



Musadik says 'Dust to Development' conference to boost Pakistan's mining sector

Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Malik, on Monday, termed the forthcoming mineral conference titled "Dust to Development" as a journey of prosperity that eventually extricate Pakistan from the quagmire of economic challenges. (Details on Page 8)



Iranian Envoy condemns Bajaur terrorist attack

H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl in order to convey the message of condolence and sympathy of the nation and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the government and people of Pakistan after the terrorist attack in Bajaur yesterday leading to the death of tens of innocent people. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

10th Anniverssary of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Special Representative and Vice Premier of China Mr. He Lifeng signing the First Day Cover of a commemorative postal stamp at ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CPEC on Monday.

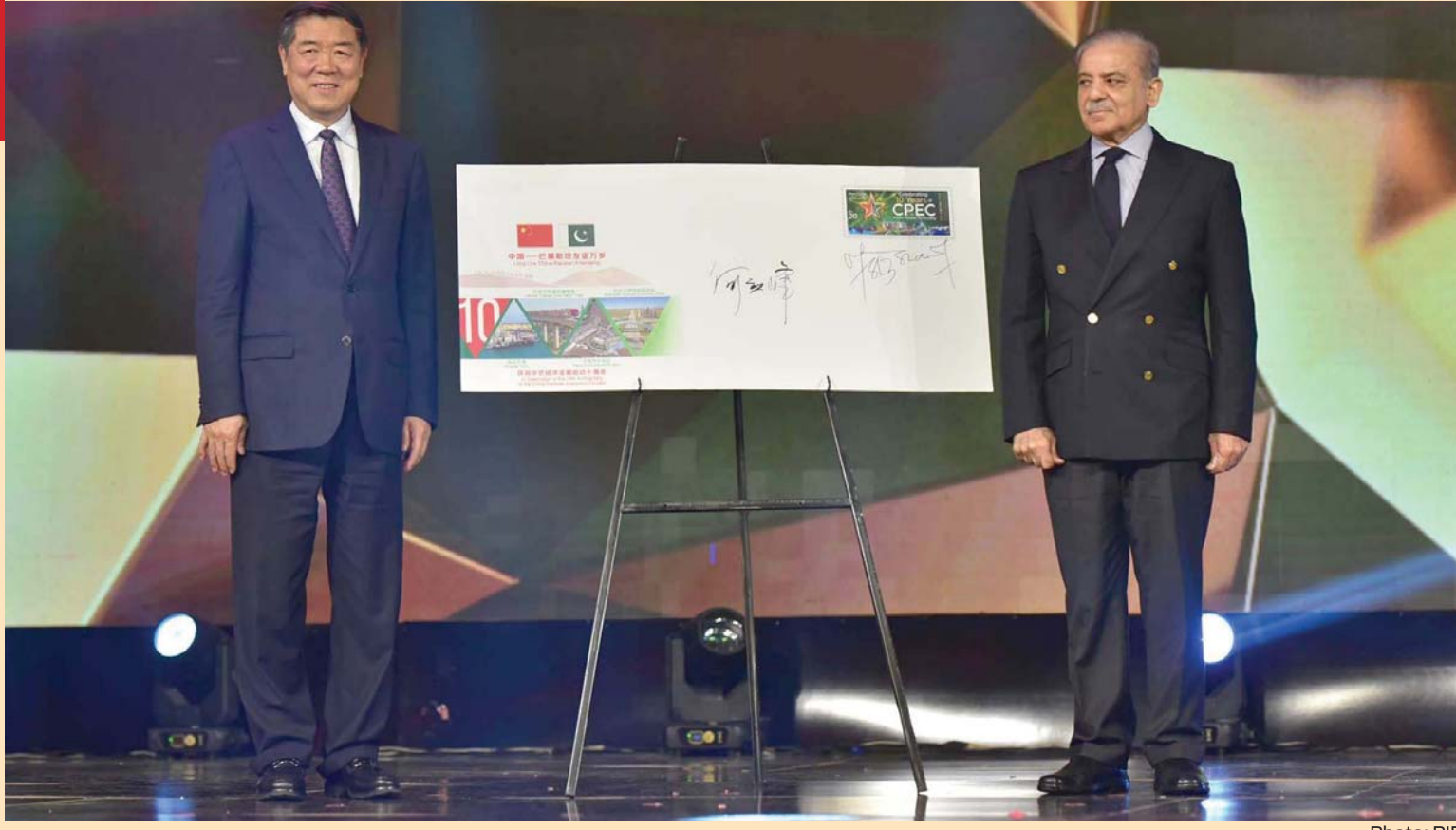


Photo: PID

Pakistan, China vow to continue cooperation for CPEC

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have expressed their firm resolve to continue their cooperation for further developing CPEC as a high-quality demonstrable project of the Belt and Roads Initiative.

This was expressed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier of the State Council of China, He Lifeng during their speeches in a special ceremony held in Islamabad to celebrate the completion of the 1st Decade of CPEC.

Addressing the event, PM Shehbaz Sharif and Vice Premier He Lifeng paid rich tribute to CPEC for its positive contribu-

tion to Pakistan's socio-economic development, and the progress and prosperity of the people of the two countries.

They underscored that as the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has transformed Pakistan's economic landscape by removing infrastructure bottlenecks and eliminating power shortages.

The leadership of Pakistan and China also appreciated the endeavours of Pakistani and Chinese experts, engineers and workers for their meritorious contribution to timely completion of all CPEC projects in Pakistan.

At the occasion, Vice Premier

He Lifeng also read a special message of President Xi Jinping, congratulating the government and people of Pakistan on the completion of the first Decade of CPEC.

High-level leadership attended the event from Pakistan and China, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, and the Vice Premier of the State Council of China, Mr. He Lifeng.

Senior Ministers of China and Pakistan, high ranking officials from both countries, and corporate executives of leading Chinese companies working in Pakistan also participated in the event.

To mark the significance of the occasion, a special Postal Stamp,

Commemorative Coin and First Day Cover, were also issued.

Both sides also unveiled a first Decade of CPEC memento capturing the achievements made and the futuristic vision of CPEC.

During the event, special performances were organized to display multiple facets of Pakistan's pluralistic and progressive culture, and to highlight civilizational affinity and fraternal ties between Pakistan and China.

It may be recalled that Pakistan and China have kicked off CPEC projects in 2013, after the visit of the Chinese Premier to Pakistan.

Under the rubric of CPEC, the two countries initiated and

completed multiple projects in the past ten years in the energy, transport infrastructure, port, airport development and digital connectivity.

CPEC brought huge dividends to Pakistan as manifested in the creation of over 200,000 jobs, the addition of 8000 MW power to national grid, building of 510 kilometers of highways and 932 kilometers of road network, and laying of 820-kilometer long optical fiber line.

Under Phase-II of CPEC, both countries have expanded cooperation to new areas including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development and science and technology.

China to keep advancing CPEC 'as exemplary project': Xi

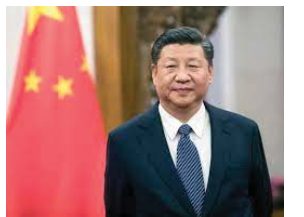
Xinhua

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday China will work with Pakistan to aim for high-standard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes and further build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi made the remarks in a congratulatory message to the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Xi pointed out that CPEC is an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road cooperation. Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and have achieved a number of early harvests.

This has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said, adding that it is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, and



provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Stressing that China and Pakistan will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation, Xi said no matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan.

Xi added China and Pakistan will continue to work hand in hand and forge ahead in solidarity to carry forward the ironclad friendship, coordinate development and security, pursue cooperation of higher standards, broader scope and greater depth, and take the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights, so as to make even greater contribution to peace and prosperity in the two countries and the broader region.

Shehbaz has not chosen, ruled out any candidate for interim PM: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said that contrary to reports and speculation by certain sections of the media, and as reported in Dawn newspaper today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has not chosen or ruled out any candidate for interim prime minister as yet.

In a tweet, she said that the appointment of the interim PM will be carried out according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution, both in letter and spirit.

She said that the PM would



consult with all allied parties in the government and would obtain guidance from PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to identify the most suitable candidate.

The minister said that after consulting with allies, the prime minister will consult with the leader of opposition in the National Assembly to take a decision on the matter, as per the Constitution.

NADRA imposes new travel restriction on passengers

City Desk

KARACHI: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has imposed a new travel restriction on passengers travelling abroad and directed to mandatory check their polio vaccination cards.

The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) directed the airlines' administrations to mandatory check the polio vaccination cards of passengers who are travelling abroad.

The instructions were issued to the administration of all airports and airlines. The passengers have been advised to keep updated online polio cards while travelling abroad.

It further stated that the passengers must receive their updated polio vaccination cards after the expiry of the old ones.

In June, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had abolished COVID-19 vaccination and testing evidence while travelling to and from Pakistan.

Bajaur suicide attack draws condemnation from across Muslim world

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The suicide attack that took place in Bajaur on Sunday, which killed around 44 people and left over 200 injured, has drawn strong condemnations from across the Muslim world.

The leadership of the Muslim nations as well as the heads of the Muslim world bodies condemned the heinous crime and sympathised with the bereaved families.

At least 44 people were killed in a suicide blast at a Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers' convention in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Bajaur district on Sunday. The explosion occurred when more than 400 JUI-F members and supporters gathered under a tent in the town of Khar, near the border with Afghanistan.

Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hissein Brahim Taha, in a statement, condemned the explosion in the strongest terms.

He offered his sincere condolences to the victims' families and to the government and people of Pakistan wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.

The secretary-general reaffirmed

the OIC's solidarity with Pakistan in its efforts to combat extremism and terrorism.

In a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry denounced the attack and reaffirmed the Kingdom's rejection of violence and terrorism anywhere in the world, expressing that the Kingdom stood in full solidarity with Pakistan and its people.

The ministry offered condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, the government, and the people of Pakistan, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf Jassim Muhammad Al-Budaiwi, also condemned the bombing and said that the position of the Cooperation Council was firm.

He said the Council rejected all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism, which aimed to destabilize security and stability and were inconsistent with human values and principles.

Similarly, in a statement, the UAE foreign ministry also strongly condemned the terrorist attack and reiterated its permanent rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining securi-

ty and stability in contravention of human values and principles.

The UAE ministry also expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the Pakistani government and people.

The State of Qatar also expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the explosion.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm position on rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani strongly condemned the attack and offered condolences on behalf of the government and the people of Iran to the government and people of Pakistan.

Besides Kuwait, the state of Egypt also condemned the bombing and "renewed its firm stance toward its categorical rejection of all forms of violence.

"Egypt, government and people, expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy to the government and people of brotherly Pakistan in this painful affliction, and to the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for all the injured," the Egyptian foreign ministry said.

LPG prices increased by Rs23.86 per kg

Commerce desk

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has increased the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by Rs23.86 per kg.

According to OGRA, the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was increased by Rs23.86 per kg after which the LPG price is fixed at Rs201.15 per kg.

Meanwhile, the domestic cylinder rate has been increased by Rs5770. The new rates of LPG with increased prices will be Rs2,759.89 per domestic cylinder.

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) fixed the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at Rs177.29 per kg in July.

The LPG prices increased by Rs281.51 for the 11.8 kg cylinder and the price now reaches to Rs 2373.64.

Earlier on July 26, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) increased the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by Rs10 per kg.

