



**Shazia Marri inaugurates 'Mobile Registration Centres'**

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Saturday cut a ribbon to launch 'Mobile Registration Vehicles/Centres in Site area of the metropolis. While addressing the launching ceremony, she said that the vehicles would be sent to 25 districts of Sindh and Balochistan. (Details on Page 8)



**China's special envoy to attend int'l conference on Ukraine in Jeddah**

China's special envoy Li Hui will make a visit to Jeddah to attend an international conference on Ukraine at the invitation of Saudi Arabia, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Saturday. The meeting is reported to take place on August 5 and 6, with representatives of some 30 countries in attendance. China is willing to work with the int'l community to continue to play a constructive role in promoting a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Wang said.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Youm-e-Istehsal**

MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat holds protest against India to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal Jammu and Kashmir as it is the fourth year of the Indian military siege of occupied Kashmir and against illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional step to strip



Photo: Online

**Pakistan rejects all unilateral, illegal Indian actions in IIOJK: PM**

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday reiterated that Pakistan rejected all the unilateral and illegal actions taken by India in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and vowed to continue extending its unwavering diplomatic, moral and political support to Kashmiris in their just struggle.

to the demographic changes, issuance of fake domiciles, internet shutdown, complete information blackout and imprisonment of Kashmiri leadership of all hues and colours," the prime minister posted in a tweet.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that they called upon India to reverse its post-August 5 actions.

At the heart of these illegal and immoral measures had been the nefarious attempt by India to alter the internationally recognized status of IIOJK and undermine the Kashmiris' fundamental right to self-determination, he added.

Today marked the completion of four years since India deprived Kashmiris of their statehood by unilaterally annexing Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), he added.

The prime minister further said that history bore witness to the fact that brute force had never succeeded in extinguishing the fire of freedom and rights.

"The last four years have represented the culmination of the worst human rights abuses including but not limited

**Toshakhana case: Court awards three years jail term to PTI Chairman**

Naveed Ahmad Khan / Afraz Nazish



ISLAMABAD/ LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman was arrested from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore soon after he was found guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced to three years in prison.

District and Sessions Court today awarded three years jail term to the PTI chairman in Toshakhana criminal case.

The court in its verdict said that the accused had been found guilty of corrupt practices and handed the PTI chairman three years jail sentence.

"Imran Khan deliberately submitted fake details [of Toshakhana gifts] to the ECP and is found guilty of corrupt practices," he stated.

The court also imposed Rs 100,000 fine on the convicted

chief of the PTI. The court also declared the former prime minister ineligible to hold public office for five years.

Ahead of today's proceedings, a large contingent of police was deployed outside the court premises.

The court in its verdict said that the accused has been found guilty of corrupt practices and handed the PTI chairman three years jail sentence.

The court also imposed Rs.

one lac fine over the convicted chief of the PTI.

The court also declared the former prime minister ineligible to hold public office for five years.

Earlier, junior counsel PTI Khalid Yousuf sought time while informing the court that senior lawyer Khawaja Haris was busy in the NAB court. "Where is the accused," Judge Humayun Dilawal asked. "Khawaja Haris will inform the court on the accused,"

Khalid Yousuf said.

"You said Khawaja Haris has been busy in the NAB court, what he is doing," the judge asked. "He is pleading on bail petitions," junior lawyer said.

"The court had summoned at 8:30am, it is 10:30 now," the judge remarked.

The court defer the hearing till 12:00 noon.

"The lead counsel should ensure his presence by 12:00, otherwise the court will take its decision," Judge said.

The election commission's counsels Amjad Pervaiz and Saad Hassan were appeared in the court of ADJ Humayun Dilawal.

Earlier, the court deferred the hearing till 10:30AM owing to absence of the Chairman PTI's lawyers.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday set aside a session court's verdict that

declared the Toshakhana reference against the PTI chairman as maintainable.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had ordered the lower court to re-hear the case.

The court also rejected the PTI chairman's appeal to transfer the case to another court and issued a notice for next week on the appeal to restore the right of defence.

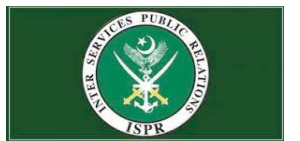
Earlier, the trial court had declared the ECP reference against the PTI chief maintainable. The decision was subsequently challenged in the IHC.

Stringent security measures were made outside Judge Humayun Dilawal's courtroom including a walk-through gate and barbed wires.

Only the approved lawyers and newsmen were allowed entry in the courtroom and no irrelevant person was allowed entry in the judicial complex.

**CJCSC, Services Chiefs express solidarity with brave, resilient people of IIOJK on Youm-e-Istehsal**

Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: On the eve of Youm-e-Istehsal, the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), Services Chiefs and Pakistan Armed Forces on Saturday expressed solidarity with the brave and resilient people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their just struggle for right to self-determination according to the UN resolutions.

Indian Government's belligerent rhetoric and hostile actions continue to perpetuate humanitarian and security crises in IIOJK and pose a perpetual threat to regional security," the ISPR said.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the continuation of inhumane military lockdown, illegal measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory and the gross and systematic transgressions of human rights were all manifest violations of international law.

The resolution of Kashmir dispute according to UN Resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people is imperative for enduring peace and stability in the region.

"Such actions coupled with

Pakistan Armed Forces pay rich tribute to the martyrs of IIOJK for their supreme sacrifices, and affirm full support of Pakistan for provision of political, moral and humanitarian support to Kashmiris in their just struggle against tyranny and illegal subjugation.

**PTI chairman moves SC against IHC ruling in Toshakhana case**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on Saturday moved the Supreme Court against the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict in the Toshakhana criminal case.

The former premier filed an application in apex court against IHC ruling through his legal team. The petitioner pleaded with the court to declare the Toshakhana case against him non-maintainable.

The IHC on Friday set aside a session court's verdict that declared the Toshakhana reference against the PTI chairman as maintainable.

**Elections to be held on census 2023, confirms PBS director**

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Census Commissioner of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) Dr Naem Zafar confirmed that the upcoming elections will be held on census 2023.

Talking to ARY News program, the Chief Census Commissioner said that the digital census 2023 is officially completed and the authorities will soon start working on the delimitations.

He said that the upcoming will be held on the new census whereas the political parties who have reservations and objections on the digital census will be addressed.

The PBS director stated that notification of digital

census 2023 will be issued within one week and then the details of 0.1 million blocks for the delimitation will be submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Furthermore, Dr Naem Zafar said that the delimitation come under ECP's jurisdiction and the ECP can state how much time the delimitation process will take.

Earlier today, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) stated that the total population of Pakistan has reached 241 million as the Council of Common Interests (CCI) approves the first digital census.

The PBS official report released after the CCI approved the results of first digital census 2023.

**ECP to rule on PTI chairmanship on Monday**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is likely to rule on removal of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan from party's chairmanship on Monday.

According to details, the electoral watchdog was waiting for a detailed decision from sessions court regarding the removal of Imran Khan from the PTI chairmanship.

Sources told that News that the ECP would summon a meeting after a detailed decision is issued to deliberate on PTI chairmanship.

**OIC Secretariat calls for revocation of illegal measures of Aug 5 in IIOJK**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Saturday reiterated its call regarding the revocation of all the illegal measures initiated on and after 5 August 2019, which aimed at changing the demographic structure of disputed territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In a press statement issued from the OIC Secretariat, Jeddah, the organization also renewed its solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest for the right of

self-determination.

The OIC general secretariat expressed its concerns over the situation in the Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, four years after the unilateral alteration of the internationally recognized status of the territory.

"Furthermore, the General Secretariat refers to the decisions and resolutions of the Islamic Summit and the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on Jammu and Kashmir, to call for the immediate cessation of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir," it was further added.

**India's actions in IIOJK cannot legitimate illegal occupation, suppress Kashmiri's rights: FM**



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said that India's actions in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) could neither accord legitimacy to its occupation, nor suppress the true sentiments of the Kashmiri people as coercion and intrigue could not replace legitimacy.

In a message on 'Youm-e-Istehsal' being observed today, the foreign minister stressed that the international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK; reversal of

its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; repeal of draconian laws; and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan wants good relations with all its neighbors, including India. However, good relations can only be achieved through dispute resolution and not through dispute denial. The durable peace in South Asia remains contingent upon the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," a press release quoted the foreign minister as saying.

As a party to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, he said Pakistan stands ready to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Our strong and steadfast moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue.



## ECNEC Meeting

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC)



Photo: PID

## Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, chaired the meeting. ECNEC

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), today.

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers from Federal Ministries and Provincial departments participated in the meeting.

The ECNEC considered and approved a Punjab Government project titled "Develop-

ing Resilient Environment and Advancing Municipal Services (DREAMS-1)" at a cost of Rs. 64,480.646 million (USD 225 million) including ADB loan of Rs. 51,584.517 million (USD 180 million) and local component of Rs. 12,896.129 million (USD 45 million) by the Punjab government. The project will enhance climate resilience and urban living and health conditions for about 2.9 million in Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur cities of Punjab province.

The ECNEC also considered project regarding Prime Minister's National Programme for Solarization of agriculture Tube wells in Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

Baluchistan provinces and allowed to include Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) rural areas into its scope.

The ECNEC considered and approved a revised/updated project of Sindh Government titled "Karachi Neighborhood Improvement project (KNIP)" at the cost of Rs. 18,805.577 million (USD 85.610 million) including World Bank loan of Rs. 16,709.389 million (USD 76.067 million). The revised/updated project envisages the improvement/up gradation of infrastructure of Karachi City in Karachi South, Korangi and Malir districts.

The ECNEC considered and approved a project of

Gilgit -Baltistan Government titled "Rural Development and Climate resilience Project" at updated cost of Rs. 16,264 million with foreign financing of Rs. 1,1067 million. The project envisages to improve sustainability of living conditions and resilience to climate change and natural disasters of Gilgit-Baltistan households and communities.

The ECNEC also considered and approved a project titled "Feasibility/cost estimate for Dualization of Sialkot-Eminabad Road upto Kamoki including link to Motorway: 65 kms" at the cost of Rs. 10,825.113 million with 50% cost sharing

between Federal and Punjab Govt and decided that National Highway Authority (NHA) to execute the project.

Planning Commission submitted a summary regarding Outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport (IIA) under PPP mode to undertake modernization of existing infrastructure of Islamabad International Airport and associated facilities by attracting private sector participation, bringing in international expertise to improve service quality and efficiency and implementing the latest international standards to stimulate aviation activities and growth. The ECNEC approved the project proposal.

## NASTP major landmark, multi-layered project based on hybrid model: Air Chief

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu Saturday declared the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) as a major landmark, a multi-layered project based on a hybrid model which would cover the private sector and aerospace clusters across all major cities of Pakistan.

He expressed these views while addressing the initial opening before the inaugural ceremony of NASTP.

