



Pakistan highlights plight of Palestinians, Kashmiris at UNSC's food insecurity debate

Pakistan drew attention to the suffering people of occupied Palestine and Kashmir at the UN Security Council's debate on conflict-induced global food insecurity on Thursday, and deplored their virtual abandonment by "an indifferent international community".



App rolled out to provide farmers info about climate change: Saad Rafique

Federal Minister Saad Rafique said on Friday that an application had been launched to inform the farmers about climate change. In a statement, Rafique said: "The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has regularised the promotion channel". "The new recruitments will be based only on meritocracy. \$40 million grant has been restored." Rafique averred. He said: "The met office will get its revenue from the new system."



Pakistan's scenic beauty can be turned into a great opportunity: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that being rich with immense scenic beauty, particularly the Northern Areas, Pakistan could turn these resources into a great opportunity.

The prime minister said addressing the launching ceremony of the "Salam Pakistan" brand and e-portal that would help promote tourist attractions across the world and guide tourists.

He said Pakistan was a great place for promoting tourism and cultural heritage.

He instructed his Advisor on

Tourism Awn Chaudhry to do maximum efforts to promote tourism, though the government was about to complete its term very soon.

Prime Minister Shehbaz instructed the advisors as well as the government officers not to interact merely with their counterparts but also those from other countries which had excelled in tourism, cultural heritage and other fields.

"Allah Almighty blessed our country with great natural resources of scenic beauty all over Northern Areas, which can be converted into a great opportunity," he remarked.

In his address, Advisor to

Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism and Sports Awn Chaudhry said that to promote the soft image of the country worldwide, PTDC has developed a well-coordinated strategic approach for best utilization of the available resources with focus on building the image of Pakistan as one of most tourist friendly countries in Asia.

The launching of Tourism Brand for Pakistan is an important step in achieving this goal. The name "SALAM PAKISTAN" is selected as Tourism Brand for Pakistan.

The objectives of Tourism Brand of Pakistan includes building the image and percep-

tion of Pakistan as a safe, secure, friendly and hospitable nation, promoting Pakistan as an attractive tourist destination, especially for international tourists, projecting recreational, mountaineering, adventure, cultural, religious, historical, cuisine, geographical and other tourism related aspects of Pakistan and highlighting diversities of the provinces, regions, cities etc., variety of food, accommodation, travel, communication and infrastructure facilities etc.

The portal contains information about the top 20 tourist destinations of Pakistan including K2, Gwadar, Ziarat Valley, Uch Sharif, Deosai National

Park, Kalash Valley, Takht Bhai, Hingol National Park, Shandur Pass, Kambhar Lake, Fairy Meadows, Ratti Gali, Lahore Fort, Makli Graveyard, Derawar Fort, Rohtas Fort, Kumrat Valley, Hunza Valley and Mohenjo-Daro.

It guides the tourists about the beaches and waterfalls, nature and landscape, festivals, spiritual tourism and eco-tourism.

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran Sayyed Ezzatullah Zarghami and Ambassador of Iran Reza Amir Moghaddam and diplomats from different countries also attended the ceremony.

PM inaugurates National Aerospace and Technology Park

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday inaugurated the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) established with the collaboration among the government, international companies and private sector.

The inauguration ceremony took place in Rawalpindi and it was also attended by General Syed Asim Munir, COAS, services chiefs, federal ministers and other military and civil officials.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, he appreciated the leadership of Pakistan Air Force for initiating the project,

MQM-P vows to stand by democracy

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui expressed on Friday his resolve to stand by democracy.

Addressing a press conference, Siddiqui said, "The assembly is going to complete its term on August 9." He believed that the country was facing a "crisis of intentions" rather than an economic crisis.

He asserted: "The MQM-P was stolen in the 2018 general elections. We would like to invite the entire county to support the MQM-P. We have made many sacrifices to uphold democracy".

Siddiqui clarified that his party was going to open election offices in different areas of Karachi.

He said: "The country cannot afford false democracy and elections".

Ishratul Ibad among 'candidates' for caretaker PM slot: sources

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: As the consultation continues, the names of former Sindh Governor Ishratul Ibad and Justice Shakeel Baloch from Balochistan among others are being considered for the caretaker Prime Minister (PM) slot, sources.

As the government nears its term, coalition partners held a virtual meeting to deliberate on four-point agenda - caretaker prime minister (PM), Census 2023, dissolution of assemblies and by-elections.

The virtual meeting was attended by PM Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PDM President Maulana Fazlur Rehman, MQM-P's leadership and other federal ministers.

Sources told that the participants of the meeting agreed on dissolving the assemblies on August 9 as proposed by PM Shehbaz Sharif a day earlier. The meeting also demanded the



allied parties.

In the meeting, various names were considered for caretaker prime minister, sources said. The names of former Sindh Governor Ishratul Ibad and Justice Shakeel Baloch from Balochistan among others are being considered for the slot.

Meanwhile, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) sought time for further consultation on nomination of caretaker prime minister. Later, the prime minister sought suggestions from allies on caretaker prime minister by tonight.

The meeting took place just a day after PM Shehbaz Sharif hinted at the possibility of dissolving the National Assembly (NA) on August 9.

Addressing a farewell dinner arranged for parliamentarians, PM Shehbaz said that consultation will be held with the coalition parties and together with the opposition leader the name of the caretaker prime minister will be finalised.

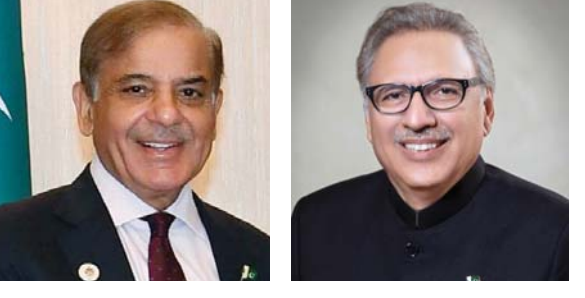
China calls for proper, peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue under UNSC resolutions

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China on Friday reiterated its clear and consistent position on the Kashmir issue ahead of "Yaum-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir", and called for proper and peaceful resolution of the longstanding issue under the United Nations (UN) Charter, UN Security Council's resolutions and bilateral agreements.

"China's position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. This issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan, and should be resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council's resolutions and bilateral agreements in a properly and peaceful manner," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

President, PM messages on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal



It has been four years since India unilaterally and illegally revoked the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) with the aim of disempowering, disenfranchising, and dispossessing the Kashmiri people in their own land. These measures were designed to permanently occupy the disputed territory and erase its distinct Kashmiri character.

Today, India deviously attempts to convince the world that Jammu and Kashmir is an undisputed part of its territory. However, it was India that took the Jammu and Kashmir issue to the Security Council, where the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir was internationally recognized. It was decided that the final disposition of the State should be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations (UN).

The indomitable will and courage of the Kashmiri people have enabled them to withstand every Indian attempt to terrorize and subjugate them. Despite all of India's massive coercive methods, they have not been able to extinguish their yearning for freedom. India has been trampling upon the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people through machinations and intrigue for the last 75 years.

Pakistan Commemorates Youm-E-Istehsaal Kashmir on the fourth anniversary of IOK siege

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan will observe Youm-e-Istehsal today (Saturday) to mark the fourth year of the Indian military siege of Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and denounce illegal, immoral and

unconstitutional steps against the oppressed Kashmiris.

In this regard, the Punjab government has planned a series of activities, including seminars and conferences, to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal and express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri

people while rallies in their support would be staged across the country with vibrant participation of people from all walks of life. The Pakistani nation will give a message to the Kashmiri brethren that the people of Pakistan would always stand with them in their just struggle

for the right to independence and against the atrocities committed by the Indian forces.

A special event will be held at Al-Hamra under the auspices of the Provincial Information & Culture Department with Governor Punjab Balighur Rahman

chairing the ceremony. During this event, the Hurriyat leader will also address the audience. A visual exhibition depicting the plight of oppressed Kashmiris will be organized, followed by a walk from Al-Hamra to the Governor's House.

Exploitation Day

ISLAMABAD: A view of the banners along the Constitution Avenue regarding the Youm-e-Istehsal Jammu Kashmir (Exploitation Day), which is observed annually on 5 August to highlight the miserable situation of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Re-arresting, tearing Shehryar Afridi's clothes deplorable: Omar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan strongly denounced the re-arrest of Shehryar Afridi, former federal minister, saying that 'enough is enough' as fascist government mistreated him and even torn his clothes. Omar Ayub Khan said: "I strongly condemn the re-arrest of Shehryar Afridi by this fascist gov't." He said that Shehryar was mistreated and his clothes torn. "Is this what law and order is in a civilized nation, he asked. "Enough is enough!! The courts should take a stand and enforce the Rule of Law. We are all patriotic Pakistanis. There is no licensing authority in Pakistan to give out licenses of patriotism," he added. Omar stated that PTI and Imran Khan were synonymous. "Our peaceful political struggle shall continue until our jailed colleagues are freed.

Persons now harping on freedom of expression, did strangulate media while in power: Marriyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb stated on Friday that some persons were now delivering speeches on freedom of expression though they themselves had kept the 'media corner' in the Parliament House closed, banned programmes by journalists, and strangled freedom of media during their four-year stint in power. Talking to the media outside the Parliament House, on a question about the economic crisis, inflation and violation of the IMF agreement, she said the PTI chief just manoeuvred to shift the blame from his economic team and his cabinet for the theft of 190 million pounds.



Castigating the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, she said the person arrived in courts covering his face with a bucket, box or canister as he could not face the masses and had no answer for theft allegations. "We suffered censorship for four years but we did not put buckets, boxes or canisters on our faces and faced the odds bravely with our heads high," she added.

Pakistan to continue moral, political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will continue to lend its unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. In a message on the Youm-e-Istehsal to be observed on August 5, 2023, he said, "It is Pakistan's abiding commitment and promise to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters that we will echo their voices, at every forum until the world takes action and urges India to end its egregious human rights violations and forcible occupation of IIOJK, undo all unilateral and illegal measures it has taken since 5 August 2019, and take necessary steps to carry out a fair and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions."