According to the notification, the price of LPG has been increased by Rs 10 per kilogramme to Rs240 per kilogramme.

ECP seeks removal of caretaker ministers over 'political associations'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) asked the caretaker Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to remove ministers who are involved in politics.

As per details, the Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) wrote a letter to the caretaker CM of KP and took notice of the political involvement of caretaker ministers, secretaries, and assistants.

The ECP has sought the removal of caretaker ministers, advisors and assistants over 'political associations'

The letter stated ECP has come to know about the appointments of caretaker ministers based on political affiliations and former caretaker minister Shahid Khattak is proof of political appointment.

However, there are still several ministers who have expressed their political affili-

ation in media which is a violation of the Election Act 2017.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) sought a report from the Election Commissioner of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding the participation and speech of caretaker minister Shahid Khattak in a public meeting.

In a statement, a representative of the ECP said the purpose of report is to assess the situation and decide if any legal action is necessary.

The spokesman emphasized that it is essential for all incumbent governments to adhere to the law and provide complete cooperation to the commission to ensure fair, transparent, and unbiased elections.

The commission cannot grant permission to any incumbent government or minister to participate in any electoral campaign. In case of violation, legal action will be taken, concluded the spokesman.

Condolence

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday offering condolences to President JUI-F for the party workers who were martyred in a suicide attack on JUI workers convention in Khar, Bajaur.



Photo: PID

President calls for enhanced Chinese investment in SEZs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for enhanced Chinese investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, particularly in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

The president, in a meeting with Special Representative of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, and the Vice-Premier of the State Council of China, He Lifeng, who along with members of his delegation called on him, said that Pakistan was desirous of Chinese cooperation and support to strengthen its agriculture, information technology (IT), transport, and textile sectors.



Welcoming the delegation, the president highlighted that Pakistan and China enjoyed an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and always stood by each other in difficult times.

He added that Pakistan and

China had a unique relationship and the world must learn from the time-tested friendship between the two brotherly countries.

He appreciated that bilateral relations between the two countries had continued to

expand to new areas of cooperation.

Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), President Alvi said that CPEC would transform the economic landscape of Pakistan, besides bringing prosperity to the region.

He added that CPEC had considerably helped in overcoming the shortage of electricity in Pakistan. He maintained that Pakistan would continue to extend firm support to China on all its core issues.

The president expressed gratitude for China's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute, apart from thanking the Chinese Government for providing financial support to Pakistan in diffi-

cult times.

He congratulated the Vice-Premier on the conferment of the award of Hilal-i-Pakistan on him and appreciated his contributions towards promoting Pak-China friendship and successfully overseeing the implementation of CPEC projects.

The vice-premier apprised the president about the measures taken by the Chinese government for the elimination of poverty in China. He thanked the president for the conferment of Hilal-i-Pakistan on him in recognition of his services.

He also conveyed the best wishes of Chinese President Xi Jinping to President Dr Arif Alvi.

Pakistan, China sign documents on CPEC phase-II; further cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Monday signed six documents that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said would further enhance bilateral cooperation and help undertake the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under a new model.

Held at the PM House, the signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who, along with a delegation, is visiting here to attend the 10th-anniversary celebrations of CPEC.

Both countries signed Document on Joint cooperation committee on CPEC;

MoU on establishing export exchange mechanism within the framework of CPEC; protocol of phytosanitary requirements for export of dry chillies from Pakistan to China and a Document on the final report on the feasibility study of realignment of KKH Phase-II.

Both sides also signed through diplomatic channels an MoU on the industrial workers exchange program as well as minutes of the 21st conference of technical committee to promote the strategic ML-1 project.

The prime minister, in his remarks at the signing ceremony, expressed pleasure over the signing of documents and thanked Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng for visiting



Pakistan to celebrate 10 years of CPEC.

He recalled that 10 years ago, CPEC was signed between that time Prime Minister Nawaz and President Xi Jinping and implementation was started within no time.

"Today we can claim that under CPEC above \$25 billion investment took place

investment in agriculture and information technology to enable Pakistan to export its products according to Chinese standards and requirements.

The prime minister also thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for sending his special envoy to Pakistan and showing solidarity for people-to-people friendship and showing to the world that both countries were bound in a great and unique relationship. "We are all-weather friends and iron brothers. This friendship will continue and will not tolerate any kind of obstacle in its way," Prime Minister Shehbaz remarked.

He said Pakistan was absolutely ready to contribute to President Xi's vision of shared prosperity.

PTI chairman challenges Toshakhana verdict in SC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman, along with his legal team on Monday challenged the Toshakhana verdict of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the Supreme Court.

The appeal was formally filed by the PTI Chairman's legal representatives, urging the Supreme Court to review the decision made by the Islamabad High Court.

In the petition, the PTI chairman's legal team urged that the IHC's ruling did not impose any restrictions on the trial court's proceedings, allowing it to continue its proceedings as scheduled.

The appeal argues that by not granting an injunction, the trial court's hearing is set to conclude, rendering any appeals to the High Court futile after the trial's completion.

Parliamentarians call for uncovering elements behind terrorist attack

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The members of the National Assembly on Monday strongly denounced the attack on the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) gathering in Bajaur and emphasized the urgent need to identify and expose the elements responsible for terrorist incidents across the country.

During a point of order, Sheikh Rohsail Asghar, a member of Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), condemned the attack and requested the suspension of the question hour to discuss this grave and tragic incident. He highlighted that a similar incident occurred on May 9, intended to weaken the

institutions responsible for protecting the country.

Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, while addressing the House, regarded the attack as an assault on Pakistan, all political parties, the Constitution, and democracy itself. He pointed out that such incidents of terrorism had already resulted in the martyrdom of numerous law enforcement personnel, police officers, and civilians. He emphasized the urgency of revealing the hidden hands behind these brutal acts.

Minister for Communication, Maulana Asad Mehmood, expressed his condolences for the loss of JUI-F workers and stood in solidarity with the bereaved families. He stressed that

the attack wasn't merely targeting a specific party but was an attack on the entire nation, its economy, democracy, and innocent citizens. He lamented that political workers who stood firmly for the constitution and democracy were continuously becoming targets of violence.

Maulana Asad highlighted the alarming number of JUI-F leaders who had lost their lives in the past two years due to similar incidents in various regions, including Khyber Agency, Tarah Valley, Tribal areas, and Balochistan. He strongly stated that they would not compromise on Pakistan, Islam, and democracy, striving to make the country economically and politically robust.

Rana Tanveer Hussain stressed the necessity of unity and the formulation of a concrete strategy to tackle such situations effectively.

Minister for Water Resources, Syed Khurshid Shah, also strongly condemned the incident, pointing out that his party's leadership had been a major victim of terrorism. He attributed the root cause of such incidents to a non-democratic mentality.

PTI lawmaker Sardar Riaz Mehmood Khan Mazari also condemned the tragic incident in Bajaur and criticized the policies of previous governments during the Afghan war, which he believed resulted in chaos and unrest in the country.

President confers Hilal-i-Pakistan award on Chinese vice-premier



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday conferred the Hilal-i-Pakistan award on Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, in recognition of his contribution to the Pakistan-China friendship and promotion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, services chiefs, National Assembly speaker, Senate chairman, federal ministers and parlia-

mentarians.

Conferred on both Pakistanis and foreign nationals, the Hilal-i-Pakistan award is meant to recognize those people who have made a meritorious contribution to the national interests of Pakistan.

At the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping, the Vice Premier of China and Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, is visiting Pakistan to attend the 10th-anniversary celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

IPU delegation calls on Ishaq Dar



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Duarte Pacheco, President Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), along with a delegation of representatives of the International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC), called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar warmly welcomed Duarte Pacheco on his visit to Pakistan and shared that Pakistan valued its partnership with the IPU and provided regular support through its candidacy at International Organizations in pursuit of global peace, prosperity and economic stability, said a press release issued here Monday.

The finance minister also informed about the recent economic and financial measures taken by the government which have put the financial position of the country on an upward trajectory.

He also mentioned that keeping in view its strategic position in the region, Pakistan's vision was to make the country a regional hub for trade and energy corridors as well as a destination of choice for industrial production and IT services and for this reason, Pakistan valued its trade ties with all the regional countries.

The President IPU appreciated the role that Pakistan and its parliamentarians had been playing through the platform of the IPU and IPC in ensuring the common aspirations of people across the world, particularly in terms of peace, security, human rights, and sustainable development.

The delegation was consisted of Abdel Rehman Maiaa Member IPC from Jordan Parliament, Saran Traore Member IPC from the Guinea Parliament, Nagiyev Arzu Member IPC from the Azerbaijan Parliament, Sitara Ayaz Former Member IPC from Senate of Pakistan.

Musadik says 'Dust to Development' conference to boost Pakistan's mining sector

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum, Musadik Malik, on Monday, termed the forthcoming mineral conference titled "Dust to Development" as a journey of prosperity that eventually extricate Pakistan from the quagmire of economic challenges.

The financial value of Pakistan's minerals amounted to 6.1 trillion dollars, surpassing the total net worth of corporate giants such as Apple, Amazon and Google, the minister said while addressing a press conference here.

He said that 'Dust to Development' was the commencement of a new era of mining in Pakistan as its scope was not limited to mining, but smelting and export as well.

"We will extract minerals like copper, lithium and iron and export the by-products of these minerals from its raw soil," the minister added.

Unveiling the mining vision of the government, he said that smart industrial clusters would be built in Baluchistan where the raw minerals from the soil would be extracted and converted into export items.

The minister emphasized that the



export items generated through the utilization of these mineral resources would bring significant benefits to the country, multiplying the advantages manifold.

The mining sector had great potential for job creation, the minister said and added that thousands of people would get jobs through the new mining vision of the government.

Underlining the mining rules complexities in Pakistan, he said that tangible actions would be taken in order to facilitate foreign direct investment.

In this regard, the government had churned out a 'One Window Operation' which was being chaired by the prime minister, he added.

Judicial Commission formed for complete investigation of the Islamia University incident: Zeeshan Akhtar

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Amir Jamaat-e-Islami South Punjab, candidate PP 253 Syed Zeeshan Akhtar and Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Bahawalpur, candidate PP 254 Nasrullah Khan Nasir have said that a judicial commission should be formed for a complete investigation of the Islamia University incident. As this campaign was launched on social media without any research, the teachers belonging to the sacred department and our chastity students have been put in the dock. He was addressing a press conference at Jamaat-e-Islami office along with Media Coordinator Arif Hussain Asim Malik Abdul Hai and President Political Committee Abdul Jalil Hashmi. Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami said



that if Islamia University, the source of knowledge, has been defamed as part of a deliberate conspiracy, then those responsible should be exposed and if there is any truth in the allegations against the university, then those responsible should be held accountable. Who are the wolves in human form

who have dared to spoil this educational institution of ours and they should be made a lesson.

He said that the semester system and the race for numbers have reached a point where we are ready to give everything.

He said that through the semester system, girls have been left at the mercy

of the sick minded people to prevent such shameful incidents by revising the semester system to secure the educational and examination process and in educational institutions. There is a need to end the mixed system of education. He said that the Jamaat-e-Islami University will not sit down with China until a complete investigation of the incident and ruthless action against those responsible, and in this regard, an all-party conference was held at the Jamaat-e-Islami office on August 1. In which the political and social leadership of Bahawalpur will participate and a protest sit-in will be held at University Chowk on August 3 at 4 pm, in which a large number of parents and students will participate and Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Sirajul Haque will address.

