



Pakistan Navy War game SHAMSHEER-E-BAHR-IX commenced at Karachi

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza attended the session as the Chief Guest. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi along with senior military officers from all services were present at the occasion.



Major Tufail Muhammad Shaheed honoured

Armed Forces of Pakistan, CJCSC & Services Chiefs pay glowing tribute to Major Tufail Muhammad Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 65th Shahadat Anniversary today. Major Tufail Muhammad, the second recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, embraced Shahadat while fighting gallantly at Lakshampur sector in East Pakistan in 1958. Major Tufail Muhammad's martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan to defend the motherland.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Address

PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Asim Munir addressing tribal elders from newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as notables from all walks of life on Monday.



COAS Munir vows to dismantle terrorist network in Pakistan 'at all costs'

Adam Khan Wazir

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Asim Munir on Monday vowed that Pakistan will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks and protect its citizens "at all costs."

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief made these remarks when he met the tribal elders from newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as notables from all walks of life.

The "interactive session" was held during the chief of army staff's (COAS) visit to Peshawar. COAS Munir also laid floral wreath at Yaadgar-e-Shuhada at Fort Bala Hisar (Headquarters Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - North) & offered

Fatiha. During the interactive session, COAS paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of brave and resilient tribals of Pakistan and appreciated their indomitable resolve for standing "shoulder to shoulder" with the security forces in defeating menace of terrorism.

He pointed out that the involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist incidents in Pakistan was detrimental to "regional peace, stability and deviation from the Doha Peace Agreement by the interim Afghan Government."

"Pakistan has concerns over sanctuaries available to banned outfits and liberty of action they enjoy on Afghan soil," the army chief said, vowing that Pakistan

will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks and protect its citizens 'at all costs'.

The army chief further said, "With the unflinching resolve of the Nation, Pakistan is successfully countering terrorism to enable a stable and peaceful environment for socio-economic development in the area" COAS remarked.

Meanwhile, the tribal elders assured that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its ideology will never be acceptable to any tribe and they will continue to stand with the state during the thick and thin.

COAS Munir emphasised the potential of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and on-going efforts in uplifting the socio-economic growth under the

umbrella of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

He also expressed his views that "KPK province is blessed with huge reserves of Mines & Minerals, also beautiful areas for tourism which will certainly change the destiny of the area for the good of the people."

"Pak Army stands with our tribal brothers and will never leave them alone as over the years they have given innumerable sacrifices for the peace and prosperity of the motherland. It's time to develop all tribal areas and concentrate on youth" COAS remarked.

COAS reiterated the resolve of Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps and other Law Enforcement Agencies in their fight against terrorism, till the elim-

ination of this menace from the country.

"The surge in Terrorism in recent past is a futile effort on the part of terrorists to get the talks re-initiated, however, there is no option for these terrorists except to submit to the writ of state of Pakistan before they are decimated, if they persist on their wrong path.

The army chief also reiterated that propoganda by inimical forces against Armed Forces of Pakistan, will be dealt with as per the Law.

Paying tribute to brave tribesmen, officers & soldiers of Pak Army, FC, Levies, Khasadars and Police, COAS vowed that sacrifices of Shuhada will not go in vain and complete peace will return to Pakistan, InshaAllah.

President accords approval to four different bills 2023

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has accorded his approval to four different bills 2023 under Article 75 of the Constitution.

The president approved National Logistics Corporation Bill, 2023 which provided establishment of the Corporation, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Monday. Separately, the president also approved Pakistan Air Safety Investigation Bill, 2023. The objective of the legislation was to improve investigations into air accidents and travel incidents.

Similarly, approval was also granted to Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terror Financing Bill, 2023.



Under the legislation, National Anti Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority would be established.

The president also sanctioned his approval to the Gun and Country Club Bill, 2023. The legislation would pave way for establishment of Gun and Country Club Islamabad and its management and arrangements.

Minister announces to withdraw PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the protest of journalists, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday announced to take back the PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023.

The minister made the announcement during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information.

Speaking in the meeting, Marriyum Aurangzeb said the government wanted to abolish the 'black laws' of PEMRA and added she respects the reservations raised by the journalists' community on the few sections of the bill.

The minister said PML-N respects the right of expression and no compromise will be made on the freedom of expression and constitutional rights of the masses.

Ms. Aurangzeb said the bill was prepared with consultation of the stakeholders while being in opposition.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb moved amendments in the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which were passed by the



National Assembly.

An amendment in clause 2 proposes to ensure "fair, transparent and independent rating to the broadcasters for their TV channels."

Through an amendment in Section 4, a new sub-section was added after sub-section (3) that proposes "the Authority by registering rating companies shall ensure that fair, transparent, and independent forums shall issue rating to the licensees."

The minister suggested substituting clause 8 of the bill as reporting by the standing committee by following, "8. Amendment of Section 20, Ordinance XIII of 2002.- In the said Ordinance in Section 20 " (a) in clause (e), the expression "and such content will be in addition to pre-embled and the licensee will also submit an annual compliance report to the is effect or as and when required by the Authority;" shall be added.

One window operation facility for Chinese investors to be fully implemented: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured the Chinese investors to further simplify the procedures for the companies working in Pakistan especially under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and implement them in letter and spirit.

He said under the CPEC, the two countries were entering into a new era of cooperation, therefore the government was further streamlining and simplifying the procedures to facilitate the Chinese companies and investors working in the country. PM Shehbaz assured the Chinese investors that the difficult time for them was now over as "We are going to do this under one umbrella as a one window operation and this I mean in letter and spirit...not just words but true implementation".

Addressing an award ceremony here, Shehbaz Sharif said that the Chinese government and companies had contributed towards Pakistan's industrial promotion in various areas and their contribution had not only led to creating job opportunities and industrial production but also further strengthened the bilateral economic ties.

Earlier the prime minister gave awards to top performing Chinese companies working especially in projects under CPEC in Pakistan.

He said recently the two friendly countries had celebrated a decade of CPEC under Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). He said China had so far invested a valuable \$30 billion



under CPEC that had really transformed the economic landscape in Pakistan. "Now we are entering into the second phase of CPEC in which multiple new areas are being incorporated including the green corridor, Information Technology, and Special Economic Zones.

He said the Pakistan government had launched a great initiative "Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)", which would consist of all main stakeholders including the federal government, all provincial governments and institutions particularly Pakistan Army led by General Syed Asim Munir.

He said the Army Chief had personally contributed in this programme in a way that it had no parallel in the past as he was totally dedicated to promote the cause of Pakistan and the people who had education and talent but no jobs.

"The programme SIFC will dovetail with the entire CPEC mechanism and will be a

propeller in terms of Pakistan's industrial agri progress," he added. Minister for Board of Investment (BoI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain said CPEC had ushered a new era of progress and development in various areas including energy, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture and science and technology.

He said the mega project would help Pakistan localize the products that were currently being imported to fulfill the country's needs.

Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Pang Chunxue said since its launch in 2013, the CPEC being the pilot project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) had made remarkable contributions to the socio-economic development of local people of the country.

She said China would always stand firmly with Pakistan and work together to coordinate the country's development and security areas.

ECP decides to strip PTI chief of party's chairmanship

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday decided to remove Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan from his post as party's head.

Sources told that an important meeting was held at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) where the electoral body decided to remove PTI chief Imran Khan from his post as party head.

Under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikan-dar Sultan Raja, the commission reviewed the situation after the PTI chief's arrest.

The meeting also reviewed the written verdict of Islamabad's session court, which found him guilty of 'corrupt practices' in Toshakhana case.

Subsequently, it was decided that following his conviction, Imran Khan was no longer eligible to hold office as the PTI chairman. Therefore, the ECP is now to issue orders dismissing him from the post. Sources claimed that the electoral watchdog will make a formal announcement soon.

Civil judge's wife arrested in housemaid torture case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The civil judge's wife was taken into custody soon after the court rejected the bail of accused in Rizwana torture case.

The court proceedings took place where suspect Somia Asim, accompanied by her lawyers, appeared in front of Additional Sessions Judge Farukh Farid.

During the hearing, Judge Farukh Farid inquired about the record of the case against the accused. The suspect's lawyer informed the court that Somia Asim had appeared before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and proclaimed her innocence. The police record states that Somia Asim did not commit any act of violence.

According to the accused's lawyer, Somia Asim repeatedly asked to send the maid back. She explained that the young girl who is unable to get

up at this time, was sitting at the bus stop for more than two hours.

The lawyer of the accused said that Somia Asim returned the young girl to her mother in good health. He suggested to wait until evening, as the FIA's investigation would be

complete by then.

"We demand that the video be obtained in the court," the lawyer added. The lawyer urged that the three-hour video of the minor girl sitting at the bus stop is available, and the data of the video will expire tomorrow.

After hearing the suspect's lawyer's stance, the court directed the investigating officer to collect the video as an evidence.



Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Omani Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi, who along with the members of his delegation called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.



Photo: PID

Gilani paid tribute to the Prime Minister for providing excellent leadership in the country

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Member of National Assembly Ali Musa Gilani met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif.

Detailed discussion on the current domestic political situation in the meeting.

In the meeting Yusuf Raza Gilani paid tribute to the Prime Minister for providing excellent leadership in the country's difficult times and for improving the country's economic situation.



Pakistan People's Party has supported the government in every decision, for which I am extremely grateful.

Without the support of the allies the government could never have done the difficult task of restoring the country's economy alone. Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif Said

Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of CCoIGCT



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Khuram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmoos Pahsa, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior

officers attended the meeting.

The CCoIGCT considered and reviewed the progress of the negotiation committee which held its negotiations on 4 and 5th August, 2023, on the commercial agreement between KPT and AD Ports UAE for the development of Bulk and General Cargo Terminal at East Wharf, Karachi Port and directed the negotiation committee to re-engage with AD Ports UAE to improve the terms offered by AD Ports UAE.

After Senate, NA passes Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 with a majority vote, a day after Senate green-lighted the legislation by removing a key provision.

According to details, the official secrets bill was re-tabled in the National Assembly after the legislation sailed through the lower house of parliament last week but failed to get Senate's nod due to 'controversial clauses'.

Later, the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 was referred to the upper house's standing committee.

Subsequently, Senate on Sunday



passed the legislation after the government made changes to the bill, removing a clause granting intelligence agencies powers to carry out raids or make arrests without warrants.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, while tabling the bill in the Senate, informed the senators that the government withdrew the provision to grant intelligence agencies powers to conduct warrantless searches.

Read More: Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill passed after key provision withdrawn

He also emphasised that the revised legislation empowered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to investigate individuals suspected of violating the Official Secrets Act.

He further said that certain words on which the members had raised objections had also been removed.

In the same session, the National Assembly also passed several other legislations including PIA Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Speaking on the NA floor, Azam

Nazeer Tarar said detailed discussions were held on the Higher Education Commission Bill in the Senate session.

He said the secretary education will represent the areas where is no provincial Higher Education Commission (HEC). "One expert from each of the four provinces will also be its member," the minister added

Federal Urdu University Arts Sciences, Technology (Amendment) Bill 2023, National Commission for Minorities Bill 2023, Federal Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Price Control and Prevention of Unjustified Profiteering Amendment Bill, 2023 were also passed by the lower house.