Sidhu said, "We live in a challenging time in the wake of evolving global and regional environment. This is an era



of transition that has induced the need to induct niche and disruptive technologies, which has subsequently affected the traditional concept of national security and defense," said a Pakistan Air Force media news release issued here.

"In order to address the contemporary challenges, the national leadership of Paki-

stan has envisioned the establishment of a Special Investment Facilitation Council so as to create desired linkages and provide opportunities to different platforms for bringing Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan," he emphasized. "PAF has also planned to play its role in the ongoing national building projects

under the umbrella of SIFC, predominantly in the Aerospace and IT domains," he highlighted.

"The biggest hallmark of the NASTP project is its Aviation Design and Innovation Center comprising of Techno Parks, IT clusters, Nurseries, and Basic Incubation Centers making the project diversified and unprecedented in the history of Pakistan."

"Moreover, the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park has also focused on the much-needed triple helix model in order to embed a culture of sustainability, since its core objectives include the building of local industry and creating an interface between

the public sectors."

"Through the NASTP project, PAF is bringing all organic setups to one place including Nano Technology, Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Super Computing, Networking, and Algorithms in order to facilitate entrepreneurship and technological skill development in the country," Sidhu highlighted.

In his concluding remarks, Air Chief Marshal commended the efforts of all the stakeholders for the accomplishment of this mega project in a record time of one year.

He also lauded the efforts put in by all the team members involved in various sectors to make the project successful.

## Police arrests Murad Saeed's father in Swat



## News Desk

SWAT: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed's father Muhammad Saeed has been arrested in Swat.

As per details, the police officials said that Murad Saeed's father was arrested for persuading people to protest after the arrest of PTI chairman in Toshakhana case.

The police conducted a raid on the PTI leader's house and took him to an unidentified location after arrest.

Earlier today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman was taken in custody from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore soon after he was found guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced to three years in prison.

## Shazia Marri inaugurates 'Mobile Registration Centres'

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Saturday cut a ribbon to launch 'Mobile Registration Vehicles/Centres in Site area of the metropolis.

While addressing the launching ceremony, she said that the vehicles would be sent to 25 districts of Sindh and Balochistan. She said that the initiative would start in Sindh from Ghotki, Tharparkar and would be extended to Umerkot, Sanghar and Jamshoro. She said that Chaki, Khuzdar, Pishin, Gawadar, Loralai, Sibi, Sohat Pur, Qila Saifullah, Qila Abdullah and other areas of Balochistan were included in the programme.

The minister said that the previous government eliminated 8.2 million BISP beneficiaries from the programme without any reason. We have opened this case and had given opportunity to the affectees to appeal for the inclusion in the Programme, she added.

Marri said that over 2.5 million people were identified and 95000 people had been given stipend after verification. She said that BISP evolved



over the years. She said that it had static registry and it had moved now toward dynamic registry.

She said that there were many low-income households, who could not meet their needs with that income. The minister said that they started to support the poor households with Rs1000 stipend and it had reached now Rs 8750, which was given quarterly.

The government is in difficult situation and facing economic crisis, she said adding that when the government came into power, the number of bene-

ficiaries was 7.6 million and today, it had reached 9 million.

She said that 33 million Pakistanis were affected due to the floods Marri said that Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu, Khairpur were among 23 to 24 districts, which were inundated with flood waters.

We were seeking climate justice and we were vulnerable to climate change, she said adding that the government announced to give Rs 70 billion to flood affected areas. She said that Rs 25000 each were distributed among 2.8 million families

## Pakistan Navy bids farewell to last Type-21 ship, PNS Tariq

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In a simple yet impressive ceremony held at PN Dockyard Karachi, Pakistan Navy decommissioned the last Type-21 Class Ship PNS TARIQ that remained in active service of Pakistan Navy for 30 years. Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs H. E Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Upon arrival onboard PNS TARIQ, the Chief Guest was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

While addressing at the decommissioning ceremony, the Chief Guest acknowledged the meritorious Service of ship towards the defence of motherland over the last three decades. He admired the daring Search & Rescue Mission undertaken by PNS TARIQ in Maldives during the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2005 rescuing precious lives of 377 tourists of various nationalities, a feat acknowledged at the international level. The Chief Guest paid rich tribute to ship's crew for maintaining the ship in optimum operational state till the very end. He appreciated the planned disposal of the ship as static museum exhibit at UK, showcasing maritime heritage of Royal Navy as



well as Pakistan Navy.

PNS TARIQ was inducted in Pakistan Navy in 1993 in a ceremony graced by the then Prime Minister, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto as Chief Guest and was finally decommissioned by her son after 30 years of service. During almost three decades of illustrious service in Pakistan Navy, the ship logged about twenty thousand hours at sea and travelled more than One Million nautical miles distance. Before the formal phasing out of the iconic ship, Pakistan Navy on 2 August launched the indigenously built MILGEM Class ship, bearing the same name "TARIQ, as a milestone achievement to carry-on the legacy of the valiant ship.

The ceremony was attended by civil and military dignitaries including Ex-commanding officers and commissioning crew of PNS TARIQ.

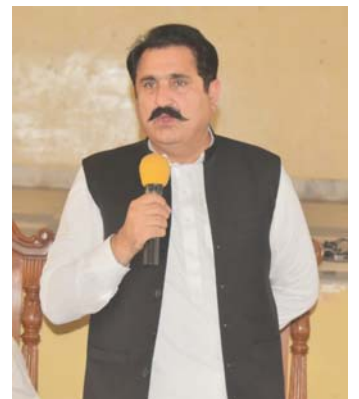
## Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & HRD Sajid Hussain Turi has said in his special message regarding August 5 "Kashmir Exploitation Day" that India changed the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. Due to the change not only human rights have been violated in Kashmir, but also UN resolutions have been violated.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Kashmiris have been under the illegal occupation of India for the last several decades. In today's era, they cannot exercise their right to vote, which is a big challenge for Pakistan and the United Nations.

After August 5, 2019, the Indian Army is martyring and torturing



innocent Kashmiri citizens, which is completely illegal and inhumane.

The Federal Minister appealed to the United Nations and human rights organizations to take notice of the Indian army's violence against civilians in Kashmir.

## Two medical boards constituted to examine PTI chief

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Two medical boards have been constituted for medical examination of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, who was arrested after Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in Toshakhana case.

Sources told that the two standby medical boards - constituted to examine PTI chief - consist of doctors from Pakistan Institute of

Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Polyclinic.

The four-member medical board - constituted under the leadership of Dr Fareed Allah Shah - includes experts in medicine, orthopedics, cardiology, and medico-legal.

Apart from Dr Fareed Allah Shah, Dr Mamoon Qadir, Dr Akhtar Khan and Dr Imtiaz Ahmed are also included in the medical board. The board will inspect PTI chief Imran Khan from time to time.

## PTI chairman shifted to Attock jail

## Correspondent

ATTOCK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman has been shifted to Attock jail after his arrest in Toshakhana case.

As per details, the PTI chairman was shifted to the district jail Attock amid strict security measures.

The routes leading to Attock jail were sealed before the PTI chief was brought to the jail, media persons were also barred from coming to the route or Attock jail and an elite police force have been deployed outside Attock jail.

Earlier today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman was arrested from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore soon after he was found guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced to three years in prison.

## CCI approves results of Population Census 2023

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Common Interests has approved the results of the digital Population and Housing Census 2023.

The approval of digital census results was the key agenda of the CCI session today with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in chair.

The Ministry of Planning and Development briefed the CCI session on the digital census results for approval from the constitutional forum.

Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of Finance Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Naveed Qamar, Saad Rafique, Qamar Zaman Kaira and ministers of law, information technology and communication attending the CCI session.

Chief Ministers of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces were represented by the chief secretaries of the federating units. The Council of Common Interest taken the Chief Minister of Balochistan into confidence.

Chief Secretaries of four provinces attended crucial meeting.

The participants of the CCI meeting will proceed over a report compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The PBS has accomplished the exercise of holding the latest Population Census and compiled the results which have been forwarded to the CCI for seeking guidance/approval from the constitutional forum.



# Salute to the brave Kashmiris who have stood against Indian occupation for more than seven decades: Gillani

**Kiran Asim**

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani's message on Kashmir Exploitation Day Salute to the brave Kashmiris who have stood against Indian occupation for more than seven decades. On



5 August 2019, the Modi government took unconstitutional steps against Occupied Kashmir and held Kashmiris hostage. Referendum is a legal right of the Kashmiri people which India cannot abrogate

Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that The

Modi government has violated international law including the UN resolution and the 4th Geneva Convention with the illegal actions of August 5, 2019. We are with the Kashmiris until their right to freedom and giving Kashmiris their right is part of the manifesto of Pakistan People's Party.

## High Alert

KARACHI: Security personnel take charge of the City to counter any unexpected situation after the arrest of former prime minister.



Photo: Online

# Timber market victims still deprived of compensation for damages caused by fire 2 years ago in Wana

*There is no scope for relief compensation of in PDMA law for goods burnt by fire: PDMA*

**By Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: The victims of timber market belonging to Wana in Lower South Waziristan district have knocked on the door of every government office from Wana through Peshawar to Islamabad, but the promises of the government authorities could not be fulfilled.

Rehman Ullah Wazir, the victim of Timber Market Wana, said that two years ago, our Timber Market Wana suffered a loss of crores and billions of rupees due to a fire in the dark of night and due to which our businesses were badly affected, however, since then, no financial support has been provided to the victims despite repeated assurances from the district administration to higher government officials.

Rehman Ullah Wazir further said that the district administration officers of South Waziristan Lower visited the site and compiled a report of the damage and assured us that they will compensate for the loss.

The victims said that the former MPA Naseerullah Khan and the current MNA Ali Wazir of the current constituency are also fully aware of this whole situation, but till now our case is as it is, no progress has been made.

On the other hand, Pakistan People's Party Lower South Waziristan district president Aman Ullah Wazir said that two years ago, valuable timber and goods were burnt to ashes due to a fire in Wana Bazar Timber Market but despite the passage of such a long time, no one has provided financial



assistance to the victims, this is a matter of injustice and cruelty.

Amanullah Wazir added that we have raised this issue at the highest level, but no one listened to them and no one is trying to solve it.

In this regard, District Coordinator Syed Umar Mehsud said that the PDMA Relief Compens-

sation Act of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa does not have any scope for damages or compensation for property caused by fire.

The PDM Act provides for relief compensation only for death or inju-

ry, not to mention other damages caused by fire.

The coordinator further said that the former DC Khalid Iqbal had sent the case to SOMEDA at that time, but SOMEDA got lost in the middle and therefore the case is pending.

It should be noted that two years ago, two fires broke out in the Wana Timber Market due to unknown reasons, which caused a loss of crores of rupees, among the victims were shopkeepers who suffered losses of crores of rupees if not millions.