Commissioner Multan Division visits Cardiology Institute Phase 2 Multan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the instructions of the Punjab government, the district administration has started a full crackdown against hoarders and wholesalers to give relief to the Public.

Inspection of markets and markets is being done on a basis and official rates are being implemented.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that 41 price control magistrates across the district have been given the task of price checking within their allotted limits and imposing heavy fines on wholesalers. Citizens should also file complaints of high street prices with the district administration, on which immediate action will be taken.

Commissioner Multan chaired important meeting in Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak chaired a review meeting on the performance of the district administration. Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered to maintain stability in the prices of essential commodities and said that the price control magistrates should improve surveillance in the markets. Price The list should be clearly displayed and implemented at the official rate. The prices of essential commodities should be closely monitored. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that the Department of Agriculture should crack down on fake agricultural medicines. Awareness should be given to the public in the anti-dengue campaign.

Instead of being afraid of the dengue mosquito, citizens should keep their environment dry and clean. In the meeting, a briefing was given about anti-bullying, supply of urea, fertilizer, anti-dengue campaign, while prices and availability of essential items, especially flour, sugar were reviewed and it was decided to take unconventional measures to control inflation. Additional Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, Director Agriculture Shehzad Sabir, Assistant Commissioners, Food Department, Health Department, Market Committee concerned officers were present

Aamar Aziz posted as MD, WASA (FDA)

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Government of the Punjab, Services and General Administration Department has notified Aamar Aziz (Bs-20/Time Scale Up-gradation) as MD, WASA Faisalabad.

According to the details, he has been performing his duties as Managing Director, WASA, under Gujranwala Development Authority (GDA) & is hereby transferred, with immediate effect and posted as Managing Director, WASA, under Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) in his own pay & scale relieving.

Further Mr. Khalid Raza Khan, Superintending Engineer (BS-19), PHE Circle, Faisalabad was performing duties as additional charge on this post.

Moreover, by the order of the Governor of the Punjab, the Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman ensured above transfer.

On the posting of new, MD, WASA, the people expressed that he would perform his duties for the entire satisfaction of the public previewing the problems whom they have been facing for a long time.

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association warns of more crises due to rising energy prices

Mian Rashed Asghar

FAISALABAD: Chairman All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Asghar Qadri has said that the government has increased the prices of electricity and gas on the terms of the IMF, creating more crisis for the country's industries and people. Due to which the increasing prices of electricity and gas have caused industrialists to sit in darkness.

He elaborated that this phenomenon has also become a big threat to the people and the economy. He clarified that, If energy prices continue to rise, then thousands of businesses and industries will shut down soon. Falling Exports will further fall and millions of people will be unemployed. He expressed that, electricity and gas should be supplied regularly to the industrialists and the rising prices should be curbed immediately by the government otherwise we will not be able to export. He said adding that, due to continuous increase in electricity and gas prices, the industries and the people are suffering but these problems are not being addressed & Lakhs of people have become unemployed due to the closure of industries, while the industries are facing destruction due to the increase in electricity and gas prices.

Bricks

ISLAMABAD: Vendors parked their loaded trucks along the Lehtarar Road to sell "Peshawari Bricks" in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab govt is trying to provide easy access to basic health facilities to public: Amir Khattak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Mega health projects in the city of Saints are on the way towards completion. The Punjab government has entrusted the special task of completion of development projects to Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak. In this regard, Commissioner Aamir Khattak paid a surprise visit to Cardiology Hospital, Civil Hospital. He discussed the facilities available to the patients and said that Punjab government is trying to provide easy access to basic health facilities to the Public. OPD in cardiology extension block has been made fully functional

The work on the project worth 3 billion rupees is going on rapidly. The deadline has been given to make the hospital fully functional in September this year. Construction of 3 basement, ground floor, 3 flow hospital will add 208 beds. A 4-storied inn will be constructed at a cost of 20 crores in cardiology hospital. One PC of the 250-bed inn has been sent to the Punjab government. While reviewing the construction work on the occasion of the visit to Civil Hospital, Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the



existing building of Civil Hospital is being handed over to Children's hospital emergency

cy will be moved to civil hospital building. 47 million rupees scheme should be completed in one month. He said that the Punjab government has a special focus on improving the health sector. Compromise on quality will not be tolerated in the completion of projects. The completion of the schemes should be ensured in due time keeping in mind the public interest. Director Development Rubina Kausar, MS Cardiology Dr. Iqbal, Axion Building Hyder Ali, Director Technical Dr. Farhan, DMS Dr. Asad, officers of the relevant departments was present.

Healthier food choices & sugary drinks



Sana Ullah Ghumman

In today's fast-paced world, food safety and healthy dietary choices have become crucial for maintaining overall well-being. Unfortunately, the glob-

al rise in diabetes cases indicates that certain food-related habits and choices have contributed to this alarming trend. Among these concerns, the consumption of sugary drinks has emerged as a significant issue, prompting questions about public policies and the need for greater awareness of their impact on public health.

A growing body of research indicates that there is strong association between the consumption of 'Sugar-Sweetened Beverages' (SSBs) and an increased risk of type-2 diabetes. According to Dr Abdul Basit, General Secretary of the 'Diabetes Association of Pakistan' (DAP), 'the disease is growing with a very high pace at global level, quadrupling in every 30 years, going from an estimated 108 million in 1980 to 537 million adults aged 20-79 years now' (IDF Atlas 2021).

Dr Basit says that 'Pakistan tops the list of countries with highest percentage of per capita prevalence (1 in every

4 = 30%) accumulating to 33 million people. Because of this huge burden, around 400,000 people die each year in Pakistan due to health conditions related to diabetes. More than quarters (26.9%) of adults living with diabetes in Pakistan are undiagnosed. Another 11 million adults have 'Impaired Glucose Tolerance' (IGT), which puts them at higher risk of developing type-2 diabetes. The country is spending around USD 2640 million in health expenditures to manage diabetes. If no urgent policy action is taken, the number of people living with diabetes will increase to 62 million by 2045'.

Not many people recognize that there are 40 grams of free sugars (10 teaspoons of table sugar) in a can of sugary drink. Studies indicate that people who consume 1-2 cans of sugary drinks or more each day have a 26% higher risk of developing type-2 diabetes. These beverages are high in calories and lack essential nutrients, leading

to weight gain, insulin resistance, and an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Excessive sugar consumption can also lead to dental problems, obesity, heart disease, and other chronic conditions.

WHO recommends for children and adults to limit their consumption of free sugars to less than 10% of their daily energy intake in order to prevent obesity (this is the equivalent of 12 teaspoons of table sugar). Reducing this amount by half brings in additional health benefits. Contrary to this suggestion, we are witnessing an upsurge in the consumption of sugary drinks including sodas, energy drinks, and fruit juices with added sugars.

Debates surround the role of regulations in curbing excessive consumption of sugary drinks in the society. Nutrition and tax policy expert Munawar Hussain (Consultant, Global Health advocacy Incubator) says that putting more tax on sugary drinks is an effective strategy

to reduce their consumption. To date, around 50 countries have introduced such measures, including Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The results are promising in bringing down the consumption of sugary drinks and prevalence of diabetes in these countries. Therefore, the Federal Board of Revenue and Ministry of Finance in Pakistan should also increase Federal Excise Duty as an urgent measure on all type of sugary drinks like sodas, juices, energy drinks and iced teas to a minimum of 50 percent'.

Critics argue that the sugar and beverages industry in Pakistan has been influencing public policy making, hindering efforts to increase taxes on sugary beverages. Sanaullah Ghumman, General Secretary of the 'Pakistan National Heart Association' (PANAH) says that government should enforce stricter regulations, and initiate public education campaigns to

ensure consumers are informed and empowered to make healthier choices. However, apparently there is not much interest in the public sector to look into these demands. He says that increasing taxes and enhancing public awareness is crucial in combating the rising tide of diabetes and promoting healthier dietary decisions. He demanded that public health campaigns should highlight the dangers of excessive sugar consumption, and benefits of healthier alternatives like water, unsweetened beverages, and fresh fruits. He also called upon the people to unite as individuals, communities, and societies to nurture a culture of food safety, reduce excessive sugar consumption, and empower everyone to make informed choices that support their well-being.

(Writer is General Secretary Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH))



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

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

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7

Projects announced under SIFC will attract FDI: RCCI

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has said that the projects announced under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) will not only increase foreign direct investment but also stabilize the rupee. RCCI President Saqib Rafiq while addressing the executive committee meeting, said that the proposed investment of friendly countries Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in approved projects like agriculture, minerals, IT, energy, and petroleum and mining sectors will provide a solid foundation for Pakistan's economy.

He said that after the approval of the three billion dollar package of the IMF program, the way for funds from friendly countries, Saudi Arabia and the UAE was paved and it sent a positive message to the market.

TikTok introduces text posts; an exciting new way for users to express themselves

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: TikTok, the leading destination for short videos, has announced the launch of text posts, an innovative new format designed to empower creators and provide exciting opportunities for self-expression. With text posts, TikTok is expanding the boundaries of content creation, offering its vibrant community another innovative way to showcase their stories, poems, recipes, and other written content.

TikTok is always looking to empower its creators and community with innovative tools that inspire self-expression. TikTok's commitment to nurturing creativity in all its forms has led to a diverse array of content formats, including videos, photos, Duets, and Stitch. The introduction of text posts adds yet another dimension to the content options, enabling creators to effortlessly share their written brilliance and making it even easier to inspire and captivate audiences.

Creating and sharing text-based content has never been simpler. On the Camera page, users now have the choice of three options: photo, video, and text. Opting for text opens the text creation page, where creators can pen their thoughts and ideas in a user-friendly interface.

20th anniversary of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan celebrated

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALKOT: The 20th anniversary of the founding president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, was celebrated at his mausoleum at Kot Mate Khan at 9:45 in the morning. On behalf of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Commissioner Poonch Division Chaudhry Muhammad Farid, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Sabir Mughal, SSP Waheed Gilani laid wreaths on this occasion, Member of Assembly Sardar Hasan Ibrahim Khan, Assistant Commissioner Rawalkot Usman Saram and other officials, political and social personalities were also present. On the occasion of the anniversary, a ceremony

was organized in the premises of the shrine in which the speakers highlighted in detail the outstanding deeds of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and paid great tribute to him for his national services. A special prayer was offered for him and the determination to complete the mission of the deceased and to bring the freedom movement of Kashmir to its pious end was reiterated.

Meanwhile: founding president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan 20th death anniversary of the by organizing ceremonies at all the district and tehsil headquarters of Azad Kashmir, to pay tribute to him for his services to the Azadi Kashmir movement and the development of the Azad region. On the occa-



sion of the anniversary of Ghazi Millat in the capital Muzaffarabad, the event was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission at the Resource Center Jalalabad. Former Minister Mrs. Noreen Arif was the chief guest of the ceremony. Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission Raja Muhammad Aslam Khan, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Sardar Ali Shan and others participated in the ceremony. The speakers paid tribute to the services of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in magnificent words. Former Government Minister Mrs. Noreen Arif said that on July 19, 1947 at the residence of Ghazi Millat, the path and destination for Kashmiris was determined with the approval of the

decision of annexation of Pakistan. This is a reflection of the resolution's love for Pakistan, whether it is the Azadi Kashmir movement or the development of the region. We see the extraordinary role of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan everywhere. He played his most important role to maintain it. The speakers said that the way Ghazi Millat performed the duty of national leadership in the Azad-e-Kashmir movement and the passion and enthusiasm with which he was actually a part of the movement is a brilliant chapter in history, the speakers said. said that for the great cause for which the Ghazi Millat will play its full role for the completion of the Jihad and, God willing, the Kashmir Liberation Movement will be successful.