"It has been four years since India unilaterally and illegally revoked the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) on 5 August 2019. Since then, India has resorted to use of brutal force and violence to suppress the Kashmiri people. It has also undertaken a series of measures clearly aimed at altering the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK. In particular, India has tried to bring about demographic changes to undermine the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris."



"The recent steps by India indicate its nefarious designs to disenfranchise the Muslim majority population of Kashmir. To this end, it has carried out a selective delimitation of electoral constituencies, issued fake domiciles to millions of non-Kashmiris, and added hundreds of thousands of temporary residents to alter the existing voter rolls.

The judgment further reads that the ECP cannot extend the elections date arbitrarily and the later did not give satisfactory answer to this question that whether the date could be extended or not. Its responsibility of the ECP to conduct elections in free and fair manners. The ECP is not master to conduct elections instead it's a constitutional part or a department, the judgment reads. The constitution distinct between duty and the power, the judgment reads adding that ECP could not be ignored one responsibility to fulfil another.

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court released a detailed judgment on the May 14 elections case. Justice Muneeb Akhtar drafted the decision comprising 25 pages. The judgment reads that it's a responsibility rather authority of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct elections under article 218/3 of the constitution. The election commission lawyer told the apex court that neither the commission has security nor funds, the judgment reads adding it's the responsibility of the ECP to conduct elections for public, political parties and the electorates as well. Elections are not only demand of

Supreme Court releases detailed judgment of May 14 elections case

Naveed Ahmad Khan

the applicants but KPK, Punjab and the public as well. The judgment further reads that the ECP cannot extend the elections date arbitrarily and the later did not give satisfactory answer to this question that whether the date could be extended or not. Its responsibility of the ECP to conduct elections in free and fair manners. The ECP is not master to conduct elections instead it's a constitutional part or a department, the judgment reads. The constitution distinct between duty and the power, the judgment reads adding that ECP could not be ignored one responsibility to fulfil another.

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RESCUE

RECOVER

REBUILD

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
Government of Pakistan

GovtofPakistan www.moib.gov.pk

Ground Breaking Ceremony of PIDE's New Building

A Landmark Moment for Socio-Economic Development

Muhammad Amin

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) was thrilled to announce the successful Ground Breaking Ceremony of its own building, it marked a significant milestone in the institution's history.

During the Ground Breaking Ceremony, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, the Honorable Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives & Chancellor of PIDE, in his address as a chief guest, emphasized the significance of PIDE as the nation's premier think tank, emphasizing that it goes beyond being just a building; it is an intellectual powerhouse and a crucible of ideas where brilliant minds converge to address the complexities of Pakistan's economic challenges. He further underlined the institute's commitment to harnessing the power of intellect for an equitable and thriving future for the people of Pakistan.

Research and innovation, the Chancellor asserted, hold the key to national progress and development. In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, research serves as a guiding compass, illuminating the path toward prosperity, sustainability, and societal advancement. By unlocking new frontiers of knowledge and catalyzing transformative change, research empowers the nation to harness human ingenuity and creativity.

The Chancellor acknowledged the



pivotal role of economic research in shaping the future of nations worldwide. He emphasized that economic research at PIDE serves as a navigator for policymakers, guiding them toward informed choices that align with the long-term interests of Pakistan.

Underlining the government's commitment to equipping Pakistan with an intellectual arsenal, the Chancellor outlined the "5 Es Strategy" focusing on increasing exports, building a knowledge economy, addressing environmental and climate change challenges, securing sustainable energy and infrastructure, and promoting equity and empowerment.

The new PIDE building, the Chancel-

lor declared, will provide a state-of-the-art home for the think tank's ongoing pursuit of knowledge and understanding. This smart, vertical, and environmentally friendly campus will further strengthen PIDE's tradition of excellence and its commitment to walking the talk.

Earlier, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, the Vice Chancellor of PIDE, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Chief Guest, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, for gracing the occasion and honoring PIDE with his esteemed presence. He remarked, "We are deeply honored to have Prof. Ahsan Iqbal as our Chief Guest today. His support and encouragement further strengthen our resolve to strive for excellence in research and

academic pursuits."

During the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the new PIDE building, Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Durre Nayab, unveiled the institute's forward-looking vision for a vertical approach toward development. Dr. Nayab emphasized the institute's commitment to practicing what it preaches, opting for a vertical structure rather than sprawling horizontally across acres of land.

"We believe in efficiency in all aspects of our work, and that includes the way we utilize land and energy," stated Dr. Nayab. The new PIDE building is designed to maximize land use while minimizing its environmental footprint.

During the event, a large number of PIDE's employees, faculty members, and researchers were present, reflecting the institution's strong commitment to collective growth and progress. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque acknowledged their dedication, saying, "I am proud to stand amidst our passionate and talented team. It is their relentless efforts and commitment that have led PIDE to this moment of laying the foundation for our new building."

The ceremony concluded with an air of enthusiasm and optimism as the participants looked forward to the bright future that PIDE's new building represents in advancing knowledge, research, and socio-economic development in Pakistan.

Govt not pass a single bill for stability of the country's economy: Khawaja

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Central Chairman of Tajran Pakistan Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui has said that the government passed dozens of bills for personal interests during 72 hours, but not a single bill could be passed for small businessmen and the stability of the country's economy has repeatedly demanded that a bill be passed by the Assembly to approve the seats reserved for the representation of the business community in the government, but the current government has not taken serious notice of this if the Assembly has reserved seats for the representation of the business community in the Houses. Had the bill been passed, the long-standing concerns of the business community could have been removed by consulting the government in the coming days.



But the government and the parties included in the PDM have done nothing except the politics of personal interests and the burden of inflation on the poor people. The business industry has been destroyed by increasing the prices of petroleum products, electricity and gas on the backs of traders and imposing new taxes, due to which the markets and markets are in chaos and business life has been suspended. However, the increase in the prices of medicines and food items has also made up for it, due to which even the white-clothed traders have been left behind.

During the press conference, Multan Division Chairman Fahad Shaq Sangi, Grain Market President Mudassar Raja, South Punjab Senior Vice Chairman and Fish Market President Mian Saeed Ahmad Qureshi, South Punjab Vice President Malik Qaiser Iqbal, South Punjab Vice President Akmal Khan Baloch, Multan District Senior Vice President Nasir Mahmood Chauhan, Surmiya Ni President Kifayat Hussain Siddiqui, Gilgashat Leader Sheikh Tanveer Ashraf Qureshi, Daulat Gate President Mian Tanveer Langah were also present.

Female Officer Harassment Case: Civil society protest against DG PHA Multan

Kiran Asim



MULTAN: A series of protests against the harassment of a female employee at the Director General Park and Horticulture (PHA) is continuing. In Multan, various parties, organizations and unions organized a rally and protest against DGPHA Multan from Eid Gah Chowk to Kachhari Chowk, in which Tehreek Labeeq Pakistan Multan Ameer Qari Younis, Milli Jehati Council South Punjab President Mian Asif Akhwani, President Wasa Union Malik Waheed Rajwana, President MDA Multan Sheikh Muhammad Rafi, General Secretary Solid Waste Management Union Sami Baloch, Tehreek Jafaria leaders and others also participated in the rally.

The rally was led by President National Labor Federation Multan Shah Wali Rajput, slogans were raised against DGPHA Asif Rauf in the rally. Speaking at the rally, the speakers said that Asif Rauf sexually harassed a female employee and when Syeda Muniba submitted a complaint against the harassment to the provincial ombudsman, she was fired and when the union raised its voice on the matter, the union started retaliatory actions against President Aqil Qureshi and other officials. He demanded that Syeda Muniba be reinstated and ending all retaliatory actions, DGPHA Asif Rauf should be immediately removed from office so that he cannot influence the harassment inquiry. The speakers said that if DGPHA Multan Asif Rauf is not removed from the post, then this protest movement will be spread first in Punjab and then in Pakistan.

Sarfraz Malik congratulates Dr. Faisal New Pak HC in UK

News Desk

LONDON: While congratulating, MD of Gold Partner Institute of British Council SLS Mr. Sarfraz Malik said that his appointment would solve the problems faced by more than one and a half million Pakistanis living in the UK in a better way than before. Dr. Muhammad Faisal has previously served as Pakistani Ambassador to Germany. A large number of Pakistanis live in the UK, the importance of the Pakistani High Commission in the United Kingdom cannot be denied, the Pakistani High Commission in the United Kingdom is considered to be the most important in the world after the Pakistani High Commission in the United States, Dr. Faisal's appointment will open a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries.

JS Bank Limited Wins ABF Corporate & Investment Banking Awards 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: JS Bank, one of the fastest-growing banks in Pakistan, wins the Asian Banking and Finance (ABF) Corporate & Investment Banking Awards 2023 for Green Deal of the Year. This recognition is a testament to the Bank's commitment to championing sustainable business practices and driving the adoption of renewable energy through innovative financing solutions and impactful awareness campaigns.

JS Bank is the first and only commercial bank in Pakistan to have been accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world's largest dedicated fund helping developing countries respond to climate change. With the mission to promote environmentally friendly practices, the Bank acquired approval for the Pakistan Distributed Solar Project (PDSP), to promote the use of renewable energy to the masses through awareness campaigns and enable individuals, SMEs, and businesses to positively impact the climate.

Tribute

BAHAWALPUR: Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur, Zaheer Anwar Jappa, District Police Officer Bahawalpur Syed Muhammad Abbas giving away gifts to family members of martyred police during a ceremony to pay tribute to martyrs.



