

PM announces to auction all Toshakhana gifts to support orphan children

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced to auction all of the gifts worth millions of rupees at Toshakhana and the revenue would be spent for the welfare of orphan children. (Details on Page 8)



National Growth Center' to augment economic prosperity: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday launched the National Growth Center (NGC) aimed at putting the country on a steady path of economic development, innovation and prosperity. Addressing the launching ceremony here, he highlighted the importance of fostering an environment of sustainable development, creating jobs, empowering communities... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Farewell visit

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony held to honor the Martyrs and Ghazis of Pakistan Army at General Headquarters on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM to pay tribute to Shuhadas, Ghazis on his farewell visit to GHQ

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, visited GHQ on his farewell visit.

Upon arrival, PM was received by the COAS. PM met with the Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) and was presented with the Guard of Honour and laid floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada.

He was also the Chief Guest at a ceremony organised to pay tribute to the Shuhadas and Ghazis at Army Auditorium. PM paid rich tribute to the Shuhadas, Ghazis and their families for their countless sacrifices and contributions made for the defence of the motherland.

PM appreciated the role of Armed Forces in protecting the territorial integrity of the country and robustly fighting the menace of terrorism across Pakistan.

"Shuhadas and Ghazis are our pride and their respect and honour is binding on each Pakistani. We must never forget that the peace and freedom we enjoy today is due to the ultimate sacrifices rendered by these brave sons of soil. I salute their families for sacrificing their loved ones for Pakistan. It is now our earnest duty that we realise the supreme sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis into prosperity and well being of each Pakistani". PM remarked. He further said that those who resorted to desecration of monuments of Shuhada, their faces will remain blackened in the history of this country and proud people of Pakistan will never forget them.

PM distributed cheques of Special Financial Assistance amongst 70 families of martyrs and 30 War Wounded Persons. Laptops were also distributed amongst the wards of Shuhada undergoing their academic pursuits.

PM unveils 'revolutionary' Rs 377b programme of 100,000 tube-wells solarisation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched a Rs 377 billion "revolutionary" project to solarise 100,000 agricultural tube-wells across the country, which, he said, was inevitable and the only way forward to make the country progress.

"This is a revolutionary step as without it, no one can think of Pakistan making progress... I want to give a message that no other project can match the significance of solar energy," the prime minister said addressing the launching ceremony here which marked the distribution of solar tube-well certificates to Islamabad-based farmers.

Calling agriculture the only sector to turn around the national economy, he said the provision of low-cost power supply was inevitable to not only for the farmers but also the households, shopkeepers and industry to make the exports competitive. Lamenting the previous

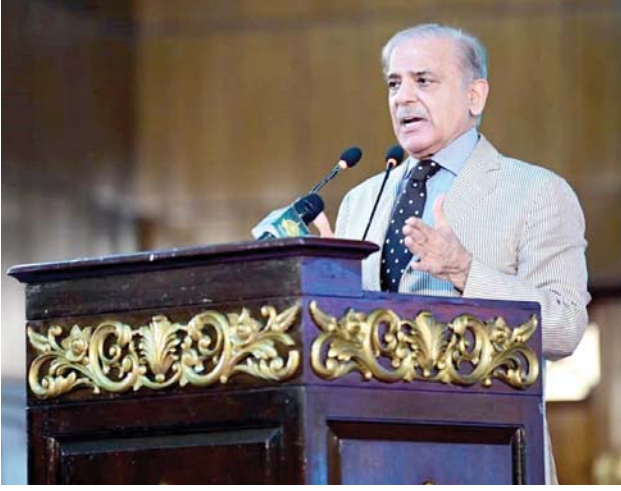
government's negligence for not exploiting the immense resources of hydel and solar energy, he said the provision of low cost electricity was the foremost obligation of every government.

He said during last 16 months, his government made utmost efforts to launch the project but the political situation and uncertainty about the IMF agreement caused the delay.