Bilawal Bhutto says PTI crossed redline on May 9

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) crossed the redline on May 9 by attacking the Jinnah House and military installations.

Taking the floor in the National Assembly, he said the people of Pakistan have become fed up with the politics of hatred and enmity. He said we have to give hope to the youth of the country as it has to lead the country to serve the masses.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said all the political forces and institutions should either go for a new charter of democracy or sit together under the previous one to engage in a dialogue.

He said the sole objective of dialogue should be framing the rules of the game



and code of conduct to do politics in the country. He said all the institutions also need to honor the domains of one another and refrain from trespassing the sphere of others.

He urged all the political forces to engage in positive and constructive politics to maintain hope in the youth.

The Foreign Minister asked the political parties

of the country whether they would continue with the rhetoric of rigging, allegations and counter-allegations in the elections.

He said we should come out of this mindset and play our respective role in strengthening politics and democracy in the country.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the coalition parties, for the first time in the

history of Pakistan, ousted a selected Prime Minister in a democratic way through the power vote.

He said we managed to dislodge the Prime Minister through no-confidence motion instead of any court orders. He, however, said it is unfortunate that we are facing an opposition, which is far away from democratic and political norms.

Iranian Minister for increase in tourists' number between Iran & Pakistan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Minister for Tourism, Archeology and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran Syed Ezzatollah Zarghami, who is currently visiting Lahore, has emphasized that the number of tourists between Pakistan and Iran should increase as both are neighboring Muslim countries. "At least one million Pakistani and two lac Iranian tourists should visit each other's countries", he said.

He was addressing the Pak-Iran Tourism Forum held under the auspices of the Punjab Tourism Department at a local hotel as a chief guest for the promotion of bilateral tourism on Monday.

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was represented by Minister Specialized Healthcare and Social Welfare Prof Dr Akram Javed in the ceremony.

Journalist shot dead by unidentified man in Khairpur

Nasir Channa

KHAIRPUR: A Journalist was allegedly murdered by an unidentified man in Ahmedpur Khairpur.

As per details, the police spokesperson said that one unidentified man opened fire on journalist Ghulam Asghar Khund when he was going to press club from his home.

The brother of deceased journalist Ghulam Asghar, Mushtaq Khund was also killed a few years back.

Earlier, a private channel's reporter Imtiaz Baig was killed in an 'assassination attempt' carried out by unidentified persons in Jhelum.

Police confirmed that Samaa TV reporter Imtiaz Baig was killed in an 'assassination attempt'. Police detailed that unidentified persons attacked Baig with batons when he came out of a local mosque after offering prayers.

The attackers fled from the scene after attacking the TV reporter, police said. Local media reports suggested that the senior journalist's body was shifted to the district

hospital. Police authorities launched an investigation to ascertain the motives of the attack.

In a separate incident, a journalist lost his life after getting seriously wounded in a cracker attack in Hub, a city of the Balochistan province bordering Karachi in October 2021.

Unidentified men hurled a hand grenade at a vehicle in the Hub area, wounding two people including a local television journalist. He later died while being shifted to a local hospital in Karachi for medical treatment. The police said that the victim was identified as Shahid Zehri.



Pakistan to continue political, diplomatic support to Kashmiris: FO

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

In a weekly press briefing here on Monday, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "on 5th of August, the Pakistani nation expressed complete solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Occupied



Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)."

"Since 2019, India has taken a series of measures to alter the demographic makeup of IIOJK, and intensified its suppression of the Kashmiri people. India has carried out a selective delimitation of electoral constituencies, issued fake domiciles to millions of non-Kashmiris, and added hundreds of thousands of temporary residents to alter the existing voter rolls," she said

adding, "These measures are aimed at disenfranchising the people of Kashmir and converting them into a disempowered minority in their own land in gross violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention."

She said, "Pakistan believes that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the right to determine their own future in a UN-supervised plebiscite as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions."

To a question, she said, "Pakistan supports all efforts aimed at bringing peace and dialogue between Russia and Ukraine. In this respect, we welcome the effort by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to help find some common ground leading to

constructive dialogue."

To another question about the Indian Supreme Court hearing on petitions challenging the abrogation of article 370 of the Constitution of India, she reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized disputed territory, whose final disposition was to be made in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

"Any other process cannot serve as a substitute to the grant of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. Pakistan has never recognized India's control or occupation of Kashmir."

PTI has not suffered political dent after chairman's arrest: Hammad Azhar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf central leader Hammad Azhar said Monday that PTI has not faced any political dent after its chairman's arrest.

While talking to the ARY News programme 'Off the Record', Hammad Azhar said that PTI has not suffered any political dent after its chairman's arrest as everyone knew about how the ground was made for penalising him.

He added that PTI constituted different committees that are conducting sessions on a daily basis. Hammad Azhar said that a fake case was filed against the PTI chief.



He criticised that everyone would remember the history of how verdicts were given on a political basis. "PTI has exposed the tactics of using state institutions against us. We were expecting the same decision after observing the way of trial by the judge."

"We are preparing for the elections which cannot be deferred easily. Voluntarily decisions cannot be taken with the two caretaker chief ministers (CMs) in the Council of Common Interests (CCI)."

Azhar said that the government would commit constitutional violation if it postpones elections. "A case will also be opened in future over constitutional violations in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)."

He claimed that PTI will be more powerful if elections are postponed, however, it would weaken the country and increase the political instability. He expressed hope that the top court will provide relief to PTI when the case is heard. He said that the foreign investors would be worried after witnessing the constitutional violations in Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia backs Azad Kashmir's right to self determination

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has thanked the government of Saudi Arabia for its consistent support of Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self determination and its massive contribution in the development of Azad Kashmir.

He expressed these views while talking to a high-level delegation of the Saudi Development Fund (SDF), which was led by its Director General Operations Dr. Saud Ayed Al-Shamari, here today.

The president said that the KSA has not only supported Pakistan for its principled stand on the issue of Kashmir but also stood up with the people of Azad Kashmir through every thick and thin.

He said that in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake that struck the region in 2005, Saudi Arabia played an important role in the rescue and rehabilitation process and development of infrastructure in the state.

Referring to the recently inaugu-



rated King Abdullah Campus of Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, the president said that the campus was constructed at a cost of 13.5 billion rupees. He said that the campus was a great gift from the Saudi government to the people of Azad Kashmir.

The SDF delegation, on the occa-

sion, briefed the President about the ongoing and accomplished projects by the Saudi government in Azad Kashmir. Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry thanked the Saudi Government and people of the KSA for initiating development and public welfare projects worth billions in Azad Kash-

mir.

He said that Saudi Arabia has always helped the Kashmiri people in difficult times. He said that the Saudi government has always adopted the principled position on the Kashmir issue and raised its voice for the rights of Kashmiris at every forum.

Spokesman issued an explanation regarding the corruption in Gorakh Hills



Azad Baloch

DADU: On the media reports of corruption on behalf of the Gorakh Hills Development Authority, the spokesman of the authority, Muhammad Ali Makhdoom, has issued an explanation and said that the allegation of embezzling 23 billion rupees over nine years is entirely black-mailing, so far the authority has received only three billion rupees. Out of which, Gorakh Hills Station has done a wonderful job for tourists which has been appreciated by the tourists, including construction of 22 miles road from Wahi Pandhi to 35 km point, Tourist Huts with 32 rooms, Family Resort with eight rooms. Consisting of Tourist Huts, Canteen, Tuck Shop, PD Rest House, DG Rest House, Fabricated Rest House, Servant Quarter, Canteen at 35 km point, Lavatory Block, CC Road, Pure Road, RCC Road, Wataf Supply Other works including the scheme and eight tanks have been completed.

The spokesman further said in the explanation issued that circuit house, barbecue point, show and other development works are going on. The explanation further said that a summary has been sent for the authority's land, which will be processed soon. In the vehicle clarification, only two vehicles are being investigated by the SGA&CD.

Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha takes Additional Charge VC Women University Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha has taken charge of the additional charge of Vice Chancellor the Women University? Multan. Prof Dr Uzma Quraishi after completing her four Year tenure handed over the charge of Vice-Chancellor to Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Paracha. On this



occasion faculty members and staff of University welcomed the new Vice Chancellor. She said that Women University is an excellent educational institution with a glorious past and traditions and it is an honor for her to be appointed as the Vice Chancellor of one of the oldest university of Multan. She said that she would play her due role for further development of Women University. She said that she would make strong efforts and to further improve the quality of education and lay the foundation of such initiatives which would improve the global ranking of the university further. She said that all affairs of Women University would be run in accordance with the rules and regulations. She said that collective efforts would be made in making Women University one of the top educational institutions in the world. It is noted that Prof Dr. Kalsoom Paracha took charge of Pro Vice Chancellor, Women University as on March 17, 2023. She hold her PhD degree in Islamic Studies and Arabic from Bahauddin Zakariya University in 2014 and completed her post-doc in 2019. Her number of research papers are 39 which have been published in local and foreign research journals. She has supervised 5 PhD scholars and 40 MPhil, research papers have been prepared and published under her supervision. She has chaired several committees for the smooth running of university affairs and has always been ethical in all matters. Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha played a central role in advancing research and development in the Department of Islamic Studies and Arabic. Dr Kalsoom is known as an authoritative reference in Islamic education. Her academic excellence highlight her dedication and outstanding impact in the field of Islamic Studies.

Hazara Express accident is the Biggest Tragedy and Great Lose: DS

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Due to accident at Sarhari railway station of Hazara Express, various trains were cancelled, including Pak Business Express from Lahore and Karachi, Karachi Express from Lahore and Karachi, Zakaria Express from Multan to Karachi, while Milat Express and Pakistan Express. The trains will be run from Faisalabad to Karachi together.



That the passengers who have booked tickets for these trains on 7th August 2023 from the Railway Reservation Office should contact the concerned reservation for full refund. Passengers who have booked online should use the online system to cancel their tickets.

Besides, DS Railway Multan Hamad Hasan Mirza along with DCO Adnan Marwat, DSP Amjad Manzoor and other railway team went to the house of passenger Mansoor Ahmed who died in Hazara Express accident yesterday and condoled with his family. DS Railway Multan Division Hammad Hasan Mirza said that Manzoor Ahmed's four children and women were safe in the accident.

Waiting

KARACHI: A view of the hustle and bustle of passengers at Cantt Station due to the train incident the other day, the schedule of trains is disturbed across the Country.



Photo: Online

DPO visits Azamwarsak area, mingling with the general public at Bazar

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah (PPM) paid a surprise visit to Azam Warsak, a remote area of Wana.

SHO Police Station Azam Warsak Alamgir Mehsud, after roaming around in different areas, gathered in the Azam Warsak Bazar with Local elders and common people.

On this occasion DPO heard



the problems of the people in the market and issued an order to the SHO present on the spot to solve the urgent problems,

and DPO assured the people that the police are always ready to protect you and said No one will be allowed to take the law into their hands in the area.

The DPO added that strict legal action will be taken against those doing illegal work, the people expressed great happiness and joy to have the DPO in their midst, vowing to root out crime with the help of the local elders.

