have due to shallower water depths. It has less depth than Jebel Ali Port, which has a depth of 17 metres and is the deepest port in the Middle East, allowing it to handle huge container ships. Gwadar is superior to Chabahar, whose depth ranges from 2 to 11 metres but is still deep enough to accommodate some large container ships. Gwadar Port has the potential to become a significant transshipment centre for the region, which means goods might be brought to Gwadar Port and then transferred to other ships for further transportation.

Like many other projects Gwadar port is facing our trademark, inefficiencies, vested interests, corruption, lack of competency, capacity and above all lack of political will. As a nation, if we want to make Gwadar port a success we have to set our direction right, automate processes, private the businesses and processes to bring efficiency, make it a free port which have least amount of government interferences otherwise like all other public sector assets which are bleeding wound to the national exchequer, we will add one more white elephant into them, and then we will be offering special prayers for making Gwadar port a success and for progress and prosperity of our country which uptill now has not worked.

The author is the former Press Secretary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan in France and also has been the former MD / CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC)

Xi's special representative to attend Decade of CPEC celebration event

Xinhua

BEIJING: He Lifeng, special representative of President Xi Jinping, will travel to Pakistan from July 30 to August 1 to attend the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event in Islamabad, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced on Saturday.

He, vice premier of the State Council, will travel to Pakistan at the invitation of the government of Pakistan, Mao added.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, and also the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Over the past decade, as an important pioneering project of the BRI, the CPEC has achieved fruitful results and become a new benchmark for the friendship



between China and Pakistan, a foreign ministry spokesperson said. To mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC, the Pakistani government will hold a grand celebration event in the country's capital

Islamabad. He will attend the event and meet with the leaders of Pakistan, the spokesperson said.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad friends, and the friendship between the two countries is time-honored, the spokesperson noted.

China hopes that this visit will be an opportunity for both sides to jointly implement the important consensus between leaders of the two countries, renew the traditional friendship, build on past achievements and upgrade the development of the CPEC, consolidate and deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, advance the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and contribute to the development and prosperity of the region and beyond, the spokesperson added.

China's pandas endure as symbol of cross-border harmony, friendship, understanding

Xinhua

BEIJING: Alongside the 31st International University Sports Federation (FISU) Summer World University Games held in China, giant pandas greeted the guests not only in the zoo, but also through their cartoon images on trains, panda-shaped ice cream, and panda dolls.

Their adorable and amiable appearance, always a massive hit, conveys a genuine warm welcome to the world, just as the Chinese old saying goes: "It is a pleasure to have friends coming from afar."

Panda Craze

Giant pandas are not only China's national treasure but also cherished by people worldwide.

French first lady Brigitte Macron and the country's panda fans recently bade a warm farewell to Yuan Meng, the first giant panda born in France, at the airport for his return to China.

Giant panda Yuan Meng represents the "absolutely unbreakable friendship" between the two countries, said the first lady.

In South Korea, giant panda Ai Bao gave birth to twin cubs at Everland theme park. Their caretakers Kang Cheol-won and Song Young-kwan said that the newborn twin pandas bring great joy to fans of both countries, and they hope this adorable panda family



will bring the people of South Korea and China closer in heart and understanding.

Over the years, giant pandas have served as the envoy of peace and friendship, representing China in cultural exchanges with the world. Pandas bear witness to the growth of friendship between China and other countries and serve as a crucial link in China's efforts to foster friendly relations with the world.

The enduring "panda craze" has added a human touch to international relations. Nowadays, more and more giant pandas are venturing abroad, settling in foreign countries, and carrying the friendly sentiments

of the Chinese people to various parts of the world, sparking emotional resonance that transcends borders.

Furry "Ambassadors"

If people from around the world were asked to choose a cultural symbol representing China, the majority of foreign respondents would select the "giant panda" as their first choice, according to one survey.

The giant panda's gentle and peaceful nature embodies the essence of traditional Chinese culture — openness, inclusiveness, and embracing diverse elements. It has become a cultural ambassador, enabling the world to understand China better.

Statistics show that China has

conducted cooperative research on giant pandas with 22 zoos in 17 countries. As of 2022, there were a total of 64 giant pandas and their cubs living overseas, serving as "friendly ambassadors" from China.

Giant pandas, with China's openness to the world, will continue to carry the concept of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness of Chinese civilization, showing China's wish to deeply integrate with the world and create a better future.

