



Serving ailing humanity; a collective responsibility of all: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that all those who were tasked with the onus to serve humanity, should strive for the provision of free-of-cost health and education facilities to the poor and deprived segments of society. (Details on Page 8)



Shadow of nuclear war looms over world again: UN chief

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a new push to rid the world of nuclear weapons, warning that "the drums of nuclear war are beating once again". In a message to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the UN chief urged the international community to learn from the "nuclear cataclysm" that befell the Japanese city on 6 August 1945. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Accident

NAWABSHAH: A large numbers of people gathered at the accident site following the derailment of a passenger train in Nawabshah. At least 30 people were killed and dozens injured on August 6 when an express train derailed in southern Pakistan, government officials said.



Photo: Online

30 dead, 100 injured as Hazara Express bogies derail near Nawab Shah

At least 30 people were dead and over 100 sustained injuries when 10 bogies of Hazara Express travelling from Karachi to Rawalpindi derailed near Nawab Shah. Railway officials reported that the tragic incident occurred near Saharai Railway Station, located between Shahzadpur and Nawabshah when the Hazara Express was en route from Karachi. The derailment resulted in 10 bogies veering off the tracks, leading to chaos and injuries among the passengers on board. The injured and bodies were transferred to People Medical University (PMU) Hospital in Nawabshah. DC Nawabshah Shehryar Gul Memon said an emergency has been declared in nearby hospitals while the rescue operation is also underway. He further said ambulances and the rescue staffers have been sent to the spot to gear up for relief operation.

The cause of the derailment is not yet known as officials reached the scene to probe the incident. Meanwhile, on the directions of DG Rangers Sindh, Major General Azhar Waqas, paramilitary forces have left for the spot to assist the civil administration in the rescue and relief operation. Addressing a press conference, Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique said as per initial reports, the train was moving at a normal speed. He said the 'sabotage' and 'mechanical fault' cannot be ruled out in the major train accident. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah confirmed Sunday that 30 passengers including women and children

were killed in the Hazara Express train derailment. Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah visited People's Medical University (PMU) Hospital Nawabshah and inquired about the health of the wounded passengers. He told the media that the exact number of wounded persons cannot be ascertained yet as the rescue operation is still underway. Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique said in a press conference that 1,000 passengers were travelling through the Hazara Express which met accident at 1:17 pm. He said that the rail track was in good condition at the incident's site and probe is being conducted on different aspects. Rafique said that the possibility of 'sabotage act' cannot be ruled out.

AEN Ali Magsi said that the first relief train has reached Sarhari from Kotri to facilitate the Hazara Express passengers and the second relief train reached Nawabshah from Rohri. DCO Railway Saba Jabeen said that Hazara Express train left Karachi's City Station with 645 passengers at 7:40 am today. The passenger train contained 19 coaches and 11 of them were affected in the derailment. She said that other trains will be departed to their destinations from alternative tracks. DCO Jabeen added that the railway administration is in contact with the families of the affected passengers. GOC Hyderabad Muhammad Hussain told the media that it was a horrible accident in which 10 bogies were overturned after

being derailed. He said that Rescue 1122 played a vital role to rescue the passengers trapped in the bogies. "Rangers and Pakistan Army personnel pulled out passengers from the bogies. The wounded passengers were immediately sent to the hospital after giving first aid." The GOC Hyderabad also thanked locals who took part in rescue activities with the civil and military personnel. Hussain said that cranes of the Pakistan Army and civil institutions have reached the accident's site and removed all bogies from the track. The rail track will be cleared in three to four hours, he added. He said that the reason for the accident will be ascertained after an inquiry.

Nawaz Sharif to be next PM if voted to power: PM Shehbaz



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Nawaz Sharif would be the next prime minister of Pakistan and would change destiny of the country by initiating projects in the sectors of agriculture, industry and infrastructure. He was speaking at a public meeting here after laying foundation stone for Taray Garh interchange on the Lahore-Bahawalnagar motorway and Rai Mansab Ali Khan interchange on Abdul Hakim motorway on the Bucheki-Nankana road. "Nawaz Sharif will serve the people of Pakistan as prime minister for another term if voted to power. He considers the whole of Pakistan as his family and in the past selflessly served the people," he remarked. He said Rs 263 billion would be spent on the construction of motorway from Lahore to Bahawalnagar and on other projects. He recalled that in the past, Pakistan suffered from loadshedding of 20 hours every day and then Nawaz Sharif came in 2013 and he removed the darkness caused by power shortages by setting up power

projects, revived industry and agriculture and brought the CPEC project of \$ 30 billion with the collaboration of China. He said their government provided laptops worth billions of rupees to millions of students, adding he was unfairly criticised for delivering laptops to youth who were now using modern tools of communication and earning livelihoods. He noted that Nawaz Sharif initiated the project of Diamer Bhasha and Dasu dams and made Pakistan a nuclear state by conducting six nuclear explosions in response to five explosions by India. He reminded that Nawaz Sharif rejected the offer of \$ five billion by then US President Bill Clinton and went on with the nuclear explosions while ignoring pressure. Nawaz Sharif also started Zarb e Azab led by Pakistan army to eradicate terrorism and the jaws of armed forces and people from all sections of society rendered sacrifices against terrorism. Shehbaz Sharif said unfortunately terrorists were again allowed to re-enter Pakistan and they took many innocent lives in terrorist acts.

President, PM expresses grief over deaths in train accident

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident of Hazara Express train. He prayed for the departed souls and early recovery of the injured. He sympathised with the bereaved families and prayed for grant of patience to them. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in an accident of Hazara Express in Nawabshah. He prayed for the departed souls and ordered the administration to provide the best possible medical treatment to the injured. He sought a report from the railways authorities about the accident.

PTI threw "petrol bomb of inflation" on people: Marriyum

Bureau Report
KARACHI: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) four-year rule which triggered extreme inflation in the country due to wrong economic policies and massive corruption of its leadership. "The people fully knows the difference between development, destruction and conspiracies," she said while drawing a comparison between the destructive policies of the PTI government, and development-oriented and public-friendly initiatives of the coalition government in the last 15 months. Addressing a news conference at the Karachi Press Club, she recalled that the PTI pelted petrol bombs on the police when the PTI chief's residence in Zaman Park was raided. She said the PTI chief was the mastermind of May 9 incidents when the Law Enforcement Agencies' vans, mosques, ambulances, memorials of martyrs and sensitive installations were set on fire. Marriyum said curbs were imposed on the media and freedom of expression during the four-year of the PTI, however, the press clubs



across the country provided a platform to the then opposition leaders to spread their messages among the masses and highlight fascism of the previous regime. She said the PTI chairman was declared "predator" for media by the international organization, but Pakistan ranking in press freedom improved during the last fifteen months of the coalition government. She said the PEMRA Ordinance of 2002 was a "black law" which was enacted by a dictator, but it was the coalition government which introduced amendments after twelve months of extensive consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The PEMRA (Amendment) Bill

2023 would not be enacted until all the objections raised on the legislation were addressed, she added. To a query, she said the appointment of caretaker PM was a constitutional responsibility of the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader, and the people would be informed as soon as the names for the purpose would be finalized. She said process for investment in five sectors under SIFC had been uploaded on digital portal, which would be made accessible for general public and through this, all reservations will be addressed. All provinces and ministries are made part of SIFC, she added. The initiative would end Pakistan's reliance on foreign debts, she said while citing examples Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Iraq, and other western countries that following the same initiative for attracting foreign investment. At the outset of press conference, the minister expressed her grief over the train accident took place near Nawabshah today. She prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed souls in the eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear irreparable loss.

PTI chief's arrest in Toshakhana 'internal matter' of Pakistan: US

Spokesman Report
WASHINGTON: The United States (US) has said the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief is an 'internal matter' of Pakistan. Mathew Miller, the State Department spokesperson, said, "The cases against the PTI chairman and other politicians are an internal affair of Pakistan." Like other countries across the world, the US regularly stressed respect for democratic principles and the rule of law, Mathew Miller added. The reaction came as a local court sentenced the PTI chairman for a three-year term and a Rs100,000 fine in the Toshakhana case on Saturday - a move that will change the country's political landscape as the country awaits general elections.

Pakistan's Participation in the Cricket World Cup

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has consistently maintained that sports should not be mixed with politics. It has, therefore, decided to send its Cricket Team to India to participate in the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Pakistan believes that the state of bilateral relations with India should not stand in the way of fulfilling its international sports-related obligations. Pakistan's decision shows

its constructive and responsible approach vis-à-vis India's intransigent attitude, as the latter had refused to send its Cricket Team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup. Pakistan, however, has deep concerns about the security of its Cricket Team. We are conveying these concerns to the International Cricket Council and the Indian authorities. We expect that full safety and security of Pakistan Cricket Team will be ensured during its visit to India.

PM preferred Pakistan over politics; saved country from economic default: Amir Muqam

Wazir Ali
SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has saved the country from economic default and put economy as well as development process back on track in his only 16 months coalition government. He said the prime minister has taken bold and tough decisions in the interests of Pakistan and for revival of the economy besides saved the country's from an economic default and bankruptcy. Addressing a big public gathering after laying the foundation stone of construction of Kalam-Madain Road here, Engr Amir Muqam said the

Prime Minister has preferred the country over politics and today people of all walks of life were appreciating his government decisions. He said that work on mega development projects that was halted during the previous government has been restarted in Malakand Division including Swat district. He said that Kalam-Madain Road would be constructed as per international standards and after its completion would turned the entire region into hub of trade and tourism. Engr Amir Muqam who was also president of PML-N KP said that Pakistan Muslim League-N was the only party that has a committed and able leadership with a strong will to take the country out of all crises.

Inauguration

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils a plaque to mark the ground breaking of Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) University on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Serving ailing humanity; a collective responsibility of all: PM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that all those who were tasked with the onus to serve humanity, should strive for the provision of free-of-cost health and education facilities to the poor and deprived segments of society.