In the second hand, SHO

Ragzai Usman Khan and In-Charge Angoor Adda CP Allah Nawaz, in great progress was made in the recent timber dispute between Zali Khel Wazir and Toji Khel Wazir tribes under the guidance of the DPO, after three days, the two tribes will sit down in the presence of the police to finally resolve the dispute. The DPO made it clear to both tribes that no one will be allowed to take any illegal actions.

Raziyah Sultan appeals UN chief to avert Yasin's possible murder in cold blood

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Raziyah Sultan, the daughter of a senior incarcerated hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, has appealed António Guterres, Secretary General United Nations to avert her father possible murder in cold blood, as Delhi court would hear his capital punishment case today (Tuesday).

Raziyah Sultan along with her mother chairperson Peace and Culture Organization Mushal Hussain Mullick on Monday led a rally at Muzaffarabad to record their protest against the possible murder in cold blood of the most popular Kashmiri leader in fake, fabricated and politically motivated case.

In a heartfelt letter submitted to representatives of UN office Muzaffarabad, Raziyah Sultana stated: "I am writing to you at a time when words fail

me, yet with great hope in the office you hold and the principles you represent."

She said: "Help me articulate the right sentences to explain trauma my mother and I am going through as my father faces a death row for demanding what the UN has mandated as our right, or should I just tell myself that justice is dead?"

Yasin's daughter stated that she was neither legal expert and nor do she have the luxury of time to engage one, but it should not take a law degree for her to appeal to your sense of basic human dignity.

She said that her father was in perpetual mental and physical torture, solitary confinement in a death cell with an open toilet, besides facing multiple ailments.

"My mother and I have been deprived of meeting my father Yasin Malik in a safe environment for the past eight and

a half years because each time we visit Srinagar and Delhi we are harassed, attacked, assaulted by radical goons of RSS, abused and humiliated by the Indian authorities and my father gets jailed for indefinite periods or goes into hiding for leading processions of Kashmiris against gross human rights violations committed by Indian forces," she rued.

Razia went on to say that the Indian government created an atmosphere of horror and panic, thus making it impossible for a daughter and wife to meet her jailed father and husband.

"Let me explain more and beseech your mercy. My father lives in extremely unsanitary conditions, unworthy of any human, with ailing kidneys and an artificial heart valve, which require specialised medical care and life saving drugs," she requested.

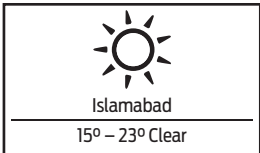
"Does it make sense to you that the

Indian Government will give him all that while not allowing his 11-year-old daughter to meet him without the risk of being mistreated by the Indian Authorities," she asked. "Or are we all just waiting for him to meet his end and call it a medical related death," she feared.

The little Raziyah stated: "Excellency, with Indian General Elections on the horizon I sense imminent danger to my father's life."

"My father, I know, will never have let me write this mercy petition for his life. He would have told me to write for the rights of Kashmiri's. But Excellency, I am a daughter of a political prisoner. I can't but appeal to you to intervene for the release of my father, the most popular Kashmiri leader, on medical/humanitarian grounds and his immediate transfer to a life care facility which he badly needs," she appealed.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:50 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:03 pm
Maghrib	7:03 pm
Isha	8:36 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
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The organizing committee of Nobel Fest meets with the IT minister

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: The organizing committee of Nobel Fest VI—to be held in Islamabad—met with the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque. The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Mr. Maxat Kurbenov, founder and CEO, Nobel Fest, Senator Dr. Serik, Deputy Head of Organizing Committee, Nobel Fest, Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Iraqi, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, and Mr. Haris Akram, Program Manager, COMSTECH.

The Nobel Fest VI will be held during 29-30 November 2023 at COMSTECH. The theme of this year festival is "Bridging Science and OIC Countries in the Digital Future".

The organizing committee briefed the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication on the mission, objectives and program of the Nobel Fest. The minister appreciated the festival's noble mission and expressed gratitude for hosting the event in Islamabad. He emphasized to focus on capacity building of Pakistan's youth, and supporting least developed countries of OIC through skill development

in the field of science, education, IT, and digital economy. He assured full support from his ministry and the institutions under the umbrella of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

This year's Nobel Fest will focus on scientific discoveries and technological innovations, with a particular focus on key topics such as the future of medicine, digitalization in education, disruptive technologies, efforts to combat climate change, and strategies for socio-economic development through science.

Nobel Fest is a unique and one of the most impactful educational and technological gatherings with an annual audience of 5K offline, 800K online participants from more than 500 universities, and 100 countries. Since 2020, 15 Nobel Laureates, 15 breakthrough winners, eminent experts, innovators, leaders of international organizations and global businesses have participated in the yearly event of the Nobel Fest. The Nobel Fest event planned to be held in Islamabad, it is expected that several Nobel Laureates, and CEO's of global tech giants will join as speakers to interact with young students from Pakistan and other OIC member states through physical and virtual studios.



Care

ISLAMABAD: Students are crossing the busy Rawal Dam Chowk due to lack of over head pedestrian bridge, which may cause any incident any time.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Careem expands partnership with Gerry's Dnata, adds mass-commute services

City Desk

LAHORE: Careem, Pakistan's leading ride-hailing and technology platform, has further expanded its mass commute portfolio by adding Gerry's dnata to its list of clients, a prominent aviation and travel services company. As a valued partner of Careem for Business (C4B) since 2018, Gerry's dnata has now also opted for Careem's mass commute services, further streamlining colleagues pick and drop facilities for its 500+ employee base.

"We are absolutely delighted to further strengthen our partnership with Gerry's dnata. The mass commute service is one of the numerous customised offerings that we have for our clients based on their requirements. We are committed to providing safe, reliable and efficient transportation solutions that are perfectly altered to the needs of our clients," said Imran Saleem, General Manager Ride Hailing at Careem Pakistan.

Syed Asad Ali Naqvi, Manager Administration at Gerry's dnata commented, "Using Careem for Business has been of great value to Gerry's dnata. Ever since we partnered in 2018, not only have we managed to save travel costs but also noticed a significant improvement in the sentiment of our colleagues regarding their transportation needs, ensuring timely and stress-free journeys ultimately increasing productivity."

Pakistan Health Parliament appoints Kashaf Alvi as Ambassador

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Health Parliament proudly announces the appointment of Kashaf Alvi as its Ambassador, honoring him as a true "Pride of Pakistan" and the trailblazing first deaf book author in the nation. A social activist, trainer, tech enthusiast, and prolific writer, Kashaf's fervent dedication to health advocacy has earned him this esteemed role.

Kashaf Alvi is a living symbol of courage, determination, and zeal. His indomitable spirit has seen him overcome every obstacle, making every hardship appear surmountable. As a beacon of inspiration, Kashaf's journey has exemplified the power of determination and the triumph of the human spirit.



Among his remarkable achievements, Kashaf proudly carries the title of being Pakistan's first Differently-abled Microsoft Certified Associate, a testament to his prowess in the tech domain. As a deaf activist, he has tirelessly championed the rights and empowerment of the differently-abled

community, raising awareness and breaking down barriers. His literary contributions have garnered immense acclaim, with his groundbreaking book titled "The Language of Paradise," making him the first deaf author in Pakistan. Through his written words, Kashaf has eloquently

conveyed his vision of a healthier and stronger Pakistan.

Pakistan Health Parliament is dedicated to fostering an environment that encourages individuals with larger-than-life ambitions to contribute towards the nation's well-being. The appointment of Kashaf Alvi as Ambassador exemplifies the organization's commitment to youth empowerment and inclusivity in healthcare advocacy.

As the Ambassador of Pakistan Health Parliament, Kashaf will play a pivotal role in advancing the organization's mission to create a healthier and more vibrant Pakistan. His unique perspective, boundless determination, and unyielding passion will undoubtedly amplify the impact of the organization's initiatives.

The dilemma of rape and demand for Separate Rape Courts

Rape is a form of sexual assault that involves having sex with a victim against their will or engaging in other forms of sexual penetration.

A person who is unable to give valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, has an intellectual handicap, or is younger than the legal consent age, may be the target of an act that involves physical force, coercion, abuse of authority, or any of these. Rape and sexual assault can occasionally be used interchangeably.

According to several investigations and statistics, the rape rate in Pakistan is 3.07 per 100K, but if we want to see it precisely, it is more. 22K rape cases have been registered between 2015 and 2020. Only 4K of those cases had, however, been transferred to new courts as of the end of 2020.

The severity of rape in Pakistan and the police's disregard for it were both reported by the group War Against Rapes (WARs). Asma Jahangir, a late lawyer and co-founder of the women's rights organization Women's Action Forum, said that up to 72% of Pakistani women detained there suffer from physical or sexual assault. Over 82% of rapists, including dads, brothers, grandfathers, and uncles of the victims, are family members, according to WAR.

According to recently gathered and aggregated data, 21.9K women were claimed to have been raped in Pakistan between 2017 and 2022. The number of recorded rape cases each year was as follows: 3327 in 2017, 4456 in 2018,

4573 in 2019, 4478 in 2020, 5169 in 2021, and above 6000 in 2022. This translates to almost 12 women every day, or one woman every two hours, being raped nationwide.

The government of Pakistan is urged to create two things right now in order to address the issue of sexual abuse;

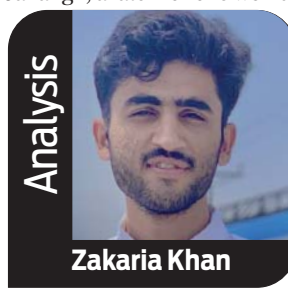
First, self-security programs for young children, particularly in female schools. By doing this, children will learn how to protect themselves against such sexual abusers at a young age and will create their own self-defense mechanisms.

Second, the government of Pakistan must establish separate rape courts in each of its higher courts, as well as in those courts' branches and district

courts, where only rape cases should be heard. Additionally, the government must appoint judges with the necessary independent powers to conduct rape investigations with complete freedom, and to impose the appropriate sanctions stipulated by Pakistani law. For instance, in Pakistan, the penalty for rape is either the death penalty or a sentence of 10 to 25 years in jail. The death penalty or a life sentence jail are other possible penalties for gang rape.

Undoubtedly, only rape cases would be heard by the special rape courts, which will also be functional in accordance with Pakistani legal requirements. If Pakistan had a distinct rape court system, then more than half of the rapists will be informed of the punishment and stop their actions, and more than half of the rape cases will end.

(Writer is Student of Law College, University of Sargodha)



Analysis Zakaria Khan

Naveed Khalid Butt appointed as President of TOA Management Committee

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Group Chief Regulatory Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Naveed Khalid Butt has been appointed as the President of the Management Committee of the newly formed Telecom Operators Association (TOA). With all major Pakistani telecom operators aboard, the association aims to help foster digitization of national economy by advocating policy and regulatory interventions in the telecom and broadband industries.

During the maiden meeting of the association, top leaders of Pakistan's telecom industry, including Naveed Khalid Butt were appointed as the office holders. He brings along a wealth of experience in management and regulatory affairs in Pakistan's technology and telecommunications industries. His vast knowledge and experience will really help achieving the mandate of the newly formed association, empowering the body to work in close coordination with the government, regulatory bodies and other important stakeholders.