Harmony Between Humanity And Nature

The cherished giant panda has faced breeding challenges. In the spirit of safeguarding national treasures and species reproduction, China shifted its approach in the 1980s, leasing giant pandas and fostering cooperative research with other countries instead of gifting them.

A global effort emerged, with the China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Pandas leading international cooperation. The center has collaborated with 17 zoos in 15 countries, focusing on giant panda protection and ecological civilization.

Over the years, biodiversity protection and harmony between humanity and nature have been highlighted in China's development. National parks and protected areas have been established to preserve the giant panda's habitat.

CPEC generates sustainable development in Pakistan, says Pakistani economist

Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has delivered infrastructure, trade and employment to Pakistan, resulting in sustainable development in the country, a Pakistani economist said.

The enhancement in infrastructure through roads, railways and airport is not just going to provide connectivity within Pakistan but in the region and beyond, Badia Shaikat, an economic consultant at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think-tank, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, 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.

"It will also bring Pakistan to that stage where it can build its regional connectivity with other Central Asian countries and the Western side of the globe. So, I think that CPEC in real term is a sustainable development model," the economist said.

Shaikat said the project enhanced social equity and apart from the financial revenues, it gave a social boost to different segments of the society.

CPEC is giving strong hope to the country amid contemporary challenges as it is providing employment opportunities and



increasing connectivity, which is quite significant for the equitable environment of the society, said the economist.

By the end of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and has created about 236,000 jobs for the country, according to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

On the one hand, he said, CPEC is generating trade improvisation which is helping the local manufacturer with lower cost of trade. On the other hand, the regional connectivity is enabling the Pakistani exporters to export at a much lower cost to other neighboring economies, increasing the trade prospects for the South Asian country, Shaikat added.

Reflecting on the decade-long journey of CPEC, he said that China came to Pakistan when it was going through a

severe economic crunch and there was no foreign direct investment in the country.

CPEC brought a renewed spirit in local Pakistani companies as they went into collaborations and joint ventures with Chinese companies, Shaikat said, adding that it provided a big opportunity to the local companies and the workers in terms of capacity building, technology transfer, and skill development.

CPEC worldwide development Project

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a significant infrastructure development initiative with the goal of fostering economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. It has been in development for a number of years and is regarded as a show-piece project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

When Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited Pakistan at the beginning of 2013, the idea for CPEC was born. Both nations showed an interest in trading links and commercial ties. An economic corridor was suggested in May 2013 when Pakistani Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif visited China. Both nations signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in July 2013 to work together on the creation of an economic corridor. The groundwork for future planning and negotiation was laid by this agreement.

A Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was set up in February 2014 to manage the planning and execution of CPEC. Several meetings were held by the JCC, which was made up of delegates from China and Pakistan, to discuss the project's different

facets, such as industrial cooperation, energy projects, and infrastructure development projects.

We must here compliment Mian Nawaz Sharif, the former prime minister of Pakistan, for attempting to bring economic power rather than military power. He was aware at the time that Pakistan needs projects for economic development rather than military construction. That why he started Economic Corridor with China.

Since most landlocked nations like Afghanistan, Karghistan, Tushkent, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, among others, are located in close proximity to Pakistan, this is true. Additionally, some nations bordering Asia have frozen ports in the winter, making it impossible for them to do business. These nations rely on Pakistan for clean ports and quick trade. The government of Pakistan needs to be aware that this project provides the foundation for our future road connections to major communist nations like Russia, Europe, and other Asian nations like India, China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

The Pakistani government needs to consider the significance of the CPEC because it will have a significant impact on many areas of Pakistan, including the country's economy, trade, exports, security, friendships with neighbouring nations, and the establishment of peace in Asia. However, foreign investment is particularly noteworthy.

Wax figure

FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the unveiling of the wax figure of Former PM Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at an event held at Tussauds_Dubai in UAE. She is the first Pakistani whose wax figure is displayed at Madame Tussauds Dubai.



Iran strongly condemning the terrorist blast in Bajaur

IRNA

TEHRAN: The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement strongly condemning the terrorist blast in Bajaur, Pakistan.