Photo: APP

Vice Chancellor Women's University inaugurated Solar Plant and Water Research Laboratory

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Women University Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi inaugurated multiple projects including water research lab, seminar hall and solar plant project at Women University Multan for strengthening its capacity building. The Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Uzma Quraishi inaugurated the Water Research Lab at Department of Chemistry. In this regard, the Department of Chemistry launched the brand "UniHealth Mineral Water" by utilizing the product water using reverse osmosis system installed at Katchery campus, the Women University, Multan. The product has been approved by the university Academic Council. Addressing the ceremony Chairperson Department of Chemistry Dr. Sara Musaddiq said that this water is prepared according to WHO stand-



ards in water research lab. She said that the Department of Chemistry is already working to develop membrane technology for water purification to reduce the risk of waterborne diseases and to maintain the quality of the water brand as well as to offer solutions to the consumers regarding water quality. Dr. Sara Musaddiq said that through this project of the university, clean and healthy drinking water will be provided

to the staff and students. This project is completed under the supervision of Dr. Sara Musaddiq and Ms. Jaweria Kanwal (Phd scholar, Department of Chemistry).

Later on Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi inaugurated a solar project of 200 KW installed at Matital campus. This project was completed with the support of Energy Department of Punjab Government and Punjab Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (PECA) in Women University. PD Mr. Asad Bhutta said that it will provide 1600 units to the university on a daily basis. The Women University has not made any investment on the project, however, the university will purchase electricity at the rate of 23 rupees per unit in the first 5 years, while electricity will be purchased at the rate of 13 rupees per unit for the next 20 years, after which the system will become the property of the university. On this

occasion, the Vice-Chancellor said that the Women University is taking steps to save energy, with this project, the University will save millions of rupees in terms of electricity and additional electricity will also be available, while also protecting the environment due to green energy.

At the end a bid farewell prayer ceremony was held for Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi at Dar-ul-Qur'an Centre. Prof. Dr Uzma Quraishi joined as Vice Chancellor of Women University on August 6th, 2019. On her last working day Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha rendered her services for the betterment of the University as well as welfare of the employees of the University. She congratulated Dr. Uzma Quraishi for successfully completing her tenure and wished her good luck for future. The ceremony was attended by Chairpersons of all departments.

Kashmir Black Day

Kashmiris prefer death over slavery but won't accept India's hegemony: Mushaal

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that Kashmiris would once again give India and the international community a clear and unequivocal message that they preferred death over slavery and they would never compromise on their principled stance by accepting India's hegemony and its illegal control over the occupied Kashmir.

In a statement on Friday, Mushaal, a wife of incarcerated senior hurri-

yat leader Yasin Malik, said that the people of Kashmir across the world would mark August 5 as Black Day today (Saturday) not only to condemn India's unconstitutional unilateral action of August 5, 2019 but to convey a strong message again that their spirit and passion for freedom was invincible and their voice could not be crushed through military might.

Mushaal urged the people to forge greater unity to foil notorious Indian government's nefarious designs and colonial policy and to further expedite their efforts to expose India's ugly

face worldwide.

The chairperson stated that 5 August was one of the darkest days in the history of Kashmir as it had a catastrophic impact on the lives of Kashmiris because fascist authorities turned Kashmir into a world biggest open jail and a largest torture cell since abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A.

She recalled that over one million troops were stationed in the illegally occupied valley and tasked to carry out systematic genocide of Kashmiris, besides thousands of innocent Kash-



miris, were languishing in Indian jails under concocted charges including her husband Yasin Malik.

Mushaal noted that hundreds of structures were blasted, demol-

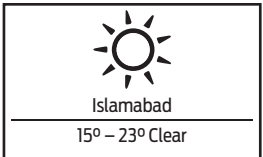
ished and confiscated with the view to deprive Kashmiris of their land, resources and livelihood and thousands non-settlers Hindus were granted domiciles and were being settled in the disputed territory under a malicious scheme to change the demography of occupied Kashmir.

However, she vowed that despite all its tools of oppression and suppression, the notorious Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government completely failed to deter the determined Kashmiris from seeking their right to self-determination through a

peaceful struggle.

Mushaal stated that the day was not far when Kashmiris would achieve their cherished goal of freedom, as they could not be deprived from the birth right of self-determination through brutal tactics anymore.

She urged the civilized world to shun silence and double-standard and take tangible steps to put pressure on Indian government to ensure resolution of the decades-olds Kashmir dispute as per the UN agreed formula and aspirations of the people of the scenic valley.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:47 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:05 pm
Maghrib	7:06 pm
Isha	8:40 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Vohra says higher petroleum, gas prices spell doom for industries, people

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Central President Cloth Board Etihad Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousef Vohra and Central Secretary General Punjab Mian Tanveer Riaz expressed their deep concern over the increase in the cruel prices of petroleum products hanging the nation to untoward conditions.

Vohra said further that an increase of about 20 rupees per liter will lead to scale up unexpected inflation and huge unemployment ultimatum for the whole nation. They described that, it will bring a storm that is difficult to handle from all sides.

Vohra stressed the need of facilitating the people who have no bread & butter. He illuminated that, on the one hand, daily increase in petrol, electricity and gas prices is becoming a message of death for 25-crore people.

The Senior Vice President Cloth Board Alliance Group Alhaj Abdullah Nawaz Vohra said that electricity bills of 20,000 rupees and gas bills of 4,000 to 5,000 rupees are being sent to people sheer earning 20,000 to 25,000 rupees hardly.

AJK to observe August 5 as black day: Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Kashmiris living on both sides of the ceasefire line, abroad and the rest of the world would observe August 5 as a black day to register their protest against India's illegal move to annex the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In his statement issued on the eve of Youm e Estehsal, the AJK premier, while referring to the illegal and unlawful measures the BJP government has taken on and after 5, 2019, said, "The RSS influenced regime led by Modi abolished the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to fulfill Hindutva agenda in the region". After the abrogation of Article 370, the PM said that the Indian government has intensified its attempts to change the region's demography and convert the majority of Muslims into a minority.

He said that Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been turned into an open prison where people have been reeling under relentless oppression. He said that the people of Kashmir have been deprived of their basic rights. "Essential fundamental freedoms including people's right to assembly, right to express and



opinion, right to property remain critically suppressed in the region", he said, adding that Hurriyat leadership, human rights activists and independent journalists have been imprisoned in baseless cases. "Innocent Kashmiri youth are being martyred day in and day out in fake and stage-managed encounters", he added. Press and social media, he said, were banned from covering facts on the ground and human rights violations taking place in the region.

Referring to the amendments made to the region's Domicile Law, he said the modified law has enabled the government of India to bring material as well as cultural changes in Kashmir. So far, he

said, the Indian authorities have issued 4.2 million fake domiciles to non-Kashmiris. He said that Indian actions were a clear violation of the UN Charter, international agreements and human rights conventions. Terming Jammu and Kashmir as an internationally recognized disputed territory, the PM said, India has forcibly occupied a large part of Jammu and Kashmir. He said India was involved in systematic genocide of Kashmiris. The Prime Minister said that the Indian action on August 5, 2019 was a violation of the United Nations Security Council on Kashmir.

"India's illegal actions cannot change the disputed status of Kashmir", he said, adding that Kashmir was one of the long-standing issues pending on the UN agenda. The international community, he said, should put pressure on India to allow Kashmiri people to exercise the right of self-determination in line with the UNSC resolutions. The AJK premier also hailed the people of Kashmir for their unwavering struggle and commitment to the noble cause of freedom. He said that the Kashmiri people would continue their struggle for self-determination till they achieve their cherished goal for which they offered unprecedented sacrifices.

Illuminated

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Red Crescent building, illuminated with colourful lights during the celebrations of Independence Day, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

BA'TIE GIRL, the first Sino-Pak feature film premier held at PNCA

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: BA'TIE GIRL, the first Sino-Pak feature film based on friendship between the people of Pakistan and China premier held here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Islamabad on 3 August 2023.

Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar and Mr Wang Heping, Cultural Counsellor Chinese Embassy were the chief guests in a historic gathering of over 800 guests on the occasion.

The colourful event was also organized by Hunerkada Film and Media Jamal Shah and also attended by Mr Xing from China Embassy, the executive producer of the film and Chairman China Situan Cheng Cheng Film Culture Ltd, Mr Xu Ping, the producer, Mr Xu Jianglong, Ceo China power, Mr Wang Minsheng, ceo China



Three Gorges Corporation and Cast of the film were present on the occasion.

In his brief remarks, Parliamentary Secretary said that said the Pak China artists have

proved to be the true ambassadors of peace imparting the real image of two friendly countries and its rich cultures.

He appreciated Hunerkada Film for its effort to produce first ever co production film.

Speaking on the occasion, China Embassy Cultural Counselor said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a way to establish people to people contact of both countries.

He said that both governments of Pakistan and China are taking bold measures for the success of the mega project.

He said support of people of the two countries is inevitable for the success of the CPEC project and promotion of cultural ties.

A dinner hosted in honor of Tahir Rauf Chaudhary at Rochdale



Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER: Chaudhry Mehmoodul Hasan Lambardar, Greater Manchester businessman and senior vice president of Anjuman Arain UK, gave a reception to Tahir Rauf Chaudhary, a businessman from Pakistan, at Shesh Restaurant in Rochdale. Musrat-Director of Worldwide Zahid Iqbal-Chairman of Khan Group Arbab Azam Khan-Chief Executive of Sanam Restaurant Haji Abdul Ghaffar-Haji Abdul Jabbar-Chief Executive of Al Maada Shadi Hall Chaudhry Anwar-Community Leader Hafiz Abdul Malik-Senior Columnist Abdul Rehman Farrukh-Tariq Group Chairman Chaudhry Tariq-Inamur Rehman and business social personalities participated in which there was a lively discussion about the current political and economic conditions of Pakistan.

We welcome them to Rochdale. I also thank the other guests for coming to my event. Chief guest Chaudhry Rauf Tahir thanked Chaudhry Mehmoodul Hasan and said that I felt the atmosphere of Pakistan here and overseas Pakistanis are their own country. I tell them that our forces have made a lot of sacrifices for Pakistan. But they face problems when they go to Pakistan. I will use my influence and influence to solve their legitimate problems.

When there will be political stability in the country, we hope that the conditions of Pakistan will improve after the general election. Entrepreneurial social personality Chaudhry Saeed and Arbab Azam Khan credited today's gathering to Chaudhry Mehmoodul Hasan Lambardar and said that he always showed hospitality to the guests from Pakistan. There is talk of Pakistan, everyone should live together abroad-Zahid Iqbal gave a special gift of mangoes to the guests.