Hard work

ISLAMABAD: An elder vendor is selling balloons along the road side at Sector F-10 to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

President AJK paid eulogizing tributes to "Ghazi Millat" on his death anniversary

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has paid eulogizing tributes to the AJK's founding president Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan on his twentieth death anniversary.

Addressing a special event held here today to pay homage to the former President, Barrister Chaudhry said that Ghazi e Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, would always be remembered for his indomitable role in the freedom movement and selfless service to the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Recalling his father's association with Ghazi e Millat, the president said that his father Ch. Noor Hussain was also a long-time associate of Ghazi Millat.

Barrister Chaudhry, while referring to various development and public welfare projects initiated at the time when he was prime minister, said, "I have had the honour and privilege to work under the guidance of Ghazi e Millat for five years".

Barrister Chaudhry said that it was under his guidance and direction that a number of mega projects were launched in the state from which revenue worth billions of rupees was being generated



Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was a dynamic personality who not only led the freedom movement but also represented Kashmiris at the United Nations.

Recalling the supreme services rendered by the founding President, Barrister Chaudhry, on the occasion, declared that displaying the portrait of Ghazi Millat in all the offices of Azad Kashmir should be ensured.

"Goi Nala Road in Poonch, Palindri Cadet College, Bagh Development Authority, Kotli bypass road, Rehman Bridge, and Sui gas project in Mirpur and other development projects were launched during his government", the president said, adding that credit for launching these development projects goes to Ghazi Millat Sardar Ibrahim

Khan. The AJK president also lauded the supreme sacrifices rendered by the people of Kashmir in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He regrettably noted that India has broken all records of barbarism and brutality in Kashmir.

He said that there was a dire need that Kashmiris on this side of the ceasefire line should devote their energies to highlighting the Kashmir cause and exposing India's nefarious designs before the world.

He said that all the political parties of Azad Kashmir were united on the issue of Kashmir. He said that the government would take all stakeholders on board on the issue of Kashmir.

Urging the Kashmiri expatriate community to redouble their efforts to expose the Modi government's nefarious designs in the region, the president voiced his apprehension of increasing bloodshed and violence in the territory held before the general elections in India.

The function was also attended and addressed by Khula Khan, daughter of Fatiha Mirpur Khan of Mang, Sardar Taslim Khan, Sardar Shahid Khan, Mohammad Rizwan Mustafai advocate of Jammu Kashmir Peoples Party, Adviser to president Sardar Intiaz Khan and others.

Annural Khalid is Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador for July 2023

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: From humble beginnings, Annural Khalid has risen through the ranks to become Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador for the month of July 2023 owing to her soulful compositions and heart-touching voice. As her popularity rises amongst the masses, Annural becomes the latest female musician to stand tall on a digital billboard in Times Square, NYC and her deeply personal track "Trust Issues" gets featured on the EQUAL Pakistan playlist on the music streaming service.

Describing herself as having "started singing around the same time I learned how to speak", Annural made her



formal debut in 2020 and has since released a number of singles while also collaborating with some of the leading names in the local music industry. While her songs

aren't attributed to a specific genre, they exude a chill pop/R&B vibe.

Expressing her views at the announcement, Rutaba Yaqub, Spotify Senior Editor in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh stated: "EQUAL Pakistan has dug deep and struck chords with the Pakistani music listeners in an unprecedented manner. We feel honored to announce Annural Khalid as the new face of the initiative and look forward to her swaying crowds, raising barriers, and breaking stereotypes in the industry."

Some of Annural's popular tracks include "Kehderna", "Mujhe Leh Chal", "Dil de Bol", "Pretty Lies" and "Sohneya Ve".

Umm-e-Salma nominated as organizer of the Wafaaq Tanzeemat Nafaaaz-e-Urdu-Attack

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Umm-e-Salma, an educationist, was nominated as the organizer of the Wafaaq Tanzeemat Nafaaaz-e-Urdu-Attack. Congratulating Chairman Javed Intizar, he said that with his nomination, the organization and membership of the federal arrangements for the implementation of Urdu in Attock will be accelerated. The manifesto and demand for the establishment of Urdu in our country will gain strength. Umm-e-Salma said that I will try to meet the expectations of the organization. In two to three months, I will complete the eleven-member organizational committee of Urdu Attock for the implementation of federal arrangements. Like-minded activists of the organization will be included in the committee. The thought, theory, manifesto and demand for the implementation of Urdu is the voice of the heart of the common Pakistani. In the light of Quaid-e-Azam's decree, all possible steps will be taken to make Urdu the educational, official and judicial language of the country. Javed Intizar said that the organization in which women join becomes successful.

RTC on Defensive and Offensive Economics (Non-Traditional Security)



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A Round Table Conference titled "Defensive and Offensive Economics (Non-Traditional Security)" led by the National Security Division (NSD) of the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the National Institute of Maritime Affairs was organized on 31 July 2023 at Bahria University, Islamabad. Engr. Aamir Hasan, Secretary NSD graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event was moderated by Mr. Babar Bilal Haider, Director Indian Ocean Study Centre, NIMA.

Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M), DG NIMA formally commenced the proceedings by highlighting the importance of non-traditional maritime security threats vis-à-vis a resilient national economy. The Chief Guest, Engr. Aamir Hasan, Secretary NSD emphasized on identifying and strengthening the underlying factors of defensive and offensive economics for a stronger sovereign state. He called for the development of a blue roadmap to achieve said goals. He also appreciated NIMA and NSD for organizing discourse on the topic.

Earlier, Mr. Faheem Sardar, Senior Policy Specialist in Non-Traditional Security at NSD, while addressing the concept of Defensive & Offensive Economics, shed light on strategies that nations can adopt to safeguard their interests and build resilience against shocks. Cdre (Retd) Bilal Abdul Nasir SI(M), Director NIMA Islamabad dilauded upon non-traditional threats in relation to maritime affairs and Blue Economy. He concluded that we need to harness the true potential of maritime economy.

The conference was well-attended by government officials, reps of think tanks, academia, and key maritime stakeholders. In the end, the DGNIMA expressed gratitude to all participants for their active involvement and valuable contributions.

PYMA termed power tariff hike a disaster for business, industries

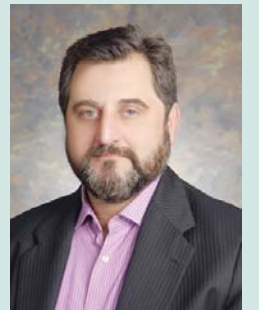
News Desk

KARACHI: Sohail Nisar, Senior Vice Chairman, Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA) has strongly opposed the significant increase in electricity tariffs, declaring this move as devastating for businesses and industries. He appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Energy Minister Khuram Dastgir Khan, urging them to reconsider the decision and revoke the hike in electricity rates. He also called for implementing policies that would reduce the cost of doing business and industries.

In an appeal, he said that it was already very difficult to do business and run the industries due to high production costs. Now, with an additional increase of Rs7,50 rupees in electricity tariffs, it will further burden the economy and lead to its downfall.

"The government talks about strengthening the economy, pulling the country out of crises, and promoting business, industrial activities to create ample employment opportunities. However, on the other hand, the government is taking anti-business and anti-industry measures, which are eroding the trust of the business community in the government."

PYMA office-bearer pointed out that the country's revenues are continuously declining, and even foreign buyers are hesitating to place orders with Pakistani exporters due to concerns about timely delivery of goods. This fear is somewhat justified as the production costs for industries are increasing daily, while electricity and gas tariffs have also risen significantly, severely affecting industrial activities.



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CPEC: A Bridge to the Future

Over the last decade, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been a huge success story. The project has aided in the improvement of communication between China and Pakistan, as well as the economic prosperity of both countries. It has been a decade of success in terms of enhancing connectivity between China and Pakistan, including the transformation of Gwadar into a modern port city, the upgrade of the Karakoram Highway, and the facilitation of goods and people movement between the two nations. It has been a prosperous decade, as the CPEC has promoted economic development in both China and Pakistan, increased investment, and helped both countries' economies thrive. CPEC has brought the two countries closer together and has contributed to the development of trust and understanding. A decade of hope: CPEC has aided in the improvement of infrastructure, the creation of jobs, the expansion of the economy, and the giving of hope to people for a better future. CPEC is a success story that is still unfolding, and it is certain to have a long-term positive impact on both the countries and the region.

China and Pakistan by \$30 billion while lowering transportation costs up to 30%. According to these analyses, the economic benefits of CPEC are and will continue to enhance the lives of millions of Pakistanis by improving access to roads, railroads, and power, provided that concerns about debt sustainability and environmental damage are addressed.

The tangible advantages gained to Pakistan in the last 10 years have been summarised eloquently by the Ambassador of Pakistan to China Mr. Moin ul Haq, with whom I had the honour to work as a Press Minister in the Embassy of Pakistan to France (2015-2020). He is an accomplished gentleman, a compassionate, caring, and affectionate senior, with distinct communication and leadership skills, who supports a clear vision and is passionate about Pakistan. In the following comments, he described tangible benefits in a report delivered to the president for his review. Over the last ten years, 888 km of road network have been constructed, and 13 major energy projects have added over 8000 MWs of energy to Pakistan's national grid. A new 878-kilometre transmission line has been constructed to evacuate 4000 MW of electricity. An 820 km long cross-border optical fibre cable has been installed, which cumulatively has enhanced Pakistan's GDP by 1-2%. After the second phase of CPEC is completed, the contribution of CPEC is expected to grow exponentially. These tangi-

ble outcomes of CPEC have negated the concerns expressed by the United States, India, and some Western countries that CPEC will give China too much influence in the region and that Pakistan's debt burden will increase and would make Pakistan more vulnerable to Chinese influence.

Both Pakistan and China have held several events in both countries to highlight the achievements accomplished by CPEC over the previous ten years. As the finale of these events, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng has already arrived

and connectivity. In 2013, President Xi announced the initiative during state visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia. The plan had two components: the Silk Road Economic Belt on land and the Maritime Silk Road. Initially referred to as the One Belt, One Road initiative, the two were eventually renamed the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to the Green Finance and Development Center, China's investment in BRI projects in 2022 was about \$67.8 billion and in pursuance of this initiative so far China has signed over 200 deals with Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal and quite a few other countries. This is however far less than the commitment made by the Chinese government in 2017 to invest over \$ one trillion under this initiative.

In Pakistan, the road and highways arteries built under CPEC are providing much-needed connectivity within Pakistan and with regional and international countries. Under this project, approximately 888 kilometers of brand new motorways and highways have been constructed, with another 853 kilometers of world-class roads currently under construction.

In the first phase, the completed motorways included KKH Phase II (Havelian-Thakot Section), Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section), Hakla-D. I. Khan Motorway, and Orange Line Metro Train-Lahore.

Moreover, package I of the Main Line-I (ML-I) railway upgrade project will be initiated in the middle of this year.