Nasser Kanani said that the terrorists committed an anti-human crime in the gathering of Jamiat Ulema Islam and Iran expresses its solidarity with the families of the victims and stands by the government and people of Pakistan in these difficult moments. The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement strongly condemning the terrorist blast in Bajaur, Pakistan.*

Nasser Kanani said that the terrorists committed an anti-human crime in the gathering of Jamiat Ulema Islam and Iran expresses its solidarity with the families of the victims and stands by the government and people of Pakistan in these difficult moments.

Imam Hussain (A. S) protects human values: Ali Raza Syed

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Paying rich tributes to Imam Hussain (A. S), the grandson of Prophet of Islam (PBUH) and his great companions at the battleground of Karbala, the Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Mr. Ali Raza Syed has said that Karbala is a message of freedom for whole humanity particularly all of the freedom lovers.



In a statement in connection with the day of Ashura, Ali Raza Syed said that the sacrifices offered by Hazrat Imam Hussain (A. S) in the Karbala will remain as an example for the all freedom's believers.

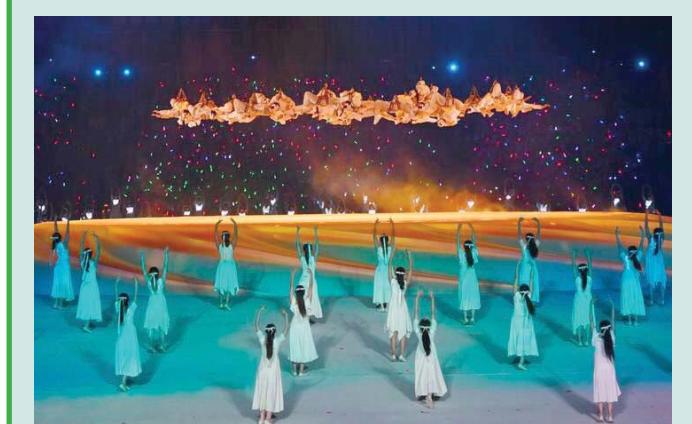
All the pro-freedom leaders and activists of Kashmir who want to liberate their land from Indian occupation, have profoundly learned the lesson from the message of Karbala. In that battle, Imam Hussain got victory despite of his few followers and minor quantity of arms. Yazeed was defeated despite of thousands of forces and a huge quantity of latest weapons of that time.

"The Kashmir's movement which has been backed by the sacrifices of the large number of people will never be blocked by the Indian authorities and one day, the movement would achieve the liberation from the occupation forces.

The martyrs of Karbala set a great example for us to get united and do struggle for the noble cause of Kashmir.

He said, Karbala was a battle between the truth and falsehood but truth prevailed and falsehood defeated.

American archer, also a beauty queen, relishes Universiade experience



Xinhua

CHENGDU: A neuroscience graduate, Guzhen (guitar-like traditional Chinese instrument) player and beauty queen, the three identities are integrated into Katherine Wu, a 23-year-old Chinese American athlete at the Chengdu Universiade.

At the Modern Pentathlon Center Equestrian Arena, Wu is just an archer, fighting for the glory of herself and the country.

In the recurve women's individual knockout, Wu was beaten by China's archer Li Xinxin 6-0, but she did not burden herself with too much pressure.

"Of course, I want to win a gold medal like other competitors, but as long as I can do my best, I will be satisfied," she said.

Wu had already established friendship with her opponent before their battle. "When Xinxin knew she would face me in the competition, she joked with me 'Oh, no! It is you!' We did not know each other before the Universiade, but the event has made us friends," she said.

Differences among politicians over caretaker PM are worrying



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said that differences between the ruling parties on the issue of a caretaker prime minister are worrisome.

The state of the country's economy is bad, the country is on the brink of default, and the danger has not been averted yet, so an expert economist should be made caretaker prime minister, he said.

The name of Ishaq Dar should also be considered, as he can better deal with the IMF and other lenders, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal.

He said that Dar will be able to introduce the necessary reforms and work on the special council will continue at the same pace.

He said that the coalition and allied parties should not make this issue a matter of ego, understand the sensitivity of the situation, and cooperate with the government.

The MD of the IMF has already issued a warning about the economy of Pakistan, and people are very concerned, but a misguided political group is eager to see Pakistan bankrupt and hatching conspiracies for it, he added.

He noted that cooperation between political parties is crucial in these alarming situations. There is a strong possibility of a further increase in interest rates and further depreciation of the rupee, which will cause more distress to people and destroy businesses.

Therefore, all political forces should not try to increase their share in the following setup but should struggle to save the economy.