Chaudhry Saeed Abdullah host dinner on the occasion of Pakistan Day



Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER: Chaudhry Saeed Abdullah, a distinguished business and social personality of Britain, organized a grand ceremony and dinner on the lawn of his house on the occasion of Pakistan Day. Deputy Attorney General Muhammad Javed Awan came from Pakistan, Shadow Minister, Member of Parliament, Afzal Khan, Lord Mayor of Manchester. Special participation of Yasmin Dar Among other participants Sahiwal businessman Tahir Rauf Chaudhary-Former Member of Parliament Faisal Rasheed-Former Lord Mayor Councillor Naemul Hasan-Councillor Shaukat Ali-Shah Nawaz Khan-Arabb Azam Khan-Chaudhry Tariq-Chaudhry Musrat-Chaudhry Naseer Sahiwali-Chaudhry Adeel Dr. Iqbal Muslim League Q UK President Rizwan Hashmi and various personalities of the community participated. Independence day and birthday cake was also cut by Begum Chaudhry Saeed and Begum Arbab Azam Khan on Lord Mayor Yasmin Dar and Haji. Afzal Khan, the member of the British Parliament, was also presented with bouquets of flowers.

On this occasion, Deputy Attorney General Muhammad Javed Awan, the special guest, said that he was happy to see that Chaudhry Saeed held an Independence Day ceremony at his home today. Pakistan Day is celebrated in the whole month of August, Member of British Parliament Shadow Minister Afzal Khan said that celebrating Independence Day is a very happy thing, but at this time, Pakistanis and Kashmiris living around the world should show unity and improve the condition of Pakistan. Unity should be shown to do-Lord Mayor Manchester Councillor Yasmin Dar said that the credit of today's Pakistan Day program goes to Chaudhry Saeed who organized such a good event. We are proud of Pakistan and we will continue to celebrate Independence Day till the end of the world. Chairman of Musarat Group Chaudhry Musarat welcomed Deputy Attorney General Muhammad Javed Awan, the special guest of today's event, to the UK-and wished the community a Happy Independence Day.

Chief Executive of Sanam Restaurant Haji Abdul Ghaffar Tariq Group Chairman Chaudhry Tariq said that today we are grateful to Chaudhry Saeed for organizing the Pakistan Day celebration and today we are celebrating and praying for our country that Pakistan Even though we live abroad, our heart lives in Pakistan. Former member of the British Parliament, Faisal Rasheed, and businessmen from Pakistan, Tahir Rauf Chaudhary and Shah Nawaz Khan, said that this is what they feel after seeing the celebration here today. We are celebrating in Pakistan. Former Lord Mayor Councillor Naemul Hassan and Councillor Shaukat Ali said that today Chaudhry Saeed was happy to see all the community together at the Pakistan Day Garden Party. The famous businessman of Portugal Syed Khalid Shah and the chairman

King Abdullah Campus inaugurated at UAJK with Saudi Arabia's financial assistance

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: In a momentous event, the King Abdullah Campus of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) was inaugurated here on Friday. The grand ceremony was graced by the presence of Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Dr. Saud Al-Shammari, Director General of the Saudi Fund for Development, who jointly unveiled the state-of-the-art campus. The project, constructed with the financial assistance of Saudi Arabia, is estimated to have cost over ten billion rupees.

President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry delivered an address

expressing his profound gratitude to the government of Saudi Arabia for their significant contribution towards the construction of the King Abdullah Campus. He highlighted that the campus, named after the revered former Saudi ruler King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, symbolizes the enduring friendship and Islamic brotherhood between Saudi Arabia and the people of Kashmir. The President praised King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz's remarkable contributions to the Muslim Ummah, particularly in the fields of education and healthcare.

Dr. Saud Al-Shammari, in his speech, emphasized that the Saudi Fund for Development not only financed the

King Abdullah Campus but also continues to support several ongoing education and health projects across Pakistan. He expressed his hope that this collaborative effort would further strengthen the bond of friendship and Islamic brotherhood between Saudi Arabia and Azad Kashmir, setting the stage for even stronger ties with each passing generation.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, acknowledged the generous financial assistance of over 900 million rupees provided by the Saudi Fund for Development. He praised the joint efforts of Pakistani government officials and officers who worked close-

ly with the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir throughout the project.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, expressing his gratitude, thanked the high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia for their presence and significant contribution to the construction of the King Abdullah Campus. He emphasized that the establishment of the campus not only addresses the issue of space and accommodation for over six thousand students but also opens new avenues for research and education in the region.

The King Abdullah Campus stands as a testament to the enduring friendship and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, strengthening educational



infrastructure and opportunities for the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Raja Shahid Khokhar was appointed Director of Information Azad Kashmir. According to notification issued by the Department of Services and General

Administration. Raja Shahid Khokhar was earlier posted as Additional Secretary Home. He belongs to the secretariat group and has served in various departments. He is highly professional and capable bureaucrat.

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 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
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 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

NUP to play pivotal role in education sector

Prof. Waqas Ahmed

Given the changing paradigm shift in the dynamics of education and job market as well as the growing demand for skilled young workforce, the establishment of National University of Pakistan in 2023 is a significant news, a step in the right direction to meet the rising challenges in the education sector and Pakistan's socio-economic development.

Working under the ambit of Ministry of Defence in Cantonments and Garrisons of Pakistan, Federal Government Educational Institutions Directorate is running 50 colleges, 311 schools and 26 institutes of special education. With the formidable workforce of 10000 teachers including around 200 PhD and more than 1000 MPhil scholars, FGEI system caters to the educational needs of over 20000 students.

The FGEI degree colleges spread all over the country are affiliated with seven regional universities having different academic schemes and forecasts, diverse admission policies, exam schedules and assessment mechanisms, and fee structures thereby undermining the concept of uniform education system. Issues like cumbersome movement of students between universities of different cities or provinces high-

lighted the indispensable need for a platform in the form a university to provide a solid connecting link for the degree colleges of FGEI.

Becoming a reality on the blessed day of 27th of Ramazan in 2023, National University of Pakistan (NUP) is the fruit of untiring effort of four years. Land comprising ten acres in the zone 4 of Islamabad (Kuri Agro Farm Scheme) has been acquired for the main campus of NUP, where academic block is being built to start educational activities in computing science, engineering, emerging technologies, natural and applied sciences, social sciences, and arts. Until completion, NUP will continue its functioning in Federal Government Sir Syed College Rawalpindi, Federal Government Post Graduate College for Women Kashmir Road Rawalpindi, Federal Government Post Graduate College for Women AbidMajeed Road Rawalpindi, Federal Government Liaquat Ali Degree for Boys Peshawer Road Rawalpindi, and Federal Government Quaid-e-Azam Degree College Chaklala Scheme III Rawalpindi. The university will also have the specialty

of running a central institute catering to the educational needs of differently abled students in the form of Jinnah Institute of Inclusive Education(JIIE).

The establishment of NUP will go a long way in making its affiliated colleges independent, financially viable and strong entities. Focusing on research and equipping the students with the 21st century skills like critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication, NUP will be targeting lower income and lower middle income classes to create an equitable environment for quality education and skill development.

The University shall include the following faculties:(a) Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences; (b) Faculty of Computing; (c) Faculty of Management Sciences;(d) Faculty of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts; and (e) Faculty of Engineering and Emerging Technologies.

National University of Pakistan will play a vital role in bringing a much-needed change by fostering innovation, creativity, national unity, interprovincial harmony, and great ideals of good citizenship. Empha-

sizing lower income groups in NUP and enhancing skills through modern education in social and natural sciences, FGEI will be taking the leading role in propagating the concept of people as a centre that galvanizes the real social, economic, and intellectual progress of a nation. As free thinking and independent citizens of Pakistan, FGEI students will be a positive binding force to mitigate the negative impact of gender bias, divisiveness, and dogmatism, paving the way for a sustainable, dynamic, progressive and self-reliant society.

National University of Pakistan is indeed a commendable project as an investment in the future development of Pakistan's citizens, providing equal opportunities for higher education. The students belonging to lower or lower middle economic strata will get a chance to have quality and skills-based education, making social and economic progress a reality. The project is also linked to UN's SDG 4 and 9. It will uphold the international norms and principles of equity, gender parity, quality education, and human rights. Providing a cost-effective solution for access to quality education, the project of NUP will inspire students and teachers to make necessary economic plans for progress in industry and trade thereby enhancing skilled and professional workforce in science and technology.



Investment opportunities

Prim Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday highlighting Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a one-window facility for investors urged the Pakistani-American businessmen to benefit from the numerous investment opportunities available in Pakistan.

The prime minister said this as a group of prominent Pakistani-American businessmen and entrepreneurs, who are currently visiting Pakistan, called on him here.

The prime minister lauded the contributions being made by the successful and vibrant Pakistani-American community.

He said they were contributing to the socio-economic development of their motherland as well as their adopted country but also serving as a bridge of friendship between Pakistan and the United States.

Highlighting Pakistan's geo-economic potential, its strategic location, vast mineral wealth, and population dividend, Prime Minister Shehbaz briefed the delegation about Pakistan's economic recovery plan under the newly constituted SIFC through a whole-of-the-government approach.

He said under the SIFC framework, the government was working on a comprehensive plan to attract investment in the five select fields of agriculture, information technology, mine and minerals, energy and defence production.

He said that the purpose of establishing SIFC was to provide one-window facility to the potential investors.

The prime minister also stressed the need for exploring new avenues for enhancing economic and commercial ties between Pakistan and the United States to further diversify and broaden the bilateral relationship.

He underscored the need for enhancing people-to-people ties between the two countries.

The prime minister underlined that overseas Pakistanis were great ambassadors of Pakistan and directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Pakistan's missions abroad to expand engagement with Pakistani diaspora.

The members of the visiting group thanked the prime minister for the warm welcome.

They briefed the prime minister on the various projects and initiatives being undertaken by them for strengthening trade and cultural ties between Pakistan and the United States.

"Love for Pakistan unites us all", said the members of the delegation and expressed their keen desire to further promote and enhance their investment portfolio in Pakistan.