Commenting on his new responsibility, Naveed Khalid Butt said, "Pakistan's telecom operators have shared goals and responsibilities and a collaborative approach is crucial for achieving the same. The association was a long time coming and efforts were underway to coordinate common objectives for required policy and regulatory interventions. We hope that the association will serve as an effective platform for streamlining and amplifying our efforts for accelerating digitalization, and growth of the telecom and digital industries through investment and innovation. It will ultimately contribute to the national economy and empower the common telecom consumer in the country."

Naveed Khalid Butt has been associated with the PTCL Group for nearly two decades now and has been instrumental in driving the company's momentous progress to becoming the backbone of Pakistan's telecommunication industry.



Dawlance 'RAGS-TO-BAGS' Sustainability Initiative Promising Great Results

Commerce Desk



KARACHI: Dawlance is Pakistan's leading producer of innovative home appliances. In line with its vision for sustainability, it combines technological leadership with the preservation of nature. This resourceful enterprise has collaborated with the Hunar Foundation, for the "Rags-2Bags" initiative, to produce Tote-bags, by using recycled Panaflex-skins acquired from billboards. These bags contribute in multiple ways: they protect the environment, provide income for impoverished students of Hunar Foundation (HF) and supply durable bags for daily usage.

Promotional materials are usually printed on PVC sheets – a non-biodegradable material that causes long-term pollution. RAGS TO BAGS will prevent almost 400 to 500 square feet of PVC from being thrown away. Young women and HF students, hailing from low-income households, will be engaged to recycle the promotional plastic waste and convert it into reusable Tote-Bags. This initiative in its first year will continue to empower underprivileged women, besides reducing waste and pollution.

Hunar Foundation is a resourceful NGO and vocational-training institute with decades of experience training young students with valuable skills that can help them generate respectable income for themselves. This humanitarian organization is renowned for playing a positive role in the socioeconomic development and growth of the nation.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance – Umar Ahsan Khan stated that: "We are thankful to students of Hunar Foundation for helping us deliver our brand's promise: "Progress Today, Preserve Tomorrow". Dawlance is a wholly owned subsidiary of Arcelik – the 2nd largest manufacturer in Europe. Hence, we are pursuing Arcelik's global vision for sustainability in every business operation."

Hundreds of tote bags are being stitched during this exemplary initiative, as this collaborative effort by Dawlance and Hunar Foundation will also inspire other industries, to recycle their waste materials for promising a safer, healthier environment on Earth, by consuming and disposing-off their waste materials in a responsible manner.

The key objectives of this project are; to reduce waste generation through recycling and reuse of waste material to ensure the protection of the Earth's environment, while creating useful bags for those who need it at low cost. Principles of circular economy are at the core of this project – from; the sourcing of materials, to the process of manufacturing and the consumption of the final product, which is innovatively designed for functionality with style.

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Would PLA restructuring work now? - I

In a significant step forward, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar introduced a bill in the upper house today (6th August, 2023) on restructuring and privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), allowing the government to sell a 26% stake in PIA to a strategic partner and allow the airline to enter into joint ventures with other airlines.

Considering the PIA's dilapidated state and the massive losses it has incurred and will continue to incur if a complete reengineering is not undertaken backed by unwavering political will, it would be an outright injustice to the taxpayers, who are the ultimate victims of these inefficiencies and resulting losses.

The staggering data revealed by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar indicate that PIA is in a dire financial predicament and that immediate action is required to turn the airline around. PIA has lost Rs. 204.6 billion over the last four years. Sustained losses of Rs. 38 billion in 2018-19, Rs. 50 billion in 2019-20, Rs. 75 billion in 2020-21, and this year the losses are expected to be Rs. 175. Furthermore, PIA has a debt of Rs. 750 billion that it is unable to service. If things continue as they are, PIA's debt could surpass Rs. 1 trillion in the next five years. In this context, the measure is a positive step that could assist to turn around PIA's fortunes.

The anticipated sale of a stake in PIA to a strategic partner may bring in much-needed investment, and joint ventures may assist PIA in expanding its network and improving its services. However, it is also true that the government must act differently this time than in the past, as many previous efforts, rather than reversing the situation, made

PIA worse. In the 1970s, one of the first attempts to reorganise PIA was made. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's government hired a new management team and undertook a variety of cost-cutting measures. However, these steps were insufficient to turn around the airline, and PIA continued to lose money. In the 1980s, Zia-ul-Haq's administration attempted to privatise PIA, but failed due to objections from the airline's unions. In the 1990s, Benazir Bhutto's administration selected a new management team and attempted to restructure PIA without success. In 2010, Yousaf Raza Gilani's government established a new management team and provided the airline with a \$2 billion rescue. Even this massive injection failed to solve PIA's difficulties. The PTI administration recruited a new management team and unveiled a fresh plan to overhaul PIA in 2019, but it was unsuccessful.

None of these reforms could resolve the issues of overstaffing, corruption, and mismanagement of finances. It failed to deal with chronic inefficiencies and low quality human resources. The operational costs which were much higher than those of its competitors could not be reduced. Neither the old and ageing fleet was retired nor new fleet and aeroplanes inducted nor maintained. The Airline continued to run on outdated technology and procedures. The planes were flown by the pilots with fake licences and therefore PIA was banned in many countries. Resultantly, PIA lost whatever business it had to other more efficient,

updated and service oriented airlines like Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Turkish Airlines.

The latest attempt to restructure PIA is also in line with the Indian government's move, which passed the Air India (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 2007, to give the airline more flexibility in managing its finances, raising capital, borrowing money, and investing in new aircraft, setting fares, routes, and schedules. It also allowed the management to enter into joint ventures and partnerships with other airlines, all of which helped the airline expand its network and reach new markets.

A new CEO, Rohit Nandan, was appointed and a new board of directors (BOD) was created to oversee the management, as well as new management was appointed to guarantee that the airline was managed professionally and efficiently. Indian Airlines was eventually privatised in 2012, allowing it to access private investment and expertise. It downsized its fleet, retiring older planes and replacing them with newer, more fuel-efficient planes. Customer service was improved, new amenities were added, and business and customer services were automated. These measures aided Indian Airlines' turnaround, and the carrier earned its first profit in ten years in 2012. Since then, the airline has remained profitable, and it is currently regarded as one of India's most successful carriers.

However, we do not have to replicate the Indian model because we have our own success story that can be replicated to turn around PIA. Sialkot International

Airport Limited (SIAL) opened in 2007, and Aircsial debuted in 2017. Both are growing rapidly domestically and internationally. Sial Airport, now in its 15th year of operation, has progressed from limited passenger and cargo operations to become one of the country's busiest international airports, and it continues to grow.

It offers a premium service to businessmen, traders, shippers, exporters/importers, travellers, Hujaj, and Zaireen. It has connected Sialkot to the rest of the country as well as the most desirable overseas destinations, contributing to the area's and the country's economic improvement. In 2021-22, the company's import cargo increased by 64.81% over the previous year. Similarly, passenger flights increased by 72.18%, while embarked passengers increased by 148.38%, reaching 390,832 in 2021-22, up from 157,352 the previous year. As of 30.06.2022, SIAL has a net profit of Rs 1.5 billion.

Aircsial, which is owned by the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has a capital investment of PKR2 billion, began domestic operations on December 25, 2017 and began international service in August 2022. It has made a profit since its first year of business and expects to make a profit of Rs. 300 million in 2023.

It already flies to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, and Iran, with ambitions to expand to Riyadh, Dammam, Medina, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Muscat, and Kuwait in the future. It is completely prepared to include Europe and the rest of the world in their second phase of expansion.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Heatwaves, high temperatures threatening young lives

Three-quarters of children in South Asia are already exposed to extreme high temperatures compared to only one in three globally, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Monday, urging authorities to do more to help them beat the heat.

In parts of Pakistan's Sindh province, including Jacobabad, the world's hottest city in 2022, temperatures were in their 40's in June, exposing 1.8 million people to severe short- and long-term health risks, UNICEF said.

The scorching heat came less than one year after the devastating floods which left most parts of the southern Sindh underwater in August 2022.

Even in the rainy season, the heat can exacerbate the situation for children, the UN agency said. Since children cannot adapt quickly to temperature changes, they are not able to remove excess heat from their bodies.

Overall UNICEF said it estimates that 76 per cent of children under 18 in the region – 460 million – are exposed to extreme high temperatures where 83 or more days in a year exceed 35° Celsius.

July was the hottest month ever recorded globally, raising further concerns about a future where children, including those living in South Asia, are expected to face more frequent and severe heatwaves, largely due to climate change.

"With the world at global boiling, the data clearly show that the lives and well-being of millions of children across South Asia are increasingly threatened by heat waves and high temperatures," Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, said in a statement.

According to UNICEF's 2021 Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), children in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Pakistan are at 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of climate change.

"We are particularly concerned about babies, toddlers, malnourished children and pregnant women as they are most vulnerable to heat strokes and other serious effects," Wijesekera added.

This can cause symptoms and illnesses such as higher body temperature, rapid heartbeat, cramps, severe headache, confusion, organ failure, dehydration, fainting and coma, in young children; poor mental development in infants; and developmental setbacks such as neurological dysfunction, and cardiovascular diseases, it was pointed out.

Early contractions, hypertension, seizures, high blood pressure, preterm births and stillbirths are risks for pregnant women, who are particularly susceptible to heat.

For young children, ice packs, fans or misting with water can help lower their body temperature, while cold water immersion can help older children.

Ultimately, the most vulnerable children, adolescents and women are the ones that pay the highest price for extreme weather events.

"Young children simply cannot handle the heat," said Mr. Wijesekera. "Unless we act now, these children will continue to bear the brunt of more frequent and more severe heatwaves in the coming years, for no fault of theirs."



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

SIFC- A Roadmap for Development of Pakistan - I

In any nation, the relationship between the civilian and military sectors plays a critical role in shaping the trajectory of development and overall societal well-being. A strong, collaborative partnership between civil and military institutions is essential for fostering stability, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring the prosperity of a country. When these two sectors work together harmoniously, they can address challenges more effectively, utilize resources efficiently, and create an environment conducive to progress.

Civil-military collaboration refers to the cooperation and coordination between civilian government agencies and the armed forces of a nation. It involves joint efforts in various areas, such as disaster response, infrastructure development, public health, education, and national security. This collaboration hinges on the recognition that both the civilian and military sectors have complementary roles to play in promoting the overall welfare of the nation. During natural disasters, civil-military collaboration becomes paramount. The military's logistical capabilities

and rapid deployment can significantly aid civilian agencies in disaster response and providing humanitarian assistance to affected populations. Civil-military collaboration in infrastructure projects, such as road construction and energy development, is vital for the efficient allocation of resources and ensuring security in areas that may be vulnerable to external threats. In regions experiencing internal conflicts or instability, collaboration between civilian and military agencies is crucial for peacekeeping efforts and conflict resolution. Joint initiatives can help rebuild trust and foster a conducive environment for reconciliation. Civilian and military health professionals can collaborate in times of public health crises or pandemics, pooling resources to address health emergencies and ensure the availability of essential medical services. Civil-military collaboration in education and training programs can enhance the capabilities

of both sectors, creating a skilled workforce equipped to address diverse challenges effectively. Civil-military collaboration is not just a partnership of convenience; it is a fundamental aspect of development that can propel a nation towards stability, prosperity, and resilience. By recognizing the unique strengths and roles of the civilian and military sectors and fostering cooperation, countries can address multifaceted challenges and lay the groundwork for a prosperous and harmonious society. Emphasizing the importance of this collaboration in policy making, resource allocation, and societal development is essential for building a brighter future for nations around the globe.