The IMF will not solve our economic problems, but it is here to get the economy out of the current vortex, for which uniformity and political cooperation are necessary which will help keep the programme on track.

The next review of the IMF will be held in November, and if successful, the loan instalment will be disbursed by the month of December. Therefore, the incoming caretaker government must do everything possible to ensure the success of this programme.

In this situation, the presence of an expert economist in the new setup is necessary. The worrying economic conditions of the country are proving to be a boon for a former prime minister and his party which is busy spreading rumours to disappoint the masses, he said.

Stocks remain bullish for third successive week



TLTP

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) surged for the third week in a row and the benchmark KSE-100 Index gained 1,156.26 points (+2.52 percent) on a week-on-week basis on the back of massive foreign inflows.

The KSE-100 Index surged by 852.75 points (+1.89 percent) and 861 points (+1.95 percent) in the preceding two weeks. Overall, the index gained 2,870.01 points during the last three weeks. The KSE-100 Index has gained 5,624 points since the government signed the Staff Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on June 30.

The market got a fresh trigger last week after Beijing rolled over a \$2.4 billion loan to Islamabad for a period of two years, a boost to the latter's foreign reserves on the back of an IMF deal which helped it avert a default. "Chinese Exim bank rolled over principal amounts totalling \$2.4 bln which are due in next 2 fiscal years," Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said in a post on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter. Moreover, Islamabad expects a generous inflow of \$600 million from a consortium of two major Chinese banks in the coming days.

Another contributing factor to the market rally was the announcement of a collaboration between five Pakistani state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and Saudi Arabia. The collaboration aims to execute a substantial \$10 billion refinery project within Pakistan, signaling potential economic advancements for the country.

Pakistan is losing the war against poverty

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Sunday Pakistan is losing the war against poverty while neighbouring countries are winning this war and they have been reducing poverty successfully.

People in Pakistan are continuously getting poorer while people in India and Bangladesh are getting out of poverty, he said.

Per capita income in Pakistan has fallen to \$1,550, while per capita income in India has reached \$2,210 and Bangladesh has reached \$2,660, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that Pakistan ranks 99 out of 129 countries in terms of hunger and there is a possibility of further



degradation.

An international organization has warned that by 2030, forty-six countries, including Pakistan, will not be able to achieve sufficient success in reducing hunger, he informed.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that millions of people in Pakistan are not able to eat enough food due to inflation which is a big challenge.

The business leader said that last year's floods, political conflict and the decline of the economy have made the situation very serious, while the debts of 77 billion dollars have to be paid in three years, which will prove to be a big problem.

He noted that the value of the rupee, production, exports and remittances continue are falling, while electricity and gas are becoming more expensive, which has broken the back of the people.

The WFP estimates that an average Paki-

stani household spends more than 50% of its monthly income on food. As a result, events such as floods can have calamitous effects on households across the country.

According to the World Bank, there are several changes that Pakistan needs to implement to deal with the pressing issue of hunger and food scarcity.

The Government of Pakistan needs to "address food insecurity in rural and urban areas through multi-sectoral operations." These operations need to make markets more accessible to both producers and consumers and to reduce institutional inequality in sectors such as agriculture.

In these circumstances, Russia has terminated the contract allowing Ukraine to export grain through the Black Sea, which will increase hunger, poverty and anxiety in the whole world, including Pakistan, he warned.

ICCI to give awards to Conveners of top performing Sub-Committees

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the top performing sub-committees of the Chamber would be given awards to recognize and acknowledge their effective role in resolving the issues of the business community of their respective sectors. He said this while presiding over a meeting of the conveners of ICCI sub-committees. A large number of conveners including women attended the meeting and briefed the President ICCI about the performance of their respective sub-committees.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that during his tenure, 150 sub-committees have been formed in the Chamber, but only some of them are showing good performance. He urged all the conveners to further improve the performance of their committees and present their performance reports on a monthly basis to ICCI. He assured that ICCI would provide all possible support to the committees in discharging their responsibilities.

ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik said that just as the standing committees of the Parliament play an active role in the legislative process, the sub-committees of the Chamber can play an effective role in



solving the issues of the business community of their respective sectors.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that the sub-committees led by the executive members are working in various fields and the well-performing committees also reflect the excellent performance of the executive members. He said that these committees have an important role in the decision-making process of the Chamber and they should play their role in order to deliver up to the expectations of the business community.