To be continued

According to an authentic research study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), CPEC has the potential to increase China's GDP by \$2.5 trillion and Pakistan's GDP by \$350 billion, while also creating up to 7 million employment in Pakistan by 2030. According to another analysis by the Centre for Global Development, CPEC may enhance trade between



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Party of China, is in-charge of China's global economic relations and the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, of which CPEC is a flagship project. He will meet with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Arif Alvi separately, in addition to being the ceremony's Chief guest with Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif.

CPEC is the flagship project of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) or Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Chinese government launched OBOR in 2013 in an effort to connect Asia, Europe, and Africa via a network of highways, railways, ports, and other infrastructure projects to facilitate trade, investment,



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

Pakistani pink salt attracts buyers in China

The popularity of Pakistani Himalayan pink salt products, including salt lamps and bath salt, has been growing in recent years in China, said Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Hussain Haider.

"Pakistan can further expand its export of salt products to China by enhancing its marketing and packaging," he said while addressing a webinar on the promotion of Pakistani pink salt jointly held recently by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.

According to General Administration of Customs of China, Pakistani Himalayan pink salt to China reached \$4,968,223 in 2021 and \$5,747,492 in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 15.68 percent, which shows the gradually expanding market and promising prospects of pink salt exports to China.

The improvement in Pakistani can be attributed to a combination of factors, including increased awareness among Chinese consumers about the health benefits of pink salt, marketing campaigns, and the establishment of strong trade partnerships between Pakistani exporters and Chinese importers.

The rise in its exports has not only boosted the Pakistani salt industry but also provided a much-needed economic boost to the country. Increased demand has created new jobs in the mining and processing sectors, contributing to the overall growth of the local economy.

Ismail Suttar, chairman of Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP) and president of Employers Federation of Pakistan, pointed out at webinar that as the popularity of pink salt continues to grow, the Pakistani government, in collaboration with industry stakeholders, is actively exploring ways to expand production capacity and improve infrastructure.

These efforts are aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the salt industry and maximizing its potential in meeting rising demand from China and other international markets.

Wang Zihai, Pakistan's Honorary Investment Counsellor in China, said at the webinar that pink salt lamp, a major product of Pakistan's export of pink salt to China, works like an air purifier, killing bacteria and removing dust, allergens, smoke, odors and mold spores.

It can also be used as decoration and a night light to create a tranquil atmosphere, which is popular among Chinese consumers.

He added that besides lamps, BBQ salt, bath salt, and decorative salt are Pakistan's advantageous products which have huge potential in the Chinese market.

In the first half of this year, Pakistani Himalayan pink salt to China reached \$2,694,493, a slight decrease of 5 percent compared with \$2,839,582 during the same period of last year. To make up for the decline, about 30 companies from China and Pakistan further shared their views at the webinar to promote Pakistani pink salt export to China.

They agreed that to cater to the Chinese market, Pakistani salt exporters should take steps to ensure the quality and authenticity of their products; extensive quality control measures need to be implemented to maintain the high standards that Chinese consumers expect; in addition, efforts should be made to promote the unique characteristics of pink salt through various marketing channels, including social media platforms and trade shows.

TTP, TTA and PTM Nexus - II

TTP is at the height of hypocrisy. These so-called religious terrorists are the real enemies of our country, nation and religion in the name of Islam and Sharia.

Readers, The military operations in various regions, particularly in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), have dealt severe blows to terrorist strongholds. Additionally, the government has taken steps to strengthen legislation, intelligence-sharing, and international cooperation to tackle terrorism effectively. The National Action Plan (NAP), implemented in 2014, aimed at enhancing counterterrorism measures, addressing hate speech, and curbing terrorist financing. While some strides have been made, there remains a need for sustained and comprehensive efforts to root out terrorism entirely. Terrorism in Pakistan is a multifaceted challenge that demands a comprehensive approach addressing its historical roots, socio-economic drivers, and ideological underpinnings. International cooperation is equally crucial, as terrorism knows no borders. Neighboring countries, especially Afghanistan and India, can play vital roles in supporting Pakistan's efforts, and Pakistan can reciprocate by working closely with them to counter cross-border terrorism.

Then there is another point which has been disclosed by very reliable sources. After the attack on Police Line Masjid Peshawar, the strong public opposition to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the response of the Pakistan government, the army chief and the ISPR and then the statement made by the Afghan government TTP itself is not taking responsibility but accepting responsibility by showing different names or a new organization of the group. A terrorist hiding in Jamrud Masjid who blew himself up on the arrival of SHO Afridi, his accomplice was lying in the hands of the public outside and was taken into custody by the CTD in an injured condition, making the entire network vulnerable. Inquiries are ongoing. Any little sympathy there was for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan in religious circles has now completely disappeared. On the other hand, Afghanistan as a state also has strong reservations about such attacks by TTP but there is definitely some support at the individual level. The most alarming part of all this is that after the attacks by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, a systematic campaign is launched against the police, FC, army

and the state of Pakistan, the starting point of which is to create a rift between the police and all other institutions. Whereas, the police have not only done a lot of work with less resources but also given lot of sacrifices against terrorism. Reportedly, PTM takes the lead in setting up these campaigns and after that certain sections spread the same statement on social media together with PTM. TTP's hopes are now with PTM. Apparently, ideologically, the narrative of two different groups is the same and the way Pashtuns are grinding in all this is the inscription on the wall. TTP has taken refuge in Afghanistan after losing its ideological, financial and logistical support in Pakistan, and such actions in Pakistan pressurize the Afghan government to accept Pakistan's narrative on TTP's presence in Afghanistan. Therefore in order to avoid the displeasure of the Afghan Taliban, the TTP assigns the responsibility to new organizations (which do not exist at all) while the PTM supports them for propaganda.

TTP and Afghan Taliban still have close ties. According to UN report 3000-6000 TTP terrorists reside in Afghanistan. Yasir, the main terrorist involved in attacks on Pakistan security forces enjoys official protocol in Afghanistan. Many other TTP terrorists including Noor Wali Mehsood, Aleem Khan Khushali etc live in Afghanistan. Mastermind of APS attack Umar Khurasani and many other TTP terrorists like mufi Hassan, Hafiz Dolat Khan and Muhammad Shah etc were killed in Afghanistan. In Khost TTP has training center where suicide bombers are recruited and trained for Pakistan. Afghanistan is host still a host and facilitator of terrorist activities in Pakistan which is in notice of Pakistan and Pak Army. Pak Army is fully equipped to tackle these terrorists.

Readers, The TTP continues to exploit the porous border with Afghanistan, finding sanctuary in ungoverned spaces on the other side, hindering effective counterterrorism efforts. The chapter of cross border terrorism should be closed. Especially the patronage and assistance of TTA & PTM for TTP should be taken up with Afghanistan at all levels and all efforts should be done to save the lives of Pakistani citizens and armed forces. Militancy and terrorism should be dealt with iron hands. Whole nation stands with Pak Army and law enforcement agencies in their solid and sincere efforts to eliminate terrorism in the country.

Writer is senior analyst



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

What happened to Syeda Muniba Bukhari

'Bint-e-Hawa' belonging to Sadat was first harassed, she was called with mean words, phrases like "Pardah karna hai to ghar baitho" harassed mentally also harassed with various pretexts. Later, she was dismissed from the government job on the charge of uncommitted crime.

This story of harassment, oppression against religious and gender rights was written in PHA Multan. And no one else started this battle, but DG himself has done it. Everyone is protesting against Asif Rauf Khan Swati. Earlier, in a board meeting chaired by DG Shafiq Raza, where one and a half dozen officers and employees were given departmental promotions, Syeda Muniba was also promoted from grade sixteen to seventeen on the basis of her academic qualifications and service, and since then she was posted as PSO to DG.

It should be noted that the affected officer Syeda Muniba Ali, who belongs to Multan and is a PHD scholar, had done BA, B. Ed., M. Com with distinction before Ph. D. Her research articles have been published in International journals and her most recent article titled "Teachers' Role in Reducing Student Misbehavior and Negative Behavioral Interactions Due to Social Media Use" is a Published in reputed international journals.

Now the DG has created another hideous game. In his support, he asked his subordinate to write a request and raised a question about the departmental advancement of the victim woman. And thus accused of falsification in the record, dismissed from the job. The above-mentioned officer did not stop there, but also sent the record tempered case to anti-corruption Multan, where he used his immense influence. The administration of Nishtar Hospital Multan was also pressured from above to form a board to declare the woman medically unfit.

The victim's husband, who is a professor in Bahawalpur University, DG PHA also wrote a letter to the VC to stop him from pursuing his wife's case. While he is constantly putting pressure on other employees of his own department to make statements in his favor and against the woman.

Here are the brief details of the steps taken by the victimized female officer, Syeda Muniba Ali, in her defence, and the various forums where she has knocked on the door for prosecution:

- 1) Appeared with her husband before the anti-corruption officer assigned for the investigation and recorded her statement.
- 2) An application was made to the provincial ombudsman for the action of the regulation, in which appropriate and proportional measures were appealed against the cruelty and brutality of the superior officer to the vulnerable gender.
- 3) A case of harassment has also been filed in the High Court.
- 4) This matter has also been brought to the notice of Chief Secretary Punjab, Provincial Secretary Housing Punjab, and Provincial Secretary Housing South Punjab.

5) Various women's rights organizations are being contacted, but it is futile to hope for them, because their mobilization for veiled women is apparently not included in their agenda.

All this is still not enough. Support this family in raising the voice for this talented female officer against this cruelty. We should stand with them, we should not back down at all, until they reach and listen to the relevant administrations and the houses of power.

Journalism, science and literature, social society and some leading people of the society have given statements for solidarity and support with the victim woman and her family, they have strongly condemned the DG of PHA, and the administration Urgent measures have been demanded. Prominent names among them are: the oldest and most senior journalist, well-known intellectual and writer, and columnist Masihullah Jampuri. Professor Dr. Shabir Hussain Baloch, a well-known teacher of journalism, a well-known poet and writer,

And columnist Razi-ud-Din Razi, presidential award-winning columnist and poet and writer Mustahsan Khyal Khilji, chartered accountant Rabnawaz Malik, columnist Sajjad Malik, Professor Amjad Ramey, and others.

Demand: Since the senior officer, Asif Rauf is continuously trying to influence the investigation, and is also misusing government resources, he should be withdrawn from his current position to make an independent and fair investigation possible. Finally, all other friends are requested to raise their voice for this cause.



Analysis

Kiran Asim

Iranian Envoy condemns Bajaur terrorist attack

Calls for better ties between Pakistan and Iran

Spokesman Report

H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl in order to convey the message of condolence and sympathy of the nation and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the government and people of Pakistan after the terrorist attack in Bajaur yesterday leading to the death of tens of innocent people.



In this meeting Maulana Fazlur-Rehman appreciated the messages of the President and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemning the terrorist explosion in Pakistan. He said countering extremism requires the awakening of the Islamic Ummah, the West and the Zionist regime are the supporters of terrorism, those who claim the so-called Jihad, harm Islamic values and harm Muslims. He emphasized on the role of Iran and Pakistan in the region and their common-mindedness

for peace and stability and added the peace and security of both countries are dependent on each other, so bilateral interactions should be expanded to strengthen joint cooperation and also to counter extremism and terrorism.

He Blamed the biased view of the West towards the Islamic world and the use of extremism and terrorism as a means to prevent the development and prosperity of Muslim nations and Muslim countries.