SIFC is a best example of Civil-Military collaboration in Pakistan which is aimed to set a roadmap for development of the country. As countries around the world strive to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and bolster their economic growth, the role

of Special Investment Facilitation Councils (SIFCs) has gained prominence. These councils serve as essential platforms to promote investments, provide assistance to investors, and facilitate a conducive business environment. Pakistan, a country with vast economic potential, has taken a significant step in this direction by establishing the Pakistan Special Investment Facilitation Council (PSIFC).

The Pakistan Special Investment Facilitation Council was formed with the objective of attracting foreign and domestic investments, enhancing the ease of doing business, and accelerating economic development in the country. It operates under the umbrella of the Board of Investment (BOI), which functions as the apex investment promotion agency of Pakistan. The SIFC operates as a specialized body that brings together key stakeholders, including government representatives, private sector leaders, and experts in various industries, to identify investment opportunities, address challenges, and develop policies conducive to investments.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

India's Hegemony over Indus Water Treaty

Asadullah Mahesar

Hereafter the war of 1947 between India and Pakistan, India cut off the Pakistan's water in April 1948. From here, the clash of water between two neighbouring countries had begun and it was resolved in 1960 after a long discussion of nine years. The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was signed to sort out the long-lasting dispute of sharing of rivers between India and Pakistan in 1960 at Karachi; moreover, the Treaty was facilitated by the World Bank. According to the Treaty the Western rivers like, Indus, Jhelum and Chenab were assigned to Pakistan whereas the Eastern rivers like Ravi, Beas and Sutlej were exclusively allocated to India. Furthermore, India had granted the right of 20% of Western rivers for non-consumptive use encompassing, hydro-electric projects, domestic and agriculture purposes. The Treaty is being observed as the most successful treaty of the world that has lasted since 1960 after the two full-fledged wars of 1965 and 1971 between India and Pakistan.

Additionally, Pakistan has always reservations regarding the constructions of hydro projects on the Western rivers by India. Although India began to construct the Baglihar project of 900MW on river Chenab in 1999 that was completed in 2008 in Indian occupied Kashmir (IOK). Besides, Pakistan declined over the design of the project saying that it would reduce the flow of water in Chenab River. So, the dispute over the project could not be resolved through a bilateral discussion; therefore, it went to a Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank in 2008. Consequently, the case was resolved through a Neutral Expert and India had accepted the claim raised by Pakistan to redesign the project. Recently, India has been constructing the Kishenganga of 330MW and Ratle of 850MW projects on Jhelum and Chenab rivers respectively in IOK. Whereas, Pakistan had objections over these projects so, Pakistan requested the World Bank to proceed the dispute over Kishenganga and Ratle projects before the Court of Arbitration on 19 August 2016. Thus, India requested, too, the World Bank to appoint a Neutral Expert to overcome the dispute. However, the World Bank paused the process of appointing the Chair-

man of the Court of Arbitration and a Neutral Expert in December 2016 as the two countries resolved the disputes through bilateral discussion. India desires to resolve these disputes by graded approach as prescribed in the Treaty that the differences between two countries would be sorted out by a Neutral Expert, but Pakistan likes it through the Court of Arbitration. Moreover, India wants to amend the Treaty to settle down the disputes through bilateral approach and for this purpose India sent a notice to Pakistan in January 2023, but Pakistan doesn't want to do so. Therefore, the World Bank accepted both requests of India and Pakistan to appoint the Chairman of the Court of Arbitration and a Neutral Expert in December 2022.

Furthermore, India declined the constitution of Court of Arbitration by raising six arguments: first, the formation of Court of Arbitration is illegally, second, the Court doesn't have competency, third, the dispute should resolve by a Neutral Expert, fourth, Pakistan doesn't follow the Treaty, fifth, the differences would be resolved first by a Neutral Expert instead of the Court of Arbitration, Sixth, the constitution of Court's penal does not follow the section 'G' of the Treaty. Whereas Pakistan's only contention is that India is harnessing the water of Western rivers that were allocated to Pakistan. Besides, India claims that they want to construct the projects by 'run-of-the-river' dams that means India does not divert the flow of rivers.

Consequently, India did not appear before the Court of Arbitration resultantly, the Court gave its decision on 6th July 2023 to reject the objections raised by India and the verdict was in favour of Pakistan. Likewise, India discards the rolling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and it claims that two processes cannot proceed simultaneously. Now the Court will address the certain disputes over the IWT to resolve the issues relating to the projects constructed by India on Jhelum and Chenab rivers respectively. Obviously, this is a huge success for Pakistan, but we should have to know that it is not a final decision to resolve the dispute between two nuclear armed countries, however, its beginning, Pakistan must prepare for the future hearing of the Court.

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Priority positions of Turkmenistan at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly

Spokesman Report

Preamble

Turkmenistan views the current 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly as a period requiring all Member States to demonstrate the highest responsibility and foresight. The situation in the world, characterized by the escalation of military and political confrontation, the spread of conflict potential, the creation of new threats and challenges and an obvious crisis of confidence, is undermining the foundations of the global architecture of inter-State relations and the established international legal system.

In shaping its approaches to the current period in the activities of the United Nations, Turkmenistan proceeds from the need to focus its efforts on overcoming these risks. For this purpose, it is necessary to use the potential of the UN, its political and diplomatic tools and high moral authority in order to reach constructive solutions and ensure universal and comprehensive security as a key condition for the implementation of all strategic objectives of the UN, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, Turkmenistan upholds the principle of security integrity, inalienability and interconnectedness of its various aspects. We believe that political or military security will not be long-term and full-fledged without ensuring economic, energy, food, biological security, without preventing and neutralizing risks and threats of an environmental and man-made nature, without effectively countering international terrorism and organized crime, including cybercrime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. None of these areas can be relegated to the periphery of the current UN agenda.

In its activities during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan will be guided by strict adherence to the principles of neutrality, non-interference, firm commitment to peaceful, political means of resolving conflicts and contradictions.

In many ways, the focus of Turkmenistan's activities in the relevant areas will be determined by the fact that the country is a member of a number of specialized UN bodies, such as:

- United Nations Commission on Population and Development;
- United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development;
- United Nations Commission for Social Development;
- Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women);
- Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

During the upcoming session, our country will continue to work on the implementation of international initiatives of the President of Turkmenistan on global and regional issues.

Peace and security

For Turkmenistan, the United Nations is the main and universal structure that takes decisions on the most important issues of global development. In this regard, it is necessary to use the potential of the World Organization, its political and diplomatic tools, moral authority in order to give a balanced, non-ideological assessment of current events and trends, to overcome mistrust and confrontation in world politics, and to try to identify prospects for compromise and mutual consideration of interests.

In this context, Turkmenistan proposes to start discussing the possibilities of elaborating a Global Security Strategy based on the principles of the UN Charter and universally recognized norms of international law, taking into account current realities and trends of world development.

Such a strategy should include the

following areas, among others:

- preventive diplomacy as a tool for preventing and neutralizing conflicts;
- using the potential of neutrality for a peaceful, political and diplomatic settlement of disputes and contradictions;
- rebuild a culture of trusting dialogue based on the UN General Assembly's decisions to proclaim 2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust and 2023 as the Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace. Time has confirmed the relevance of these resolutions for the present moment.

In order to achieve universal and comprehensive security, Turkmenistan believes that there is a need to give the work of the United Nations a distinct regional context. We believe that this approach should bring due specificity to joint work and enhance its functionality and effectiveness.

We believe that the time has come to launch an inclusive, full-scale and systematic Central Asia - UN dialogue.

In this connection, our country takes the initiative to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, the format of the Conference on Security in Central Asia and its adjacent zones. The purpose of the Conference is to develop approaches and solutions aimed at bringing together and synchronizing the efforts of Central Asian countries and the world community, international organizations, financial and economic institutions to ensure sustainable, conflict-free development of the region. We express our readiness to hold the first meeting in Ashgabat in 2024.

Turkmenistan will continue to make efforts to further promote and develop the Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation of Central Asia, based on the results of the United Nations General Assembly Debate held on May 16, 2023 at the initiative of Turkmenistan during the 77th session of the General Assembly "Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation of Central Asia" in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 76/299 of July 28, 2022.

In this direction, Turkmenistan proposes to consider the issue of legal formalization of the Zone by preparing a draft decision for the next Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States, as well as to initiate on a periodic consideration of the resolution on the Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation of Central Asia within the framework of the UN General Assembly.

Noting the significance of the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on July 28, 2022, declaring Central Asia a Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation, based on the provisions of the above-mentioned document, Turkmenistan will continue its efforts to submit to the United Nations General Assembly a proposal to declare 2025 the "Year of Peace and Trust".

In the context of ensuring universal and comprehensive security, Turkmenistan will undertake efforts on the regional track to preserve and strengthen stability in Central Asia. In that regard, Turkmenistan will continue to assist in achieving peace and harmony in Afghanistan, taking into account the existing realities and to provide economic, humanitarian and other forms of assistance to the neighboring country and the fraternal Afghan people.

The most important direction Turkmenistan's activities in the implementation of the SDGs is to maximize UN assistance in solving the food problem. The COVID-19 pandemic, along with other unfavorable factors, has exposed the vulnerability of those states where this problem has not been solved, where the population does not receive adequate nutrition.

On this basis, Turkmenistan proposes to convene a major international forum on food security under the auspices of the UN, in cooperation with the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Turkmenistan intends to establish closer cooperation with the UN Count-



er-Terrorism Office Programme Offices in Malaga and Doha, specialising respectively in critical infrastructure protection and behavioural aspects of counter-terrorism. In this context, we note the need to develop educational activities in this area, including the introduction of programmes aimed at combating terrorism, the development of curricula and materials that cover aspects of terrorism, its origins, motivations and methods of propaganda, and educational work on terrorist ideologies, the need for intercultural dialogue and tolerance.

Turkmenistan will continue to consider with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) the modalities for the establishment of the UNOCT-Programme Office for Central Asia on the basis of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

Our country will endeavour to further strengthen multilateral cooperation within the framework of the Group of Friends of Neutrality for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development. In this regard, it will be proposed to hold the next high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Neutrality to be held in Ashgabat in December 2023, to be followed by an International Conference on the established Group of Friends of Neutrality for Peace and Security in December 2024 in Ashgabat. In this context, we intend to propose for consideration the possibility of establishing an Institute of Neutrality and Security in Ashgabat, which could serve as a platform for scientific work and research on neutrality and related issues.

Sustainable development
In July 2023, Turkmenistan presented the Second Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the SDGs during the High-Level Political Forum.