Vice President ICCI Engineer Azharul Islam Zafar, Former Presidents

Zahid Maqboo & Mohammad Ijaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Ms. Fatma Azim, Ms. Zeenat Ayesha, Abbas Hashmi, Aizaz Muhammad, Tahir Ali Naqvi, Baber Chaudhry, Ch. Ashraf Farzand, Dr. Usman, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Ameer Hamza, Malik Shabbir, Rizwan Chheena, Faheem Iqbal, Hazoor ul Islam, Kashif Zaheer, Ms. Nasira Ali, Musharraf Janjua, Nasir Chaudry, Naveed Satti, Nisar Mirza, Rohail Anwar Butt, Sohail Chaudhry, Waqas Khan, Zulqarnain Abbasi, Raja Imtiaz, Ch. Irfan, Shahid Abbasi and others also spoke on the occasion and presented performance reports of their committees.

Volatile exchange rate, record hike in markup to shut local industry: PIAF

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) has said that the country's economy has been facing crisis majorly due to non-serious and poor domestic policy decisions and mismanagement, as the rupee continued to remain unstable while the key interest rate have been escalated to the record historic high level, which will destroy the economy completely.

Asking the authorities to include serious and progressive fiscal reforms in the IMF program PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol observed that it is very clear that IMF programs focus on stabilization and crisis management rather than growth-oriented policies that require structural reforms.

He stressed need for a revisit of government policies including the coordination exercise between



the Ministry of Finance and SBP, as no independent economist could support the economic policies that are currently in place.

He added volatility continued to exist despite IMF program is revived and inflows are materialized. He said the delay in IMF funding created uncertainty in currency market and added that a number of payments related to imports have been made, leading to pressure on the rupee, as the move to a market-based currency exchange rate regime is one of a list of actions the IMF wants Pakistan to complete to clear its 9th review.

After the fire

RAWALPINDI: Traders stands outside shopping mall after the burning of their shops at Rahmana-bad alongside Murree Road in the city.



Photo: Online

Rupee gains over 1pc against dollar in open market

TLTP

KARACHI: Pakistani rupee made minor gains against the US dollar last week, rising by 0.13 percent in the interbank market and 1.02 percent in open market, while its rate remained unchanged in the black market/Hundi.

According to the figures shared by the State Bank of Pakistan, the rupee opened at 286.81 in the interbank market on Monday last and closed at 286.45 on Friday last, inching up by Rs0.36 (+0.13 percent) against the greenback.

Similar was the case in

the open market, as the local unit opened in the range of 291-294 against the dollar on Monday and closed the week at 288-291, appreciating by Rs3 (+1.02 percent). However, the dollar was quoted at Rs310 in the black market/Hundi on Monday last and same was the rate at the end of the week without any change.

During the current fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistani rupee has shed Rs0.46 against the US dollar in the interbank market, while it plummeted by Rs59.02 against the greenback in the current year.

Further jump in key policy rate to deepen economic crisis: BMP

News Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has warned the central bank of any further jump in the key policy rate, as it would deepen the economic crisis amidst record highest markup rate in the region.

FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that already unprecedented inflation and high markup rate have drastically reduced private sector borrowings during the outgoing fiscal year.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is all set to announce its latest monetary policy on Monday, with many experts fearing further hike in interest rate which is already touching the historical-high of 22 percent.

He said that the central bank raised

its key interest rate to 22 percent, exceeding investor expectations, as the cash-strapped country attempts to encourage the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to release critical funding. The key rate of the State Bank of Pakistan now stands at 22 percent, its highest level since October 1996.

Now, there are reports that the SBP would raise the interest rate by another 1 percent at the upcoming meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to please IMF. The Businessmen Panel (BMP) chief suggested the central bank to adopt an accommodative monetary policy stance, asking the finance minister to fulfil his commitment of reining in inflation besides cutting interest rate and strengthening the undervalued local currency against dollar.

The SBP has raised its key policy rate by 12.25 percentage points since April 2022, mainly to curb soaring



inflation.

However, it held rates steady in June saying inflation had peaked at 38pc in the preceding month. But before the end of the month, it raised rates by 100 bps at an emergency meeting in an effort to secure IMF funds, citing slightly deteriorat-

ed inflation outlook.