The affected persons have also given their requests before the investigation committee for document processing while they are still waiting for assistance.

Rehman Ullah Wazir, the victim, said that jointly, the Wana Timber Market Committee has placed a compiled file report on the damages before the federal and provincial governments, as well as the district authorities, to provide financial support to us.

**Pakistan Independence Day celebration started**

## Wonderful Musical Program organized in the Arts Council on August 14: Amir Khattak

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: On the instructions of the Punjab government, the Multan divisional administration has issued orders to celebrate Independence Day in a grand manner. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Amir Khattak in which all the departments were given the task of organizing the celebrations.



Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that a wonderful musical program should be organized in the Arts Council on August 14. Sports department should organize various competitions including marathon run, cycle race. Decorations, speech contests and cultural stalls should also be set up on the buildings. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the green crescent flag should be hoisted on all the main highways of the division. PHA should celebrate Azadi Shajarkari. The country is facing climate change

Therefore, planting trees is essential. Commissioner Aamir Khattak while ordering the decoration of commercial and private buildings said that A spectacular fireworks display will be held at Qila Kahna at 12 o'clock in the night. Traffic police should be given traffic management and crackdown on one-wheeler, no-silencer motorcyclists on Independence Day. Aamir Khattak gave a warning and said that no rioting will be allowed on Independence Day. It was also considered to hold the main ceremony of unfurling the national flag at Qila Kohna Qasim Bagh. Heads of all departments were present on this occasion.

## Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to continue peaceful struggle for democracy and strong Pakistan: Qureshi

**Asim Tanveer**



ISLAMABAD: the arrest of Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman, former Foreign Minister and Vice-Chairman of Tehreek-e-Insaf Shah Mehmood Qureshi said in a special video message that Tehreek-e-Insaf workers are well aware of the anxiety in the nation Today's court decision has to be seen by the people against the demands of justice. They were not afforded the fundamental right to a fair trial under Article 10A of the

Constitution.

We all have to continue the struggle for the freedom of Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf together. Former Foreign Minister and Vice Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that We have to fight the legal battle and continue the political struggle. Shah Mehmood Qureshi further said that Tehreek-e-Insaf will continue the political struggle peacefully

We have to proceed in the light of the clear instructions and guidelines of the Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf. Senior party leaders have been consulted. A core committee meeting is being held today. We will finalize the future action plan in the core committee meeting

Anxiety, anger and reaction in the nation is natural. Workers and people want to record protest, the constitution gives them full right to do so. Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the constitutional rights available to workers and people cannot be taken away We are not to take the law into our hands nor to cause any damage to property.

But the struggle for real freedom is to continue. Former Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi said: Shah Mahmood Qureshi will proceed in the light of the decisions of the committee and consultation with the lawyers

## 5th August is the day to show the brutal face of India in Front of the World: Amir Khattak

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: On Kashmir Exploitation Day, Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak said in his message that this day is a day of solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters. 5th August is the day to show the brutal face of India in front of the world. On 5th August 2019, India has taken steps against the UN rules and proved its aggression. Given. There is no more heinous example of violation of human rights in history

Citizens stand with Kashmiri brothers against Indian atrocities. Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiri brothers and sisters at all levels. Aamir Khattak said that peace in the region is impossible without a solution to the Kashmir issue. He said that he is the voice of the Kashmiri people Against Indian Atrocities.

The new generation is also being made aware of the Kashmir issue by organizing walk programs at every level across the division.

# 'Is it possible to fight poverty through business?'

**P**hilanthropy! Hence a practice of genuine consideration, that enables a person to do something for the community, generally donation. But have you ever thought how long a person will donate, and how long the other would live on donations? Moreover, the status of the giver in this scenario remains always the same; poor and needy. So, why not think out of this tradition.

Basically, we have to combat the poverty, in order to make the communities self sufficient and prosperous. Consider "Is it possible to fight poverty through business?"

Let me help you to answer it with reasons.

Tourism, a world fastest growing industry, that is driven by personal encounters. Since, it is a people business and the experiences a tourist pays for are created by people they meet. Likewise, each year, more than one billion people travel across international borders. Roughly the same number of people live on less than one U. S. dollar per day.

There's a practice called "Inclusive Business", that bring these two groups together and create opportunities for both.

People living in poverty, are often already participants in tourism's value chains. However, these individuals usually participate informally and at the margins, as porters, travel guide, cleaning ladies, farmers and so on. Moreover, in their case the employment and entrepreneurship opportunities are often irregular and associated with significant risks and little upward potential.

Looking ahead, tourism could become a promising platform for many bright people seeking a way out of poverty. This entails, however, that companies offer decent working conditions, access to career opportunities, and sound partnerships with local communities and individuals along the value chain.

Inclusive Businesses include people living in poverty as customers, employees and entrepreneurs at various points along the value chain for mutual benefit. These business strategies may be developed by entrepreneurs or by

managers within existing companies, whether large or small. In the tourism sector, low-income people are active primarily on the supply side as employees or entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship in tourism can entail doing business with individuals or with entire communities, in particular when conducting activities on land owned by traditional communities or engaging in activities that rely on the local culture as a resource. Inclusive business in tourism stimulates the local economy while promoting social dialogue and cultural and environmental preservation.

Furthermore, Inclusive Business is a strategy about identifying and realizing mutual benefits. Such that, companies that collaborate with local communities and low-income people benefit from improved product quality and innovation, as products become more authentic and unique with a touch of culture. Working together with local commu-

nities improves a firm's reputation not only within the community, but also among guests, government authorities and across the broader public. Companies can reduce costs by sourcing locally and, at the same time, actively manage risks associated with socio-economic frustrations within communities.

On the other hand, communities and low-income people, benefit from opportunities for income from employment and entrepreneurship. Acquiring new skills and improved knowledge enables them, in turn, to access better jobs and better entrepreneurship opportunities.

In general, there are two paths for collaboration between tourism companies and low-income people: either through employment or entrepreneurship. Which one is more appropriate depends on the frequency and exclusiveness of the collaboration.

Let's talk about Employment first,



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi

employment of low-income people is the appropriate framework when work is needed on a daily basis, or the amount of work is such that it fills a full part time position. Companies also want to employ people when they expect them to acquire specific skills for their business, and train them to their own standards. Tourism generates many employment opportunities in maintenance and service, in particular in hotels and restaurants. Other companies in the tourism value chain, such as tour operators, activity providers, and souvenir makers and shops employ people in many other areas as drivers, guides, artisans and so on. Many low-income people prefer employment over entrepreneurship, since it promises security and a stable income over the medium or long term.

Secondly Entrepreneurship, usually companies work with independent entrepreneurs when they require their products or services but prefer to buy them on the market since demand is limited or fluctuating, or when they want to make sure they always get the best quality. Low-income people are

often in a unique position to provide goods and services. Let's say, small-holders can provide fresh local produce. Whereas, artisans and craftspeople master typical local techniques. Guides know their local environment and can interpret local languages and customs. True, some low-income people prefer to work as entrepreneurs, since they enjoy freedom in organizing their work and have a greater ability to influence their incomes and negotiate with clients.

Along with this, Tourism that is soundly integrated into the local economy and culture provides incentives and funds for the conservation of natural, cultural and historical resources. Finally, structural benefits from improved infrastructure and public services create broad-based benefits for everyone, or we can say Triple Bottom Line Results.

Real life example is AKDN, working in Pakistan since 1905 on the principles of Inclusive Business practices towards sustainability and combating poverty. Munaza Kazmi holds MPhil in Management Sciences. She's a travel writer, a published author, & co-author of scientific contributions.





Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 3:48 am  
Zohr ..... 12:14 pm  
Asr ..... 5:05 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:05 pm  
Isha ..... 8:39 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

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

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

The establishment of emergency service 1122 station

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: The establishment of emergency service 1122 station in District Badin is a milestone achievement and indicates the commitment of Sind Govt to combat the disasters to ensure a safer and risk-free living to the inhabitants in the whole province, said the advisor to CM Sindh for Relief and Rehabilitation Haji Rasul Bux Chandio while performing the ground breaking ceremony to start the construction of new building to house the 1122 service in its new premises in Badin. He said that provision of this service to a far-flung area like Badin is a proof enough that the Sindh govt is serious in achieving this goal.

The advisor said that the ambulance service is already operating in 29 districts of Sindh while the emergency service for accidents, building collapse and fire is being provided at six divisional headquarters along with the ambulance service.

While appreciating the role of Rescue Service, the advisor said that it has always stood the test of time in providing medical and emergency service in a very efficient manner. He informed that sixteen satellite stations would also be established on motor ways and highways to handle the emergency situations and every station would be located at a distance of fifty kilometers.

Earlier welcoming the advisor, the Director 1122 Rescue Service Dr Abid Jalal highlighted the objectives of the Service and said that it has helped in saving the lives of people.

# Imran's arrest nothing to do with election and politics: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday strongly refuted the impression that the arrest of chairman PTI Imran Khan was linked to politics or upcoming elections.

"Imran Khan was not arrested by the government, only court's verdict was implemented when he was sentenced in 'Tosha Khana case,'" she said while addressing a press conference here.

The minister said that the investigation of PTI chairman's crimes had been going on for over one year, more than 40 hearings were done in the Tosha Khana case, but PTI chairman appeared only three times.

She said that it was a simple case of a thief punished for his crime and any effort to link it with politics or elections was unjustified. "All the legal requirements have been met and after the trial is over, the court has given its verdict, in the case of Tosha Khana and his theft has proved," she said.

The minister read the court verdict



which said, "It has been successfully proven that the accused has committed offense of corrupt practices by making and publishing false statements and submitted false and incorrect declarations and material in particular related to Form B of the year 2021.

The minister said all thieves arrested in various cases also have their vote, so should they all be released before elections?

She said that Imran Khan, despite given ample opportunity to provide proofs and file response to questions regarding corruption and misuse of power, he failed to file replies to allegations against him.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said the chair-

man PTI used to make excuses whenever he was asked for an answer in allegations of corruption and malpractices.

She said that despite of the providing all the opportunities to clear his name, Imran Khan continued to lie in his answers in the Tosha Khana theft case.

Imran Khan, she continued, also lied in the case of 190 million pounds theft case and in the case of cipher.

She also disclosed that the chairman PTI did not disclose correct assets in election returns. The minister said that Imran Khan, had declared three houses in Form B and tax returns of three years.

Imran Khan declared only Rs 500,000 furniture in his 300 kanal house in Bani Gala, 8 kanal house in Zaman Park and his wife's three kanal house in Bani Gala, she said.

She said that Imran Khan did not declare even a single tola of gold, but honestly declared two goats in his tax returns.

Taking a jibe on Imran Khan, she said a thief was on the run for 15 months trying to hide his theft.