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

Sovereign Wealth Fund- Hope or a Dream - II

The finance ministry has already finalised the broad features of the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund (PSWF), including its governance structure and transaction flow. The fund will, according to plans, optimally leverage and better manage the government's assets in accordance with international standards, policies, and practices. The Fund will be able to make direct investments in existing and new projects, leverage existing assets, and invest in joint ventures with private parties, foreign sovereign wealth funds, and governments. The fund would have the legal status of a corporation, with the authority to raise funds through the sale of assets and to use Pakistan's share in joint ventures in the agriculture, mining, and information technology industries.

As per procedure, once the bill is passed by the Parliaments, the Speaker National Assembly or the Senate Chairman as the case may be sent the passed bill to the Prime Minister, who in his turn a bill vide his converting note or a summary advising the President to sign the bill. The President on its turn has 16 days to either sign the bill or send it back to the Prime Minister advising to reconsider the bill in the light of his observations. The bill is then submitted to the joint session of the parliament, if the parliament amend the bill or otherwise is sent back to the president who after receiving the bill has another 9 days to sign the bill or otherwise.

It means that all nine legislation passed after July 20th are at risk of lapse since, once the assemblies are dissolved and the bills are not yet signed by the president, the bill will either expire or be revived when the next parliament is elected.

In many nations, the bill will simply expire if it is not signed by the president before the end of the parliament's term. If the bill dies, it must be reintroduced in the following parliament to become law. If the bill is resurrected, however, it will not have to go through the entire legislative process again. Instead, it will be forwarded to the president for signature. If a bill is not signed by the president within 10 days (excluding Sundays) in the United States, it becomes law without his signature. This is referred to as a "pocket veto." A bill dies in Canada if it is not signed by the governor general within 30 days, and in Singapore if it is not signed by the president within 21 days.

I hope the President recognises the importance and urgency of the bill and considers signing it into law, as approval of the PSWF bill is a big step forward for the country. It would provide a much-needed source of long-term financing for investment in vital sectors such as infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing, hence stimulating economic growth and

job creation. The President may have all the more reasons to sign the bill as the entire international media has largely reacted positively to the passage of this bill.

Reuters said "The passage of the bill is a significant step forward for the government, as it will help to attract foreign investment and boost economic growth" and added that the government has set a target of raising \$10 billion from the sovereign wealth fund over the next five years.

Financial Times said: "The bill is seen as a key part of the government's efforts to attract foreign investment and boost economic growth," and added the bill was passed with the support of the opposition parties, which is seen as a sign of consensus on the need to reform the economy.

Bloomberg commented, "The bill is seen as a key part of the government's efforts to reform the economy and address the country's chronic balance of payments problems," and added that the bill is seen as a key part of the government's efforts to comply with the conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Wall Street Journal observed, "The bill is a welcome development, as it will help to improve the country's investment climate and attract foreign capital" and added that the bill is a "test case" for the government's

ability to implement economic reforms.

The Economist commented, "The passage of the bill is a positive step, but it remains to be seen whether the government will be able to implement it effectively," and added that the bill is "a step in the right direction," but it warned that the government will need to "avoid the pitfalls of corruption and mismanagement."

The success of PSWF will however depend on how the incoming caretaker government treats this bill and on the political will of the next elected government which will come into power after securing a mandate by the people in the next general election, assuming that they will be held as per provisions of the constitution. The success of PSWF will also depend on a number of factors, including the quality of its management, the performance of its investments, and the stability of the global economy. It will also depend on providing it with adequate resources and by appointing experienced and qualified managers capable of developing a clear investment strategy, publish regular reports on the fund's activities and ensuring that the fund is transparent and accountable.

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

May 9, Anti State Elements & World's dual standards - II

The girl admitted smashing the window of a clothes shop in the city centre and throwing stones. She received a nine-month referral order, which involves a youth offenders panel drawn from the community coming up with a non-jail penalty. The judge, Maurice Cooper, said the sentence of nine months was "longer than normally given for breaking windows" but reflected the seriousness of other events that occurred in the city that night.

Then in United States, Oath Keepers extremist group founder Stewart Rhodes was sentenced to 18 years in prison for orchestrating a week-long plot that culminated in his followers attacking the US Capitol in a bid to keep President Joe Biden out of the White House after winning the 2020 election. Rhodes, 58, was the first person convicted of seditious conspiracy in the Jan 6, 2021, attack to receive his punishment, and his sentence was the longest handed down so far in the hundreds of Capitol riot cases. Then in another case, Capitol rioter who put feet on Nancy Pelosi's desk was sentenced to over 4 years.

I read somewhere that in USA, Whoever knowingly assaults or batters a United States serviceman or an immediate family member of a United States serviceman, or who knowingly destroys or injures the property of such serviceman or immediate family member, on account of the military service of that serviceman or status of that individual as a United States serviceman, or who attempts or conspires to do so, shall: (1) in the case of a simple assault, or destruction or injury to property in which the damage or attempted damage to such property is not more than \$500, be fined under this title in an amount not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000 and imprisoned not more than 2 years;(2) in the case of destruction or injury to property in which the damage or attempted damage to such property is more than \$500, be fined under this title in an amount not less than \$1000 nor more

than \$100,000 and imprisoned not more than 5 years; and(3) in the case of a battery, or an assault resulting in bodily injury, be fined under this title in an amount not less than \$2500 and imprisoned not less than 6 months nor more than 10 years.

Then come to another aspect. Recently, I have seen a video of Moeed Pirzada who is seeking help from US. These are people who on the behest of Imran mislead thousands of youth on anti US narrative and then linked Pakistan Army with US and filled the hearts and minds of masses against Pakistan Army. Now Moeed is begging Americans and ready to offer

EVERYTHING. He is admitting that he is already working with US FBI. People like Moeed Pirzada, Adil Raja, Haider Mehdi Wajahat etc are playing role of anti-state elements and continuously spreading propaganda against Pakistan and Pak Army and polluting the minds of younger generation. The nation is well aware of the mentality of such Anti-State elements who are doing all this just for their personal interests. How PTI, Imran Khan and their few followers can defend their dirty action on May 9? How US and Europe can still trust on those elements who accused them to remove their government and now again seeking help from them? It was right to punish the culprits of 9/11 but why it's wrong to deal with the terrorists of May 9 according to laws and regulations of Pakistan?

Readers, the details mentioned above clearly proves that no country allows the terrorists and anti-state elements to attack on their military and civil installations. So Pakistan also has full right to treat these elements according to country's laws and regulations. Whole nation stands with the decision of dealing with these riots strictly.

Concluded
Writer is senior defense analyst



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Pakistan's abiding commitment to Kashmir cause reaffirmed at ISSI Seminar

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's strong solidarity with the Kashmiri people and abiding commitment to the just cause of Kashmir was reaffirmed at a Seminar organized by the India Study Center (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal (5 August). The speakers highlighted the historical, legal, human rights, and strategic aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The Seminar, titled "August 5, 2019 - Assault on Kashmiri Rights and Identity Continues Unabated", was attended by a large number of diplomats, academics, researchers, students, members of the civil society, and representatives of the media. The distinguished speakers included: Member, Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (PHRC) of the OIC, Ambassador Tasnim Aslam; former Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Ms. Farzana Yaqoob; Executive Director, Research Society of International Law (RSIL), Mr. Jamal Aziz; Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations

(KIIR), Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani; and Convener, Tehreek Hurriyat Jammu, and Kashmir, Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, were the distinguished speakers of the occasion.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, was the chief guest.

In his introductory remarks, Acting Director ISC Malik Qasim Mustafa, highlighted that since 1947, when India illegally occupied the State of Jammu and Kashmir, India's atrocities and denial of justice to the Kashmiri people were continuing unabated. The 5th August 2019 assault by India on Kashmiri rights and identity and inhumane military siege and brutality of Indian security forces had further accentuated the sufferings of the Kashmiri people. Underscoring the importance of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, he stressed that the international community had a responsibility to facilitate peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that 5th August - another 'Black Day' in history - marked the completion of 4 years since India's illegal and unilat-



eral actions aimed at changing the internationally recognized "disputed" status of Jammu and Kashmir and altering the demographic structure of the occupied territory. He noted that, in the run-up to India's illegal actions of 5th August 2019, additional troops deployments were made by India in IIOJK, which was already the "most militarized zone" in the world. Moreover, a round-the-clock curfew was clamped; total communication blockade was effected; and the entire area turned into an 'open jail.' The level of oppression was hugely upscaled by the Indian security forces - indiscriminately targeting Kashmiri men, women,

and children. Arbitrary arrests, custodial torture, extra-judicial killings, and cordon-and-search operations followed. With the advent of Covid-19 pandemic, Kashmiri were subjected to "double lock-down." Meanwhile, India relentlessly pursued its sinister design of demographic change and turn the Kashmiri Muslim majority into a minority in its own land.

In his address on the occasion, Chief Guest Qamar Zaman Kaira highlighted Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the Kashmir cause, as reflected in its stance that Kashmir is the 'unfinished agenda of the partition.' He added that all political parties in Pakistan

had a similar position on the Kashmir dispute, as all were committed to its peaceful resolution through implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. The Adviser added that Jammu and Kashmir dispute was the core issue between India and Pakistan and its just solution would strengthen regional peace and stability. He also stressed the need for educating the younger generation on the history and legality of the Kashmir dispute so that they could, in their own turn, also fight this case with vigour and conviction. Lauding the ISSI's initiative of holding the Seminar, the Adviser stressed that the Kashmir cause had to be advanced also through thorough research work and intellectual endeavours.

Of the other speakers, Ambassador Tasnim Aslam talked about the history of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and emphasized the need for implementation of the UNSC resolutions, calling for a fair and impartial plebiscite to enable the Kashmiris to determine their own future.

Ms. Farzana Yaqoob highlighted the trials and tribulations endured by the Kashmiris in their epic struggle and underlined that the Kashmir cause can never be compromised through Indian

lures of investment and development. Mr. Jamal Aziz stressed the need for a more proactive and robust strategy on Kashmir, based on International Law.

Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, while presenting his perspective on the way forward, underlined the need to make Azad Kashmir the hub of knowledge and academic engagement regarding Kashmir, in the region and international arena as well.

Mr. Muhammad Ghulam Safi said that the brutalities that India was committing in Kashmir knew no bounds. Ban on religious activities, restrictions on all forms of speeches, gagging the public opinion and journalism, legalizing brutality by empowering law and order agencies through draconian laws, and making life hell in the 'heaven on earth' - Kashmir - were all illustrative of Indian oppression.

Chairman BoG ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his concluding remarks, said that India's illegal steps of 5th August had, on the one hand, caused a nose-dive in Pakistan-India relations and also impacted India-China relations. On the other hand, they had served to reinvigorate the Kashmiri struggle.

'Kashmir is the aorta of Pakistan, it will never give up', Qayyum League

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Under the leadership of Muslim League Qayyum leader Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari, along with the party's central leaders, a Kashmir Solidarity Day rally was taken out at the Central House of Journalism in Muzaffarabad. Addressing the rally, the Qayyum League chief said that the Kashmiri movement has been fighting for freedom for a long time.

Addressing the rally, Muslim League leader Qayyum Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari said that the captive Kashmiri leaders should be released immediately. We will not rest until the long-standing issue of Kashmir is resolved. There is one voice of the whole country that India's occupation of Kashmir should be ended.



Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari said that India is slaughtering minorities in India apart from Kashmir through its heinous intentions. We will not allow India to become the policeman of the region. Just as India is oppressing the Kash-

miris, it is also oppressing the minority communities living in India and is engaged in genocide. He said that India is such a nuisance in the region due to which the drum of war can be sounded at any time. None of its neighboring countries are

happy with India.

Pakistan Muslim League Qayyum Central Deputy Secretary Information Faisal Anwar, President Youth Wing and Social Media Syed Saqlain Bukhari, and other officials participated in the rally.

Shah urges Kashmiris to observe 5th August a black day

Abdul Majeed Tahir



SRINAGAR: Senior APHC leader and chairman Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has appealed to the people of Kashmir to observe 5th August as a black day to convey a strong message to the world that Kashmiris do not accept India's hegemony and its illegal control over the territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a message from Tihar Jail, the incarcerated leader while terming 5th August 2019 as one of the worst precedents of Indian colonialism said, "It was on this day when India stripped the region of its nationhood status, dissolved the state and reduced its status to a union territory."

The Indian government's annexation attempt, he said, was a brazen violation of the international law and the UN resolutions that strictly bar the occupying state from taking any unilateral decision.

Termining it as immoral and illegal, Shah said that the move was taken when the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir and its population was taken hostage for more than a year by imposing a crippling siege and communication blockade. "The entire Kashmiri leadership including members of civil society, academia, rights activists and lawyers were arrested and thrown behind the bars to enable complete silence", he said.

Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to take the ongoing struggle to its logical end, the APHC leader said that India must bear in mind the fact that the use of force has always failed to suppress nations and the same thing was being witnessed Kashmir where Kashmiris have refused to bow before India despite its barbarism and brutal suppression.

"The Indian government with all its tools of oppression and suppression had failed to deter the determined Kashmiris from seeking their right to self-determination through a peaceful struggle", Shah said, adding the day was not far when Kashmiris would achieve their cherished goal of freedom.

Open House & Job Fair 2023



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National University of Technology (NUTECH) held its 2nd "Open House & Job Fair 2023" on 04 August 2023, connecting graduating students with 90 leading companies from various sectors like Corporate, Engineering, IT, Banking, and Research & Development. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, was the esteemed Chief Guest, joined by dignitaries from Industry and Armed Forces. The event emphasized industry-academia collaboration to strengthen the economy. Students showcased capstone projects, interacted with CEOs, and gained insights into corporate requirements. The event facilitated employer-student interaction, aided fresh graduates in securing positions in renowned organizations and contributed to Pakistan's economic growth.

Vladimir Putin's critic Alexei Navalny imprisoned for 19 years in Russia

A staunch critic of the Russian elite and leadership who was poisoned in Germany Alexei Navalny was handed a sentence of 19 years Friday after the court found him guilty on a series of new charges of extremism, according to his spokesperson.

As Navalny appeared before the judge, he was in his prison attire, smiling and speaking with another defendant.

Navalny is already serving jail time on embezzlement charges which are regarded as politically motivated according to his friends. "Alexey Navalny was sentenced to 19 years at a maximum security penal colony," spokesperson Kira Yarmysh said.

A day earlier, Navalny said that he is expecting a long-term verdict from a Russian court - terming it a "Stalinist" new trial - as he was arrested in the country after returning from Germany.

"It will be a long term. That's what they call a 'Stalinist' term," Alexei Navalny said in a statement as he was awaiting verdict Friday.

Prosecutors have requested 20 years in jail for Navalny, who is already serving nine years for embezzlement, which his supporters see as punishment for his political work.

The former Russian opposition leader said a heavy sentence's "main purpose is to intimidate. You, not me."

Navalny has a huge following on social media, where he has posted videos exposing alleged corruption among the Russian elite and mobilised massive anti-government protests.

He once again called on Russians to fight back against repression. "When the sentence is announced, please think about only one, really important thought - what else can I personally do to resist?" he said.

"There is no shame in choosing the safest way to resist. There is shame in doing nothing," he said.

In 2021 his organisation was declared extremist by authorities, putting employees, volunteers and supporters at greater risk of prosecution.

Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat to launch song on Kashmiri prisoners

City Desk

ISTANBUL: Senior Leader All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) organized a Song Launch ceremony at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim Universitesi to release a song titled "Jails of Kashmir" written by renowned Turkish Song Writer and Author Turgay Evren.

The Song "Jails of Kashmir" was inaugurated in the presence of Hurriyat leaders

from Pakistan and the leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The event was presided over by All Parties Hurriyat Conference convener Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, in this anthem the innocent arrests of Kashmiri leaders Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah, Asiya Andrabi, Masarrat Alam Bhat, Zafar Akbar Bhat, Dr. Abdul Hameed Fayyaz, Naem Ahmed Khan and other Hurriyat leaders.

At this event, Prof. Sami Al-Arian, Abdur Rasheed Turabi, former Member

of the Legislative Assembly, Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Dr. Mubeen Shah, Faheem Kayani, President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK and Turgay Evren expressed that Kashmiri Azadi Movement should be in tune with the modern demands of the time. Launching of this song on Kashmiri incarcerated hurriyat leaders in English and Turkish language is an important development.

Senior leader APHC

and Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that the large number of students participating in this event and Turgay Evren becoming a powerful voice of the oppressed Kashmiri prisoners in the form of this beautiful heart touching song in English and Turkish language will shake the conscience of the world. That time is not far, we and our dear Turkish brothers will celebrate Independence Day of Kashmir together in the Lal Chowk of Srinagar.

International Trade Centre and Government of Balochistan partner to boost economic growth and agricultural development

Spokesman Report

QUETTA: The International Trade Centre (ITC) has teamed up with the Government of Balochistan in a collaborative effort to foster economic growth and agricultural development in the province as part of the Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress project, funded by the European Union. This strategic partnership marks a significant step towards unlocking the full potential of Balochistan's agriculture sector and promoting sustainable growth.

Consultations were held to develop sector strategies in Balochistan, benefiting SMEs in agriculture and livestock

sectors. The joint initiative aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the agriculture and livestock sectors. By developing targeted sector strategies, the ITC and the Government of Balochistan seek to create employment opportunities, drive socio-economic growth, and enhance trade potential.

The collaborative efforts have led to a series of stakeholders' consultations to address three key sectors: Dates, Grapes, Meat, Wool and Olives. Policymakers, industry representatives, and experts actively participated in the consultations, providing valuable insights, and fostering a consensus-building approach. The participatory methodology employed by the ITC allowed

for the identification of competitiveness constraints along the value chains, paving the way for impactful interventions.

Speaking about the collaboration Mr. Irfan Bakhtyari, Director General Agriculture Department, Government of Balochistan, said, "Sector strategies for dates, grapes and olives will provide a clear goal and specific actions for tapping the huge potential of agriculture sector of the province which will not only enhance earning farmers but would also create job opportunities for the population of the province. Emphasizing the importance of the partnership and the potential benefits for the agriculture sector and overall economic growth Director Livestock and Dairy Development

Department also highlighted the importance of developing meat and wool strategies being the most potential sectors for the development of the province of Balochistan.

Mr. Jahanzeb Khan ITC GRASP Provincial Lead appreciated the participation of all relevant stakeholders and hoped that on account of very comprehensive consultations, the sector strategies would result in the development of the most potential sectors of Olives, dates, grapes and wool being key to the development of provincial and national economy.

The success of this collaborative endeavor is exemplified by the engagement of the Agriculture Cooperatives Department



of Balochistan and livestock and Dairy Development Department Balochistan which played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth implementation of the

consultations. Their dedication and commitment have facilitated a robust framework for developing comprehensive and targeted sector strategies.

The identified strategies are set to become a driving force for rural advancement, socio-economic growth, and sustainable development in Balochistan. By aligning with national and provincial policies, the strategies are poised to contribute significantly to the province's economic prosperity.