The prime minister was addressing a conference arranged here to create awareness about the elimination of Hepatitis-C in the country arranged at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI).

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said it was their collective responsibility

to serve the poor and deprived masses by setting up health facilities like the PKLI in line with the vision of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the nation, and in accordance with the concept of the welfare state.

The event was attended by Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman, ministers, experts and relevant authorities.

The prime minister termed the event a historic and said that he always desired to see PKLI working on the pattern of Johns Hopkins of the USA.

He said the PKLI journey started in 2014, when he requested Dr Saeed Akhtar to

set up a state-of-the-art institute for the kidney and liver diseases in Punjab province.

The prime minister said that the institute was established with an autonomous body to rid it of any official red tape.

The project was launched in 2015 and was completed in 2018 when the first kidney transplant was performed, he recollected.

The prime minister said that till this day, a total of 1000 transplants had been performed at PKLI which was another milestone.

The PKLI had now Rs 15 billion in the trust fund which would help in providing free treatment to the poor people,

he added.

He observed that previously, they used to send liver disease patients to other neighbouring countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said today, was a momentous day in the health and education sectors of the country as the prime minister would be inaugurating PKLI University and Hepatitis C Elimination Initiative.

Professor Dr Saeed Akhtar, in his remarks, said that they were successful in setting up an information-based system leading to a center of excellence to serve the ailing and

poor segments of society.

Despite, Covid-19 pandemic, the institute performed thousands of surgeries and transplants, he added. PKLI had served over 3.5 million patient interactions since its inception in December 2017.

More than 2 million patient interactions had been served at PKLI hospital in a short span of time.

Over 1.5 million patient visits for Hepatitis relief have been served under the Hepatitis Prevention and Treatment Programme (HPTP) since its launch till June 2019.

Ishaq Dar assured that Not a Single Employee Will Be Fired from PIA's privatization: Gillani

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani's comments regarding the privatization of Pakistan Airlines in the Senate session on the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation 2016 Act Amendment Bill. I would like to be briefed on the steps taken to privatize PIA

What will be the future of the employees and staff after PIA privatization, what steps have been taken to protect their right to employment should also be told. Those who have given the statement that the degrees of PIA pilots are fake, have caused billions of losses to PIA, due to which Pakistan Airlines has been ridiculed worldwide and our reputation has been damaged, What steps has the government



taken?

Not only did PIA suffer due to fake degree statements, but pilots who were working in other airlines around the world had to lose their jobs. Ex Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani further said, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar assured that not a single employee will be fired from PIA's privatization, but more employment opportunities will be created and action will be taken against those who harmed PIA. The action will be as suggested by the House

Dar asserts low possibility of error in unanimously approved digital census



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Ishaq Dar Sunday emphasized that the digital census, which was unanimously approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI), has a lower possibility of error.

Defending the digital census in the Upper House while speaking on a point of order, Leader of the House Ishaq Dar pointed out that the decision regarding the new census was made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He informed the Senate that Rs 34 billion had been spent on the endeavor.

He mentioned that the census had received approval from eight members of the CCI.

The finance minister mentioned that comprehensive details had been provided to all provinces.

The average population growth

stands at 2.55 percent, compared to 2.44 percent recorded in the 2017 census. Balochistan has the highest growth rate at 3.25 percent. The digital population census incurred an expenditure of 34 billion rupees, he told.

The finance minister also revealed that a minister from the previous government had caused harm to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

He asserted that reforms were being implemented to enhance aviation and there was a focus on improving the performance of steel mills. Steps are being taken to reduce PIA's deficit and some aviation-related laws have been presented in the Parliament, he said.

Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized that matters of national interest should not be politicized. Additionally, he informed the Senate that PIA flights to the United Kingdom (UK) would resume in October.

Shadow of nuclear war looms over world again: UN chief

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a new push to rid the world of nuclear weapons, warning that "the drums of nuclear war are beating once again".

In a message to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, bringing an end to the Second World War. Over seven decades later, the legacy of one of the most unspeakable events in human history lives on.

In his remarks, the UN chief said that pending the total elimination of all nuclear weapons, the international community must speak as one, as outlined in his New Agenda for Peace. Launched in July this year, the Agenda calls on Member States to urgently recommit to pursuing a world free of nuclear

weapons and to reinforce the global norms against their use and proliferation.

"States possessing nuclear weapons must commit to never use them," he insisted, as he stressed the UN's commitment to continue working to strengthen global rules on disarmament and non-proliferation, notably the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NPT talks are taking place at the UN in the Austrian capital until 11 August, where Ms. Nakamitsu reiterated her warning to the forum that "since the depths of the Cold War" has the risk of a nuclear weapon being used so high - just as the rules-based order intended to prevent their use has never been "so fragile".

"This is, to a large extent, because of the volatile times in which we live," Ms.

War has re-emerged. And some countries are recklessly rattling the nuclear saber once again, threatening to use these tools of annihilation."

More than 200,000 people were killed when the US dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, bringing an end to the Second World War.

Over seven decades later, the legacy of one of the most unspeakable events in human history lives on.

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Nakamitsu continued, pointing to the "existential" threat facing the world today, which is the result of "the highest level of geopolitical competition, rising tensions and deepening divisions among major powers in decades".

Coupled with rising global tensions is a record level of world military expenditure which reportedly reached a \$2,240 billion in 2022.

This situation has led to an increased emphasis on nuclear weapons, "through modernization programmes, expanded doctrines, allegations of growing stockpiles and most alarmingly...threats to use them", explained the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

"The fact that in the last 12 months nuclear weapons have openly been used as tools of coercion should worry us all," she added.

Delegation of Realtors calls on Chairman FBR

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the direction of Minister for Finance and Revenue, a delegation of Realtors on Sunday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, in order to address and resolve taxation issues concerning real-estate transactions.

The direction was issued by Finance Minister during the 90th meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, said a news release issued here.

The meeting was presided by the Chairman FBR and attended by the delegation of Realtors led by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President Federation of Realtors Pakistan, and the team of FBR officers.

Chairman FBR assured the participants that their concerns will be addressed and best possible facilitation will be ensured for remov-



ing difficulties arising on account of implementation of tax laws.

He directed his team to ensure proper coordination and consultations with the Realtors in this regard.

The Chairman further pointed out that under the Stand-by Arrange-

ment with International Monetary Fund, any new tax exemption, concession or preferential tax treatment may not be possible at this time.

Realtors' delegates emphasised the need to rationalize taxation of

immovable property in the backdrop of poor health of the economy. They stressed that real estate sector has been the major source of domestic and foreign investment in the past, however, deteriorating economic conditions have pushed people away from investment in this sector.

They also asserted that taxation measures on immovable property introduced through Finance Act, 2022 and Finance Act, 2023 have created a discouraging environment for investment in real estate sector.

The delegation proposed abolition of tax on deemed income from immovable property.

They also requested that there be either no revision of valuation table of the properties for the time being, or increase, if any must be made, at fair level after consultation with the stakeholders.

The meeting ended with a note of thanks.

CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi Reviews Akbar Chowk Flyovers Project Progress

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Akbar Chowk (Square) Flyovers project and assessed the progress of construction activities late night. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the ongoing construction work, including the carpeted road. He urged the workers to expedite their efforts, emphasizing the use of additional resources and machinery to compensate for any delays caused by the rain. The completion of the project is of paramount importance to facilitate citizens, and thus, Mohsin Naqvi stressed the need for its prompt execution.

To ensure smooth traffic flow during the construction process, special arrangements were directed by Mohsin Naqvi. Once the Akbar Chowk project is finished, it is expected to ease daily commuting for millions of vehicles, permanently resolving traffic congestion. The preservation of trees is also being ensured throughout the project.

Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA



Mohammad Ali Randhava, along with Chief Engineer LDA and contractors, provided a briefing on the project's progress. The Chief Minister was informed that the preliminary work

on the Akbar Chowk Flyovers had been completed, and Sixteen out of sixty-six girders of flyovers have been completed, while work on others was progressing rapidly. Additional-

ly, asphalt work on the roads beneath the flyovers was underway. Three out of nine U-turns have been completed so far. CCPO Lahore was also present during the visit.

Educational seminar was held in Shakai Valley of Wana



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah (PPM) Additional DEO Masood Khan participated in the educational seminar arranged at Government High School Shakai.

The seminar was arranged by the people of the area under the leadership of Shakai Youth Welfare Organization President Imran Wazir; the special Guest of the educational seminar was DPO South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah.

On this occasion, DPO Farman Ullah while addressing the participants in the seminar said that we should focus on getting a purposeful education, so that people can distinguish between good, bad, halal and haram.

The DPO further said that education opens avenues for awareness and development in the area, so there is a need to give better training to our future generation.

The DPO also quoted the hadith while conveying the importance of education that you should get education why you should not go to China.

On this occasion DPO appealed to the area elders to focus more on the education of their children and cooperate with the Education Department to make the closed educational institutions functional.

MOU signed between Sindh Food Authority and Iqra University North Campus



Bureau Report

KARACHI: A ceremony was held at a local hotel between Iqra University North Campus and Sindh Food Authority, where representatives from various private and public sector universities in Sindh gathered to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual cooperation. The event was attended by Vice Chancellors and senior officials from other universities, as well as top officials from Sindh Food Authority. Fakhar Hussain, the Director-General of Sindh Food Authority, stated that they are committed to providing practical training opportunities to students and graduates of all universities. He also emphasized on cooperation with other institutions to facilitate research and provide advanced laboratory facilities for food-related studies.

Dr. Muhammad Masroor, the Dean of Health Sciences at Iqra University North Campus, expressed his gratitude to the officials of Sindh Food Authority and appreciated their efforts. He highlighted the significance of private universities in promoting academic and practical excellence, ensuring top-notch facilities for students, and fostering collaboration with national and international institutions.