Explaining the scenario of a default country, the prime minister exemplified Sri Lanka and said such states had to curtail imports to save foreign exchange which ultimately led to severe shortage of life-saving drugs, petrol and other commodities, crisis of imported materials and closure of industry, thus leading to chaos.

PM unveils 'revolutionary' Rs 377b programme of 100,000 tube-wells solarisation

He said as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had disallowed the subsidy to the agriculture and industrial sectors, the solar energy was the only way



forward for cost-reduction and lessen dependence on the costly imported oil.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said on completion of the incumbent government's term, he would send a summary to the President of Pakistan for dissolution of the National Assembly by Wednesday.

Therefore, he gave a message

to the next government that the solarisation project was of the utmost importance as the foundation of Rs 377 billion initiative of tube-wells solarisation had been laid, he added.

The prime minister told the gathering that under the mechanism, the Federal Government, provincial government and the farmers would bear one-third

each of the total cost of tube-wells solarisation. In case of Islamabad, the government would pay 67% and rest by the farmers.

Referring to his earlier meeting with a Saudi delegation, PM Shehbaz said he had invited Saudi firms to invest in the Damer Bhasha Dam project which would need around \$15 billion investment to build a reservoir and generate power of 4,000MW of electricity.

He said in his tenure, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had allocated Rs 100 billion for the project but it could not move forward due to the respective government's negligence.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said for the first time, Thar coal was being utilised under a CPEC project and around 2500MW of electricity was being generated.

He said if his party was given a chance in next elections, he would prove his commitment to rid the country of poverty and loans to make it self-sufficient and a great nation.

President stresses youth to benefit from technology advancement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed the youth to benefit from the technology advancement and offer their services globally to increase technology exports of the country.

"We have a youth bulge in our country and that youth bulge must be linked intellectually with the rest of the world. If it is not done, we will miss a great opportunity available to our country," President Alvi said in his video message to a virtual inauguration of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) Digital Academy.

ICMA launched the Digital Academy in partnership with the London-based The FinTech Group (TFG), according to a press release issued here on



Tuesday. ICMA Digital Academy is incorporated in the UK with a mission to develop job-ready workforce of the future in Pakistan with globally in-demand digital skills.

President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi highlighted the importance of the ICMA Digital Academy's plans to help the youth bulge in the country offer their services globally. He reminded the audience that young adults are very keen on learning new technologies and interacting with global customers in a professional manner.

Possible Caretaker PM Abdul Hafeez Shaikh reaches Pakistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: One of the contenders for caretaker prime minister (PM) slot, former finance minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has arrived in Pakistan, citing sources.

The possible caretaker PM Abdul Hafeez Shaikh reached Karachi two days ago and contacted his close friends in Islamabad, said sources, adding that the former finance minister discussed political and economic situation with his aides.

Yesterday, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bokhari on Monday denied consensus on former finance minister Hafeez Shaikh's name for the caretaker prime ministership.

PTI chief disqualified for five years, de-seated from NA-45

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has notified the disqualification of former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan for five years and de-seated from NA-45 constituency.

The election commission declared the former premier and PTI chief Imran Khan 'disqualified' for five years under Article 63(N)(h) and de-seated him from NA-45 constituency. The notification stated that the former premier was found guilty of corrupt practices and faced the penalty of three-year jail and Rs100,000 fine. On Saturday, the District and Sessions Court awarded three years jail term to the PTI chairman in Toshakhana criminal case. The court also imposed Rs 100,000 fine on the convicted chief of the PTI. The court also declared the former prime minister ineligible to hold public office for five years.

The court in its verdict said that the accused has been found guilty of corrupt practices and handed the PTI chairman three years jail sentence. "Imran Khan deliberately submitted fake details [of Toshakhana gifts] to the ECP and is found guilty of corrupt practices," he stated.

Pakistan desires strong, successful Southeast Asia: FM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that Pakistan desired a strong and successful Southeast Asia, which was critical for the stability and development of the entire continent.

"The more connected and united we are, the more able we would be in overcoming our collective challenges and prospering together as a region," the foreign minister said in a message on 56th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Day. Extending congratulation to the ASEAN members on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, he said Pakistan shared ASEAN's vision of amity and cooperation with countries in Asia-Pacific.