As the sector strategy development process advances, the ITC and the Government of Balochistan reaffirm their joint commitment to work in close collaboration with all stakeholders. Targeted interventions, along with capacity-building initiatives, will be at the forefront of addressing the competitiveness constraints and leveraging the opportunities within the agricultural value chains.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,585.71	48,611.18
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,840.27	48,427.99
Index Value	Change
10,815,450,131	-25.47
Percentage	Time
-0.05%	4 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,564.37	+35.21
Percentage	Time
+0.47%	4 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,469.09	+253.20
Percentage	Time
+0.72%	4 Aug, 12:27 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,192.75	+33.47
Percentage	Time
+0.10%	4 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.5	198.5
Bahrain Dinar	763.85	771.85
Canadian Dollar	222.8	225
China Yuan	39.94	40.34
Danish Krone	42.16	42.56
Euro	318.3	321.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.81	37.16
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	1.94	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.09	942.09
Malaysian Ringgit	63.21	63.81
New Zealand \$	174.69	176.69
Norwegians Krone	27.93	28.23
Omani Riyal	745.95	753.95
Qatari Riyal	78.9	79.6
Saudi Riyal	77.5	78.3
Singapore Dollar	212.5	214.5
Swedish Korona	26.75	27.05
Swiss Franc	327.12	329.62
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	81	81.8
UK Pound Sterling	370	373
US Dollar	289.5	292.5

Dr. Arif Alvi urges business community to help uplift deprived segments of society

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan has urged that the key issues of the business community should be addressed to facilitate them in business promotion that would help revive the economy. He said that weak decision making as a nation has deprived Pakistan from realizing its actual economic potential. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest the ICCI Vice Presidents Awards Ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

Dr. Arif Alvi said that South Korea adopted the economic plan of Dr. Mehboob ul Haq and achieved fast economic growth, but Pakistan could not take benefit of it. He urged the business community to play a role for uplifting the deprived segments of the society and economic empowerment of women. He further said that 20.7 million children in Pakistan were out of school and emphasized that the business community should play a role to bring them to schools to make them productive citizens of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the



former Vice Presidents ICCI have rendered useful services for the business community and the purpose of organizing the award ceremony was to acknowledge their role. He stressed that the government should give

awards to highest taxpayers to acknowledge their role. He said that instead of putting more burden on the existing taxpayers, the government should reduce high tax rates and expand taxbase to improve tax revenue.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI highlighted the issues of real estate sector and small traders. He stressed that the government should rationalize taxes on the real estate sector to save it from further troubles and provide easy loans on low markup to small traders. He said that the CDA should allocate a quota of plots for small traders to address their housing issues.

Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan distributed awards amongst the former Vice Presidents of ICCI on the occasion. The award recipients included Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Yasir Sakhi Butt, Khalid Chaudhry, Faheem Khan, Abdul Rahman Khan, Saifur Rahman Khan, Ifikhar Anwar Sethi, Nisar Mirza, Tahir Ayub, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Ashfaq Chatra, Mirza Muhammad Ali, Shahid Zaman Shinwari, Syed Adil Anees, Ishtiaq Qureshi, Abdul Ghaffar Chaudhry, Sohail Rabbani, Musharraf Janjua, Hamid Miraj, Qazi Muhammad Ilyas, Rab Nawaz Malik, Chaudhry Gulrez Shahid, Ammad Bin Arif, Ch. Zahid Rafiq, Malik Muhammad Shabbir, Muhammad Sakhi Butt (Late), Raza Khan (Late), Faiz Ahmad Faizi (Late), Muhammad Hussain and Khurshid Ahmad Qureshi.

Business Meeting

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Muhammad Altaf Tai, Chairman ABAD and others posing a group photo after Meeting regarding Engagement of Private Sector in Business Ready (Be-Ready) Project held at Commissioner Karachi office



Pakistan Post launches Summer Internship Program 2023 for young graduates

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has launched its summer internship program at a vibrant opening ceremony held at ECO Postal Staff College Islamabad, today.

The 6-week internship program, received an overwhelming response, from over 500 young graduates from top universities of Islamabad/Rawalpindi. Initially only 50 students with exceptional competencies and potential have been selected for the program. These future leaders will enjoy valuable hands-on work experience on various key areas. This program will facilitate youngsters to set the stage for successful commencement of their professional careers ahead.

Sharing his thoughts at the opening orientation ceremony, the Director General Pakistan Post

said, "We are thrilled to launch the Summer Internship Program 2023, which is designed to ignite the careers of Pakistan's highly talented graduates. The internship program aligns with sustainable practices by investing in the long-term growth and success of individuals in the postal sector. The selected interns will be divided into five teams which will be led by senior and experienced officers of Pakistan Post including, Farhan Ali Mirza (Director International Postal Service), Mr. Ammar Nazir Qureshi (Director Express Post), Mr. Farrukh Bashir (Director IT), Mr. Abid Mehmood (Director Inland Mail) and Ms. Ayesha Nayyar (Deputy Director Training). Pakistan Post is committed to preparing the next generation of leaders in the public sector to drive its growth and sustainability."

For decades, lenders demanding improvement in tax and energy sectors

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that international organizations have been demanding reforms in Pakistan's tax and energy sectors for the last several decades.

The IMF and other lenders have been demanding reforms or the sale of the failed government institutions that are wasting 800 billion rupees annually, but they are always avoided; however, this time it will not be possible, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that as a result of delaying reforms to avoid political damage, the country's economy has not been able to run without debt, and if drastic measures are not taken, the econo-



my will not be able to run even with loans. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the former government pushed imports to \$80 billion against \$60 billion in revenue to boost the growth rate to six percent, which was a very

irresponsible move.

The decision, which amounted to playing with the economy, resulted in a current account deficit of \$20 billion, the effects of which will be felt for at least ten years.

The efforts aimed at cheap fame have made the country a beggar. The artificial growth spurt led to dwindling foreign exchange reserves and high inflation, which resulted in increased taxes and interest rates and the devaluation of the currency, he said.

The business leader said that while the development expenses had to be reduced to avoid default, borrowing from domestic and foreign sources started, and the interest on these loans has now increased from our national income.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that there is a need for a real change in Pakistan; amnesty schemes, packages, and other shortcuts have to be stopped.

SECP issues promoters' guides in German and Korean

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 4: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), in line with its agenda of facilitating foreign investors, published promoter guides in German and Korean languages.

The SECP has already published promoter guides in different foreign languages, i.e., English, Chinese, Turkish, Spanish, Urdu, and Arabic, to facilitate investors.

The guidebooks would help potential investors from these countries/origins understand the procedure for company registration and other requirements in their native languages. The promoter's guide contains necessary details in a comprehensive manner regarding registration of a company in Pakistan, which can be accessed at: <https://www.secp.gov.pk/media-center/guide-books/general-guide-books/>

Bayt-ul-Hikma will be a Catalyst to the revival of learning: Ahsan Iqbal

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal visited National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and laid the foundation stone of "Bayt-ul-Hikma" (House of Knowledge) at NUML on Friday. Rector NUML Major General (R) Muhammad Jaffar, Director General NUML, Pro-Rectors, Deans, Directors, Faculty Members, and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that the concept of

Bayt-ul-Hikma is inspired from the 8th century Abbasid era Darul Hikma. He said that it is a part of larger plan to get world class knowledge accessible to the people of Pakistan through translation & dissemination of eminent works produced in the world. He said that our universities need to promote research and innovation to create a culture of knowledge economy.

Ahsan Iqbal said that being leader in knowledge production is the only way forward. To this end, we need peace, stability, and continuation of policies. He said that universities must create an eco-system whereby the knowledge building and

thinking abilities in students can be enhanced and it can be achieved by strengthening the institution of libraries and laboratories. It is worth to be mentioned that this project is worth of Rs. 485.498 million and the Minister announced Rs. 500 million to create an endowment fund also.

Earlier, Rector NUML Maj Gen (r) Muhammad Jaffar in his address said that concept of Bayt-ul-Hikma was conceived by Honourable Minister Ahsan Iqbal and NUML will make all out efforts to bring it to reality. He thanked honourable minister and presented him a NUML memento.



Majid Al Futtaim Increases Investment in Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Majid Al Futtaim, owner and operator of Carrefour in Pakistan, has further increased its investment in Pakistan's retail sector to PKR 12 billion with the inauguration of its eleventh Carrefour store in the country. The store, which opened its doors to customers in the prime vicinity of D-12 Markaz in Islamabad, will offer more than 7,000 products for the residents of the capital city.

Majid Al Futtaim remains at the forefront of driving shopping innovations with the introduction of their cutting-edge Smart Cart facility, ensuring a seamless and technologically advanced shopping experience for its customers. The facility allows customers to effortlessly locate and scan desired products using a smart tablet mounted on the trolley.

Commenting on the opening, Umer Lodhi, the Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan, stated: "We are excited to announce yet another chapter in our local journey in Pakistan with the opening of our first Carrefour supermarket in Islamabad.

Serving over 500,000 shoppers, the new store provides a wide array of offerings, from essential groceries to premium butchery products, appetizing bakery and deli items, and health and beauty products, all under one roof. This store will set a new standard for grocery shopping in Islamabad.

At present, Carrefour Customers can shop in-store at 11 locations across the Country while they can also shop online to avail home delivery service, available at certain locations, through the Carrefour Pakistan mobile app to enjoy enhanced convenience. The app can be downloaded from Google Play Store and Apple's App Store.

World Junior Squash Champion Hamza Khan calls on COAS Asim Munir

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: World Junior Squash Champion Mohammad Hamza Khan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) today.

COAS General Asim Munir congratulated the young champion Hamza Khan for his outstanding achievement in bringing honour to the country, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

"Talents like you make us all proud and your great achievement also underscores the great potential that this nation has", the army chief remarked.

COAS also said, "Army will continue to support the young talent in the country and promised to provide him full support in academic pursuit and sports."

COAS Munir emphasised, "Our youth is the future of this country and with focus, dedication and hard work there is nothing that Pakistan cannot accomplish".

After 37 long years, Pakistan became



the World Junior Squash champion as young Hamza Khan made a comeback to beat his Egyptian rival Mohamed Zakaria to win the finale in Melbourne last month.

Khan claimed a 3-1 victory over Zakaria in the finale, with a scoreline of 10-12,

14-12, 11-3 and 11-6.

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

Yesterday, Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif lauded Junior World Squash Champion Hamza Khan for bringing laurels to Pakistan despite the lack of facilities for sports.

In a tweet, he said, "Today I met Pakistan's talented young man Hamza Khan who recently made the nation proud by winning Junior World Title in Squash in Australia after a period of decades."

He said he handed over a cheque of Rs10 million to Hamza from the government of Pakistan and sought his pledge that he would continue his hard work and play with more determination to make Pakistan's name shine by winning Senior World Championship.

He recalled that he recently started the countrywide Sports Initiative for the promotion of sports which included Pakistan's first Sports University, the Pakistan Sports Endowment Fund and more measures for the welfare of players and the advancement of sports.