She said that no one could compare

the arrest of Imran Khan with the arrest of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Imran Khan was gifted watches, diamond sets, rings etc but he sold the watch before buying it from Tosha Khana and could not provide any proof of selling the watch in the entire proceedings.

The minister opined that today, the public found out the real reasons behind the May 9 incidents as a thief was running away from accountability.

She reminded that whenever Imran Khan appeared before the court of law, the judicial complex was attacked, when the police went to Zaman Park with a warrant, they were attacked with petrol bombs. The vehicles of the police and rangers were torched by the PTI goons when they went to Imran Khan's residence in Lahore on the courts directives.

She said that Imran's punishment in 190 million pound theft case, foreign funding case, the Cipher issue concoction was still pending.

The minister said effort was being made to compare the arrest of Imran Khan with the arrest of Nawaz Sharif.

She said Nawaz Sharif was a three-time elected Prime Minister, whose name was not even mentioned in Panama leaks but Imran Khan accused him. Only on allegations, the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif wrote a letter to the Supreme Court and presented himself for accountability, she said.

The federal minister said that Nawaz Sharif gave an account of 40 years of his family, even provided documents of his late father. When no evidence could be traced against Nawaz Sharif in Panama, he was disqualified for not taking salary from his son's firm and barred from contesting the election, even he was removed from the party presidency, she expressed.

If the government had the intention to arrest Imran Khan politically, Shehbaz Sharif had the same authority that Imran Khan (mis) used as the chief executive of the country, she said.

"If we had to make a false case, we would have used NAB and FIA to arrest Imran Khan on the first day after coming to power", she added.

## Preparation

ISLAMABAD: A street vendor is arranging his setup along the Jinnah Avenue to sell National Flags and other stuff during the celebrations of Independence Day in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir observed Embassy of Pakistan Moscow

News Desk

MOSCOW: The ceremony to commemorate Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir was held at the Pakistan Embassy Moscow on 05 August 2023 to pay tribute to the righteous struggle of the Kashmiri people for freedom and denounce the illegal and unilateral acts of India.

The event began with recitation from Holy Quran followed by National and Kashmir Anthems. A special documentary on Indian 5th August 2019 illegal action in IIOJK and repercussions was also displayed on the occasion.

Special messages on the occasion of Youm-Istehsal of the President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr.



Shehbaz Sharif were read by Third Secretary Mr. Muhammad Tayyab and Third Secretary Mr. Jetha Nand.

The gathering was attended by the members of Pakistani community.

The participants were unanimous in reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering moral, political and diplomatic support to the indigenous freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people.

## PAC organized photographic exhibition and rally to mark Youm-e-Istehsal



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized photographic exhibition and protest walk to mark Youm-e-Istehsal in a befitting manner. Member All Parties Hurriyat conference Mr. Ali Muhammad Sultan along with Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad inaugurated the photographic exhibition.

While addressing the participants of the exhibition Mr. Ali Muhammad Sultan said that Extremist BJP wants to make Occupied Kashmir a valley of Hinduism. Genocide of innocent Kashmiris has been going on for four years in Occupied Kashmir.

The cruelty in Occupied Kashmir has never been heard or seen in history. Ali Mohammad Sultan further said that the United Nations Security Council, the European Union and other international organizations have remained silent spectators to the human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir.

The time is not far when India will have to account for its atrocities; the voice of Kashmiris and the struggle for freedom cannot be suppressed for long by oppression. In the end, he thanked Director Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmed and said that this The institution has always raised its voice for Kashmiris. Member of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mushtaq Hussain said that today it has been four years since the occupied valley became a prison.

## Expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers and prayed for the freedom of Kashmir

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day, a rally was held under the leadership of DS Railway Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza.



Like Pakistan Railways Multan Dwistern, Kashmir Exploitation Day was celebrated under the leadership of DS Railways Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza on the orders of Federal Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq and special instructions of the Ministry of Railways.

# Joint statement on 3rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: 3rd Ministerial Meeting preceded by 4th Senior Officials Meeting on Tourism Cooperation was held in Pakistan for the first time on 4-5 August 2023

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan convened the Third D-8 Ministerial and Fourth Senior Officials Meetings on Tourism in Bhurban, Murree, Pakistan, on 4-5 August 2023. The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) was the leading institution in hosting both the meetings in cooperation with the D-8 Secretariat.

Mr. Awn Chaudry, thea Advisor to the Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports of Pakistan and the Chairman of the PTDC, chaired the Ministerial session.

Ministers responsible for tourism, D-8 Ambassadors in Islamabad, Senior Officials from D-8 Member States as well as key representatives from private sector of Pakistan participated in the Meetings. They engaged in fruitful discussions on advancing tourism cooperation among D-8 Member States.

This joint media statement was adopted in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism Cooperation.

Bangladesh recalled the proposition of devising thematic tourism guidelines such as ecotourism, riverine tourism, wildlife tourism. Mentionable Bangladesh is working on devising the thematic guidelines in coordination with different agencies. Also Stressed the need of D8 member states to organize collaborative efforts in this regard.

The Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities underscored that the Middle East region witnessed strong performance during the past months, and succeeded in restoring pre-pandemic numbers in the first quarter of this year, according to reports issued by the UNWTO. He also highlighted his country's efforts to promote tourism industry which led to a record in the Egyptian tourism history with more than 7 million tourists in the first half of 2023, and a perspective of an annual growth between 25-30% in the coming 5 years. He praised the new initiatives proposed by the



Secretariat to enhance cooperation among D8 countries and expressed Egypt's willingness to share its experiences in the field of management and training in the tourism sector.

H. E. Sandiaga Salahudin Uno, Minister for Tourism and Creative Industry of Indonesia encouraged the D-8 countries to collaborate and promote quality, inclusive, and sustainable tourism that benefits local communi-

ties and protect the environment. H. E. Syed Ezzatollah Zarghami, Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stated that the holy Qur'an, in its different verses, advises us to travel to other lands in order to reach a better understanding of the world around, observe the way of living in the other states and learn lessons from other lives. In other words, the soul of

these verses is focusing on paying special attention to human intangible heritage.

Malaysia stated that it looks forward to advancing regional and international cooperation in tourism by continuing to work closely with organisations such as UNWTO, APEC, IORA and D-8 and strongly recommends continued engagement and sharing of knowledge among members, particularly in

the areas of digitalisation, technology adoption and sustainable tourism investments, as well as emerging niche areas of growth such as Muslim Friendly Tourism, for the industry to emerge stronger and more resilient to future disruptions.

Nigeria stated that it remains committed to objectives set out by the Crescent Moon Initiative and the Comprehensive Tourism Strategy, both serving as frameworks for international cooperation in the tourism industry. In line with the initiative of the D-8 designated Airport in each member state for the promotion of people-to-people and business to business contacts as well as tourism and travel facilitation among member states, the Nigerian Government has conceived the idea of building an aerotropolis in the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja which will showcase Nigeria's rich cultural heritage and tourism potential while boosting businesses and investment.

His Excellency Mr. Nadir Alparslan, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye highlighted Türkiye's strate-

gic roadmap in sustainable tourism, as the very first country in the world launching a sustainable tourism program at national level. Deputy Minister also addressed the need for close cooperation between public and private sectors as key to success and expressed the readiness of his Ministry and affiliated institutions, including TİKA and Yunus Emre Institutes, for joint projects within D-8 framework.

Ambassador Isiaqa Abdulkadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, presented the progress of the D-8's tourism cooperation and recalled the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on various aspects, particularly on tourism cooperation. He also underscored the importance of implementing the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism Cooperation and the Crescent Moon Initiative, which the D-8 ministers responsible for tourism adopted in their Second meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2019. He emphasized the novelty of those initiatives in turning the challenges posed by the pandemic into opportunities.



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# Kashmir: A bleeding Paradise - I

**O**n August 5, 2019, the Indian government repealed Article 370, which prohibited the Indian Parliament from applying certain laws to Jammu and Kashmir without the state's consent, as well as Article 35A, which empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state legislature to define and grant special rights and privileges to "permanent residents" of the state. This illegal, unethical, and unconstitutional decision precipitated a massive political and security crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), resulting in a five-year-long brutal military siege in which communications were cut off, restrictions on freedom of movement were imposed, and people were denied easy access to food, medicine, and other critical supplies.

The use of extreme tactics such as arbitrary detentions, torture, and extrajudicial killings has degraded Kashmiris' fundamental rights. Businesses have been shut down, schools have been closed, and healthcare facilities have been disrupted. People are unable to communicate with their families and friends, and the occupying forces have recently begun using disturbing and inhuman tactics that have never been used in many other conflict zones, such as refusing to return the bodies of martyred civilians to their families, denying them funerals, and denying their families the ability to fulfill their religious obligations.

The deployment of over one million heavily armed troops over a civilian population of only 12 million which is even far less than the population of Karachi has turned IIOJK into the most militarized Zone of the world having no parallel in the current world history.

This equates to one soldier for every ten civilian Kashmiris. There is only one

comparable case of Palestine, which has been under Israeli blockade since 1967, but it is likewise dwarfed when compared to IIOJK. On a combined population of 5 million, Israel has stationed roughly 60,000 troops in the West Bank and 15,000 in the Gaza Strip, resulting in one soldier for every 83 civilians, compared to one soldier for every ten civilians in IIOJK. This high level of militarization wreaked havoc on the lives of the people who reside there. The forces are frequently viewed as an occupying force, and their presence has resulted in extensive human rights violations including arbitrary detentions, torture, and extrajudicial killings, in addition to wreaking havoc on the economy and infrastructure.

According to numerous credible reports, India's draconian illegal rule over a UN-mandated disputed region has killed 96,225 innocent civilian Kashmiris, tortured 7,297 Kashmiris, imprisoned 168,202 civilians without recourse to justice, and destroyed 110,500 homes and businesses. An estimated 100,000 widows confront severe difficulties in providing for themselves and their families. In Indian-controlled Kashmir, an estimated 50,000 half-widows married to men who have disappeared or been arrested and are subjected to sexual violence and harassment. The violence has impacted an estimated 2 million children in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Many of these children have lost one or both of their parents, and they may have also been subjected to violence, displacement, and trauma. 20,000 women had been raped, gang raped, or molested, according to the International People's Tribunal on Kashmir (IPTK).

These casualties greatly outnumber those in Palestine, where as of December 2022, 21,104 Palestinians had been dead, including 12,191 civilians, including 3,125 children.

These casualties are also significantly bigger than the casualties of the Afghan war, in which at least 47,368 Afghan civilians, including 16,440 children, were killed as of January 2022, according to the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs at Brown University.