H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam expressed his condolences and sympathy after the terrorist attack in Khar, Bajaur in the political convention of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party and added that Unfortunately, the enemies are planning to destroy peace and brotherhood in the dear land of Pakistan, but we are confident that the tact and wisdom of the Pakistani statesmen and the political forces of this country will manage to pass this stage and to neutralize the malicious plots.

He announced the readiness of Iran to provide any assistance to the victims of the terrorist attack and emphasized that the Iranian authorities are following up on this tragic incident through constant calls.

He reminded more than seven-tens thousand Iranian citizens who martyred in terrorist operations in the last decades after the Islamic Revolution of Iran. The terrorist operations were designed and managed by the Westerners' elements and the Zionism.

Benazir Bhutto's wax figure revealed at Madame Tussauds Dubai

Benazir Bhutto was the first female Prime Minister of the Muslim World



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The wax figure of Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was revealed at an official event held at Madame Tussauds Dubai today. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister of Pakistan graced the occasion. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE, senior officials of the Embassy & Consulate General of Pakistan and prominent community members were also present.

In his remarks on the occasion, the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari highlighted that the wax figure was a befitting tribute to Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He added that her legacy- being the first female Prime Minister from the Muslim World -continued to inspire the young generation-women in particular. He further remarked that the former Prime Minister of Pakistan was consistent and passionate in advocating peace, stability, and cooperation amongst nations at international fora.

Late Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's figure wears the same outfit as when she was sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan. The likeness of Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was sculpted from a sitting in 1989 using the traditional artist techniques. A sitting, that is a meeting between the celebrity and the artists at Madame Tussauds, where over 200 measurements are taken, being the normal, detailed process needed to create one of the amazing wax figures. The figure was first displayed in Madame Tussauds London

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was a Pakistani politician and stateswoman who served as the 11th and 13th prime minister of Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996. She was the first female leader of any Islamic state in modern history and was the daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan 1971-1977.

On the occasion, Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi said, "The work of Madame Tussauds allows us to celebrate the achievements and contributions of remarkable individuals who have inspired generations all over the world. I am glad that Pakistani citizens living in the UAE will now be able to visit the likeness of Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at Madame Tussauds Dubai and learn about her accomplishments."

Sanaz Kollrsud, General Manager of Madame Tussauds Dubai said, "We are honoured that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was able to attend the figure reveal. We are pleased and humbled to include Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the line-up of respected figures at Madame Tussauds Dubai and share her figure with our Pakistani guests".

The figure will be placed in the first zone of Madame Tussauds Dubai, being the Leaders and Royals Zone alongside wax figures of Royals & Leaders of the world, inside the attraction located on Bluewaters.



The premier hailed the role of overseas Kashmiris for promoting Kashmir cause in UK and Europe.

Judge foils Trump's bid to kill Georgia probe amid imminent charges

A judge overseeing the Georgia grand jury investigation into Donald Trump Monday dismissed the former US president's attempt to disqualify the lead prosecutor and prevent any potential indictments arising from the inquiry, Reuters reported.

The investigation is anticipated to result in charges being brought forward in the upcoming weeks.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney also turned down Trump's plea to suppress a special grand jury report, which contained recommendations regarding individuals to be charged in connection with efforts to overturn Georgia's 2020 election results, a contest where Democrat Joe Biden secured a narrow victory in the state.

The report has remained sealed pending charges in the case. Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has indicated she intends to ask a grand jury to approve charges sometime in the next three weeks, telling judges that her staff will mostly work remotely as a safety precaution.

Security barricades were erected outside the county courthouse last week.

Meeting

RAWALPINDI: Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met General Syed Asim Munir, COAS today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and defence cooperation were discussed. Both reiterated the desire to further enhance and strengthen bilateral relations in all fields.



PAAPAM delegation to visit Tehran on Iran invitation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A high-level delegation of 20 PAAPAM members is visiting Tehran from 13th August 2023 on the invitation of the Iranian government. The delegation, led by PAAPAM former chairman Abdur Razzaq Gauhar and sitting Chairman of the Pakistan Engineering Goods Council, will attend the Tehran Auto Show from 13-15 and meet various industrial and business communities and cognoscente. The Chairman Pak Iran Business Council, Najam Ul Hassan Jawa, will also be accompany the delegation. Pakistan's mission in Tehran would facilitate the delegation to create opportunities for bilateral trade.

The SVC PAAPAM Usman Aslam Malik looked optimistic that barter trade in our neighboring countries was a big step toward a better tomorrow. He was confident that this consortium would soon start trading in local currencies to attain independence. He was of the view that this consortium was one-third of the world's total population and included two veto powers. Due to its ideal geostrategic and political location, Pakistan was ready to connect this consortium to the world. He said we would maximize to materialize that landmark opportunity.

He said that a positive energy is seen in the Pakistan and Iran business fraternities after the declaration of barter trade agreements between Pakistan, China, Iran, Russia, and Afghanistan. This agreement gains more significant when we see all major stakeholders of the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative. The governments have further formalized it by creating a facility in the Veboc system to officialise the trade. The trade missions of both countries, struggling because of foreign exchange, are to take advantage of the historic move by the CPEC's major beneficiaries.

The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Manufacturers Association's (PAAPAM) management beholds a lot of potential to scale up the bilateral trade between the partners.

COMSTECH Organizes Webinar on Shocks, Stresses and Resilience of Food System in the Arab Region

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized webinar on "Shocks, Stresses and Resilience of Food System in the Arab Region", which was delivered by Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al-Musa, Secretary General, The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan, and the member of Technical Experts Group in climate change, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said in his introductory remarks that the today's topic is crucial in the context of human welfare and wellbeing. He said that the food security is under threat due to various reasons. He stressed the importance

of developing S&T that can help in developing systems which are resilient against various odds being faced by food security. Prof. Choudhary said that the speaker of today's topic is a scholar par excellence due to his contribution to the field, knowledge, humility and excellence.

Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al-Musa, in his lecture, talked about food system drivers, food supply chain, environment and customer behavior. He said that most important and investigated outcome in food and nutrition security is measured through studying changes in two indicators: Prevalence of Under-nourishment (POU), and Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Prof. Musa said food systems can have various stresses that impact their

outcome which is measured by changes in POS and FIES. Prof. Musa said that the violence and conflicts, climate change, macroeconomic issues and epidemics are the shocks that tremored the Arab food security.

He said that conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen caused significant decline in POU in Arab region.

Prof. Musa said that the climate-induced environmental events, warming temperature, soil erosion and salty water intrusion in the coasted areas impacted the food security. He said in the absence of regulating policies, increased temperature and reduced rainfall will result in lowering water table due to over extraction of ground water, whereas regional poli-

cies of building dams in river countries not only jeopardize aquatic biodiversity but also cause restriction of surface water to the region.

He said that the Arab region had been subjected to floods, storms, earthquakes and droughts three times more often than before. Prof. Musa mentioned that fluctuating oil and food prices, abrupt of trade flow, tourism decline and COVID pandemic stressed the food security.

He said that the changes in the food system drivers like environmental and biophysical, technology and infrastructure, socio-culture, political and institutional, economic, market and demographic exerted the stress on the Arab region's food security.

Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan

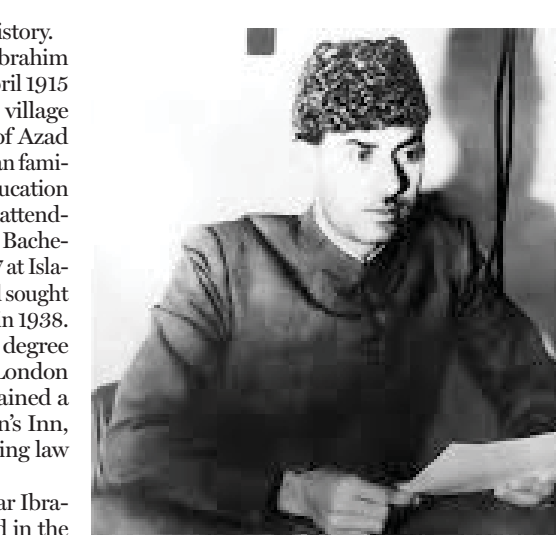
Nasir Latif

On 31st July, the nation mourns the loss of a great leader, Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, who served as the first President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) government. Under the leadership of Sardar Ibrahim Khan People of Azad Kashmir found Azad Kashmir. A prominent political figure and a visionary leader, Sardar Ibrahim Khan dedicated his life to the service of the people of Kashmir and played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of the region. His indomitable spirit, unwavering commitment, and tireless efforts for the Freedom of Kashmiris and betterment of AJ&K will forever be

etched in the annals of history.

Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was born on 22 April 1915 in Kot Mattay Khan, a village in the Poonch District of Azad Kashmir to an elite Sudhan family. He got his primary education in his village and the He attended college and received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in 1937 at Islamia College (Lahore) and sought higher education abroad in 1938. He obtained his LLB degree from the University of London in 1941. Khan then obtained a law degree from Lincoln's Inn, and later started practicing law at Srinagar, Kashmir.

As a young man, Sardar Ibrahim actively participated in the freedom struggle against the oppressive Dogra rule in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. He advocated for the



rights of his fellow Kashmiris and envisioned an independent and prosperous region. His leadership

skills and dedication to the cause earned him the trust and respect of the people, paving the way for

his prominent role in the future of Kashmir. Ibrahim Khan played a pivotal role in the initiative of the 1947 Poonch rebellion and the First Kashmir War. In British India of 1946, he won the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly election as a member of the Muslim Conference party and became a member of the Praja Sabha under Maharajah Hari Singh, Jammu and Kashmir ruler. This ruler signed a 'stand-still agreement' with Pakistan as a result of the Indian Independence Act 1947. In 1947, Ibrahim Khan instigated and organized the Poonch rebellion, planned and helped in the invasion and liberation of Jammu and Kashmir. Muslim Kashmiri leaders saw it as a liberation of Muslim-majority Kashmir from the Hindu ruler.

On 19 July 1947, Khan held a Muslim conference meeting at his residence where a resolution was unanimously passed for the State of Kashmir to join Pakistan but Maharaja refused. Sardar Ibrahim Khan With several fellow Kashmiris, launched a 'Jihad' against the Maharaja. On 24 October 1947, he defeated the forces of the Maharaja in the Poonch rebellion and founded the state of Azad Kashmir, which became a self-governing division of Pakistan.

Khan was appointed the first President of Azad Kashmir in 1948. He represented Kashmir in different capacities at the United Nations from 1948 to 1971.

Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan's tenure as the first President of AJ&K government left an indel-

ible mark on the region's history. His relentless struggle for the rights of the people and his vision of a prosperous and independent AJ&K continue to inspire generations.