He expressed hope that after these measures other thousands of youth like Hamza Khan would also bring laurels for Pakistan in international competitions.

Korea holds Pakistan for a 1-1 draw in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

A Sports

CHENNAI: Pakistan team extended their winless streak in the ongoing Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, as they drew 1-1 against defending champions South Korea here on Friday.

Pakistan started off well with Hanan Shahid's field goal in the 18th minute, however, South Korea equalized in the 53rd minute, courtesy of a penalty stroke by Jihun Yang.

Both teams battled hard until the final whistle but couldn't score a tie-breaker.

Previously, Pakistan was handed a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Malaysia 3-1 in their first game.

Pakistan, alongside India, are the most successful side of the tournament, having won the title thrice. Pakistan won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India won in 2011 and 2016.

The 2018 edition of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy saw Pakistan and



India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain.

Meanwhile, South Korea are participating in the ongoing tournament as the

defending champions, winning the previous edition of the tournament in 2021.

Green Shirts now face Japan and China in their next fixtures on August 6

and 7 respectively.

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

Muhammad Umar Bhatta (c), Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan, Muhammad Abdullah, Muhammad Sufyan Khan, Ehtsham Aslam, Osama Bashir, Aqeel Ahmed, Arshad Liaquat, Muhammad Imad, Abdul Hanan Shahid, Zakaria Hayat, Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf (Vice Captain), Roman, Muhammad Murtaza Yaqoob, Muhammad Shahzaib Khan, Afraz, Abdul Rahman, while the standby includes Ali Raza, Muhammad Baqir, Muhammad Nadeem Khan, Abdul Wahab, Waqar Ali, Muhammad Ahsan and Abdul Qayyum.

Pakistan's remaining matches schedule

August 6 - vs Japan
August 7 - vs China
August 9 - vs India

Asfand, Shawaiz steer Pakistan Shaheens into Top End T20 Series final

Sports Desk

DARWIN: Ali Asfand's four-fer decimated Papua New Guinea (PNG) before Shawaiz Irfan's 29-ball 50 guided Pakistan Shaheens to the final of the Top End T20 series.

The win means Shaheens also qualify for the final and will take on Northern Territory Strike at the same venue.

Chasing 121 to win, Pakistan Shaheens lost their first wicket on 16 with Shamil Hussain returning to the hut for one off two balls.

Right-handed batter Shawaiz was joined by Azan Awaiz and the pair knitted a 54-run partnership for the



second wicket.

Shawaiz Irfan contribut-

ed 40 runs in the partnership

and over the course of the part-

nership brought up a brilliant half-century.

He had scored 65 off 37 balls against Melbourne Stars in the team's 43-run win at the TIO Stadium on Wednesday.

Shawaiz was dismissed for 54 off 32 balls, which included 10 fours, with Shaheens still requiring 51 for victory off 74 balls. Skipper Rohail Nazir and Azan made sure there were no hiccups in the run-chase and took Shaheens home in the 13th over.

Rohail's quick-fire 33 off 22 balls included three fours and one six. Azan returned undefeated on 26 off 23 balls, hitting two fours.

Earlier, after opting to

bat first, Papua New Guinea managed to score 120 for eight in 20 overs after left-arm spinner Ali Asfand wreaked havoc with a four-fer.

The remaining four wickets to fall were bagged by Aaliyan Mahmood and Arafat Minhas - both taking two wickets each.

For PNG, Sese Bau top-scored with a 28-ball 32 with three boundaries and one six.

Pakistan Shaheens will now take on Northern Territory Strike in the Top End T20 Series final, which will be played at the DXC Arena on Sunday, 6 August. The first ball will be bowled at 1500 local time.

Pakistan thump Sandviken to reach Norway Cup semi-final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Faisal Ahmad's twin goals powered the Pakistan Street child football team to the semi-finals of the ongoing Norway Cup as the national team defeated Swedish club Sandviken 2-0 in the quarter-final of the tournament.

Pakistan carried the momentum from their previous triumph against Trysil FK, where they won with a defining margin of 4-0. They challenged Sandviken's defence throughout the first half but failed to convert it into a goal.

However, the Swedish club couldn't stop them for too long as Faisal scored two defining goals in the second half to win for his team.

The national team continued their dominant form in the tournament, after crushing Trysil FK 4-0, Årvoll IL 2-1, and Oslo FK 11-1.

In the pre-quarterfinal, Pakistan dominated Trysil FK throughout the game and created chances from the first whistle. Pakistan's Obaidullah scored 2 goals, while, Shamir Ali and Abdul Wahab scored one each in the first half



to give the green shirts a match-winning lead.

Pakistan has been a dominant force throughout the tournament. In their second group fixture, they defeated Årvoll IL 2-1. This was the national team's second consecutive victory.

Pakistan Street child football team will face Bremnes Club in the semi-finals today.

In the last game against, Trysil FK Pakistan's Obaidullah scored 2 goals,

while, Shamir Ali and Abdul Wahab scored one each in the first half to give the green shirts a match-winning lead.

In the game prior to that, they defeated Årvoll IL 2-1, thanks to Abdul Wahab and Tufail Shinwari's goals.

It should be noted that Pakistan has qualified for the semifinals of the Norway Cup for the third time, as Pakistan has secured the second position in Norway Cup 2015 and third in Norway Cup 2016.

Sports Board is Fully Providing Resources to the Players of MEPCO



Quaratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: President Mepco Sports Board / Director General HR & Admin Mepco Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood has said that the performance of Mepco players who have made the company and WAPDA famous in national and international sports is commendable. Sports Board is fully providing resources to the players of all teams of Mepco and steps are being taken for their training. He expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of the hockey friendly series organized between Mepco and ISCO in Multan. He said that the purpose of organizing the hockey series between MEPCO and ISCO is to further improve the performance of the players.

In the future, they will organize competitions between the teams of other electricity distribution companies and departments. He said that the hockey team of Islamabad was invited to Multan with the efforts of Mepco's sports and hockey team management. Play three matches together. Sports win and loss are part of the game but both the teams played well. Sports Officer MEPCO Razia Sultana, MEPCO Hockey Team Manager Engineer Mohammad Waseem Akhtar, Coaches Syed Tahseen Zaidi and Abdul Saeed have trained the MEPCO Hockey Team very well.

Secretary MEPCO Sports Board Haider Usman Attingal said on this occasion that MEPCO Sports Board is taking all possible steps to promote the national sport of hockey. MEPCO Sports Board organizes tournaments at local and corporate levels to provide maximum playing opportunities to the players. Additional Superintending Engineer MEPCO City Division Multan/Manager MEPCO Hockey Team Muhammad Waseem Akhtar said that the series of three matches organized between MEPCO Multan and ISCO Islamabad was without any result. It ended

The first match was 2-2 goals, the second match was 4-4 goals and the third match was tied with 1-1 goals. ISCO Islamabad Hockey Team Manager Mohammad Mubasher and Coach Mohammad Zahid said that the matches were played at the world-class Astrotroph Hockey Stadium in Multan and the players of both teams entertained the fans. SDO Pak Gate Sub Division Sheikh Muhammad Umar and others participated on this occasion. Earlier, President Mepco Sports Board Chaudhry Khalid Mehmoood, Secretary Haider Usman Athangal, Sports Officer Razia Sultana introduced the players of both the teams.

Chandimal, Mujeeb lead B-Love Kandy to first victory in LPL 2023

A Sports

PALLEKELE: Mujeeb Ur Rahman's astonishing figures of 2/17 followed by Dinesh Chandimal's 48 bolstered B-Love Kandy to claim their maiden victory in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2023. Bottom-ranked B-Love



Kandy put on all-round show to beat second-placed Dambulla Aura by seven wickets and nine balls to spare.

B-Love Kandy opens Fakhar Zaman and Dinesh Chandimal scripted a solid start for the pursuit with a magnificent 67-run partnership.

Fakhar, who batted cautiously for his 26-ball 28, which featured five boundaries, was the first to fall when he chipped one back to Dhananjaya de Silva in the eighth over.

Chandimal then put on a brief 30-run partnership with Kamindu Mendis before he got run out with B-Love Kandy still requiring 58 for victory off 53 balls.

He smashed seven boundaries on his way to top score for B-Love Kandy with a 29-ball 48.

Following Mendis's dismissal in the 16th over, Mathews was joined by explosive batter Asif Ali and the pair made sure there were no hiccups in the run-chase and took B-Love Kandy home in the 19th over. The pair put on an unbeaten 31-run partnership, dominated by Ali, who scored a quickfire 16 off eight while Mathews remained unbeaten on a 20-ball 28.

Hayden Kerr and Dhananjaya de Silva could pick up a wicket for Dambulla Aura.

Earlier, after opting to bat first, Dambulla Aura could score 156/6 in 20 overs despite Dhananjaya de Silva's quick half-century. The right-handed batter smashed five boundaries and three sixes and top-scored for the Aura with a 39-ball 61.

The next notable run-getters for the Aura were Avishka Fernando (32) and Alex Ross (21) while the rest made meagre contributions. Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Isuru Udana led the bowling attack for B-Love Kandy with two wickets each while Mohammad Hasnain and Dushmantha Chameera made one scalp apiece.



ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

(DIRECTORATE OF WORKS)

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS/FIRMS

Allama Iqbal Open University intends to prequalify Contractors /Firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the appropriate category, for the construction of AIOU Regional Office at Muzaffarabad (Extension).

The Prequalification documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of **Rs 2000/- (Non-Refundable)**.

The Prequalification documents along with the company profile shall be received in the office of the undersigned on **August 22, 2023**, up to **1100 Hrs**, and will be opened at **1130 Hrs** on the same day in the presence of Tender Opening Committee and the representatives of the firms who desire to participate in the process of pre-qualification.

Note: Local Contractors/Firms preferably encouraged to apply in the relevant locality/region's work.

Director Works
AIOU Islamabad
Phone: 051-9057212, Fax:051-9250100
E-mail: dd@aiou.edu.pk, website: http://aiou.edu.pk