Many reports and research have documented human rights breaches in IIOJK: "Kashmir: A Year of Darkness" (2020) was released by Human Rights Watch. Amnesty International released a report titled "India: Kashmir: Clampdown on Dissent and Media Freedom" in 2021. The International Commission of Jurists produced a study paper titled "Kashmir: The Impact of the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990" (2018), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report on the human rights situation in Kashmir" (2018). The Asian Centre for Human Rights published "Kashmir: The Human Cost of Conflict" in 2017. These papers and studies detail a wide range of human rights breaches in IIOJK, including arbitrary detentions under the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act (AFSPA), in which thousands of people have been jailed without charge or trial. There have been numerous reports of torture and ill-treatment by Indian security forces, as well as hundreds of extrajudicial deaths. Indian security forces have used sexual violence against women and girls. The Indian government has restricted free-

dom of expression in Kashmir, including a prohibition on public gatherings and the use of social media.

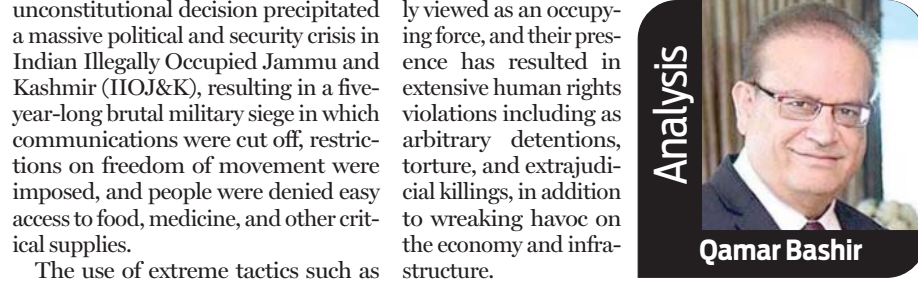
The International Crisis Group's (ICG) Conflict Tracker ranks the Kashmir conflict as "High" based on a number of indicators such as the number of people murdered, the number of people displaced, the level of violence, and the level of instability.

The Kashmir dispute is ranked 143rd out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index (GPI), an annual index that analyses the level of peace in countries throughout the world.

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), a research project that collects data on political violence around the world, ranks the Kashmir conflict as High Intensity.

The Indian government has put a number of limitations on freedom of movement in Kashmir, including a curfew and a ban on travel between regions. For reporting on sensitive themes, journalists have been arrested, detained, and harassed. The government has banned the coverage of public gatherings and their reporting on social media. Journalists have been arrested and incarcerated for reporting on sensitive themes under the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act (AFSPA). Police and security forces have harassed journalists for reporting on sensitive topics and visiting particular areas of Kashmir or meeting with certain persons. In 2019, the government restricted access to Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. Journalists have found it difficult to report on the situation in Kashmir as a result of these restrictions and have made it difficult for Kashmiris to obtain reliable information about what is going on in their own land.

*To be continued*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## 'Youm-e-Istehsal' Observed nationwide for solidarity with Kashmiris

**O**n the fourth anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the people and Government of Pakistan are solemnly observing the 'Youm-e-Istehsal' today in solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

In their special messages on the occasion, the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister have renewed Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmir Cause and called for resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. They have also underscored that India's unlawful actions on and since 5 August 2019 are aimed at turning the Kashmiris into a marginalized and disempowered minority in their own land.

The Foreign Minister has addressed letters to President UN General Assembly, President UN Security Council, UN Secretary General, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and OIC Secretary General to apprise them of the latest developments in IIOJK. In these letters, the Foreign Minister has urged implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future. He has called for a UN-supervised investigation into the human rights situation in IIOJK. He has also appealed to the international community to urge India to release the incarcerated Kashmiri leaders and political activists, including Mr. Yasin Malik, for whom the Indian authorities have recently sought a death penalty.

Ahead of the 'Youm-e-Istehsal', the Foreign Secretary briefed the Islamabad-based diplomatic missions on the situation in IIOJK, on 4 August 2023. He also highlighted the legal, security and human rights dimensions of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

To express solidarity with the oppressed people of IIOJK, a special 'Walk' was held in Islamabad this morning along the Constitution Avenue, up to the Parliament Building. The walk was led by Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira. The officers and staff members of the Ministry participated in the walk.

A range of activities have been designed throughout the country to observe 'Youm-e-Istehsal', which include public rallies, seminars, webinars, panel discussions and photo exhibitions. With the active participation of Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora, Pakistan's diplomatic missions around the world are also arranging special events to raise global awareness about the Indian oppression in IIOJK.



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

## Dust to Development: 'The Remarkable Journey of Mining in Pakistan' - I

**T**he Islamic Republic of Pakistan, nestled at the crossroads of South Asia and the Middle East, embraces a glittering tapestry of mineral riches that tell an enthralling tale of its mining industry's rise. Home to an abundance of precious minerals, including copper, gold, iron, and a myriad of dazzling gemstones, such as rubies, sapphires, and emeralds, Pakistan's geological canvas exudes unparalleled allure.

Embarking on an evolutionary trajectory, Pakistan's mining sector has emerged as a vital cog in the nation's economic engine. The abundance of mineral reserves, estimated to be valued in trillions of dollars, holds tremendous promise for the country's economic growth, contributing substantially to the national GDP and opening vistas of revenue generation and employment opportunities.

As this captivating mining journey unfolds, it beckons the attention of international investors and industry experts seeking to partake in the nation's mineral wealth. Foreign investments and joint ventures are poised to unleash Pakistan's mining potential, fostering technological advancements and financial backing for the sector's flourishing growth.

A compelling mining narrative necessitates the fortification of the sector's backbone—the infrastructure. The development of robust transportation networks, power supply, and communication facilities forms the bedrock for efficient mining operations, facilitating seamless movement of minerals from extraction sites to the global marketplace.

While the lure of economic prosperity is undeniable, the article underscores the significance of responsible mining practices that traverse the terrain of sustainability and social responsibility. Striking a harmonious chord between economic growth and ecological preservation ensures that Pakistan's mineral wealth becomes a catalyst for lasting prosperity while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

In this captivating journey of mining, a robust regulatory framework guides the sector toward ethical practices and fosters an environment of transparency and accountability. By embracing sound governance, Pakistan sets the stage for a thriving and sustainable mining industry that attracts investors and garners public trust alike.

Pakistan's mining expedition holds the promise of transforming its rich mineral bounty from mere dust into a tapestry of development and prosperity. Guided by sustainable practices, international partnerships, and sound governance, the nation aspires to shine as a formidable contender in the global mining arena.

**1. Pakistan's Geological Marvels**  
 The geological diversity of Pakistan stands as a marvel in its own right. The country's geographic expanse encompasses mountain ranges, plateaus, deserts, and fertile plains, each harbouring unique mineral deposits. The Balochistan province, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is widely regarded as the country's mineral-rich region. It boasts an abundance of copper and gold reserves, attracting significant attention from domestic and foreign mining companies alike.

In contrast, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, flanked by the towering Himalayas, houses large reserves of chromite, magnesite, marble, and precious gemstones, including emeralds and rubies. The arid landscapes of Punjab and Sindh are home to coal and natural gas reserves, contributing substantially to Pakistan's energy mix. Furthermore, the Gilgit-Baltistan region is renowned for its world-class gemstones, adding to the nation's unparalleled mineral bounty.

**2. Economic Implications: Unleashing Pakistan's Potential**  
 The mining industry in Pakistan holds immense potential for the nation's economic growth and development. The extraction and processing of minerals have historically played a pivotal role in contributing to the country's GDP. As the mining sector advances, it presents a promising avenue for revenue generation and job creation, fostering economic prosperity across various sectors.

Moreover, the revenue generated from mining activities can be reinvested in vital infrastructural development, education, and healthcare systems, propelling Pakistan toward becoming a self-reliant and economically stable nation. By leveraging its mineral wealth, Pakistan can reduce its dependence on imports, strengthen its industrial base, and boost export capabilities, establishing its prominence in the international market.

*To be continued*

## Unwavering bureaucracy and helpless masses

**I**t is time they should re-read Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's address to civil servants in Peshawar on April 14, 1948. "You should not be influenced by any political pressure, by any political party or individual politician. If you want to raise the prestige and greatness of Pakistan. You must not fall a victim to any pressure but do your duty as servant to the people and the state, fearlessly and honestly. Services are formed. Governments are defeated. Prime Ministers come and go. Ministers come and go, but you stay on, and therefore, there is a great responsibility places on your shoulders. Make the people feel that you are their servants and friends, maintain the highest standard on honor, integrity, justice and fair play. Work honestly and sincerely." Another occasion he said, on March 25, 1948, "Make people feel that you are their servants and employees." Establish a high standard of honor, respect, justice and impartiality." Alas! These golden words of the father of the nation were forgotten and the high civil servants became the rulers of people's lives.

German sociologist Max Weber was the first person to formally study bureaucracy. In his 1921 book "Economy and Society," Weber argued that a bureaucracy represented the most proficient form of organization, due to its possession of specialized expertise, certainty, continuity, and unity of purpose. However, he also warned that uncontrolled bureaucracy could threaten individual freedom, leaving people trapped in an "iron cage" of impersonal, irrational, and inflexible rules.

Government initiatives and reforms in any state become a source of convenience for the public only when the government machinery responsible for their implementation is fully functional and an effective system of checks and balances is functioning in the offices. The government system should be free from all forms of pressure and undue interference. Unfortunately, this is not the case here. Here every officer is appointed by political recommendation or by paying heavy bribes. Then these public servants run the market of looting and corruption. After earning the money they have pent, they give unnecessary benefits to their favorite politicians without merit. People are being exploited here for years. How sad that public servants

are ruling the citizens. Not ruler comes forward to save their people from these self-styled gods.

The bureaucracy in Pakistan has never considered itself as a servant of the people. The top civil servants have always associated themselves with the ruling class rather than the people. Bureaucrats are prominent in every government who get favors for themselves and their cronies in return for protecting the vested interests of the rulers. The attitude and behavior of the neo-demographic bureaucracy is the same. It is still not a public servant, it is a master, and it still considers us subjects not citizens. They travel in huge and costly vehicles, they go out with a convey of these vehicles to check the rates of okra, vegetables like turnip and control the price of a few hundred rupees by blowing millions of petrol. Based on our experience, it is not possible for common citizen to meet any bureaucrat in his offices. Just as local workers were required to meet him during the British era, which were given the position of Karsi Nasheen (chairman). Even today, citizen is looking for a tout to meet him. These touts are now called honorable citizen. It is a sign of its power that no government can even think of reducing bureaucratic privileges. The sign is that the White House of the world's only superpower, the President of the

United States, is 152 kanals and the palace of the Commissioner of Sargodha is 104 kanals. Which country houses a public servant in a palace of 104 kanals? According to the latest information, new vehicles worth Rs 20 billion have been given to the bureaucracy in Punjab in four years, while their existence has benefited the country and the nation by zero rupees. The bureaucracy is the same today as it was before the new government came. There has been no change in this, even though PDM's government has come into being and chanting the slogan of change. There is no such thing as public service delivery in present govt. I am writing with grief when the people of Multan city reach the public offices early in the morning with their problems, but Sahib Bahadur or mam is busy in meeting. People return unsuccessfully and hopelessness. Such bureaucracy needs to be reformed. The demand of the people is that the public servant's plaque should be displayed outside every public office "Here is a public servant deputated for your service"

Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid



# Any Indian aggression on LoC will be met with befitting reply: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that any aggression or misadventures by India on the LoC shall be paid back in the same coin.