The passing of Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan is a moment of profound grief for the entire nation. His contributions to the Kashmir freedom movement and his exemplary leadership as the first President of AJ&K government will always be remembered with utmost reverence. As we bid farewell to this visionary leader, let us renew our commitment to carry forward his mission for a free, prosperous, and peaceful Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Writer is Information officer Sudhnoti/poonch in Press Information Department AJ&K

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,034.59	47,076.99
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,126.50	47,372.54
Index Value	Change
15,822,667,333	+957.60
Percentage	Time
+2.03%	31 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,699.41	+5.14
Percentage	Time
+0.067%	31 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,445.27	-14.02
Percentage	Time
-0.040%	31 Jul, 12:57 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,172.22	+412.99
Percentage	Time
1.26%	31 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	766.54	774.54
Canadian Dollar	224	226.2
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	42.34	42.74
Euro	320.5	324
Hong Kong Dollar	35.97	36.32
Indian Rupee	3.43	3.54
Japanese Yen	1.95	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	939.13	948.13
Malaysian Ringgit	63.13	63.73
New Zealand \$	179.36	181.36
Norwegians Krone	27.95	28.25
Omani Riyal	748.62	756.62
Qatari Riyal	79.18	79.88
Saudi Riyal	77.1	77.9
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.5	27.8
Swiss Franc	333.43	335.93
Thai Bhat	8.25	8.4
U.A.E Dirham	80.5	81.4
UK Pound Sterling	373	376.5
US Dollar	289.5	292.5

Barrick sponsors landmark Pakistan Minerals Summit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 'Pakistan Minerals Summit - Dust to Development-Investment Opportunities in Pakistan', will be hosted by the Government of Pakistan on the 1st of August 2023. This one-day summit, to be held at a local hotel in Islamabad, is being sponsored by Barrick Gold Corporation with a clear focus on demonstrating the country's commitment to developing its mining industry.

This initiative comes under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which involves key figures from the government and establishment collaborating to incentivize the flow of investment into Pakistan to build and strengthen certain sectors by attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Sectors being prioritized by the SIFC include mining.

The Pakistan Minerals Summit is expected to be well attended and will include attendance by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, various cabinet members such as the Minister of State for Petroleum Division, the Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan and others. Additionally, ministers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan and other countries have also confirmed



attendance. Apart from the representation by the Pakistan and regional governments, significant stakeholders such as policy makers, investment advisors, global mining entities and local business group representatives will gather to share their expertise and insight to drive the mining sector towards accelerated develop-

ment and expansion. Barrick undertook to assist the government in this endeavor because they believe that the mining sector of Pakistan, though untapped and undeveloped, has enormous mining potential. Barrick operates in Pakistan through its

subsidiary the Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC) which will hold a 50% stake in the Reko Diq mine and will be the operator of this significant asset which is of strategic value to the country and the company. The Reko Diq mine will also be owned by state-owned entities representing the federal government of Pakistan as well as the Government of Balochistan in equal shares of 25% each. Reko Diq will be a major mining project for the country and is likely to open the way for other global and regional players to explore and invest in the mining sector of Pakistan.

RDMC plans to initiate commercial operations once the feasibility stage of the project is concluded and we would like to showcase the incentives and commitment of the government to facilitating international players in this sector.

Ali Ehsan Rind, the country manager of RDMC said: "We feel this summit will be beneficial in encouraging global investors and international operators in Pakistan as a mining-investment destination. I am confident that a lot of the other global mining companies will find some assurance and may consider projects in the country with Barrick's presence in Pakistan for the Reko Diq project having led the way".

Regulatory reforms workshop held in Islamabad to identify ways of streamlining business

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: BOI organized a workshop on "Regulatory Reforms through Principle Based Regulatory Framework" for Energy (Power & Petroleum), Water Resources, Maritime (Ports), and Media & Communications sectors on July 31, 2023 at a local hotel in Islamabad to identify regulatory reforms by lowering compliance burden on businesses. A large number of senior officials from relevant Ministries and Departments attended the Workshop. Moreover, Mentors from the Private Sector and Academia were engaged in development of reform proposals in active collaboration with Public sector during the workshop.

The workshop was carried out under Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative (PRMI), an initiative of the Federal Government to reduce compliance burden of businesses in Pakistan. The main objective was to facilitate a comprehensive self-assessment of RLCOs (Registrations, Licenses, Certifications, and Other Permits) with an aim of identifying and eliminating redun-

dant regulations. Additionally, it sought to streamline and modernize cumbersome procedures that hindered the ease of doing business for investors and businesses in Pakistan. To achieve this objective, the regulators collaborated closely with the Private Sector and Development Partners to transform the findings into actionable reform proposals and recommendations.

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, the Director General of Reforms, BOI in his opening remarks



Board of Investment
Govt. of Pakistan

emphasized the significance of principle-based regulatory frameworks for Pakistan's socio-economic development. He along-with other speakers from USAID, REMIT and PSW highlighted how regulatory frameworks play a crucial role in shap-

ing progress and prosperity, especially in a rapidly evolving global landscape where businesses and societies are interconnected.

The workshop was carried out in collaboration with various partners of BOI under PRMI including Revenue Mobilization for Investment & Trade-REMIT, USAID, International Finance Corporation-IFC, Pakistan Single Window-PSW, Pakistan Institute for Development Economics-PIDE, Pakistan Business Council-PBC, Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry-OICCI, and Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry-FPCCI.

Breakout sessions on mapping of the Regulatory Requirements, Analysis & Problem identification, Self-Assessment on specific parameters, proposed solutions and Solution Design including steps involved in implementing reforms were carried out during the workshop which involved brainstorming and discussion between Public sector regulators and private sector mentors to transform the findings of the day into actionable recommendations.

MCB Bank and VISA collaborate to create seamless payment experiences



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: MCB Bank, a leading financial institution, is delighted to announce its strategic partnership with Visa, the global payments technology company. This collaboration will accelerate the development and adoption of digital payment solutions by leveraging cutting-edge technology and a shared vision of enhancing overall customer experience.

MCB Bank and Visaaim to create seamless and secure payment experiences, empowering customers to transact conveniently and offer enhanced accessibility to make payments effortlessly,

both domestically and internationally through a series of new technological solutions.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Shoaib Mumtaz, President & CEO, MCB Bank, expressed, "At MCB Bank, we are continuously developing financial solutions, using state-of-the-art technology, to serve our customers better. Our customers deserve seamless, secure and user-friendly digital banking services. Therefore, with a "digital-first" approach, we are committed to driving innovation and continuously enhancing the financial lives of our customers. Our partnership with Visa is a testament to our customer focus."

Souvenir

FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Industries and Production, Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi, receiving the honorary shield on his arrival at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FCCI) on Monday.



OGDCL achieves remarkable increase in oil and gas production in July 2023

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: While successfully implementing cutting-edge technologies and industry's best practices, the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has recorded a substantial production increase during the month of July 2023. The company has achieved remarkable enhancements in oil and gas production across various exploration and development wells. These significant milestones mark the company's commitment to delivering excellence and strengthening Pakistan's energy landscape. Notable accomplishments include the successful perfor-

mance of the Nim East-1 exploratory well. Nim East-1, an exploratory well located in the Tando Allah Yar district of Sindh province, operated jointly by OGDCL (95%) and Government Holdings (Private) Limited (GHPL) (5%), has proven to be a significant success. Following the installation of a 6" -12.5 Km pipeline, the well has contributed an additional production of 585 barrels per day (BPD) of oil, 7.4 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas, and 32 metric tons per day (MTD) of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The injected gas is seamlessly integrated into the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network, starting from



July 20, 2023, and has been continuously monitored until July 28, 2023. Similarly, OGDCL installed an Electrical Submersible Pump (ESP) in its 100% owned Pasakhi Oil Field, Well -11, situated in the Hyderabad district of Sindh. This strategic intervention resulted in a remarkable incremental impact,

enhancing oil production by 1010 BPD. Presently, the well is producing 1810 BPD of oil and is under observation to ascertain optimum flow rates. The enhanced production from Pasakhi-11 commenced on July 28, 2023.

Meanwhile, the Chak 2-1 exploratory well, operated jointly by OGDCL (62.5%), GHPL (22.5%), and Orient Petroleum Inc. (OPI) (15%), located in district Sanghar, Sindh province, demonstrated exceptional potential with a rigless intervention. Through additional perforations, the well's production was boosted by 140 BPD of oil, 4.7 MMSCFD of gas, and 11 MTD of LPG. As with Chak 2-1, the inject-

ed gas is integrated into the SSGCL network from July 20, 2023, and monitored until July 28, 2023. The Chak-V Dim South-3 well, situated in Chak-5 Dim South Block, district Sanghar, Sindh Province, has shown impressive results as an on-production development cum exploratory well. Under OGDCL's 100% working interest, a rigless intervention with new perforations contributed to an incremental production of 130 BPD of oil, 3.8 MMSCFD of gas, and 8 MTD of LPG. The injected gas integration with the SSGCL network commenced on July 24, 2023, and observations were made until July 28, 2023.

SECP Publishes Diagnostic Study on Status of Motor Third-Party Insurance



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The SECP has released a Diagnostic Study providing a holistic synopsis of the existing landscape of motor third-party insurance in the country.

The objective of this study is to present an in-depth overview of the legal framework applicable to motor third-party insurance, current state of motor insurance, impediments in implementation and enforcement, recent initiatives taken by SECP, way forward containing recommendations.

This study is intended to serve as a starting point for discussion and collaborative action planning on the implementation of Motor third-party insurance among key stakeholders, including central and provincial authorities, SECP, and the insurance sector.

As per this study, motor insurance coverage in Pakistan is merely 3%, which is way lower compared to other major countries within the region.

The current status of motor third-party insurance in Pakistan demands immediate attention.

To increase motor insurance coverage and implement existing mandatory motor third-party insurance, the study provides policy recommendations for a multifaceted reform agenda.

The initiation point has to be effective implementation of the existing laws while at the same time galvanising the process of amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939.

The study is the outcome of extensive data collection and consultations with insurance companies through the Insurance Association of Pakistan.

Take charge and experience the power of 68W fast charge and a 15W wireless charge

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Infinix NOTE 30 Pro series featuring a 68W All-Round Fast Charge and a 15W wireless charge is now available to pre-order on Xpark at a starting price of PKR 53,999.

CEO of Infinix, Mr Simon Feng, expressed his views about Infinix NOTE 30 Pro series saying: "We are excited to forefront the ground-breaking All-Round Fast Charge technology in Pakistan. With Infinix NOTE 30 Pro series, Infinix has yet again set a new benchmark of excellence. The series is in fact a testament that we would continue to provide



most updated & cutting-edge technology products to its devoted users."

Infinix NOTE 30 Pro series is powered by a Mediatek Helio G99 6NM processor for smooth performance and responsiveness, enabling users to navigate between apps and tasks with ease. When combined with an up to 16GB Extended RAM and 256 GB storage space, the NOTE 30 PRO series offers ample room for all apps and seamless multitasking.

Pakistani athletes shine at World University Games in Chengdu, China

Sports Desk

BELJING: Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Chengdu, China, Agha Hunain Abbas Khan on Monday informed that all of the athletes participating in the World University Games for Pakistan are females, highlighting the potential for women's sports and the capability of Pakistani young women.

Their success not only brings glory to their nation but also serves as a reminder for young girls aspiring to pursue sports. The all-female cast was selected on the basis of being the best during Pakistan's recently held national games, where all of them secured gold in their chosen sport, he said in an interview.

A ten-member delegation including the five athletes is representing Pakistan



in the World University Games in Chengdu, China.

Manisha and Maleeha, twin sisters from Gilgit Baltistan, are representing Pakistan in Taekwondo, while Fiza, hailing from Quetta, will bring her talents on the wushu mat. Uzma, studying in Faisalabad, competes in the hammer throw, while Amtul, who was the star of the national games, having bagged four

medals (two gold, a silver, and a bronze) before, would try to beat her personal bests in the long and triple jump in Chengdu.