In continuation of this, Turkmenistan intends to make efforts to organize, together with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a separate Ministerial Dialogue on SDGs financing.

In view of the increasing crisis phenomena in the supply of energy resources to world markets, instability in relations between suppliers, transit countries and consumers, Turkmenistan will propose to consider the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution on "Stable, sustainable and reliable energy mobility and its key role in ensuring sustainable development". The draft resolution envisages the possibility of holding the International Forum on Sustainable Energy for All in Turkmenistan in 2025 to promote global efforts to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources, and to take stock of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy, 2014-2024.

Turkmenistan attaches special importance to energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. We are ready to cooperate with stakeholders in the context of the development and implementation of energy-saving technologies, and development of renewable energy sources.

Turkmenistan considers the intensification of international relations in the transport sector to be a priority of its activities at the 78th session. Continuing the practice of periodic consideration by the UN General Assembly of resolutions on sustainable transport initiated by Turkmenistan, our country will take the initiative to prepare a draft resolution of the UN General Assembly

on "Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

In the same vein, in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 77/286 of May 16, 2023, Turkmenistan will propose to hold jointly with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on promoting cooperation on sustainable transport within the framework of the Ashgabat process, timed to coincide with the World Sustainable Transport Day - 26 November.

Turkmenistan will endeavour to further strengthen interaction within the Group of Friends of Sustainable Transport. In this regard, it is proposed to hold the first high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Transport in December 2023.

In preparation for the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda, Turkmenistan is ready to consider holding a preparatory meeting in Ashgabat in 2024.

At the same time, Turkmenistan will continue to work on the draft resolution of the General Assembly on "Enhancing the role of landlocked developing countries in the development and strengthening of global transport cooperation" and the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group at the UN to promote the interests of landlocked countries in the transport sector.

Environment and climate change

In the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Turkmenistan draws particular attention to the need to continue a broad dialogue on climate change, environmental protection and the use of water resources.

In its principled approaches to the environmental agenda, Turkmenistan proceeds from the fact that, at the institutional level, the main priority today is the combination and complementarity of global, regional and national instruments for the implementation of multilateral UN documents on environmental issues.

On this basis, our country, pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resolution 79/8 "Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin" of 19 May 2023, proposes to initiate consultations with the relevant United Nations agencies to determine the optimal format and structure of the United Nations Special Programme for the Aral Sea Basin (UN SPAS).

As an important step in adopting a strategic approach to environmental problems of Central Asia, Turkmenistan proposes the establishment of a specialised structure - the Regional Center for Climate Change Technologies in Central Asia, which would work on climate issues in a substantive and systematic manner.

Turkmenistan intends to intensify its efforts to promote the initiative on the "Global Methane Pledge". Following the path of Turkmenistan's accession to this document and in order to strengthen, within the framework of Turkmenistan's National Climate Change Strategy, control over the effectiveness of work to systematic reduction of greenhouse gases and methane emissions arising in various sectors of the economy, we propose to start developing, under the auspices of the United Nations, a global strategy for the zero

growth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

To this end, we express our interest in hosting in Turkmenistan an International Forum/Regional Meeting on reducing greenhouse gases and methane emissions into the atmosphere with the participation of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Methane Emissions Observatory.

As a result of many years of vigorous and respectful cooperation by the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea, common key principles of Caspian Sea policy have been developed, including the adoption of the main document - the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea. In June 2022, at the Sixth Caspian Summit in Turkmenistan, all participants firmly reaffirmed their readiness for close cooperation on environmental issues.

In this connection, Turkmenistan proposes the establishment of a "Caspian Environmental Initiative", which will be designed to become an international platform for substantive and professional cooperation on a wide range of issues related to environmental protection of the Caspian Sea, the preservation of its biological resources, and the solution of a number of pressing environmental problems.

In order to preserve peace, security and good-neighbourliness in Central Asia, as well as to establish a mechanism for water use of transboundary rivers in the region, we propose to consider the initiative to establish the United Nations Regional Council on water use issues in Central Asia with headquarters in Ashgabat, as well as to accelerate the process of adopting the UN Convention on the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers.

This Council, in close cooperation with the Central Asian countries, will coordinate water management activities and organise cooperation between departmental structures in the region, as well as develop a legal framework for water use.

Health care

Turkmenistan intends to continue its efforts to consolidate the efforts of the international community to combat the spread of infectious diseases, minimise their socio-economic consequences, and establish tools of medical diplomacy. We emphasize that the World Health Organization (WHO) is the main platform for multilateral dialogue on the development of consolidated responses to common challenges in the area of global health.

In this regard, the Government of Turkmenistan has put forward a number of relevant initiatives: the European Ministerial Conference on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in April 2024, jointly with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Ashgabat Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in the context of Health Policy 2020, and an International scientific conference on communicable diseases within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement in December 2023.

Humanitarian sphere

Reaffirming our commitment to strict compliance with the fundamental Conventions and other multilateral international instruments of the United Nations in the field of human rights and freedoms, we reaffirm our readiness to actively participate in the implementation of practical actions in the humanitarian sphere.

During the current session, this is of particular importance, as 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

In this connection, Turkmenistan intends to hold joint events with the UN OHCHR to mark these dates.

Special emphasis will be placed on the protection of the most vulnerable categories of people: refugees, migrants

and stateless persons.

In this regard, Turkmenistan has made significant progress in reducing and preventing statelessness. In view of the country's positive momentum in addressing the issue of eradicating statelessness, Turkmenistan intends to hold a Regional conference on the above-mentioned subject in 2024.

In order to expand the activities of the Central Asian Women's Dialogue, it is proposed to establish a mechanism for regular consultations of the Dialogue on the implementation of the global agenda "Women, Peace and Security" with UN agencies such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission, UN Women and others. In addition, we consider it advisable to develop inter-regional cooperation between the Central Asian Women's Dialogue and similar organisations operating in other regions of the world through the creation of platforms for the exchange of information and best practices, the organization of joint events, forums and trainings.

In order to promote the development of multilateral dialogue between young people of the Central Asian countries to strengthen peaceful, friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the countries of the region, we propose to hold the inaugural session of the Central Asian Youth Dialogue in Turkmenistan this year.

In order to promote intercultural dialogue and implementation of the UN General Assembly resolutions to support multilingualism in international relations, it is proposed to hold in 2024, jointly with UNESCO and TURKSOY, the International Week of Turkic Languages, dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the birth of Makhtumkuli, as well as to consider the possibility of adopting the UN General Assembly resolution "World Day of Turkic Languages", based on the established practice of adopting similar resolutions.

By taking constructive and measured steps, Turkmenistan became the first state in Central Asia to abolish the death penalty. Central Asian countries and Mongolia now have the potential to become the first region free of the death penalty. On the basis of the above, Turkmenistan proposes to consider the elaboration and adoption of an international legal instrument for the Central Asian region and Mongolia "Treaty on a death penalty-free zone in Central Asia and Mongolia". Such an instrument could then lay the basis for the elaboration and adoption of a Convention on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, under the initiative of the region, in order to promote the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

Development of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UN Within the framework of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan intends to expand its project and programme activities with UN specialised agencies, and in this direction will take steps to open in Turkmenistan representative offices of FAO, UNESCO, ILO, UN-Habitat, and UNOPS.

Conclusion provisions

These priority positions define the main directions of Turkmenistan's activities in the United Nations during the 78th session of its General Assembly. They cover the most important areas of international partnership in which Turkmenistan, together with other United Nations Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, institutions and structures is ready to develop multilateral cooperation. The implementation of Turkmenistan's initiatives and proposals set out in these priority positions could become an effective factor in strengthening international peace and security, and ensuring sustainable development in the world.

Turkmenistan expresses its readiness for a broad multilateral dialogue on topical issues of the global agenda and at the same time will be guided by the high ideals of peace and justice that form the basis of the work of the United Nations.

UAJK drives education forward with cutting-edge workshop

MUZAFFARABAD: A three-day Capacity Building Training Workshop Series, funded by the United States Government and administered by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP), was inaugurated with a grand opening session at The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) on Monday.

The workshop is a collaborative effort between the University of Gujarat and USEFP. Distinguished guests, faculty members, and department heads, including Prof. Dr. Zahid Yousuf, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gujarat; Dr. Haroon Rashid, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, UAJK; Meritorious Professor Dr. Syed Nadeem

Haider Bukhari, Chief Librarian; Dr. Sawera Mujeeb Shami, Head of the Department of Digital Media; Dr. Shahida Khalique, Coordinator of the Department of Mass Communication UAJK; Additional Registrar, University of Sardar Zafar Iqbal, graced the inaugural session with their presence.

The primary objective of this training workshop was to equip faculty members of UAJK with innovative advancements and modern approaches in research and media, enabling them to offer students a fresh perspective and promote academic growth. Dr. Zahid Yousuf, Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Gujarat, addressed the participants,

emphasizing that the upcoming era will witness a convergence between digital media and teaching principles, making it more accessible for educators to guide students in meaningful ways.

He added that the implementation of this workshop will ensure that professors adeptly meet the demands of a digitally-driven future, providing effective education to students.

Dr. Haroon Rashid, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences at UAJK, praised the workshop's organization, envisioning a promising future. He highlighted that faculty members will gain invaluable insights into various subjects, encompassing not only trends in digital communication but also

other critical aspects, thereby fostering a comprehensive educational environment.

Chief Librarian, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari, commended USEFP's program, deeming it a positive stride towards enhancing the quality of education. He underscored the significance of effectively utilizing modern technology to promote education—a theme further expounded upon by Prof. Dr. Sumera Mujeeb Shami, the workshop facilitator, during her session.

The workshop aims to equip participants with practical skills in utilizing cutting-edge technology to advance education. It provides a platform for knowledge



exchange and mutual learning, fostering a collaborative environment that undoubtedly contributes to the growth and development of both participating institutions.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,386.25	48,585.71
Day's High	Day's Low:
49,034.92	48,276.54
Index Value	Change
12,304,832,662	-199.46
Percentage	Time
-0.41%	7 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,554.49	-9.88
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	7 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,430.76	+365.14
Percentage	Time
+1.04%	7 Aug, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,254.56	+61.81
Percentage	Time
+0.19%	7 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.5	198.5
Bahrain Dinar	763.58	771.58
Canadian Dollar	222.8	225
China Yuan	39.94	40.34
Danish Krone	42.16	42.56
Euro	320.5	323
Hong Kong Dollar	36.76	37.11
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	1.94	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.17	942.17
Malaysian Ringgit	63.21	63.81
New Zealand \$	174.69	176.69
Norwegians Krone	27.93	28.23
Omani Riyal	745.95	753.95
Qatari Riyal	78.9	79.6
Saudi Riyal	77.8	78.5
Singapore Dollar	212.5	214.5
Swedish Korona	26.75	27.05
Swiss Franc	329.002	331.52
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	81.4	82.2
UK Pound Sterling	371.8	375.5
US Dollar	291.6	294.5

Dar chairs the meeting of ECC of the Cabinet

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Coordinator to PM on Commerce & Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The ECC considered and noted the comprehensive report on damaged wheat of PASSCO due to rainfall and floods 2022 presented by Ministry of National Food Security & Research.