Addressing a special session of the AJK legislative assembly held in connection with Youm e Estehsal here today, the PM, while referring to the highly provocative statement by an Indian minister, made it clear to India that any attempt of infringing the AJK's territorial integrity would be responded to with full force.

The PM said that India should take a lesson from recent history when an Indian Air Force jet violated our airspace in 2019. He said that the



whole world witnessed what happened in the aftermath and how the Indian warplane was downed by the PAF. "If India attempts to repeat the

mistake, then India will get a befitting reply on its own soil", the PM said.

"So long as the custodians of Kashmir's freedom movement are alive, the caravan of the freedom movement will continue to march towards its destination", the PM said.

Reiterating his government's commitment to the Kashmir cause, the PM said that all available resources would be used to highlight the Kashmir issue both at national and international level.

He said that the ongoing liberation struggle against India would continue on all fronts unless the Kashmiri people achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's illegal and forcible occupation.

## Kashmir Exploitation Day observed in AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: On the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day on August 5, 2019 against Indian revoking Article 370 and 35 A protest meetings, processions and rallies were held across Azad Kashmir, the largest rally in the capital Muzaffarabad was taken out from the High Court Parade Ground to the Assembly Secretariat. Minister Colonel (Retd) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Government Ministers Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Muhammad Usman Chachar, Government Secretaries, Heads of Departments, representatives of political, social and religious organizations including people belonging to all schools of thought, participated in the rally. The participants of the rally carried the flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, on which slogans for the rights of Kashmiris and anti-India were written. The protesters raised slogans in favor of the people of occupied Kashmir and against India. While speaking, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said that today, India ended the special status of Occupied Kashmir by abrogating Article 370 and 35/A of the Constitution. Today, we are raising our voice against the exploitation of Kashmiris from the base camp of Tehreek Azadi Kashmir, that our struggle will continue till the independence of Occupied Kashmir. He said that India cannot keep Kashmiris by force. Today, I demand from the United Nations to increase pressure on India and give Kashmiris their right to self-determination according to their resolutions. Adventures will be met with a resounding response. If India does any kind of aggression, they will respond to it on Indian soil. At the end of the rally, the rank of martyrs will be raised and prayers will be prayed for the success of the freedom movement of Kashmir.

Like the rest of the state, Neelam also observed "Kashmir Exploitation Day" against the unconstitutional measures of August 5, 2019. The morning was started in the mosques with prayers for the martyrs of Azadi Kashmir, the freedom of Occupied Kashmir and the safety of the dear country. At 9:00 a.m., a minute's silence was observed at Bantal Chowk by sounding the siren and traffic was stopped for one minute at Athmakam. Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Sardar Tahir Mehmood, an anti-India rally was taken out from the district headquarters at eight places, which took the form of a



rally at the Lorry Base through Bantal Chowk. In the protest rally, SP, DHO Sardar Zafar Iqbal, Officer Mal Kamran Khan, DFO Kiran Sardar Akram, DFO Sharda Chaudhry Ghulam Murtaza, AEO Khawaja Mansha Anjum, District Councilor Numdar Liaquat, President Anjuman Tajran, General The Secretary of Anjuman Traders, political and social leaders, local government representatives, government and non-government organizations, lawyers, teachers, students, civil society, journalists, scholars and people from all walks of life participated. The protesters carried anti-India banners and flags and shouted slogans against India. Addressing the protest, Deputy Commissioner Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President Anjuman Tajran Abdul Rasheed Awan, General Secretary Anjuman Tajran Khawaja Anees Ali and others said that on August 5, 2019, India has made a sinister attempt to destroy the identity of Kashmir, which we Kashmiris know. Reject. India's aim is to turn Kashmiris into a minority and settle Hindus, thus it is strengthening its Hindutva policy by usurping the rights of Kashmiris. The speakers strongly demanded from the Modi government that India should withdraw from Kashmir, the entire nation is united against India. The speakers said that the purpose of today's protests is to send a message to the world that Kashmiris do not accept these cruel and unconstitutional actions of India and demand the international



community to put effective pressure on India. be forced to withdraw the unconstitutional, illegal and inhumane measures. Speakers said that today we reiterate our resolve to continue our struggle till the independence of Kashmir and will not back down at any cost from the demand of Kashmiris for their fundamental right of self-determination. It should be remembered that four years ago on August 5, 2019, India terminated the special status of Occupied Kashmir by taking illegal and unconstitutional measures. In the end, prayers were prayed for the martyrs of the Kashmir Liberation Movement, for the freedom of Occupied Kashmir and for the safety of the beloved country.

**Plindri** Kashmiris around the world are making Exploitation Day today. In this regard, a great protest rally and demon-

stration was organized in district headquarters Palindri. The rally started from Kotli Chowk under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Siddhunati Dr. Umar Azam Khan and took the form of a protest demonstration and rally at PWD Rest House Chowk through different routes of the market.

A large number of people including district administration, officers, police, employees, civil society, business association, lawyers, journalists, teachers, students of religious and contemporary institutions, political and social figures participated in the protest rally.

The participants of the rally carried banners and placards with slogans against the Indian move. The participants shouted slogans against India and Modi.

The speakers reiterated the commitment that the struggle of Kashmiris will

continue until the restoration of 370 35A by India. Instead of doing this, they abolished the special status of the Kashmiri people to maintain their tyrannical occupation. They said that we celebrate today as a black day. Take notice and play your role in giving Kashmiris their birthright.

**Haveli Kahota**

On August 5, a protest rally was held in reference to the Exploitation Day, which was led by Deputy Commissioner Haveli Chaudhry Sajid Aslam. A large number of civil society employees, businessmen associations, political and social leaders, lawyers and media representatives participated in the rally

reached Kashmir Bank Chowk and took the form of a rally in which the speakers said that the Modi government has changed the demography of the occupied valley by terminating the special status of Occupied Kashmir. The entire valley was imprisoned and turned into a prison.

The oppressed Kashmiris of occupied Kashmir did not accept this initiative of India and the entire Kashmiri nation is protesting against it are making an offering until the Muslims of Occupied Kashmir do not get their basic right of self-determination, Kashmiris will not meet China and will not accept this slavery of India in any way.

## International conference calls for resolution of Kashmir dispute

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Calling for respect for the fundamental rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, speakers at an international conference in Istanbul on Friday sought the resolution of the Kashmir dispute based on UN resolutions. Lawmakers, diplomats, activists, and civil society members from Türkiye, Kuwait, Pakistan, and Kashmir expressed their views at the conference, which was hosted by Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK.

Among the distinguished guests of the ceremony were the Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, Dr. Yunus Junaid; Turkish Member of Parliament from the ruling AK Party, Tugba Isik Ercan; Member of Parliament and Deputy Chairman of Yeni Refah Party, Dogan Bekin; Member of Parliament and Deputy Chairman of Saadet Party, Mustafa Kaya; and Member of Parliament from Kuwait, Muhammad Al-Mutairi. Human rights lawyers Mejbek MM Al-Rashidi and Dalal Alajimi from Kuwait were also present as international speakers.

Several senior Kashmiri leaders and members of the Constit-

uent Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir attended the occasion. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker, Chaudhry Latif Akbar; former member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Abdul Rasheed Turabi; leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Altaf Ahmed Bhat and Mahmood Ahmed Sagar; along with senior Kashmiri leader Dr. Mubeen and the President of Tehreek Kashmir UK, Faheem Kayani, graced the event.

Ahsan Shafiq, the head of the organizing committee of the event, extended his gratitude to the speakers and the audience who came to Istanbul to support the Kashmiri brothers from different parts of the world.

Dr. Yunus Junaid, Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, while addressing the occasion said that Today, we gather here to advocate for the fundamental rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us stand united in seeking a just resolution based on UN resolutions.

Tugba Isik Ercan, Turkish Member of Parliament, said that as a representative of the ruling AK Party, I extend our unwavering support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. We



condemn the Indian atrocities and call for concrete measures to address this grave situation.

Dogan Bekin, Member of Parliament and Deputy Chairman of Yeni Rafah Party, said that the plight of the oppressed Kashmiris demands urgent attention. Let us join hands to raise our voices against injustice and uphold the principles of human rights and freedom.

Mustafa Kaya, Member of

Parliament and Deputy Chairman of Saadet Party, said that As a nation that values peace and justice, we must not remain silent on the suffering in Kashmir. Let our collective efforts pave the way for a peaceful resolution in line with international law.

Muhammad Al-Mutairi, Member of Parliament from Kuwait, during his address said that Kashmir's struggle is not just theirs, but a matter of global

concern. Together, we must urge the international community to take decisive action against the oppressors and stand for justice.

Mejbek MM Al-Rashidi, Human Rights Lawyer from Kuwait, said that Human rights violations cannot be tolerated anywhere. Let us use our legal expertise to advocate for the rights and dignity of the Kashmiri people."

Dalal Alajimi, Human Rights

Lawyer from Kuwait, As defenders of human rights, it is our moral duty to raise awareness about the atrocities in Kashmir. Let us work towards holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, said that, having been part of the Kashmiri Assembly, I attest to the urgency of resolving this conflict. Let us work together to bring lasting peace to the region."

Altat Ahmed Bhat, Senior Leader APHC and Chairman of JKSM, said that Kashmir's aspirations for self-determination cannot be suppressed, Modi has failed to suppress the aspirations of Kashmiris. The people of Indian occupied Kashmir sincerely hope for the continuation of this invaluable support from Türkiye and Gulf Countries, as we strive for freedom from Indian Occupation.

Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Convenor APHC, said that We stand united in condemning the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. Let this gathering serve as a call for justice and accountability."

Sr Kashmiri leader Dr. Mubeen said that, the resilience of the Kashmiri people is unwavering. Let us build bridges of solidarity to alleviate their suffering and champion their cause on the international stage."

Delivering the resolution of the conference, President Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK Fahim Kayani said: "It is a fact that the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has dramatically changed, particularly since Aug. 5, 2019, and it will not be an exaggeration to say that the people of occupied land are facing an existential threat."

The House condemned Indian atrocities and its abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and called for strong action against India from the international community and bodies like the United Nations. Commemorative shields were presented to the guests at the end of the ceremony.