He further added that the Human Nutrition and Dietetics program at Iqra University is making considerable efforts to offer quality education to its students, and emphasized the need for mutual cooperation to fill the gap of qualified faculty in this field, allowing them to introduce Master's and Ph. D. programs. The ceremony concluded with the signing of the MoU.

RCCI to organize two days Health Expo and Summit on 16th

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is going to organize the Health Expo and Summit on August 16 aiming to provide a platform to explore export potential and address the key challenges faced by the health and pharmaceutical sectors in Pakistan.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq while providing details said that Pakistan has significant export potential in the pharmaceutical sector, given its capabilities in drug manufacturing, a skilled workforce, and a growing global demand for affordable medicines. Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry is known for producing high-quality generic medicines at competitive prices. This cost-effectiveness makes Pakistani pharmaceutical products attractive to countries seeking affordable healthcare solutions, he added. He said that the pharmaceutical export potential of Pakistan is underutilized due to various factors, including regulatory challenges, limited R&D, and global market competition.

Saqib Rafiq said that the pharmaceutical regulatory system faces challenges related to ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy of drugs, as well as addressing issues of counterfeit and substandard medicines.

Three killed in separate incidents in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Three persons among them an employee of Punjab health department were killed in three separate incidents in various parts of Attock on Sunday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, 38 years old Muhammad Saqib-an employee of the Punjab health department presently posted at district headquarters hospital was stabbed to death in day broad light killing incident in the busy main chowk in the limits of Attock city Police station. The assailants managed to escape after restoring aerial firing. In the second, 50 years old Afghan national was axed to death in Jallo area near Burhan motorway interchange in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station. Police sources said that the deceased identified as Imrat Khan runs a small shop on GT road. On Sunday, when he was going to open his shop, unknown masked men intercepted him and attacked him with axes and killed him. Later the attackers throw his body at a vacant plot and fled away from the scene successfully. Moreover, a 55 years old man crushed to death by a speedy car on Islamabad-Peshawar motorway near Burhan rest area in the same police station limits. Rescue and hospital sources said that the man was crossing motorway on foot in rest area when a speedy car ran over them. Later his body was shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital for autopsy. The body was not identified till filing news report. Respective Police registered three separate cases and handed over the bodies after autopsy.

Emotions

RAWALPINDI: A tailor stitching national flags in his shop at Railway Station Road in the city as the nation starts preparations to celebrate Independence Day in befitting manners.



Photo: Online

Anjum Nisar says IP gas pipeline completion to ease power crisis

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar has said the bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan has reached over \$2.3 billion, expressing the resolve to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion under a five-year trade cooperation plan and stressing the need for enhancing more cooperation in areas of economy and trade and investment between Pakistan, Iran, China and

Turkey, as the regional connectivity is the only way to uplift the country.

Mian Anjum Nisar, who is also BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president, was of the view that the current volumes of bilateral trade is far behind then and actual potential, asking the authorities to take serious measures to remove hurdles in this regard. He said that both Pakistan and Iran can help each other in different sectors. He said both the countries are committed to increase bilateral traded to new high levels. He called for



promoting cooperation in the economy, traded and tourism under regional mechanism. He said setting up a special

economic free trade region along the common border would help to increase trade between the two countries, as there is potential to increase bilateral trade to \$10 billion in next few years.

SAARC Chamber vice president believed that the completion of the IP gas pipeline project will definitely serve the national interest of the two countries, as the businessmen wanted to see this gas pipeline be completed, finalized, and operationalized as soon as possible to end up our power crisis.

Kashmir Exploitation day observed in Karachi Arts council by photographic Exhibition

City Desk

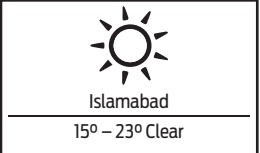
KARACHI: On the occasion of "Kashmir Exploitation Day", a photo exhibition of state atrocities in Occupied Kashmir was organized by Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi in the lobby area of the Arts Council. Exhibition was inaugurated by Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, former President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan and President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah along with Vice President of Arts Council Munwar Saeed, Resident Director Bashir Khan Sadozai, Sardar Nazakat, All Leaders of Parties Hurriyat Conference Jammu and Kashmir Imtiaz Wani, Iqbal Latif and others were also present. Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori said that every Pakistani is just waiting for a signal to



come out for solidarity with his Kashmiri brothers and we should express

solidarity with all our Kashmiri brothers. S. The blood of Kashmiris will not

go in vain, be it a matter of Article 370 or no other India can oppress Kashmiris. President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah said that we are grateful to Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori for being with us for solidarity with Kashmir. Governor Sindh has made a name for himself in a very short time. I expressed solidarity. Today is a black day for Pakistan, for those people living in India who have humanity. Modi's government scrapped Kashmir's special status, millions of Kashmiris protested. Every year today Pakistan Exploitation Day is Observed in Pakistan. We will not allow the rights of Kashmiris to be taken away. It is an annual tradition that we have not forgotten this irony of India. Former President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob expressed his gratitude



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:49 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:04 pm
Maghrib	7:04 pm
Isha	8:37 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654

AIOU announces results of BA, Associate degree

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the results of BA and Associate degree programs offered in the autumn semester 2022 and the results have been uploaded to the CMS portal. According to the controller examination, the results of the associate degree in commerce will be announced later. The new admissions for BA / BCom (Associate Degree) programs will commence on September 1. It is pertinent to mention here that the results for Matric and FA programs were declared on June 11, 2023. The new admissions to the Matric and FA programs started on 15 July and will continue till September 5. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood after assuming the office, had instructed the Director Admissions and Controller of Examinations to streamline the process from admissions to examinations and follow the academic calendar of the university. The Vice Chancellor has given special attention to good governance in the university, which is why for the first time in the history of the university, the results of the previous semester have been declared before the new admissions begin.

Kashmiris protest in world capitals over Indian rule in Held Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC and the rest of the world held rallies and protest demonstrations on 5th August as a mark of their protest against abrogation of Articles 35A and 370 and the changing of special status of Occupied Kashmir by the Indian government.

Pertinently, the call for protest was given by the AJK president, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry.

The protest rallies were held at influential world capitals, including New York, in front of the Indian Embassy in London in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Paris, and in front of the International Court of Justice in The Hague in the Netherlands, where members of the Kashmiri diaspora community gathered to seek world attention towards the plight of Kashmiris and India's relentless oppression in the held region.

On the other hand, protest demonstrations were held in front of the Indian embassy in Dublin,



the capital of Ireland, and European countries.

Addressing the protestors on this occasion, speakers voiced their anguish over the Indian government's unilateral move to strip Kashmir of its special status and termed the Modi government's assault on Kashmiris' autonomy and their rights as a violation of the UNSC resolutions.

They urged the international community to redouble its efforts to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute, which they said was the main cause and consequence of bloodshed and violence in the

region.

They said that the United Nations must play its proactive role and influence the Indian government to grant the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir and help stop the ongoing Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile, President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry addressed the International Interfaith Peace Conference "Islam as a religion of peace, has said that amidst the fast changing global scenario there was a dire need to present a true picture of Islam to the world".

The president said, "Being Muslims, we pray for peace five times a day, but real peace on the Earth can be established only when people of different faiths and religions practice tolerance, mutual respect and co-existence as the code of life".

Referring to the growing intolerance and xenophobia and Islamophobia in the world, the president said that we all have to play our role to promote a true picture of Islam to the world and remove the misunderstandings and prejudices related to it.

Islam, he said, considers all humanity as one family and

believes in equality, justice and peace. He said that the youth should be engaged in promoting inter-faith harmony and ensuring the rights of minorities.

The president said that followers of all religions should join their hands and work together to get rid of the world from the scourge of terrorism and violence.

The president while condemning the incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark said that such kinds of vicious incidents pose a grave threat to world peace.

He said that the time has come that this issue must be raised

effectively at the international level. He said that the UNO and OIC should formulate laws that guarantee the protection of all sacred books and religious scriptures.

The conference was also attended and addressed by the chairman Central Royat Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, chairman inspection commission and member of the Legislative Assembly, Mufti Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah, member of Punjab Assembly Dhian Singh, Mufti Kafayat Hussain Naqvi, Dr. Leif Athlin, Jonathan Sparks, Dr. Markus Fida and others.

Out of order

ISLAMABAD: A view of an out of order fountain on a green belt alongside Islamabad Highway in Federal Capital, needs the attention of concerned authorities.



Photo: Online

Azad Kashmir chief secretary orders immediate action on Dulai Landslide



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: An important high level meeting of the National Highways Authority (NHA) and the Communications and Public Works Department of Azad Kashmir was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary AJK of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Muhammad Usman Chachar. In the

meeting, various issues were reviewed with reference to the temporary and sustainable solution of Dulai Landslide near Muzaffarabad. The Chief Secretary ordered the officials of NHA and Public Works Department to use all resources immediately. Apart from appropriate measures for traffic management as well as public awareness, he directed formulation a comprehensive plan to transfer traffic to alter-

native link roads to continue the construction work on the highway on an emergency basis and should implemented immediately to facilitate passengers.

He also directed that the tourism department should immediately issue a travel advisory for the awareness and guidance of tourists. He said that it is the primary responsibility of all departments to solve the problems

of the people, no tolerance should be taken in this regard and every department should play its role in dealing with the situation by working with full responsibility. Apart from the officers of National Highway Authority (NHA), Department of Communications and Public Works, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Headquarters), Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad also participated in the meeting.