ECC also considered a summary of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) regarding a contract with TAVNIR Iran for the purchase of 104MW electricity. The ECC approved the amendments in the contract with TAVANIR



related to extension of Tariff for existing supply of 104MW (Jackigur-Mand) from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2024, negotiating tariff for additional supply (Polan-Gabd) and tariff agreed for additional supply of 100MW through Polan-Gabd Transmission Line from 16th March 2023 to 31st December 2024.

The ECC also considered and approved

another summary of Power Division regarding application of uniform tariff for KE consumers by way of tariff rationalization. The ECC approved tariff rationalization for K-Electric by way of adjustments that shall be applicable on the consumption of April, May, and June 2023 to be recovered from consumers in three months (July, August, and September 2023),

respectively. The ECC also considered and approved the summary of Ministry of Energy regarding proposed amendments in Transmission Line Policy 2015 (the TL Policy 2015) for inclusion of ancillary services projects in its scope.

The summary of Ministry of Industries and Production regarding continuation of Prime Minister's Relief Package of five essential items on subsidized rates through Utility Stores Corporation (USC) for FY 2023-24 for 10 months from 1st August, 2023 to 30th June, 2024 (excluding month of Ramzan) was approved with direction that there should be no increase in the price of Atta.

The ECC also considered and approved following Technical Supplementary Grants:

Rs. 3000 million in favor of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for Prime Minister's Health Insurance Scheme for Media Workers, Journalists and Artists and Provisions of Film Finance Fund to MOIB.

Rs. 500 million in favor of Ministry of Defence for Defence Services for security related requirements of JSHQ, during FY 2023-24.

Wrong policies resulted in an unbearable budget: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the policy of promoting consumerism in the country without expanding the industrial sector has caused irreparable damage to the economy.

This policy did not benefit the local industries, but the industrial sector of other countries with Pakistan's resources, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the relentless imports of luxury goods, manufactured goods, and luxury vehicles are living examples of this.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that it is necessary to give priority to the industry over trading and real-estate sectors while creating a practical and feasible policy to increase the tax base because Pakistan still needs to collect Rs4000 billion more in taxes.

Pakistan can widen the tax base and enhance collections, for which a plan is needed to relieve the country of its unbearable deficit. Enhanced tax collection can help the government provide relief to the poor and fund developmental as well as mega projects, he added.

The business leader said that last year,



Pakistan collected taxes of 7200 billion rupees, while 7500 billion rupees were required for debt servicing.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that debts and liabilities have grown beyond manageable limits. The country is no longer able to repay the loans to the IMF, other international organisations, and CPEC-related loans, and the system is being run on the rollover of loans.

The cost of all these factors is being paid by the public and private sector; businessmen are not getting loans while the interest rates and prices of petroleum, electricity, gas, and food items are skyrocketing.

Issues of super tax, wealth tax, and withholding tax are also hurting the economy.

At the same time, the public and private sectors are forced to foot the bill for keeping state-run entities artificially alive for decades.

He said that the news of serious investment by the Arab countries and their private sector is hot, and SIFC has been established with the support of the Army Chief to provide a one-window facility to foreign investors, which is a source of happiness and hope.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that SIFC is expected to attract an investment of 25 to 30 billion dollars, while there are reports of restarting the stalled work on CPEC, which will enable further investment, the opening of Special Economic Zones, and the availability of world-class infrastructure, which will result in a two percent increase in GDP.

Such initiatives will stop the flight of capital and brain drain, he said, adding that it is necessary to restore the confidence of the business community and people in the economic policies and the current economic situation of the country.

This will not be easy, but it will not be impossible for the caretaker PM and his cabinet, who will face difficult choices.

The size of the interim government needs to be kept down, and reviving the economy will require bold and energetic action from the caretaker government and the incoming elected government, he said.

British Deputy HC applauds launch of Artificial Intelligence System



News Desk

KARACHI: H. E. Mr. Martin Dawson, British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi, has applauded the integration of CenturyAI at non-for-profit Reflections School in Karachi. It is pertinent to note that he was the chief guest at the inauguration event and CenturyAI is an artificial intelligence system aimed at employing the latest, state-of-the-art and world-class AI tools to enhance the teaching methodology, pedagogy and learning outcomes.

H. E. Mr. Martin Dawson reiterated his government's stance and tradition at supporting education in Pakistan and, specifically, the educational institutions that integrate new technologies into their systems; so that, the students can play a catalytic, futuristic role in Pakistan's growth and development.

Showing interest in the AI system, H. E. Mr. Martin Dawson also tried his hands at a short project using CenturyAI and offered his support for all such future endeavors. During the detailed school visit, he took special interest in indoor & outdoor games, gymnasium and swimming facilities; availability of computer labs at every level; huge library and clean & green environment of the school.

Mr. Ather Sultan Chawla, Chairman of Reflections School, acknowledged the fact that such a top diplomat has visited the school in great detail and appreciated the staff for their untiring efforts to inculcate international standard education. Technologically advanced, internationally-aligned, affordable and egalitarian education system is the only way forward and the only hope for Pakistan, he added.

SECP strengthens measures to prevent predatory lending in Digital Nano Lending

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In order to curb predatory practices and ensure financial sustainability of the borrowers in the digital nano-lending sector, the SECP has imposed exposure limits on digital lenders and borrowers through its Circular 10 of 2023.

A maximum limit of Rs. 25000/- has been imposed for individual borrowers from a single loan app, and the aggregate amount of loans from multiple Apps has been restricted to not exceed Rs. 75,000/-. Further, the loan period/tenor for a nano-loan through personal loan apps has been restricted to not more than 90 days. The exposure limits on borrowers shall promote responsible lending behaviours

and prevent borrowers from being trapped in debt cycles due to multiple loans.

In a bid to ensure cyber security and protect sensitive data of borrowers, condition has also been imposed whereby personal loan apps must obtain a certificate from a PTA-approved Category I Cyber Security Audit Firm (CSAF). Moreover, prior to the sign-up process, apps will be obligated to display a pop-up alert in accordance with directives from SECP to inform app users about the terms, conditions, and potential ramifications of borrowing. An in-app calculator for accurate loan repayment

and associated charges is also mandated.

Several NBFCs licensed by SECP have entered personal loans through digital applications, with a list available on the SECP website. In December 2022, SECP introduced a mandatory requirement for digital lending NBFCs to protect borrower interests by requiring transparent disclosure of fees, loan duration, instalments, and charges. Companies were prohibited from accessing consumer data and required to adhere to ethical and legal standards, including respectful debt collection practices. The SECP has also restricted unauthorized

and illicit apps, collaborating with Google to introduce Pakistan's Personal Loan App Policy on May 31, 2023. As a result, Google removed 84 illegal lending apps from its Play Store following SECP's reports.

SECP is proactively evaluating and adapting policies to increase financial access and curb manipulative business practices aimed at safeguarding interest of consumers as well as investors.

Going forward, the SECP is considering imposing pricing caps on APRs as well as a total cost cap on digital nano loans after extensive, all-inclusive consultation and coordination with stakeholders, including industry participants. The Circular 10 of 2023 is available at <https://www.secp.gov.pk>

Gold retreats in Pakistan as int'l rates recede

KARACHI: Gold prices in Pakistan started the week on a negative note as they receded in line with the developments in the international market on Monday.

According to data issued by the All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of gold (24 carats) appreciated by Rs1,100 per tola and

Rs943 per 10 grams to settle at Rs221,700 and Rs190,072, respectively.

Meanwhile, the price of the yellow metal decreased by \$2 to settle at \$1,94 per ounce in the international market as the US dollar and Treasury yields gained after traders digested Friday's jobs report, with attention turning to US inflation data later this week.

ICCI asks CDA to include Bara Kahu in ICT'S Municipality to facilitate traders

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Bara Kahu has become one of the largest commercial centers of Islamabad but due to lack of attention, the traders of the area are facing multiple problems. He emphasized that the CDA should include Bara Kahu in Islamabad's Municipality to ensure its better development. He said this while addressing a delegation of Bara Kahu Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani that visited ICCI led by its President Raja Zahid Dhaniyal. Vice President of Anjuman Shah Anwar, Secretary General Syed Hasnain Shah, Naveed Abbasi, Masood Baloch and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Bakhtawari assured that as a CDA board member, he would play a role to resolve

the key issues of Bara Kahu's traders. He said that he will try his best to convince Chairman CDA to visit the Bara Kahu market so that he can see the on-ground problems himself and take necessary steps to solve them quickly. He assured the delegation that ICCI would fully cooperate with their Association in its efforts for the betterment of Bara Kahu traders.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Zahid Dhaniyal, President, Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani, Bara Kahu, said that Bara Kahu is still considered a rural area, due to which it is facing problems in prompt resolution of issues. He demanded that to ensure better development of Bara Kahu, it should be included in the municipal limits of Islamabad. He said that there are serious sewage problems in Bara Kahu while the drainage system is also not functioning properly, so there is a need for CDA to address

these problems immediately. He said that the condition of Simli Dam Road has deteriorated and CDA should repair it soon. He further said that the bypass has been opened at Bara Kahu but the road under the bridge has become dilapidated so CDA should focus on its urgent repair and carpeting. He said that the sanitation arrangements in Bara Kahu are almost non-existent, while Bara Kahu market is also in dire need of a filtration plant and public toilets. He demanded that CDA and MCI should improve sanitation arrangements in Bara Kahu and ensure availability of filtration plants and public toilets. He said that there is no parking facility available in Bara Kahu market due to which the traders are facing difficulties so he urged that CDA should construct a multi-storied parking plaza in Bara Kahu. He assured that Bara Kahu Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani will coop-



erate with ICCI to resolve the issues of traders. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that a large number of traders are engaged in promoting trade activities in Bara Kahu and this market is providing jobs to thousands of people. He

stressed that CDA and MCI should try to develop Bara Kahu on modern lines. Former senior vice presidents of the chamber, Khalid Chaudhry and Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Maqsood Tabish and others were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan thrash China to claim first win in Asian Champions Trophy

A Sports

CHENNAI: Afraz's match-winner lifted Pakistan to keep their semi-final hopes alive with a convincing 2-1 victory over China in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy.

Pakistan started the game on a high as they maintained pressure on the Chinese defence right from the start and soon got the reward in the 19th minute, courtesy of Muhammad Sufyan Khan's brilliant goal.

The green shirts completely dominated the first half while Chinese players struggled to keep possession. However, Jiesheng Gao helped level things for China with an excellent flick from a penalty corner in the 32nd minute.

China's comeback into the game was however cut short as Afraz scored in the 39th minute to give Pakistan a match-defining lead.

The green shirts put on a great effort to prevent China from firing the equalizer and thus tasted their maiden success in



the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy.

Pakistan's Rana Abdul, who was adjudged the player of the match termed the victory over China a crucial one and revealed that the young team is looking forward to their tie against arch-rivals

India.

"This game was really crucial for us. The young team played incredibly well and we are looking forward to the India game," said Abdul in the post-match presentation.

Pakistan's first win in the Asian Champions Trophy propelled them to fourth place. Meanwhile, China's hopes of reaching the semifinals have been diminished.

Notably, Pakistan was winless in the Asian Champions Trophy before this game, as they drew 3-3 against Japan yesterday.