## Government will ensure supply of cheap sugar to people: SM Tanveer

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A meeting was held in the Chief Minister's Office under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister of Industry and Trade SM Tanveer. During the meeting, prices of sugar in Punjab, the problems faced by the sugar industry and other issues were reviewed. Secretary Food Muhammad Zaman watto, Additional Secretary Commerce, DG Industries and related officers attended the meeting. Javed kiani, Chaudhry Waheed and others of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association participated in the meeting. The delegation informed about the difficulties arising from the registration of the existing warehouse within the factory walls and demanded not to harass the business community by registering cases. The provincial minister assured the delegation to solve problems of Ethanol and Sugar industry. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer while addressing the meeting said that the government will ensure the supply of cheap sugar to the people. Effective measures will be taken to prevent smuggling of sugar. SM Tanveer said that such a policy will be made that the factories will run throughout the year when the wheel of factory will run continuously, the government will get tax and people will job, he concluded.

## Food prices soar in coup-hit Niger

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shoppers in Niger's coup-hit capital Niamey face soaring prices for basic foods since the military takeover triggered trade sanctions from West African neighbours.

At one rain-drenched market, customer Ibou Kane said a sack of rice had gone up by more than a third to around 15,000 CFA francs (\$25) since the coup prompted the ECOWAS economic and political bloc to close borders and sever commercial ties.

"Frankly, I've felt it in my pocket. And right now... we're all stocking up," Kane said.

Coup leader Abdourahamane Tiani, who ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, has said foreign pressure will make coming weeks and months difficult for all Nigeriens, and called for unity.

There was no obvious panic-buying at Yantala market, but vendors and shoppers were all feeling the pinch. Cooking oil, too, was up to 33,000 CFA a can from 22,000 a few days before.

Standing by deep tubs of grains, merchant Boubacar Salou said he supported the junta's rallying call.

"We mustn't create panic now. Because this affects us all... It's up to us to show that we are Nigeriens and that we must help those around us, and above all help the new government," he said.

The closure of borders by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) poses a particular threat to landlocked and impoverished Niger. Even before the coup, around 3.3 million of Niger's 26 million people were facing acute food shortages as a hunger crisis grips parts of the region.

## China relaxes visa, urban residency rules to boost economy

BEIJING: China will allow some foreigners to obtain visas on arrival and rural residents to settle more easily in cities as part of a series of measures aimed at boosting its flagging economy.

The relaxations aim to "promote the free movement" of "people, vehicles, information and data", an official from the Ministry of Public Security said Thursday.

China's post-Covid recovery has run out of steam in recent months, dragged down by sluggish consumption and a real estate sector in crisis.

GDP growth increased by just 0.8 percent from the first to second quarter of the year, and youth unemployment has reached record highs at over 20 percent.

In response, the ministry announced 26 new measures on Thursday, including a new visa policy for foreign businesspeople.

Those who come to China to participate in trade negotiations, expos, conferences or to invest will be able to obtain visas on arrival, provided they present the necessary documents. Previously, travellers had to apply for a visa at a Chinese embassy or consulate in their country of departure.

Also announced Thursday was a further relaxation of the controversial permanent residence system, or "hukou", which for decades has classified Chinese people as either "urban" or "rural". Chinese citizens are entitled to settle, live and work in any location across the country.

But because of the residence system, they can only benefit from certain public services, including health insurance and education, where they are registered — generally their place of birth.

This arrangement, which is nominally aimed at avoiding unbridled urbanisation, in practice causes many Chinese to give up settling in the city due to the difficulties of attaining full access to public services.

# Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto has laid the foundation of FPCCI Tower Project

Commerce Desk

KARACHI (PR): Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, has laid the foundation of FPCCI Tower to be built at the FPCCI Head Office Karachi. It is no less than a milestone in Pakistan's economic history and will go a long way to support succeeding governments' efforts to enhance Pakistan's exports; promote industrialization; attain import substitution; forge international trade relations and sustainably achieve rapid economic growth for the future generations to come, he added.

Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, expressed his profound satisfaction that the vision of his late mother and two-time Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, has reached a point where he is laying down the foundation of FPCCI Tower — a pivotal platform needed to put Pakistan on a high-growth trajectory through enabling the business, industry and trade community



of Pakistan to perform to their full potential.

Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also extended

his support to FPCCI for the infrastructure development under a public-private partnership mechanism. We have achieved a lot in the recent past through public-private partnership in broader good of the country in general and the province of Sindh in particular, he added.

Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI, pinned his hopes in the young and energetic leadership of Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the back of his proactive role as the foreign minister of Pakistan in a short-span of 15 months.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President FPCCI, maintained that he sees a bigger and broader role of Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the years to come. He also pointed out that the government has missed out the private-sector in the recently formed investment council.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, expressed his satisfaction that all legal and regulatory hurdles in construction of the landmark FPCCI Tower have been removed through the collective and selfless efforts of the trade leaders of Pakistan.

## Group Photo

Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan, Ahsan Bakhtawari, President ICCI, Azar ul Islam, Ch Abdul Majeed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Maqbool Hussain, Ejaz Abassi, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Shafiq Akbar, Khalil Noon, Mian Akram Farid, Khalid Javaid, Ch Waheed uddin, Ajmal Baluch, Sardar Tahir and Shoukat Masood standing in the respect of national anthem at Presidency, In a ceremony organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries.



Photo: PID

## Malawi wants to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Younos Abdul Karim, High Commissioner of Malawi to Pakistan said that his country wants to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan as both countries possess good potential to do trade with each other in many items. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) along with a delegation. Ch. Karamat Ullah, President, Trade Federation for East Africa also accompanied them.

The High Commissioner said that Malawi is taking many initiatives to create an enabling business environment and is looking for investment in various sectors of its economy including hotel industry, construction, tourism and agriculture sectors to ensure sustainable economic growth. He said that Pakistani investors should explore Malawi for joint ventures and investment. He said that the Chief Executive of Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) would visit Pakistan and ICCI should sign an MoU with him to promote business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to explore untapped areas of mutual cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar



Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Malawi is a landlocked country of Southeast Africa and we would like to strengthen trade relations with it to get easy access to the African market. He said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Malawi is negligible due to lack of information and knowledge. He termed the visit of the business delegation of Malawi to Pakistan a positive move and stressed that both countries should facilitate regular exchange of trade delegations to know each other and explore new areas of mutual cooperation.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Pakistan can

export many products to Malawi and other African countries including textiles, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, rice, agricultural products, chemicals, sports goods, leather products and others. Similarly, Pakistan can import various raw materials and other needed products from Malawi and other African countries to produce exportable products for Africa.

Maqsood Tabish, Aamir Hussain, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Abbas Hashmi, Zareef Khan, Ms. Munizeh Majid, Ms. Parveen Khan and Ms. Nasira Ali also spoke on the occasion and shared ideas to improve business relations between the two countries.

## Aggressive economic measures negatively affecting trade and industry: PIAF

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has observed that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting the trade and industry, many of which have closed their operations.

PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch, observed that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing and small-scale businesses, as frequent upward revisions in policy



rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges.

They said that the government does not have any pragmatic plan to address this liability, apart from asking for more loans to repay existing debt. Likewise, the target for current financial year's exports is too low to meet the country's revenue.

## APBF flays frequent jump in petroleum and power prices

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has rejected the frequent increase in prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products, saying the massive jump in electricity base rates and petroleum products prices would make local products uncompetitive in the international market.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood remarked that at a time of unsatisfactory export volumes and low industrial growth, the hike in electricity base tariffs for the industry, especially for the SMEs, was really surprising. If the decision is not withdrawn, it will prove dangerous for the country's SME sector, he stressed.

He said that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing (LSM) and small-scale businesses (SMEs), as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges for the economy.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi while describing the government's decision to increase electricity tariffs by Rs7.50 per unit as an incorrect move, urged the government to reverse the proposed increase. The government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the APBF strongly condemns the government's decision and calls on it to withdraw this move.

## The Dark Reality of Cold Drinks

Niamat ullah

**D**id you know that a 600ml bottle of Miranda consists of half a glass of sugar? It's hard to believe, but it's true. Each 600ml bottle contains 82.8 grams of sugar. Normal Coca-Cola bottles are found in every corner of the world except North Korea and Cuba. According to Coca-Cola's website, they sell 1.9 billion servings each day. And that's just Coca-Cola alone. Imagine the figure when we include other drinks like Pepsi, Mountain Dew, and more. It would be staggering.

There are different myths about cold drinks, like the belief that they are similar to toilet cleaner, but that's

not entirely true. While some acids in cold drinks may resemble those found in toilet cleaners, the concentrations are different. Cold drinks usually contain citric acid and phosphoric acid. Citric acid is found in lemons and oranges, while phosphoric acid, assigned the number E338, are a normal foodgrade additive. It is used to prevent the growth of bacteria and mold, which is why it is present not only in soft drinks but also in jams, processed meat, cereal bars, bottled coffee beverages, baking powder, and more. However, the concentration of acids in toilet cleaners is stronger, like HCL, which is used to clear tough stains.

The pH of both soft drinks and toilet cleaners is around 2.5. Soft drinks are not good for health due

to their high sugar content. Natural sugars found in fruits and food, like lactose from milk and fructose from fruits, are what the human body needs. Added sugars in soft drinks are unnecessary and harmful.

The American Association of Heart advises against any added sugar in the diet. For adult men, the daily limit is 36 grams or 150 calories, while for women, it's 25 grams or 100 calories.

Drinking one 600ml bottle of Miranda every day exceeds these limits and can lead to various health issues, such as joint pain, premature skin aging, liver damage, type 2 diabetes, pancreatic breakdown, kidney failure, an increased risk of heart attack, and obesity. Sugar addiction from soft drinks is similar to drug addiction, and it can have

severe consequences on health.

Studies have linked caramel, found in soft drinks like Pepsi and Coca-Cola, to cancer due to the byproduct 4-MI, formed when sugar is heated with ammonia and sulfites. The California state listed 4-MI as a carcinogen, and its concentration should not exceed 29 grams in any food. However, different studies found that soft drinks contain more than 138 grams of 4-MI.

Soft drinks like Miranda and Fanta use the synthetic color E110 (sunset yellow FCF) to provide their orange color. Studies have linked E110 to attention deficit in children, leading the UK food agency to recommend a ban on artificial colors from food. While the European Union took action, developing countries

lack regulations against E110, allowing the sale of potentially cancerous products.

Coca-Cola and Pepsi heavily promote their products by hiring big celebrities and film stars. They also organize sports tournaments in schools and universities to boost their products' visibility. Despite this, some celebrities have chosen to drop such endorsements due to health concerns.

To combat sugar addiction, it's essential to remove cold drinks and juices from our diets and opt for water instead. Though challenging initially, over time, you will observe the benefits of this healthier choice.