Prime Minister of AJK is the spokesman of the poor people: Chaudhry Azhar

Bureau Report



MIRPUR: Azad Kashmir Government Minister Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq has said that the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq is a ruler with high political vision whose integrity, duty and patriotism are second to none. He is the spokesman in the true sense of the poor people who are on the way to making the state a welfare state in the true sense. Among the revolutionary measures for the establishment of good governance of the Prime Minister, the complete supremacy of law and order, the establishment of a clear and transparent system of financial management, hundred percent attendance of employees in offices, taking care of the self-respect of citizens and their urgent problems. To solve the problem, to eliminate additional government expenses, to ban the use of unnecessary government vehicles, to eliminate corruption, to make the mafia more accountable, state missionaries and to serve the government as a servant instead of a ruler have taken such measures, which Practical measures are being taken for the betterment of every citizen of the region.

He expressed these views while talking to various delegations and media representatives at his residence. He said that the people of Azad Kashmir are lucky to have an honest, sincere and fearless Prime Minister like Anwar-ul-Haq. Who had a vision to change the destiny of the people and to build and develop the ideal of the region. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq wanted to make the state ideal by removing the defects from the government and institutions for good governance, for which he is working day and night. He set an eternal example of simplicity and dervishness. The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir has also given instructions to the bureaucracy and employees to sit in the offices instead of being happy and make practical service their motto. Use the government resources properly and correctly according to the law. Prepare yourself for accountability, otherwise they must go through the process of punishment he added.

"Nahin Milta" by Bayaan becomes the top Pakistani song on Spotify

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting inner turmoil and frustrations, and echoing that occasional feeling of loneliness and isolation, "Nahin Milta" by Pakistani alt-rock band Bayaan is resonating strongly with audiences catapulting the tale-of-life song to No.1 in Daily Top Songs in Pakistan, No. 5 in Weekly Top Pakistani songs and No.18 on Spotify Charts this week.



In the last 28 days, streams for the song have gone up by 409% while also witnessing a 10% rise over the week that just went by. In addition, "Nahin Milta" has made it to some of the leading playlists of Spotify including Desi Hits, Pakka Hit Hai, Desi Indie and several others. It is also on the cover of Hot Hits Pakistan shedding light on just how popular it has become with listeners on the music streaming platform. This rediscovery of "Nahin Milta", that was originally released in 2015, happened recently after the track was used by a social media user, a doctor by profession, in his video depicting how love is the medicine that cures all. Soon after, the song became the hottest trend online, making it one of the most preferred music for reels showcasing daily hardships of working-class fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons, and is currently trending as the preferred music for reels depicting sad situations, heart break, or loneliness.

With India, Pakistan, and the U. S. ranking as the top three countries where listeners are streaming the track, Bayaan's yearly streamers have shown exceptional growth in their numbers. Hailing from Lahore, Bayaan is widely recognized for winning one of the biggest musical talent competitions in Pakistan back in 2018.

Education expo in Islamabad

SI-UK Pakistan, the leading educational consultancy is having education expo today in Islamabad Marriott hotel which was started at 10 in the morning and finished at 5pm. This event has provided relevant information to students, parents, and educators with a unique opportunity to explore educational opportunities both in the UK and abroad.

This Education Expo is one of the most important events in the academic calendar, attracting hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors each year. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever, with over 150 UK and international universities, colleges and schools expected to be in attendance.

The Education Expo will offer visitors a chance to meet with university representatives, learn about various academic programs, receive guidance on admission requirements, and explore funding opportunities. Visitors will also have the opportunity to attend informative seminars on a variety of topics related to higher education and career development.

Sab say pehlay Pakistan flag rally held at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi on Sunday organized the 'Sab Say Pehlay Pakistan' flag rally in connection with the Pakistan Independence Day celebrations. The rally led by Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed started from Murree Road and ended at Arts Council. The rally was accompanied by a musical band playing national anthems. Anjum Khabibi, Yar Muhammad Khan, Dozens of artists including Raja Abdul Sattar, Arshad Minhas, Sapna Shah, Saeed Anwar Afzal Latifi, Arshad Khan, Anjam Abbasi participated. On this occasion, artists, ordinary citizens and students of the Arts Council also sang songs. The participants of the rally held the Paki-



stan flag in their hands and chanted Pakistan Zindabad.

Addressing the rally, Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed congratulated the nation on the commencement of Independence Day celebrations

and said that living nations celebrate their Independence Day with full enthusiasm. Waqar Ahmed further said that there is no substitute for freedom in the world and the world develops only in free-

dom. We should be grateful to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, thanks to whom we are breathing in free air today, according to the government's vision, Pakistan will soon emerge as

a major economic power in the world. He further said that Punjab Arts Council will organize various programs till August 14.

Assistant Director Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Suleman said that the Independence Day of Pakistan brings us a message of peace and happiness. Today our hearts are full of happiness and our eyes are filled with dedication towards Pakistan. Our young generation needs to be aware of the difficulties faced during the Pakistan movement, so that they can play their role in bringing this land to the heights of development by working hard day and night. At the end of the rally, a special prayer was offered for the security, development and prosperity of Pakistan.

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Pakistani Youth Fleeing Out

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

Firstly let us look at the shocking statistics about the escalation in the immigration. According to data released by Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment about 832339, out of which 92000 (STEM) degrees holders, have departed the country in 2022, as far as it will concern, this numbers will be doubled this year as just in first five months of 2023 year it has reached 315787. It is feared that this year more than a million people will fly out of the country for the sake of a job. Among these are the people, who are the highly qualified engineers, doctors, accountants, managers and proficient skilled labor who are fleeing out of the homeland in a very deplorable situation being harbored domestically. Extravagances, better resources being provided to the citizens, healthy and secure life, these are the appeasements that act as the driving force behind this implicit act of immigration, against the society being provided by the Pakistani state. So people in the persuasion of that ideal lifestyle blindly follow the visa agents, by any means legally or illegally they just wanted to quit Pakistan. They fall prey to the human traffickers in this process, as last month Greece boat incident severely caused the death of 300 Pakistanis, because they were illegally going to Europe for better life there being sick of Pakistani life overwhelmed in the strings of high inflation and unemployment but unfortunately their rotten boat sank.

Although we have seen quite shocking statistics, one also wonders what makes them fly out of the country? Don't they love their family? Whom they will leave behind, friends with whom they have spent years, and don't they admire patriotism for their homeland? Being taught to them in the very anthem of Pakistan by calling it "Pak SarZameen Shad Abad". Obviously they will miss each and every bond being made with family, friends, streets on which they have played and the sense of patriotism for their country_ that has been made no more liveable by the state institutions. Pakistan's governments remained inadequate to provide better socio-economic opportunities for young minds instead worsening the economy, which is now at the verge of sovereign default, and woven itself in the vicious cycle of internal and external debts. Shrinking freedom is also one of the leading factors behind it as freedom of speech has been deprived a long ago and state institutions started controlling the personal lives of the citizens. Exploitative use of religion for the political gains since the inception of Pakistan also brought it to this deplorable and quagmire state. So youth find themselves in a complex structure that is so difficult to break, find themselves in the stumbling economy with soaring unemployment rate and inflation, find themselves in the social order where life is uncertain due to terrorist's attacks and find themselves where the state is again doing nothing for them. So the only option remains is to quiet the country for the sake of good.

By keeping in view these vicious reasons among such a high immigration rate, one can derive solutions by keeping in mind the social, economic and political order being offered to the citizens. For the sake of prosperity, people have left the only option of working abroad as the state offers no such platform where they can work and uplift their social status. If the government wants to decrease the number of people going out of the country it should invest more and more to create better jobs for them so that they can live prosperous lives. Another reason which needs to be addressed on an urgent basis is the threat posed by militant groups. Irrespective of agreements between state and militant groups, there have seen many attacks in the province of KP and Balochistan. It is argued that these groups are being harbored under the flag of the Taliban regime. So security policy with the Taliban Government needs to be reviewed so that peace can prevail in the region. Deplorable situation among youth has prevailed due to political instability, which since the inception of Pakistan remained the main realm. Barracks in the way of democracy have been seen many times in the form of martial laws. So all Pakistan needs is the stable democracy under the strong leadership and political will that solely will aim to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and to get economic stability which will garner strong society being provided with required resources to meet its needs. There is another thing which needs to mention is that state often rely on Forex Reserves and admires the foreign Pakistanis as they send dollars in the form of remittances in the name of support of economy, but one ever thought what benefits they can cause to the economy if they are provided with job opportunities domestically. A sovereign nation cannot inspire its citizens to go out of the country just for the sake of remittances.



Analysis
Muhammad Usman

Pakistan-China joint lab to be set up for crop pest management

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IP-PCAAS) signed a LoI in Beijing for establishing the Pakistan-China joint laboratory for crop pest management.

The two sides will kick start the operation of the joint laboratory and carry out tests, demonstrations and joint research on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern, as well as technical personnel training and personnel exchange and training, according to IPPCAAS.

Pakistan suffers a lot from the pest problem. For example, the white fly is affecting cotton, citrus, guava, etc. When our fruits and vegetables are being exported to different Middle East countries, sometimes they are rejected due to the presence of these fruit flies and residues of pesticide. Out of the 1,300 molecules of the pesticides registered in Pakistan. Not a single molecule is able to control the white fly. Prof. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Chairman, Department of Entomology of UAF told China Economic Net.

He said that Pakistan is also facing the issue of economic threshold level and economic injury level. When we decide to manage or control any pests, we must go by pest scouting, pest monitoring, and assessment of pest population. When they exceed a certain number, we decide the pesticide application, which we help our different equipment, tools. In the last 75 years, we have an old threshold and injury level, which should be revised in days to come, he added.

According to Prof. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization of UAF, this collaboration is part of Pakistan's efforts towards climate-smart agriculture. It would be good to secure the food for the future generations. So genetic change, use of biotechnology... these are the tools which can make the food secure in both countries, he said.