Prior to that, they drew 1-1 against defending champions South Korea, while, they were handed a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Malaysia in their first game.

Pakistan will now face arch-rivals India on August 9, while China will face Japan in their final group-stage match on the same day.

This is the seventh 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.

Babar Azam's maiden LPL ton lifts Colombo Strikers to edge Galle Titans

A Sports

PALLEKELE: Babar Azam scored his maiden Lanka Premier League (LPL) century and powered Colombo Strikers to a thrilling seven-wicket victory over Galle Titans.

Set to chase a massive 189, the Strikers completed the pursuit on the penultimate delivery for the loss of three wickets, courtesy of a sensational century by Babar Azam.

Strikers' openers Babar and Pathum Nissanka scripted a solid start to the pursuit as they added 111 runs before Tabraiz Shamsi drew a much-needed breakthrough for the Titans by dismissing Nissanka.

Nissanka scored an anchoring 54 off 40 deliveries, laced up with five boundaries and a six.

Babar Azam was then joined by Nuwanidu Fernando at the crease and the pair



knitted a vital 55-run partnership for the second wicket.

The second-wicket stand was massively dominated by Babar while Fernando batted cautiously before falling to Shamsi in the 18th over. He could score eight off 13.

Despite Babar Azam's blitz, the high-scoring encounter came right down to the wire with the Strikers needing 14 off the final over.

Kasun Rajitha, set to defend 14, bowled a fuller delivery outside off and Babar Azam holed it straight to the

long-off fielder.

He smashed eight boundaries and five sixes on his way to a 59-ball 104.

The Strikers, with their mainstay back in the hut, looked in deep trouble but Mohammad Nawaz smashed Rajitha for a six and a boundary to seal the deal for the Strikers with one ball to spare.

Shamsi led the bowling attack for the Titans with 2/27 while Rajitha made one scalp.

Earlier, after opting to

bat first, the Titans put on a commendable total of 188/3 in the allotted 20 overs at the back of a brilliant half-century by Tim Seifert and opening batter Shevon Daniel's 49.

Seifert top-scored for the Titans with an unbeaten 54 off 35 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and three sixes. Whereas, Daniel scored 49 from 31 deliveries with the help of five boundaries and two sixes.

Besides them, Lasith Croosapulle (36 off 19) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (30 off 31) made notable contributions.

For the Strikers, Naseem Shah, Ramesh Mendis and Lakshan Sandakan picked up one wicket apiece.

A close seven-wicket victory lifted Colombo Strikers to the third in the LPL standings with four points in as many matches while the Titans remained at the second spot due to a superior net run rate.

DW enters into an agreement to promote Golf in Pakistan's third largest City-Faisalabad



MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: Discount World-DW, committed to enhancing services for its VISA Premium Members, has partnered with Lyallpur Golf Club Faisalabad to promote the sport of Golf in Pakistan.

This collaboration is powered by VISA which is solely aimed at providing exclusive benefits for Visa Premium Card Holders, and Discount World's decision to partner with Lyallpur Golf Club may be seen by individuals who have an everlasting passion for golf as one significant step.

Players who are interested in the sport can avail the facility for free by presenting their Visa Premium Cards. This partnership will not only revolutionize the promotion of golf in Pakistan but will also attract new enthusiasts to the sport thus paving the ways for representing Pakistan on the golf fields domestically and internationally.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Mr. Sultan Richard, Chairman & CEO of DW, said, "We are overwhelmed to have teamed up with the Lyallpur Golf Club to promote golf in Pakistan. This alliance with VISA is a strategic move that holds great promise for the golfing community. Moreover, it has the potential to effectively draw in new golf enthusiasts in Pakistan."

The agreement was signed between Mr. Sultan Richard, Chairman & CEO-Discount World and Moeen Mehmood Khan, Honorary Secretary-Lyallpur Golf Club in the presence of esteemed business community of Faisalabad.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the collaborative alliance powered by VISA, Honorary Secretary, Lyallpur Golf Club, Moeen Mehmood Khan said, "It is a great honour to begin this partnership with Discount World, which has been made possible by VISA. This partnership will open doors for those who have a passion for the game and will also work to increase golf's popularity in Pakistan."

Pakistan endure setback ahead of China clash in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

News Desk

CHENNAI: Pakistan hockey team sustained a big blow ahead of the clash against China in the ongoing Asian Hockey Champions Trophy as Muhammad Abdullah's participation in the match is in doubt due to ailment.

According to the national team's coach, Olympian Muhammad Saqlain told that Muhammad Abdullah complained of a high fever, and was subsequently admitted to a local hospital here.

However, after remaining under observation for a few hours, doctors revealed that Abdullah's health status is improving and he will be discharged in the evening.

Pakistan's team is yet to



win a single game in the Asian Champions Trophy 2023, as they drew 3-3 against Japan yesterday.

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 Hockey Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011 and 2016.

Honourable Diplomats visit Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Sunday August 6th was an eminent day for Naya Nazimabad as Honourable Diplomats of Morocco, Yemen, Mozambique and Ethiopia visited Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana.

Mr. Ishtiaq Baig, Honorary Consul General of Morocco; Mr. S. Khalid Tawab, Honorary Consul General of Mozambique; Mr. Jemal Beker Abdullah, Ambassador of Ethiopia; Mr. Sardar Yasin Malik, Chairman Hilton Pharma Group of Companies; Mr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Honorary Consul General of Yemen & Chairman Baig Group of Companies; Mr. Abdul Haseeb Khan, Ex-Senator & Chairman Brooks Pharma and Mr. Ibrahim Tawab, Founder of Bazar not only visited the newly built futuristic Gymkhana facility but also delightedly became members of the Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana.

All the honourable guests admired the state of the art and advance facilities of Gymkhana. They appreciated the vision and efforts of Mr. Arif Habib towards the development of such a wonderful project and transforming Naya Nazimabad into a piece of Heaven. Worthy guests enjoyed and spent quality time at Naya Nazimabad.

Inzamam-ul-Haq named Pakistan team's chief selector for second time

Sports desk

LAHORE: Former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has been appointed chief selector of the national men's team for the second time.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Monday that Inzamam, who was recently appointed to the Cricket Technical Committee (CTC), has officially taken on the role of chief selector for the men's team.

Inzamam-ul-Haq took over the position previously held by Haroon Rashid, who resigned last month. The former captain previously held the position from 2016 to 2019.

During his tenure, his selected team won the 2017 Champions Trophy under the captaincy of Sarfaraz Ahmed, while in the 2019 World Cup, they missed a spot in the semi-final due to the inferior net run rate.

Pakistan team's director Mickey Arthur was the national head coach during Inzamam's last tenure.

Inzamam-ul-Haq's appointment came at a crucial time as his selection committee will be tasked to select squads for the Asia Cup, as well as the ODI World Cup later this year.

Prior to that, he will also be naming the squad that will be touring Sri Lanka for the series against Afghanistan, which will commence on August 22.

The PCB's Cricket Technical Committee (CTC), led by Misbah-ul-Haq, suggested the former captain's name to the PCB Management Committee chairman, Zaka Ashraf. The CTC comprises former captain Mohammad Hafeez as well.

Pakistan women's football team to play tournament in Saudi Arabia

Pakistan women's football team is set to play a tournament in Saudi Arabia in September after an invitation from the Kingdom, said sources on Monday.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is organising a multi-national women's tournament and extended an invitation to the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) which was accepted by the governing body. A minimum of four and a maximum of six teams will participate in the tournament.

The PFF was contacted by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation a few days ago.

Further details about the tournament will be revealed by the organizers once the teams are finalised.

Once the PFF gets the remaining information about the tournament, they will set up a women's team camp by the end of this month.

The PFF is hopeful that this tournament in the Middle East will be crucial for the development of players as they will get more international experience.

Sweden send holders US out of Women's World Cup after penalty drama

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United States' long reign as Women's World Cup holders was brought to an end in the most dramatic fashion as they were dumped out on penalties by Sweden, who joined the Netherlands in reaching the quarter-finals on Sunday.

Sweden face Japan in the last eight as the drama and shocks just kept coming at the tournament in Australia and New Zealand. The Netherlands beat South Africa 2-0 and meet Spain.

Their last-16 defeat after the game ended 0-0 after 120 minutes was the United States' earliest exit in their Women's World Cup history and leaves European champions England now the firm favourites.

Morgan, for so many years one of the faces of the all-conquering Americans, told Fox Sports.

The USA have long been the dominant force in international women's football: they have won the World Cup four times and were chasing an unprecedented third title in a row.

Vlatko Andonovski's side were the better team against Sweden in Melbourne but they could not beat goalkeeper Zecira Musovic and then lost their nerve in the penalty shootout.

Megan Rapinoe, a two-time World Cup winner who was desperate to end her career with another title, missed her spot-kick before the Swedes sealed the deal 5-4 on sudden-death penalties.

Even then the end was excruciatingly tense. US goalkeeper Alyssa Naecher thought she had

saved Lina Hurtig's kick but VAR ruled it had just crossed the line.

Cue belated pandemonium among the Sweden squad and tears for the Americans who, despite dominating large periods of the game, just never got going at this World Cup.

They were held 1-1 by the Netherlands in the group phase in a rerun of the 2019 final and likewise 0-0 by debutants Portugal, meaning they squeezed into the last 16.

"This team was a really special team, I just feel like everyone just got along really well," added Morgan.

"It's a tough one to swallow." Sweden next face a Japan team who have been the sensation of the tournament so far. The 2011 champions cased into the last eight with a 3-1 win over Norway on Saturday.

"We were facing a really tough opponent today and somehow we managed to get to the penalty shootout, where we showed a lot of courage," said Musovic, who was named player of the match.

"I'm extremely proud of the girls that we could go there and win the game."

"It's a huge win for us. I had a really good feeling before the game."

England face Nigeria in Brisbane on Monday hoping to avoid another shock, before co-hosts Australia face Denmark in Sydney.

Earlier Sunday, the Netherlands secured their spot in the quarter-finals by ending South Africa's historic run.

The Dutch, runners-up in 2019, suffered some anxious moments in front of 40,000 fans in Sydney and had goal-



keeper Daphne van Domselaar to thank for making several big saves in the first half.

Jill Roord scored after nine minutes to put the Dutch on their way against a team that sits 45 places below them in the world rankings and was featuring in the knockout rounds for

the first time.

South Africa goalkeeper Kaylin Swart then made a mess of an innocuous Lineth Beerensteyn shot midway through the second half to gift the Dutch a second.

The African champions will be kicking themselves after having numerous chances in the opening

45 minutes, almost all of them falling to their livewire captain Thembi Kgatana.

"Daphne saved us a few times and I was happy to lead 1-0 at half-time," said Dutch coach Andries Jonker.

"We did much better in the second half and had much more control of the game."

"We deserved to score again and in the end deserved to win."

His team will now return to New Zealand for Friday's last-eight game in Wellington against Spain, who outclassed Switzerland 5-1 on Saturday.

South Africa coach Desiree Ellis was proud but felt her side should have won.

"We had a lot of chances, especially in the first half, to kill off the game," she said.

"The chances we created should have put us out of sight."