(Writer is student of School of Sociology Quaid I Azam University Islamabad)



# Pakistan's Ushna Suhail honoured with ITF Billie Jean King Cup award

Tahir Amin Malik

Ushna Suhail, former Pakistan first and only female player with World Ranking, has been honoured by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), as she has been presented with prestigious Billie Jean King Cup (Commitment) award at a special ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

Pakistan's tennis sensation Ushna Suhail is also first recipient amongst the only two players in South Asia to have this distinction, the other one being Ankita Raina, with World Ranking 200 from India. Sania Mirza of India was honoured with BJKC (Heart) award.

The BJKC (also known as World Cup of Tennis) is presented to the players having represented their respective countries in minimum 40 Fed Cup level international competitions, showing



ing extra ordinary performance at same time. Ushna has represented Pakistan in 43 competitions since 2011 with record of maximum individual wins to deserve

this honour.

Sharing her views after winning such an international honour for her country, Ushna thanked the Pakistan Tennis Federation and especially the President, Mr. Salim Saifullah Khan, for consistently supporting women tennis. It is indeed a great honor for Pakistan and my family, I cannot thank the Almighty enough for this international award," she added.

Ushna said she was so happy that her parents travelled to Kuala Lumpur to attend the ceremony. She said this is a lifetime achievement award for me, which included sincere efforts and hard work of me, my family, my coaches and mentors, the PTF and the prayers of Pakistani nation. I will continue to work harder and try to win more such glories at a global level.

## LPL: Kusal Mendis guides Dambulla Aura to edge Colombo Strikers

A Sports

PALLEKELE: Nuwanidu Fernando's unbeaten half-century failed to trump Kusal Mendis's 46-ball 87 as Dambulla Aura edged Colombo Strikers by 10 runs in the eighth match of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2023.

In a high-scoring game, Colombo Strikers fell 10 runs short of the 193-run target. They needed 31 runs off the final over but managed to score only 20.

Nuwanidu Fernando remained not out at 56 off 39 deliveries, while his partner Chamika Karunaratne scored 20 off seven balls. Noor Ahmed picked two wickets, while Hayden Kerr and Dhananjaya de Silva picked one wicket each.

After winning the toss, Colombo Strikers opted to bowl first, they inflicted early damage on Dambulla Aura in the form of Avishka Fernando's wicket.

However, what followed that wicket was a clinical



partnership between captain Kusal Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama. They added 120 runs for the second wicket.

Kusal Mendis scored 87 off 46 before falling to Naseem Shah, while Samarawickrama scored 59 runs from 35 balls as both fell in successive overs.

The Aura appeared to be in complete control to breach the 200-run landmark but a tight death bowling from Colombo Strikers restricted them to 192/6.

Matheesha Pathirana picked three wickets, while Naseem Shah bagged

two wickets. Chamika Karunaratne gave 55 for his single wicket, whereas, Mohammad Nawaz conceded 37 runs off his three overs without any wicket.

Colombo Strikers got off to a poor start to the run chase as they lost their captain Niroshan Dickwella early with just 17 runs on the board.

Babar Azam was then joined by Pathum Nissanka and the pair knitted an anchoring 62-run partnership for the second wicket which lasted when the former was trapped leg-before wicket by Noor Ahmad.

He smashed seven boundaries amid his 24-ball 41.

Nissanka, who could contribute a mere 19 amid his second-wicket stand with Babar, failed to switch gears and finally perished in the 13th over.

He scored a cautious 22 off 28 deliveries, hitting one boundary and a six.

Following his departure, Fernando glimmered a ray of hope for the Strikers to pull off the run chase with belligerent hitting but his efforts came up as his side succumbed to a 10-run defeat.

His unbeaten 56-run knock featured four boundaries and as many sixes.

Noor Ahmad led the bowling attack for the Aura with 2/34 followed by Dhananjaya de Silva and Hayden Kerr picking up one wicket apiece.

Dambulla Aura will face Jaffna Kings in their next LPL game, while Colombo Strikers will battle against Galle Titans. Both games will be played on August 7.

## Pakistan set to participate in Road Safety World Series for the first time



A Sports

LAHORE: A team featuring former international stars from Pakistan is going to make its debut in the third season of the Road Safety World Series in September this year.

The league was previously played in India, however, the upcoming season will be held in England, after receiving the approval from England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The dates for the tournament are yet to be finalized, however, it is expected to be played from early September for about three weeks. This edition will feature nine teams, after the addition of Pakistan.

The Road Safety World Series is a T20 league featuring international stars from different countries. The league started in March 2020 but was played until 2021 amid the pandemic.

## Pakistan one step away from glory, advance to Norway Cup final

Sports Desk

OSLO: Pakistan Street child football team continued its dominant run in the ongoing Norway Cup, and qualified for the final by winning their seventh consecutive game on Friday.

Green Shirts created history by reaching the final without a single loss in the tournament. They annihilated Norwegian club Bremnes 2-0 in the semi-final stage.

Pakistan started the game carrying the momentum from their Norway Cup quarter-final clash against Sandviken and scored an early goal in the first half courtesy of Abdul Wahab. The lead was further solidified by Abid Ali's goal in the second half.

Before humbling Bremnes in the semi-finals, green shirts destroyed Sandviken in the quarter-final.

They challenged their defence through



out the first half but failed to convert into a goal.

However, it was only a matter of time before Faisal Ahmed scored two defining goals in the second half to win the game for his team.

The national team showed remarkable progress and growth throughout the Norway Cup, as they scored 28 goals and conceded only two.

Pakistan Street child football team has rejuvenated Pakistanis living in Norway,

as they celebrated their historic performance with them.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Norway, Saadia Altaf Qazi, also appreciated the team's remarkable run in the tournament during their meeting on August 1.

Pakistan Street child football team will take on Sola FK in the Norway Cup final today.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan qualified for the finals of the Norway Cup for the second time, after ending up as runners-up in Norway Cup 2015.

Pakistan team also finished runners-up in the Street Child World Cup in Doha last year. They remained undefeated in that tournament, until losing to the eventual champions Egypt in the final on penalties.

They were also runners-up in the Street Child World Cup 2018 in Russia (2018), whereas, in the 2014 edition they finished third after losing in the semi-finals.

## Ahsan Ramzan made the country proud by winning the IBSF World Snooker Championship: Wahab Riaz



News Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz along with Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir, Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa and CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana visited residence of snooker world champion Ahsan Ramzan on Friday.

Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and other top officials were also present on this occasion.

Talking to media on this occasion, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said young Ahsan Ramzan, who made the country proud by winning the IBSF World Snooker Championship in Doha and won Under-21 Asian Snooker title, is our national hero. "The whole nation is proud of the young world snooker star of the country".

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz condemned and regretted the police incident in which Ahsan Ramzan was detained by the Police on Wednesday night. He said that an inquiry committee has been constituted that will investigate the entire police incident and present its report on Saturday.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz also announced to award membership of Sabzazar Sports Complex to Ahsan Ramzan. "Ahsan Ramzan will also be provided top standard snooker table and other relevant facilities so that he can prepare himself in a befitting manner for the future international snooker competitions," he added.

## Tigers set up GT20 Eliminator clash with Knights as Wolves crash out



A Sports

BRAMPTON: A combined bowling effort, followed by Chris Lynn's blistering half-century propelled Montreal Tigers to beat Brampton Wolves in the first Eliminator of the ongoing GT20 Canada on Friday.

Following a dominant victory in the eliminator, Montreal Tigers next face Vancouver Knights in the second eliminator on Saturday.

Set to chase a modest 105, the Tigers comfortably completed the run chase for the loss of just one wicket and 34 balls to spare, thanks to an unbeaten 63-run knock by Lynn.

Tigers' opener Lynn and Muhammad Waseem laid a solid foundation for the run chase as they knitted a brilliant 72-run partnership.

The pair batted with utmost domination against the depleted home side and put the Tigers in touching distance to the glory before Shahid Ahmadzai finally got rid of Waseem.

The right-handed batter scored an anchoring 23 from 24 balls with the help of two sixes.

Momentum-filled Chris Lynn was then joined by Srimantha Wijeyeratne and the duo made sure there were no hiccups in the run chase and took the Tigers over the line in the 15th over.

Lynn smashed seven boundaries and three sixes on his way to top score for the Tigers with a 47-ball 63.

Whereas, scored an unbeaten run-a-ball 15, laced with two boundaries.

For the Wolves, only Shahid Ahmadzai could pick up a wicket. Earlier, after being put into bat first, Brampton Wolves managed to score 104 before being bundled out in 20 overs, courtesy of suicidal running between the wickets, which saw them losing four wickets.

The remaining six wickets to fall were bagged by Carlos Brathwaite and Aayan Afzal Khan – both taking two wickets each while Abbas Afridi and Dipendra Singh Airee claimed one apiece.

## Croatia defender Gvardiol signs five-year Manchester City deal

News Desk

LAHORE: Premier League and European champions Manchester City on Saturday completed the signing of Croatia centre-back Josko Gvardiol on a five-year deal from RB Leipzig.

No financial details were revealed but Pep Guardiola's side are understood to have agreed a fee of 90 million euros (\$99 million) for the Croatia international.

Gvardiol, 21, has impressed in his two seasons at Leipzig which he joined from Dynamo Zagreb in July 2021.

"I have always dreamed of one day playing in England and to be doing so now with Manchester City – after the season they have just had – is a real honour for me," said Gvardiol of joining a team which

won the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League last year.

"Anyone who saw Manchester City play last season knows they are the best team in the world. To win the Treble says everything you need to know about the quality this team has."

Gvardiol becomes Man City's second signing ahead of the 2023/24 campaign, following fellow Croatian international Mateo Kovacic.

"To be joining City is something very special for me and my family," continued Gvardiol. "To have the chance to work with Pep Guardiola, too, will be amazing for me."

"I know I am not yet the finished article and I am sure my game will progress under the best coach in football."

"To be linking up with Mateo

Kovacic will also be special. He's a top footballer and I hope we can both help City achieve another successful season in 2023/24 and then beyond."

Capped 21 times for Croatia, Gvardiol made 87 appearances across two seasons for Leipzig winning back-to-back German Cups.

He won two league titles with Zagreb before moving to the Bundesliga.

City will now have six senior central defenders, but Guardiola has insisted that was not a problem given the gruelling nature of the season.

"The season is so long, there is many, many games. It is absolutely not too many," Guardiola told journalists ahead of Sunday's Community Shield against Arsenal at Wembley.

"We are very happy to bring

Josko to Manchester City," said City director of football Txiki Begiristain.

"He is a player we have watched closely, and we feel he has a superb set of attributes."

"Top clubs all over Europe have been monitoring him, so to bring him here is great news for us."

"Josko has so many qualities – everything you want in a centre-half. He is fast, competitive, combative, strong in the air, impressive in possession of the ball, with strong self-belief and a good character. He is left-footed, too, which offers us good options at the back."

"He is still young but his progress in the game has been rapid. We feel confident his upward trajectory will continue here at City working with Pep and his staff."