The collaboration with University of Faisalabad holds national significance for Pakistan. Faisalabad is the city of textile. The presence of a special economic zone calls for augmented research to underpin its industrial development. We also have confucius institute that has cultivated 6,000 students who have passed different levels of Chinese language and can act as a bridge between the two sides of the cooperation. Located in the center of Pakistan, it is easy for us to reach farmers in different places in the country, said Dr. Abid Ali from UAF Department of Entomology.

For the sake of prosperity, people have left the only option of working abroad as the state offers no such platform where they can work and uplift their social status. If the government wants to decrease the number of people going out of the country it should invest more and more to create better jobs for them so that they can live prosperous lives. Another reason which needs to be addressed on an urgent basis is the threat posed by militant groups. Irrespective of agreements between state and militant groups, there have seen many attacks in the province of KP and Balochistan. It is argued that these groups are being harbored under the flag of the Taliban regime. So security policy with the Taliban Government needs to be reviewed so that peace can prevail in the region. Deplorable situation among youth has prevailed due to political instability, which since the



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

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

Attracting International Interest: Foreign Investments and Joint Ventures
 Recognising the vast potential of Pakistan's mineral reserves, the global mining community has expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities within the country. Foreign direct investments (FDIs) and joint ventures with renowned mining conglomerates offer a promising route to accelerate growth and technological advancement within the sector.

Collaboration with international partners allows Pakistan to tap into advanced mining techniques, operational expertise, and financial resources, all of which are instrumental in unlocking the true value of its mineral wealth. Simultaneously, such partnerships foster knowledge transfer and capacity building, empowering the local workforce to actively participate in and contribute to the growth of the mining industry.

4. Infrastructural Development: Laying the Foundation for Success
 A thriving mining sector necessitates robust infrastructural support. The transportation of minerals from remote mining sites to processing plants and export terminals is a crucial aspect of ensuring the industry's smooth functioning. A well-connected network of roads, railways, and ports is indispensable for efficient logistical operations. Furthermore, a reliable power supply and communication infrastructure are vital to facilitate uninterrupted mining activities. Governmental and private stakeholders must work hand in hand to create an enabling environment that fosters the development of critical infrastructure and ensures a seamless flow of minerals from mines to markets.

5. Embracing Sustainable Practices: A Prerequisite for Progress
 As Pakistan embarks on its mining journey, it is imperative to adopt sustainable practices that safeguard the nation's natural resources for future generations. The impact of mining on the environment requires careful consideration and mitigation measures. Responsible mining practices, including land reclamation and environmental conservation, are essential to strike a harmonious balance between economic growth and ecological preservation. In addition to environmental concerns, mining operations can significantly influence the social fabric of the communities living in proximity to mining sites. Equitable distribution of benefits, respect for local customs and traditions, and ensuring the welfare of affected communities are vital for building a positive social rapport and earning a social license to operate.

6. Regulatory Framework: Navigating Challenges through Governance

The mining industry's success rests on a strong regulatory framework that governs its operations and ensures ethical practices. Clear policies, transparent licensing procedures, and well-defined regulations are fundamental to attract domestic and foreign investors, instilling confidence in the stability and predictability of the industry.

An efficient and accountable governance structure ensures compliance with environmental standards, labor laws, and health and safety regulations. Through a robust regulatory system, Pakistan can foster a conducive environment that balances the interests of all stakeholders, paving the way for a prosperous and sustainable mining sector.

Summary

The article delves into the captivating journey of Pakistan's mining industry, driven by a plethora of valuable minerals such as copper, gold, iron, and precious gemstones. Spanning diverse geographic regions, Pakistan boasts a wealth of mineral reserves estimated to be worth trillions of dollars, heralding tremendous economic potential for the nation.

The exploration of Pakistan's mineral wealth has far-reaching implications for its economic development, contributing significantly to the GDP, generating substantial revenue, and creating job opportunities. With a focus on sustainability and social responsibility, the mining sector has the potential to transform Pakistan into a self-reliant and economically robust nation.

Foreign investors and international joint ventures are key players in unlocking Pakistan's mining potential. Collaborations bring advanced technologies and financial resources, enabling efficient extraction and processing of minerals. Emphasizing the development of robust infrastructure, including transportation and power supply networks, is critical to ensure seamless mining operations.

In tandem with economic growth, the article underscores the importance of adopting sustainable mining practices to safeguard the environment and preserve the social fabric of local communities. A robust regulatory framework serves as a guiding force, promoting ethical practices, and instilling investor confidence.

Pakistan's mining journey is a testimony to its aspirations of becoming a key player in the global mining landscape. By embracing responsible practices and harnessing international expertise, the nation stands poised to transform its rich mineral endowment from mere dust to a catalyst for unprecedented development and prosperity.

Concluded

(Writer is Director G3 Engineering Consultants (pvt) Ltd.)



Analysis
Ch. Saifullah Ejaz

Kashmir: A bleeding Paradise - II

The rise of violence against the civilian Kashmiri people, particularly after August 5, 2019, has been widely condemned. The US Department of State found the Indian government to have arrested hundreds of Kashmiris without charge or trial, and to have subjected them to torture, including beatings, electric shocks, and sexual assault, in its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices released on March 8, 2023. According to the report, Indian security forces have killed dozens of Kashmiris without due process, have limited freedom of expression in Kashmir, notably by prohibiting public meetings and restricting the media, and have restricted freedom of movement by imposing curfews and checkpoints.

Undaunted by international condemnation and rebukes, the BJP government views the Kashmir crisis primarily through a security lens, ignoring the situation's political and humanitarian aspects in order to deploy more troops across the region while wearing the blinkers of its Hindu nationalist ideology.

After nearly five years of siege, it is apparent that the BJP government's iron-fist policy is failing. While New Delhi appears unwilling to stray from its current course, the government would benefit greatly from acknowledging the political roots of the Kashmir crisis and approaching it as a multidimensional problem, rather than framing it as a security crisis fueled by Pakistan that must be solved with greater and greater use of force.

All nations committed to peace, particularly the United States and the European Union, have a critical role to play. They should encourage the Indian government to re-engage with Kashmir's political leaders, emphasizing that the government's unrelenting onslaught on Kashmiri civil society is only fueling dissatisfaction and increasing the risk of militancy. They should make it clear that success on distinct matters, such as return-

ing the corpses of deceased fighters to their families, may boost India's foreign image and soothe public resentment. They should also address the problem of harassment and abuse of journalists and human rights activists in bilateral talks on a regular basis. The entire Muslim world should unite and boycott Indian products and services, downgrade their diplomatic ties and put in abeyance all trade and investment agreements until India reverses its illegal action of 5th August, 2019.

India, instead of changing the demographics of the region, should address the issue through a series of public consultations, and to lend credibility to this process, it should roll back its constitutional coup of August 5th and restore articles 35A and 370 to their original positions, repeal all draconian laws specific to Kashmir, stop crackdown on political activity, allow free expression and peaceful dissent, and release Kashmiri politicians.

Then it should into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan to decide the modus operandi to hold free fair and transparent plebiscite under the auspices of United Nation to give inalienable right to the Kashmir to decide their fate in accordance and aspiration of Kashmir people. If the Modi's hindutva inspired Kashmir strangulation continues unabated it would only fuel resentment of the IIOJ&K, motivating even more youth to join the militants' ranks.

The only way to find a long-term solution in Kashmir is to implement several UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions calling for a peaceful end to the conflict and a plebiscite to determine the region's future, or else Kashmiris will have to wait for another Mohammad Bin Qasim to rescue them from Raja Dahar's iron fist.

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

Concluded



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

Iran calls for D-8 members to facilitate tourism visa issuance

by N A Khan

ISLAMABAD: Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami has suggested that the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation facilitate issuing visas for tourists.

Addressing the third D-8 Ministerial and Fourth Senior Officials meetings on tourism in Bhurban, Pakistan, Zarghami referred to the importance of the Islamic nature of the D-8 countries and the need to pay attention to commonalities such as halal and Muslim-friendly tourism as a competitive advantage, accessible tourism, open-door policy and facilitating the process of issuing visas, cheap travel, family-oriented tourism, the selection and announcement of D-8 tourism city and establishing an education center.

Referring to the phenomenon of Islamophobia, he said that unfortunately, biased propaganda has exposed Islamic countries to racial discrimination, negative prejudice, and defamation.

He stressed that tourism is the most effective way to remove this false image by introducing the true nature of Islamic countries.

Here is full text of Speech of Seyed Ezzatollah Zarghami, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Chairman/Honorable ministers/Distinguished guests/Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to extend my best gratitude and appreciation to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, especially my colleague, H. E. Mr. Awn Chaudhry, the Honorable Adviser to Prime Minister on Sport and Tourism and his colleagues in Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation for their warm and friendly hospitality, and holding successfully the 3rd D-8 Ministerial meeting on Tourism.



I also express my thanks to H. E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the distinguished Secretary General of D-8 and his colleagues in the secretariat for organizing this valuable meeting and to all delegations for active participation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the member states of D-8 has been very active and done its best toward the main objectives of the organization. Hosting the 1st D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in 2008 and 2nd D-8 Meeting on Tourism Cooperation in 2013 is the testimony of this claim. I hope, we together can discuss tourism related issues of Member States to witness a better future for the tourism development in these countries.

All D-8 members are Islamic countries and this makes better understanding, more clear orientation and integrated goals and missions for us. Hence, I will make my speech and addresses mostly focusing on this important reality.

Tourism has been one of the fastest growing economic sectors and an important driver of economic growth in recent years; so that prior to the pandemic, through its direct, indirect and induced impacts, accounted for more than 33 million jobs and 10% of global GDP. But the notable point is

that it has some spiritual dimensions besides economic impacts, strongly emphasized by Islam.

In this regard, 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 the other words, the soul of these verses is focusing on paying special attention to human intangible heritage. In fact, this dimension of tourism is so valuable that it can foster an effective platform for promoting cultural exchanges, strengthening solidarity and creating peace among all nations.