"As Pakistan continues to nurture its sporting talent, it is crucial to provide adequate resources and build a support system around the athletes. The Higher Education Commission is doing a great job of providing full scholarships for student-athletes, and it is hoped that various institutes can come together to build a holistic approach to ensure continued success and representation at the international level reflective of the talent of Pakistan," Agha Hunain said.

During the Opening Ceremony, the Pakistani team was welcomed with tremendously loud cheers from the Chinese audience, showing the deep

affection the Chinese hold for Pakistan.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque was present at the Opening Ceremony and later tweeted, "Proud moment to have the Pakistani delegation enter the stadium amongst loud clapping and a standing ovation at the opening ceremony of FISU World University Games, Chengdu."

It is worth mentioning that 6,500 athletes from 113 countries and regions are participating in the 31st FISU World University Games which kicked off on Friday at Dongan Sports Stadium in Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province and games will conclude on August 8.

The province is famous for spicy food and Panda which is the symbol of Chinese Culture around the globe.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the Synthetic Turf's

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman on Monday presided over a high-profile meeting to review the arrangements and preparations of new synthetic turf's inauguration at National Hockey Stadium. He informed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the new synthetic turf at beautifully renovated National Hockey Stadium at a grand ceremony in the coming days.

Special Assistant to PM on Youth Affairs Shiza Fatima participated in the meeting through video link whereas Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, Additional Secretary Local Govt Maria Tariq, AC Model Town Sahilzada Yousaf, MD Danish School Ahmer Malik, Deputy Secretary Sports Liaqat Ali, Secretary HEC Javed Mahmood, Secretary School Education Ahsan Waheed, DPI Colleges Dr Syed Anser Azhar, Director Colleges Lahore Division M Zahid Mian, CEO Education Authority Pervaiz Akhtar, Director Social Welfare, representatives of Rescue-1122, Wasa, LWMC and School Education, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Admin Ijaz Munir, Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza and other officials attended the key meeting in



person.

The representatives of several departments also briefed the meeting about the preparations of their respective departments.

Addressing the meeting Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman informed that the promotion of hockey among young generation is our major goal and for this purpose, we are utilizing all our resources. "Punjab Sports Department is taking all essential measures for the growth of sports culture across the province," he added.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman further said that all parts of National Hockey Stadium

have been renovated and this upgradation will play a significant part in the revival of hockey in the country. "The giant hockey venue has been painted with eye-catching colours besides installing several new fans, water coolers and other necessary facilities," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail on this occasion said that all possible measures are being taken for the development of hockey. "The promotion of hockey, which happens to be Pakistan's national game, is among our top priorities," he asserted.

After the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman, Director General Sports Punjab Dr

Asif Tufail, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Admin Ijaz Munir, Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other official also visited different parts of the stadium to inspect the upgradation and renovation work.

During the inspection visit, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Shahid Zaman directed all the departments concerned to speed up the work and complete the ongoing projects in the stadium within the stipulated time.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail on this occasion threw light on all arrangements for a befitting inauguration of new synthetic turf at National Hockey Stadium. "Best arrangements and preparations are being made for the grand inaugural ceremony of new synthetic turf," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said the National Hockey Stadium is being renovated and upgraded after several years. "We are improving all the facilities at this grand hockey venue with an aim to promote hockey among the youth of the country," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail informed that top sports stars of the country and several distinguished guests from various departments will also attend this mega opening ceremony.

Pakistan Street Child Football team qualifies for second round of Norway Cup

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Street Child Football team outplayed Arvoll IL club in their second match of the World Youth Football Cup 'Norway Cup' and qualified for the next round of the extravaganza on Monday.

Pakistan Street Child Football team beat Arvoll IL club by 2-1 and qualified for the second round of the tournament. The two goals for the Pakistan Street Child Football team was scored by skipper Tofail Shinwari and Abdullah Wahab.

Pakistan Street Child Football team would face Skjold IL club in the third match on August 1 (Tuesday).

The Pakistan squad includes Forwards: Tofail Shinwari, Faisal, Shamir Ali, Saud; Midfielders: Abdul Wahab, Muhammad Ali, Ali Asif, Ahmed Raza; Defenders: Muhammad Adeel, Abid Ali, Obaidullah, Asad Nasir; Goalkeeper: Abdullah, Sahil.

It should be mentioned that Pakistan 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.



Sponsorship plays key role to uplift squash; says Farhan Mehboob

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Eight times Asian squash Champion Farhan Mehboob has expressed concerns over the non-availability of funds to the young players due to which they are unable to showcase their talent on international forums.

Talking to APP here on Monday, Farhan said that Hamza Khan earned the World Junior Champion Title for the country after 37 years and motivated the players to perform in the upcoming Asian games.

Highlighting the roles of the Squash Federation, Farhan said that the players received support including rackets, tickets, traveling tickets and sponsor-

ship for other such expenses at the international level.

He said that in Pakistan, players even pay membership fees from the own pocket which declines their motivation and performance.

Farhan said that Hamza Khan had no sponsorship before leaving the country and only Pakistan Squash Federation and his department supported him. Private sector should come forward to support their athletes, he added.

He said to perform at the international level, the players need to be trained at a similar level, but Pakistani players are getting trained on the courts of Peshawar, Islamabad and



Laure. Besides the on-ground training, the diet of athletes is also important which includes multi-vitamins, high proteins

and proper nutrients and bearing all the expenses are difficult for the players", he added.

Talented players win the matches in sequence but if

they lose one game, they receive heavy criticism, Farhan said adding that various talented players decide to settle abroad after getting discouraged.

Answering a question, Farhan said that Egypt had excelled in squash due to its strong roots and basic training. He said that there were 21 squash clubs only in El Gouna city, where 200 players were being trained in each club.

Appreciating the new world champion, Hamza, Farhan said that he had secured the title for the country without sponsorship and with the support of his family. He said that Hamza revived the lost fame of squash and the whole country is proud of him.

National Youth Sports Hockey League announced

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two men's and two women's hockey teams from Sindh have been announced to participate in the Prime Minister's Youth Program Talent Hunt, National Youth Sports Hockey League. The National Hockey League will be held at the National Hockey Stadium, Lahore from August 5 to August 11. In this regard, the Chairman of the five-member Selection Committee, Olympian Hanif Khan and Akbar Qaimkhani, announced the names of the players. All four teams of Sindh will participate in the National League.

Men's Green included Abdul Rafi (captain), Ali Iqbal Afridi, Azeen Anil, Babar Saadat, Hammad Ayaz, Hammad Rizwan, Hasan Mujtaba, Mohammad Haris Naseer, Mohsin Nawaz, Mohammad Qais, Mohammad Ramzan, Nouman Khan, Mohammad Talha, Rian ur Rahman, Shahzeb Arbaaz, Sultan Mehmood, Syed Muhammad Saad Ali and Muhammad Hamza. The team officials included Farooq Khan as Manager, Ali Azlan Khan, and Mahmood Khan as Coaches.

Men's White has Mohammad Rohan (captain), Abdul Bari, Abdul Qadir, Ali Raza Memon, Ali Hussain, Mir Hamza Bugti, Haris Sarfaraz, Jawad Ahmed, Kamran Ali, Khurshid A. Maher, Mohammad Ayaz Ahmed, Meseem Abbas, Mohammad Naem, Nabil Akhtar, Sarim Hussain Kazmi, Taqi Raza, Osama Babar and Veenay. Officials included Askari Kazmi as Manager, while Junaid Aslam and Obaidullah Bhutto as Coaches.

Women's Green included Dua Khan (captain), Alisha, Amna Khan, Anshara Khanum, Huma Maya, Iqra Iqbal, Khushbu Khalil, Momal Sukina, Muqaddas Rafiq, Raafia Khanum, Romisa Khan, Saima Ghulam, Sahrish Sabir, Shazma Naseem, Saleha Malik, Sundas Siddiqui, Yumna Fatima and Zam Zam. The officials included Saadea Khanum as Manager, and Kushmala Batul and Ayesha Khan as Coaches.

Women's White has Nabila (captain), Amna Ali, Azra Batul, Baby Asiya, Shiza Saleem, Dua Sheikh, Farwa Jafri, Faza Shahid, Hasina, Iqra Memon, Kainat Baloch, Mehwish, Mishal Baloch, Nasreen Jamali, Resham Khatun, Rutab Ali, Saba Khokar and Suhana Taj. Officials included Salma as Manager, while Erum Baloch and Arif Mahmood Coaches.

Candyland regional training camp for boys U-16 concludes



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The regional training camp for boys Under-16 sponsored by Candyland concluded in Quetta, Karachi, Islamabad, Kohat and Khanewal. Spanning from February to June, these trials attracted participants from across the country, resulting in the identification of 200 exceptionally talented players.

From the pool of talented participants, 50 players were shortlisted for the national U-16 training camp, set to begin on August 1 in Abbottabad. Guided by the experienced coach, Sajjad Mehmood, these young talents will engage in practice sessions to further elevate their skills and abilities.

However, a final squad comprising 23 players will represent Pakistan in the SAFF U-16 Championship, taking place in Bhutan from September 1 to September 10 by taking on Bhutan and Maldives on September 1 and 3 respectively.

Pakistan to play Afghanistan in three ODIs next month

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan will tour Sri Lanka to play Afghanistan in three-match One-Day International series in August.

The two teams will play the first two matches in Hambantota on 22 and 24 before they travel to Colombo for the final ODI on 26.

These three matches will provide Babar Azam's side an opportunity to fine-tune their combinations ahead of the 50-over ACC Men's Asia Cup, which begins on 30 August with Pakistan playing Nepal at the picturesque Multan Cricket Stadium.

The national men's side will assemble in Sri Lanka on 17 August and will train on 19, 20 and 21 August.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have played four ODIs and Pakistan have won all of them. The two sides last played each other in the format in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

Tour itinerary:

17 Aug - Pakistan assemble in Sri Lanka
19, 20, 21 Aug - Training sessions
22 Aug - First ODI, Hambantota
24 Aug - Second ODI, Hambantota
26 Aug - Third ODI, Colombo
27 Aug - Departure for Pakistan

England spark Australia collapse to end Ashes all square

LONDON: England beat Australia by 49 runs to win the fifth Test at The Oval on Monday and end the Ashes series all square at 2-2 after the tourists suffered a dramatic collapse.

Australia, chasing a mammoth 384 to win, collapsed from 264-3 to 334 all out, with England's retiring paceman Stuart Broad taking the final wicket.

England did the bulk of the damage when, after a rain break of more than two hours, they took four Australia wickets for 11 runs in 19 balls. Off-spinner Moeen Ali (3-76) and all-rounder Chris Woakes (4-50) led the way before Broad, England's all-time leading Ashes bowler polished off the tail.

"It was absolutely wonderful," Broad told Sky Sports. "I thought Chris Woakes and Moeen Ali set the tone absolutely unbelievably. Woakes picked up a couple of wickets, particularly Steve Smith, who has just been a wonderful player to play against all these years."

"Once we got a couple we really started to believe. The crowd were unbelievable. It was so loud and we just jumped on the back of that. To contribute to the team with two wickets is very special. When you make that decision you wonder what your last ball will be so to take a wicket to win an Ashes Test match is pretty cool."

Australia, as the holders, had already retained the Ashes but they remain without an Ashes series win in England since 2001.