In the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) that resulted from its talks with the IMF, Pakistan said it stands ready to consider further action at the next monetary policy committee meeting and subsequent ones until inflation and

inflation expectations are on a clear downward path.

The SBP on its website says: "Monetary policy involves central banks' use of instruments to influence interest rates and/or money supply in the economy with the objective to keep overall prices and financial markets stable. Monetary policy is essentially a stabilization or demand management policy that cannot impact long-term growth potential of an economy."

However, the ground realities are totally different when it comes to monetary policy cannot impact long-term growth potential of an economy as the record-high interest rates and inflation skyrocketing the cost of production mean no one is ready to invest in productive sectors. Thus, this rate policy advocated by the IMF and pursued by top central banks will push Pakistan further into quagmire.

Pakistan Street Child Football team earns first victory in Norway Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Street Child Football team downed Norwegian club Frigg Oslo FK in their first match of the World Youth Football Cup 'Norway Cup' on Sunday.

Pakistan Street Child Football team outplayed Norwegian club Frigg Oslo by a huge margin of 11-1. Abid Ali was the star scorer for the Pakistan Street Child Football team as he attained four goals while Saud Ahmed and Faisal Ahmad smashed two goals each, respectively. One goal each was scored by Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Adeel and Sahil Gull. Meanwhile, the lone goal for Norwegian club Frigg Oslo was hit by Scott McNol.

The second match of the National Street Football Child team would take place on Monday while the third match on August 1.

The Pakistan squad includes Forwards: Tofail Shinwari, Faisal, Shamir Ali, Saud; Midfielders: Abdul Wahab, Muhammad Ali, Ali Asif, Ahmed Raza; Defenders: Muhammad



Street Child Football Team has been runner-up in the Street Child Football World Cup held in Qatar and has secured the second position in Norway Cup 2015 and third position in Norway Cup 2016.

ICC finalises schedule for T20 World Cup 2024: report

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has finalised the schedule for the T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to be co-hosted by the United States of America (USA) and West Indies, ESPN Cricinfo reported.

According to the report, the next edition of the T20 World Cup will run from June 4 to 30.

It further revealed that the ICC had shortlisted venues in the USA which include Lauderhill in Florida, Morrisville, Dallas and New York, for tournament matches and warm-ups.

Notably, Florida has already hosted international matches and is set to host the second ODI between West Indies and India.

Morrisville and Dallas — currently hosting the inaugural edition of the Major League Cricket — are yet to get international status,



which is mandatory as per ICC rules. "The grounds in Dallas (Grand Prairie Stadium), Morrisville (Church Street Park) and New York (Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx) are yet to get international venue status, which is mandatory as per ICC rules," the report stated. "A final decision on the venues will be taken by the ICC together with Cricket West Indies (CWI) and USA Cricket (USAC) in the next few months," it added.

Cup 2024 before the regional qualifiers including hosts West Indies and US, and the top eight teams at the 2022 T20 World Cup — Australia, England, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan and Bangladesh qualified for the next year's mega event on the basis of superior team ranking.

It is pertinent to mention that the next edition of the T20 World Cup will feature a record 20 teams and will be played using a different format.

"The top two teams in each of the four groups of five will move to a Super Eight phase, where the remaining sides will be split into two groups of four," ICC said in a statement.

"The top two in each group will then make their way to the semi-finals," the statement added.

The Ashes: Aussie openers frustrate England before rain interruption

Australia's openers displayed impressive resilience, frustrating England with their strong start to a monumental chase of 384 runs before rain disrupted play on the fourth day of the final Ashes Test at The Oval.

Usman Khawaja remained unbeaten on 69, while David Warner stood firm at 58 not out, steering the tourists to a comfortable 135-0. England's attempt to bid farewell to Stuart Broad, who announced his retirement on day three, was met with a bittersweet twist as rain halted their momentum.

The match, which has witnessed gripping battles throughout the series, is on course for another thrilling finish. England remains the favourite to take the match, having posted an imposing target for Australia. However, the tourists' determined and cautious approach to batting has put them in a promising position to potentially claim an unlikely victory.

England's woes stemmed from a collapse in their batting order on the third day, where they lost their last six wickets for just 63 runs. Stuart Broad's final innings concluded with a powerful six off Mitchell Starc, providing the only runs added to England's overnight total of 389-9. The cautious approach by Australia's openers capitalized on the slow and lifeless pitch, making England's task of finding a breakthrough increasingly challenging.