We live in the world where a growing number of countries have been victim of extremism, violation and terrorism for long time. As you are fully aware terrorism cannot be tackled by security or military means alone and we need some special and different mechanism to combat this sinister phenomenon. This mechanism is nothing except tourism diplomacy; as it paves the way for more interaction between nations and brings peace, stability and security for the region and the world.

Also, the rise of Islamophobia has subjected Muslims to racial discrimination, negative stereotyping and stigmatization. As a result, Muslims have touched the feeling of insecurity in their daily lives and face denial of their basic human rights. Meantime, tourism is the most effective way to remove this fake negative image by introducing the real nature of Islamic countries.

Achieving a brilliant future for D-8 countries is possible only through the realization of unity, convergence, and collaboration among them. Increasing cultural, economic and commercial cooperation in different areas and strengthening the related infrastructures are what the Member States need today. With no doubt tourism is one of the most important areas of this cooperation.



D-8 member states have high potentials and capacities for different kinds of tourism such as religious and pilgrimage tourism, health tourism, nature and ecotourism, cultural tourism, sport tourism, maritime tourism and so on. But, in my opinion, considering that all D-8 members are Muslim; Halal and Muslim friendly tourism can be considered as competitive advantages for promoting intra-D-8 tourism flows.

Tourism is the right of all people of the universe, therefore, it is necessary that world community including D-8 countries will provide the needed conditions appropriately for all the people in the world so that they can visit all tourism destinations and don't get deprived of this right. This is the concept referred to as the Accessible Tourism by World Tourism Organization. By accessible tourism, it is meant that travel should be accessible for all people with any age, gender, social

class, income and physical ability.

One of the ways to promote accessible tourism is visa openness. Thus, it is recommended that easing visa procedures for the member states in form of simplification or exemption as an intra D-8 agreement will be put on the main agenda. This idea can be even developed into D-8 visa regime by approval of the ministries of foreign affairs. Another manifestation of accessible tourism is budget travel package that can specifically encourage family-oriented tourism.

Moreover, mechanism of selecting and declaring D-8 tourism city annually can provide a unique opportunity for the member states to introduce and brand their tourism destinations through a healthy competition. Therefore, I would like to suggest D-8 secretariat to develop and implement this mechanism.

Fortunately, some of D-8 member

states are among the global leading and thriving tourism destinations and could exchange their experiences and know-how with other countries during training courses. In this regard, establishing D-8 training center or institute that can serve virtually or in-person is suggested.

I deeply believe that we, as the representatives of D-8 members, can help tourism to be fostered and promoted in the member states, hand with hand with each other and hereby witness security, stability, peace, prosperity and well-being for the society. For this purpose, relying on "D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism" and "Crescent Moon Initiative" is strongly recommended.

Again, wishing fruitful discussions during the working sessions of the Conference, I would like to highly appreciate the efforts of the organizers of this event.



Ahsan Iqbal applauded PIDE's efforts in expanding its research dissemination network

by Muhammad Amin

ISLAMABAD: The Chancellor acknowledged economic research's pivotal role in shaping nations' future worldwide. He emphasized that economic research at PIDE serves as a navigator for policymakers, guiding them toward informed choices that align with the long-term interests of Pakistan. By fostering international cooperation

and addressing global challenges, PIDE's research plays a significant role in contributing to a stable and harmonious global economy.

Underlining the government's commitment to equipping Pakistan with an intellectual arsenal, the Chancellor outlined the "5 Es Strategy" focusing on increasing exports, building a knowledge economy, addressing environmental

and climate change challenges, securing sustainable energy and infrastructure, and promoting equity and empowerment.

The new PIDE building, the Chancellor declared, will provide a state-of-the-art home for the think tank's ongoing pursuit of knowledge and understanding. This smart, vertical, and environmentally friendly campus will further strengthen PIDE's tradition of

excellence and its commitment to walking the talk.

He concluded by expressing his best wishes for the successful completion of the construction and the future endeavors of PIDE. He emphasized his belief that PIDE's new home will solidify its position as the nation's leading think tank and contribute significantly to Pakistan's journey towards becoming a knowledge economy.

A Kashmir's Protest camp held in Brussels on Saturday

by Malik Sohail Anjum

BRUSSELS: A Kashmir's protest camp was held at Place de l'Albertine near Central Train Station in Brussels, the capital of Belgium on Saturday, 5th August 2023.

The event was organized by Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) in connection day of 5th August 2019, when by removing the articles 370 and 35A of its constitution, the Indian government annulled special status of

Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, a number of Kashmiri leaders, political workers, human rights activists and journalist became in Indian imprisonment and atrocities against the people of Kashmir rapidly increased.

Participants of the Saturday's protest camp in Brussels were holding placards and banners having slogans in support of the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir. They also condemned the Indian atrocities against the

Kashmiris struggling for their right to self determination for 75 years. In spite of rain, the protest drew attention of a number of the people towards current situation in the occupied Kashmir specially human rights violations committed by the Indian forces in the territory.

On the occasion of the Brussels' protest camp, Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed said, by removing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir,

India can not hide the Kashmir dispute which is related to the right to self determination of people of Kashmir. People of Kashmir will never give up their right to self determination.

Ali Raza Syed said, purpose of the protest camp is to highlight the brutalities against the people of Kashmir and other illegal acts committed by the Indian authorities in the occupied Kashmir.

He called for end of atrocities in the illegally occupied Kashmir



especially violence against the Kashmiri women and children. Chair of KC-EU asked the

international community to play its role for a peaceful resolution of Kashmir and said, partici-

ation of the Kashmiri leadership in all round of the peace process on Kashmir should be ensured.

Youm e Istehsal Kashmir observed in Canada

by Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: Like Pakistan and elsewhere in the world, Youm e Istehsal Kashmir was observed in Canada to condemn India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to pay homage to the sacrifices of Kashmiris for their just struggle to self-determination.

Speaking to participants of a photographic exhibition arranged at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa, High Commissioner Zaheer A. Janjua condemned the illegal, immoral and unconstitutional Indian actions of stripping the occupied Jammu & Kashmir territory of its special status four years ago in blatant violation of the international law, UN Security Council resolutions and the 4th Geneva

Convention. He said that it was an open secret that the Indian government majorities taken those unilateral actions to carry out demographic engineering in IIOJK and reduce its majority Muslim population to a minority. These nefarious designs were achieved over the subsequent four years through grant of domiciles to non-Kashmiris, revision of limits of constituencies to increase Hindu vote in6 the State Assembly, demolition and destruction of Kashmiri properties and a general assault on their identity and culture.

The High Commissioner noted that the Indian security personnel, numbering about a million, had used the draconian Public Safety Act and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to terrorise the Kashmiri popula-

tion. The entire Kashmiri leadership, including Yasin Malik, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Shabbar Ahmed Shah, is in jail. Torture, custodial killings, rape, pillage and destruction of properties have become order of the day. Thousands of Kashmiri women have been abducted and raped by the Indian security forces.

He also referred to Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra's admission in the Upper House of Parliament on July 26, 2023, that 9,765 women and girls had gone missing in Jammu and Kashmir between 2019 and 2021. "This statement shows the nature of brutality Kashmiris continue to suffer with no end in sight," he said.

Zaheer Janjua urged the international community and the torchbearers of human rights,

including countries such as Canada, to support and stand by the Kashmiris in their just struggle for realization of right to self-determination. He also called upon the Pakistani diaspora in Canada to play its role in sensitizing the Canadian public about the gravity of worsening human rights in Occupied Kashmir and the need to resolve the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The High Commissioner re-affirmed Pakistan's continued moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiris until they won their freedom and achieved their cherished goal of self-determination.

Earlier, a large number of Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora attended and viewed the photographic exhibition arranged at the Chancery. Documentaries showing



the human rights violations and depicting the plight of the Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir

were also shown on the occasion. Similar exhibitions and documentary screening were also arranged

in Consulate Generals of Pakistan in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

Finance professionals suggest rebound in confidence has stalled

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The latest economic conditions survey from ACCA and IMA of accountants and CFOs across the globe suggests that the sharp rebound in global confidence in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has ended

Ongoing aggressive interest rate hikes by central banks, and China's weaker than expected economic recovery, have likely weighed on confidence, offsetting any benefit from receding fears of a global banking crisis and falling inflation.

There is no evidence that a global recession is on the cards though. Sentiment at the global level remains around its long-term average, as do the key New orders, Capital expenditure, and Employment indices.

Rashid Khan, ACCA's campaign manager in Pakistan, said: "The second quarter economic conditions survey from ACCA and IMA of accountants and CFOs across the globe suggests that the sharp rebound in global confidence in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has ended. There is little evidence that a global recession is on the cards though. From Pakistan's perspective, the sharp decline in confidence in the important Western European and Asia-Pacific markets is of some concern.

Jonathan Ashworth, Chief Economist at ACCA, said: "The survey aligned with my sense of how things are developing in the global economy, with some loss in momentum through 2Q. Things don't look particularly alarming though, and a global recession does not look imminent. By region, things aren't looking that great in Asia-Pacific and Western Europe.

Dr. Susie Duong, Director of Research at IMA, said: "Looking at the change in the GECS Confidence Indices over the year, one notable factor is the resilience of North America. With a stronger than expected growth of the U. S. economy in 2023 Q2, it suggests that an imminent recession for the U. S. does not seem likely this year, although Asia and Europe could increasingly become a drag if growth decelerates significantly there.

Pensioners demand urgent decision on rove petition amidst financial hardships

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a crucial development, the Standing Committee on Finance held a meeting to address the pressing issue of the Rove Petition, which has been causing severe financial problems for elderly pensioners and widows in Pakistan.

The committee has decided to write a letter to the Chief Justice of Pakistan, urging an early decision on the matter.

The non-decision of the Rove Petition has resulted in the bank management refusing to pay the budget increase announced by the Parliament, leading to accusations of contempt of the Parliament. Frustrated by broken promises, pensioners are left with no choice but to resort to protest as a means to be heard, stating, "goddamn idols don't listen to words."

The Pensioners Action Committee, representing individuals such as Zafar Sadiq, Abdul Rauf Khan, Manzoor Elahi Laghmani, Javed Ahmed Khan, Mian Safdar, Raja Paras, Raja Liaquat, Safdar Baig, and Siddique Akhtar, is preparing to launch a unified protest to hold the bank management accountable for their actions.

Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar requested the rescheduling of the meeting, and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, accommodated the change to allow the presence of the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Karachi.

Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi boosts agricultural ties with Uzbekistan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, met Uzbekistan's Agriculture Minister, Dr. Aziz Voitov, in Tashkent today. During the meeting, they agreed to enhance cooperation between Punjab and Uzbekistan in the agricultural sector, with a focus on cotton production and digitalization. It was decided that the coordination between the governments of Punjab and Uzbekistan will be further strengthened to increase collaboration in agriculture, and necessary steps will be taken with Uzbekistan's support to digitize the agricultural sector in Punjab.

The Punjab government will utilize Uzbekistan's 9-point agenda under the 10-year program of agricultural development to drive progress. In line with Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's directions, a team comprising the chief secretary and the secretary of agriculture was formed to foster cooperation between Punjab and Uzbekistan in the agricultural sector. This team will take steps to benefit from Uzbekistan's experience in agricultural revolution.

During the meeting, top officials from Uzbekistan's agricultural sector briefed the Punjab government delegation about the successful measures undertaken in Uzbekistan's agricultural revolution. They emphasized that Uzbekistan's economy was strengthened through the 9-point agenda, and the development of agriculture played a crucial role in transforming the country's destiny.



Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi extended congratulations to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his re-election and the important constitutional reforms in Uzbekistan. He emphasized the unity between Pakistan's political and military leadership in driving sustainable agricultural development. The Punjab government aims to leverage Uzbek-

istan's expertise and experience to achieve higher production in the agricultural sector, particularly in cotton production. The visit to Uzbekistan is not only beneficial for Punjab's farmers but also seeks to boost overall agricultural production, CM added.

The Uzbek Minister of Agriculture expressed full willingness to cooperate with the Punjab government, especially in cotton production. He said that Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi's leadership has already led to a significant increase in the area under cotton cultivation in Punjab.

Additionally, Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with Uzbekistan's Minister of Textiles and Garments Industry, Mr. Ilkhom Khaydarov, in Tashkent. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the Punjab government and Uzbekistan in the textile and garments industry. It was decided to establish a joint committee to promote bilateral collaboration in this sector.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's vast potential in the textile industry and emphasized that both countries can become a textile hub in the region through mutual cooperation and trade. With joint efforts, the textile sector can reach new heights. The Uzbek Minister of Textiles and Garments Industry hosted a lunch in honor of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his delegation.

Provincial Ministers SM Tanveer, Amir Mir, Chief Secretary Punjab, Major General Shahid, Agriculture Secretary Punjab, APMA central leaders Gohar Ejaz, Fawad Mukhtar, Shahidstar, Naseerullah Khan, Commissioners of Bahawalpur, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan were also present on this occasion. Earlier, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, for a 2-day visit and received a warm welcome.

BOP and BRB collaborate to launch e-stamping project

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab and the Board of Revenue Balochistan signed a service level agreement in Quetta to initiate the E-Stamping project for automating this critical service for the benefit of the citizens. This aligns with the Government of Balochistan's vision of promoting digital services and ensuring ease of doing business in the province.

Embracing the power of technology, citizens can now obtain stamp papers effortlessly within minutes, at the click of a button, thanks to a seamless process offered by the Bank of Punjab. The E-Stamping project will be rolled out across the province and will enhance revenue collection while providing complete data reconciliation.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Roshan Ali Shaikh (Senior Member Board of Revenue), Mr. Farid Ahmed Khan (Group Chief Corporate & Investment Banking - BOP), and Mr. Sharjeel Raza Khan (Head Transaction Banking - BOP), along with senior officials from both organizations.



The Bank of Punjab is the only bank in the country extending end-to-end fully automated E-stamping services successfully since 2016. The Bank plans to offer these services in other provinces in joint collaboration with key stakeholders.

The Bank of Punjab has established a vast network of 765 ATMs throughout

Pakistan. In Punjab, BOP operates 591 ATMs, while in Sindh, there are 66 ATMs. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the bank has 55 ATMs. Moreover, it has 26 ATMs operating in the ICT region, along with 13 ATMs in Balochistan. Furthermore, the bank has 9 ATMs in Gilgit-Baltistan and 5 ATMs in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

President Women Chamber Sahiwal calls on Provincial Industries Minister



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: President of the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sahiwal Humaira Bukhari met with Provincial Minister of Industries and Trade SM Tanveer at the CM Office to discuss the promotion of the cottage industry and the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs. The meeting was also attended by DG Industries, Ayesha Hameed and an additional secretary from the commerce department.

During the meeting, Humaira Bukhari suggested the utilization of the ladies club facility in Sahiwal by women investors for

their economic activities. In response, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer acknowledged the importance of women's active participation and empowerment for achieving inclusive development. He emphasized that the government is committed to providing effective strategies and business opportunities to women investors.

Regarding the ladies club facility, SM Tanveer suggested that discussions should be held with Commissioner Sahiwal to seek permission for its use by women investors. If successful, this model will be expanded and replicated across the entire province, enhancing economic opportunities for women in the region, he further said.

Protest

KARACHI: Members of different political parties hold a protest in favor of their demands outside Karachi Press Club, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Bitcoin crosses \$29,000 mark as market inches up

TLTP

ISLAMABAD: The cryptocurrency market inched up on Sunday, with the market cap gaining 0.4 percent to reach \$1.21 trillion.

As of 1220 hours GMT, Bitcoin, the world's oldest and most valued cryptocurrency, managed to rise above the \$29,000 mark and made a minor gain of 0.2 percent in the last 24 hours to reach \$29,043. The market capitalization of the biggest crypto has reached \$564.9 billion with this increase. Bitcoin has been 0.8 percent down in the past seven days.

Bitcoin continued to trade sideways and managed to cross the \$29,000 mark. The price of BTC has been following a descending parallel channel after reaching its highest point of the year at \$31,800 on July 13. This decline reached a low of \$28,585 on August 1. However, the price then rebounded.

Similarly, Ether (ETH), the world's second-largest cryptocurrency by market capitalization, inched up by 0.1 percent to reach \$1,831. With this increase in price, the market capitalization of ETH has reached \$220 billion. ETH has been 2.3 percent down in the past seven days.

Need stressed for increasing Pak-UK bilateral trade to £10 billion

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a reception in the honor of London-based prominent Pakistani businessman Raja Muhammad Adil, in which he shared his life long struggle in the UK and achievements in the field of business. He said that there are great opportunities to develop business relations between the UK and Pakistan which need to be exploited. He said that he went to London in 1963 and started his professional life there as a bus driver. However, later he started business life from a small shop and

achieved remarkable success in the field of business. Today, his business has expanded a lot, which is now being run by his sons.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid tribute to Raja Muhammad Adil for achieving numerous achievements in the field of business. He said that Raja Muhammad Adil is an ambassador of Pakistan in London and has also been playing an active role in the UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce. He said that Pakistani investors based in Britain should focus on business and investment in Paki-

stan, which will increase FDI in our country and give confidence to other foreign investors.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari in his address said that personalities like Raja Muhammad Adil are a role model for today's youth and youth should benefit from their experiences to achieve success in life. He said that Raja Muhammad Adil is one of the most successful Pakistani businessmen in London and his success is based on the principles of hard work, dedication and honesty, so today's youth should also follow the same principles to excel in life.



Former CDA Director General Khalid Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Nagina Khaleeq and others also spoke Major Hassan, Iftikhar Anwar Sethi, Abbas Hashmi, Babar Chaudhry, on the occasion.

Saudi Arabia's PIF sets up investment company to boost sports sector

Sports Desk

RIYADH: Aiming to accelerate the growth of the sports sector in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East and North Africa region, the Kingdom's Public Investment Fund has established a new sports investment company.

SRJ Sports Investments Co. will focus on acquiring and developing new events intellectual property, commercializing notable competitions and organizing major global events in Saudi Arabia.

The PIF-owned company will target firms specialized in providing fan engagement activities and disruptive technology across the sector, reinforcing the Kingdom's position as a global leader in sports and entertainment destination.

As a long-term investor, the entertainment, leisure, and sports sector is one of the sovereign wealth fund's 13 priority sectors for investment.

Commenting on the development, Raid Ismail, head of MENA Direct Investments at PIF said: "The company will complement other PIF investments in the sports



sector, all of which are contributing to a more vibrant society, in line with PIF's strategy and Saudi Vision 2030."

Twins with unspoken bond on Universiade athletics stage

Xinhua

CHENGDU: As you stroll around the Universiade Village in Chengdu, it's hard to miss the Xing twins, the Chinese field event athletes from Peking University.

Xing Jiadong and Xing Jialiang, twin brothers from north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, share more than just their birthdate of May 26, 2001. Born just 30 minutes apart, their shared passion for sports has only strengthened their bond.

At the Universiade, Jiadong competed in the discus throw, while Jialiang took part in the shot put. With stalwart figures and matching appearances, the twins mirror each other in nearly every aspect of life.

The same height, studying at the same university, their similarities even extend to their personalities. Speak to them, and you'll find both are introverted, often exchanging glances as if to find support in their shared shyness.

Their journey in athletics began with a bang at the 2015 National Middle School Track and Field Championships. Jiadong secured sixth place in the discus throw, while Jialiang finished fourth in the same event, catching the attention of coaches from the High School attached to Tsinghua University.