Bayern's Sadio Mane set to join Ronaldo at Saudi's Al Nassr

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bayern Munich announced on Saturday that Senegalese striker Sadio Mane was in talks "about a change of club" with reports suggesting he was destined for Saudi side Al Nassr.

The German champions left Mane out of a friendly match in Tokyo, posting on social media: "Sadio Mane is in contract negotiations about a change of club and is therefore not in the line-up today."

The 31-year-old former Liverpool star is expected to become the latest high-profile player to join the cash-rich Saudi league.

As Bild and Kicker magazine reported Sadio Mane was on his way for a medical with Al Nassr, and Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel declined to be drawn on the player's future.

"We are still in the transfer window

and I would like to see what's going on and wait and see how things will happen," he told reporters after Bayern's 1-0 win over Kawasaki Frontale in Japan.

Sadio Mane would be another major signing for the club that pulled off the first coup of a raft of signings by Saudi clubs, luring Cristiano Ronaldo, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Mane won the Champions League and Premier League in six seasons with Liverpool and was a key part of Jurgen Klopp's devastating front three with Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino.

When Liverpool won their first English league title for 30 years in the pandemic-disrupted 2019-2020 season, Mane scored 18 goals.

But in the summer of 2022, when he won the African Player of the Year, Mane decided he wanted a new challenge — unconfirmed rumours said he



had tired of sharing the limelight with Egypt's Salah at Anfield.

Bayern made a big play for Mane, promising to make him the focal point of an attack which had just lost the services of Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona.

After a strong start to the season at Bayern, it soon became clear that Mane was not clicking in Bavaria.

In a Bundesliga game against Werder Bremen in November, Mane suffered an injury to his fibula and his season was

put on hold.

The injury forced him to miss the World Cup in Qatar at the end of last year in a crushing blow to Senegal's chances.

While Sadio Mane returned to the Bayern team in 2023, his problems were underlined when he became involved in a physical altercation with teammate Leroy Sane following a Champions League defeat to Manchester City.

Bayern reportedly fined Mane around 350,000 euros (\$385,000) and gave him a one-match suspension for his part in the incident.

He ended the season with an underwhelming 12 goals in 38 games across all competitions.

He is set to quit Bayern with two years left on his contract.

On the international stage, Sadio Mane helped Senegal to the Africa Cup of Nations title in 2022.

No interest in retiring,' says James Anderson



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: England fast bowler James Anderson insists that turning 41 on Sunday will not push him into retirement, claiming he "has a lot more to give".

England's all-time leading wicket-taker with 690 Test victims, is enduring a rare lean patch in the ongoing Ashes series against Australia.

So far he has taken only five wickets in the four matches he has played with one more innings left in the fifth Test at The Oval to add to his tally.

"As soon as you get into your 30s as a bowler, people are asking how long you've got left," Anderson told the BBC's Test Match Special after the second day's play on Friday.

"But in the past three or four years, I've bowled as well as I ever have. I feel like I've been in so much control, my body has been in a good place, my skills are as good as they ever have been.

"In terms of retirement, I've got no interest in going any time soon. I feel like I've got a lot more to give."

James Anderson dismissed Mitchell Marsh on Friday as Australia were bowled out for 295, a lead of just 12 runs in the first innings.

Having missed the win at Headingley which brought England back to 2-1 down in the series, it extended a run that has seen Anderson not play in a Test win against Australia since 2015.

"I don't feel like I'm bowling badly or losing pace or that I'm on the way out," said James Anderson. "I still feel I can offer a lot to this team."

It is pertinent to mention that Australia retained the Ashes after the fourth Test against England ended in a rain-affected draw, with bad weather at Old Trafford washing out Sunday's final day.

The result ensured Australia, as the holders, kept the Ashes at 2-1 up with one match left in the series — regardless of the result of next week's fifth Test at The Oval.

Heavy overnight rain left the outfield sodden and meant play was unable to start as scheduled at 11:00 am (1000 GMT) in Manchester.

No sooner had it been announced that play would resume at 12:00 GMT, provided there was no further rain, the ground was subjected to a fresh downpour lasting several hours.

The match was officially abandoned by the umpires as a draw at 16:24 GMT.

Despite this draw, Australia will still have to avoid defeat at The Oval if they are to secure their first Ashes series win in England since 2001.