Their new life in Beijing was challenging, filled with long study hours from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by rigorous training at Beijing Sport University until 9 p.m..

Through it all, the twins remained inseparable, each one's constant cheerleader. Their hard work finally paid off in 2020 when they were both admitted to Peking

University, majoring in law and journalism, respectively. They also continued their practice in throwing events.

At the Chengdu Universiade, representing their university and country in international competition, they felt a swell of pride.

"People in Chengdu are hospitable and sweet. When we entered the gym during the opening ceremony, we felt so thrilled," Jialiang recalled.

Wednesday evening saw Jiadong take the field first, securing ninth place in the men's discus throw. Unfortunately, he missed the chance to advance to the final three rounds. His brother, Jialiang, competed in the men's shot put and finished fourth, falling short of the podium by a mere 0.04-meter margin.

"I was out of the final rounds by just one position, and he missed the opportunity to stand on the podium as well," Jiadong said, expressing some regrets.

Despite the setbacks, the brothers demonstrated remarkable mutual support and understanding during the competition.

"I believe that sport is incredibly helpful in strengthening our willpower. We've experienced both failures and successes. The journey of growth has a profound impact on our lives, far beyond our athletic career," Jialiang observed.

Pakistan, Japan settle for a 3-3 stalemate in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

A Sports

CHENNAI: Pakistan hockey team remained winless in the ongoing Asian Hockey Champions Trophy after their hard-fought match against Japan drew at 3-3.

Japan had the upper hand until the final minutes of the game, however, Pakistan's Muhammad Khan scored an equalizing penalty stroke in the last five minutes to draw the game.

Pakistan started the match on a high with a goal in the 9th minute but only for Japan to equalize in the 13th minute. But Pakistan took the lead again, just minutes before halftime.

Japan came with renewed energy in the second half and kept creating chances until they scored one to equalize.

Japan, filled with one momentum,



extended their dominance and took the lead with another goal.

Japan's 3-2 advantage lasted until Muhammad Khan scored an equalizing penalty just minutes before the final whistle. Pakistan's last game also ended in a 1-1 draw against South Korea. They had the lead early on, but couldn't hold on to it for long as South Korea scored in the 53rd minute.

This is the 7th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011 and 2016.

The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain. Defending champions South Korea won the tournament in 2021 after thumping Japan on penalties.

Green Shirts will face China, and India in their next fixtures on August 7 and 9 respectively.

Pak team departs to Czech Republic for ITF World Jrs finals

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD:

The 14U boys' team has departed to the Czech Republic for participation in the ITF World Juniors Finals, being held from August 7-12.

According to President Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), Salim Saifullah Khan in a statement said, "It is extremely challenging until the last minute of the ITF deadline to confirm Pakistan's participation."

After all required documents were received from the ITF, the PTF initiated contact with the Czech Embassy in Islamabad in mid-June, to seek an appointment for submitting applications. Despite several reminders, the appointment wasn't provided, at which point efforts were raised at the highest levels, he added.

"I thank the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), especially the minister, for his all-out help, through our Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Pakistan Ambassador in Prague, to seek visas for the contingent."

He said, "Unfortunately, due to their procedures, the Czech Embassy is unable to accommodate our continued requests."

My gratitude to ITF Officials and the Czech Tennis Association for their assistance and understanding as, along with my personal endeavours here, they approached the relevant government officials in Prague, he added.

"We will be protesting to ITF on the unprofessional attitude of the Czech Embassy, especially since Pakistan Davis Cup teams were given Schengen visas twice for Austria and Lithuania in the last eight months or so."

Khan said, "Pakistan's participation in this important event was of paramount importance. It is disappointing for me and everyone else involved that two of our leading 14U players, Abubakar Talha and Hamza Roman, instrumental in our securing one of the three berths from Asia, as well as the earlier captain Heera Ashiq, are not granted visas, despite concerted efforts of all."

"While this was most unfortunate, the major consolation one can offer to them is that there are times when the Nation and our Flag must be put before individuals, and this was such a time! With the ITF deadline in its last 24 hours, the only way to ensure the country's attendance was to have players who could travel to Europe without seeking a fresh visa."

With no other options available, we had to select two players and an ITF-qualified Coach to complete the contingent, he added.

"Luckily, 2 juniors who were next in line after the trials, qualified for travel, and that is how we ended up with a contingent acceptable to the ITF."

He said, "The team now includes Captain/Coach Zain Nawab, and players Nabeel Qayum, Amir Mazari, and Samer Zaman."

"The ITF event is scheduled to be held in Postjevo, Czech Republic. Abubakar and Hamza will be missed, and PTF extends its best wishes to the youngsters who would be representing the country," he concluded.

Afghanistan name squad for Pakistan ODIs

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Afghanistan have announced an 18-member squad for the ODI series against Pakistan in Sri Lanka, later this month.

The announcement saw 18-year-old spin seamer Noor Ahmed, make his way back into Afghanistan's ODI team, after being excluded from the series against Bangladesh last month. He has represented Afghanistan in three ODI matches thus far, after making his debut last year.

He had a forgettable run in the ODI series against Sri Lanka in June, where he picked up only two wickets in two ODIs at a mammoth average of 62.

However, Afghanistan have dropped left-arm spinner Zia Ur Rahman Akbar, who debuted in the ODI series against Bangladesh and uncapped leg-spinner Izharulhaq Naveed, from their contingent against Pakistan.

Most of the players, including pace duo Mohammad Saleem Safi and Wafadar Momand from Afghanistan's first-ever bilateral ODI series victory have retained their spots, except for the aforementioned spinners and pace bowler Nijaat Masood.

Moreover, Left-arm pace bowler Farid Ahmad Malik, and middle-order batter Shahidullah Kamal have also been included as travelling reserves.

Afghanistan's chief selector Asadullah Khan stated, "Our whole concentration is to prepare the team for the upcoming two big events of Asia Cup and the World Cup 2023. This three-match ODI series against Pakistan provides us with a wonderful opportunity to prepare the team for the forthcoming two events."

He further added, "The preparations for the Pakistan series are progressing well; the players have recently performed well in the Kabul Camp, which has been supervised by ACB's high-performance centre staff. The team will also undergo a week-long conditioning camp prior to the Pakistan series."

The upcoming series is the first bilateral ODI series between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Prior to that, they played only four ODIs and Pakistan remained unbeaten in all.

The three-match ODI series is scheduled to be played on August 22, 24 and 26, as the first two games will take place at Hambantota, while the third game will be played at Colombo.

Afghanistan squad

Hashmatullah Shahidi (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ikram Alikhil (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Fazal Haq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Saleem Safi and Wafadar Momand

FISU World University Games: Pak athletes fly back home with cherished memories

Sports Desk

CHENGDU, CHINA: Despite not achieving desired outcomes in the ongoing World University Games in Chengdu, Pakistani women athletes on Sunday flew back home with some cherished memories.

Higher Education Commission had fielded five women athletes in the Games that included: Amtul Rehman, Uzma Azam, Manisha Ali, Maliha Ali and Fizza. They all are gold medal winners in the recently-held National Games in Quetta.

Amtul Rehman, who is a student of Lahore College for

Women University (LCWU) participated in long jump and triple-jump events of the Games.

Uzma Azam of Government College Women University Faisalabad took part in the hammer throw event. Lahore Garrison University's twin sisters Manisha and Maliha competed in taekwondo event, while Fizza chipped in the wushu event. However none of them made it to the next round of the event in their respective disciplines.

But according to manager-cum-coach of the team Sumera Sattar, the participation in the Games itself is memorable.

"The participation in the

event was an opportunity for the athletes to gain international exposure. They have also experienced different cultures and forge friendships with athletes from diverse backgrounds," Sumera told APP before flying back to the country with athletes.

"Winning medals was the ultimate goal but that alluded them. I personally feel they can take pride in representing the country on such a big platform.

"Undoubtedly, they gained invaluable experiences and lessons. The participation in the event was an opportunity for them to gauge their own strengths and weaknesses," she added.

Amtul Rehman said she had learnt a lot from her competitors. "Before these Games I've no idea as how to compete at the international level," she said.

Beyond the competition, she said they had got the chance to explore the host city of Chengdu. "We've experienced Chengdu's unique culture, cuisine and attractions. I believe these off-field experiences have contributed a lot to our overall sweet memories that will never fade away," she reckoned.

Uzma Azam, who participated in hammer throw event, said although she remained unable to make a podium finish, the participation in the Games would help

a lot in her development as an athlete.

"The support and encouragement from the Chinese people was unprecedented. I felt as if I was at my home soil. These memories will be treasured forever," she said.

Fizza, who represented Pakistan in the wushu said that although she remained unable to get over the line, she was greeted and encouraged for her efforts by the Chinese sport-lovers. "Featuring in a top-flight international event and competing against top-notch athletes from around the world is an accomplishment worth remembering," she added.

The twin sisters Manisha and

Maliha, who contested in women's -67kg and -73kg respectively said that although they could not make it to the next round, they were happy to represent Pakistan at the coveted event. "I've learnt a lot.

The event was of a very high standard as the best of the best were taking part in it. The standard of the competition was not less than Olympics," Manisha said.

She said she had been watching the competitions of all the taekwondo athletes in the event to keep abreast with the latest techniques of the game.

Her sister Manisha also echoed the same sentiments. "It was a great event to learn from the

world's best athletes.

"Yes, we've lost, but the participation in the event has helped us to identify grey areas in our game. We are determined to perform well in our future assignments," she added.

No doubt, the victory is always the ultimate goal but that comes after years of hard work and rigorous training.

These women athletes are Pakistan's asset. It is hoped they will be given more opportunities as well as trained on the most modern lines, enabling them achieve peak performance at the international level and bring laurels for the country.