MI New York edge Texas Super Kings to set up MLC final with Seattle Orcas

A Sports

Trent Boult returned splendid figures of 4/24 and steered MI New York to a comfortable six-wicket victory over Texas Super Kings to book their spot in the Major League Cricket (MLC) final.

In the second qualifier of the inaugural edition of the MLC, MI New York stunned Super Kings to book their final clash with table-toppers Seattle Orcas.

Set to chase 159, MI New York comfortably accumulated 162 for the loss of four wickets and six balls to spare with Dewald Brevis leading the charge.

MI New York had a flying start to the pursuit but lost two wickets — Slade van Staden (6) and Shayan Jahangir (36) — inside the powerplay.

Skipper Nicholas Pooran then anchored the run chase with a cautious 30-run partnership for the third wicket with Brevis before Daniel Sams dismissed the former, who could score 20 off 23.

With Pooran's dismissal, MI New York slipped to 74/3 in the 11th over, needing 85 runs in 56 deliveries.

Meanwhile, hard-hitting batter Tim David joined hands with Brevis and turned the game on its head with belligerent hitting.

The pair added 50 runs for the fourth wicket in just 30 deliveries before David perished. He scored a quickfire 33 from 20 balls, hitting four sixes.

Brevis, on the other hand, stood his ground firm and steered MI New York to victory with an unbeaten 41. He received significant support at the backend from David Wiese, who played a vital 19-run cameo from 11 balls.

Dewald Brevis top-scored for MI New York in the run chase. He faced 33 deliveries and smashed one boundary and two sixes.

Put into bat first, the Super Kings were jolted by a fiery spell from Trent Boult and could score 158 in 20 overs.

Opening batter Devon Conway (38) and Milind Kumar (37) made vital contributions while the rest failed in the important MLC fixture. Notably, seven Super Kings batters failed to make it into the double digits.

Boult led the bowling attack for MI New York with 4/24, followed by Tim David picking two wickets.

Following a convincing victory in the Qualifier 2, MI New York will now take on Seattle Orcas in the final of the inaugural MLC on Sunday.

GT20: Rizwan stars as Vancouver Knights sink Brampton Wolves

A Sports

BRAMPTON: Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan scored an anchoring half-century in the run chase and powered Vancouver Knights to a resounding nine-wicket victory over Brampton Wolves in the 12th match of the GT20 Canada.

Set to chase a modest 130, the Knights comfortably amassed 133 in response, for the loss of just one wicket and 17 balls to spare.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rizwan, who joined Knights following his participation in the away Test series against Sri Lanka, which Pakistan swept 2-0, made inroads in his first GT20

2023 appearance.

The right-handed opening batter top-scored for the Knights with an unbeaten half-century and steered them to a much-needed victory.

Rizwan scored 52 from 42 deliveries, laced up with two boundaries and three sixes.

Besides him, Corbin Bosch also played a pivotal role in the Knights' successful run chase, scoring an unbeaten 50. His 41-ball knock featured five boundaries and a six.

The pair of Mohammad Rizwan and Corbin Bosch added 104 runs amid their unbeaten second-wicket partnership and eased their side to glory in the 18th over.

Meanwhile, Fakhar Zaman

played an anchoring 21-run knock in 20 deliveries.

For the Wolves, only Logan van Beek could pick up a wicket.

Put into bat first, the Wolves' batting lineup struggled and could only pile 129/9 in the allotted 20 overs.

The home side lost wickets at regular intervals which eventually resulted in them setting a modest total on the board.

Chris Green (23), Hussain Talat (20) and Usman Khan (18) remained the notable run-getters for the Wolves with meagre contributions.

Ruben Trimpelmann led the bowling attack for the Knights with 4/25, followed by two wickets from Junaid Siddique.

In another GT20 fixture, Mississauga Panthers succumbed to a straight fourth defeat in the ongoing extravaganza, following their 55-run defeat against Surrey Jaguars.

Jatinder Singh's brilliant half-century up the order bolstered the Jaguars to post a commendable total of 164/6 in their quota of 20 overs.

Singh top-scored for the Jaguars with a 45-ball 57, laced with five boundaries and a six.

Set to chase 165, the Panthers bundled out for a paltry 109 and thus handed a thumping 55-run victory to Jaguars.

Cameron Delpoit (33) and Shreyas Movva (31) remained the top-scorers for the Panthers in a dismal show with the bat.