"We believe that an integrated Asia promises a prosperous future for all. Pakistan has, therefore, endeavoured to develop partnerships all across Asia particularly with ASEAN countries," a press release quoted the foreign minister as saying.

PM Shehbaz to write to President Alvi tomorrow for NA dissolution

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday confirmed that he would write to President Dr Arif Alvi tomorrow (August 9) for dissolution of National Assembly (NA).

"After completing our tenure, I will write and send the advice to President Alvi to dissolve the assembly and then an interim government will take over," the prime minister said while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad.

Incumbent National Assembly's full tenure will end on August 12 and if it completes its stipulated time then elections will be held within 60 days. However, the Constitution states that the polls must be held within 90 days if the assembly is dissolved before the completion of its tenure.

It would be liable to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold polls within 90 days if the summary is moved to dissolve the lower house on August 9 (tomorrow).

Historic day as PM's health card scheme for journalists: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that today was a historic day as for the first time, a health card facility was being launched for journalists, media workers and artists on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Addressing the launching ceremony of "Prime Minister's National Health Program 2023 for journalists, media workers, artists and technical resources" here she said that it was the vision of Shehbaz Sharif as the opposition leader to set up a health insurance scheme for journalists and media workers.

Last week she said, the PM had witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan



State Life Insurance Corporation and today the scheme was formally launched.

She also congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the implementation of his vision. She said that the other historic step being taken today launching of an app by the Ministry of Law and Justice which had digitalised all federal laws.

The minister thanked Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan and Principal Information Officer Mubashar Hassan for their contribution to the launch of the health card scheme.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributed health cards among the journalists and artists on the occasion.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sana Ullah Khan chairing a meeting at FIA Headquarters on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM announces to auction all Toshakhana gifts to support orphan children

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced to auction all of the gifts worth millions of rupees at Toshakhana and the revenue would be spent for the welfare of orphan children.

"I announce to auction all of the gifts worth millions of rupees at Toshakhana. But whole of the receipts will go nowhere else but the institutions of the orphan children whether they are welfare organizations, educational institutions or medical facilities.

We will hand them over under a mechanism to support the orphans who are unable to face the challenges of life," the prime minister said talking to a delegation of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA).

The prime minister said that he felt honoured to announce the auction of Toshakhana gifts before the representatives of APNS, CPNE and PBA.



He told the media industry representatives that the incumbent government inherited very tough economic conditions but the coalition parties did not imagine the severity of the situation.

The prime minister said the previous government wasted last four years in mere victimisation of political opponents and also strained ties with friendly countries.

He said his government had tried its utmost to rectify the relations with friendly countries and had been able to control the damage to a great extent which

also led to the signing of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The prime minister repeatedly called for the nation, particularly the youth, to forge unity and work hard to rid the country of loans and make it a great nation.

He said the incumbent government victimised no political opponent and that they were extremely busy to tackle the challenges of flood, inflation, economy, IMF, wheat import and foreign policy issues.

He said the media had a crucial role to play for the

national unity and reduce the temperature as during the last four years, the previous government "poisoned" the society and the rectification was not that easy.

He said with the IMF agreement, the country was saved from default and otherwise the situation could have been extremely difficult with long queues at filling stations and people taken to streets. He said even the friendly countries had linked their support with the IMF deal.

He said the interim as well as the next elected govern-

ment would have to join heads to strengthen the state and its people through self-sufficiency as the IMF had closed the doors to subsidies.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the delegations that the friendly countries, including Saudi Arabia, were willing to invest in Pakistan and the Special Investment Facilitation Council would prove to be a game changer in that regard.

"The SIFC is a programme for economic recovery. If it goes on, this will be a game changer," he remarked.

He said he would send the summary for dissolution of the National Assembly to the president on Wednesday and expressed the hope that the next government would pursue the SIFC vision to rid the country of loans within 5-10 years.

He said after the dissolution of the Assembly, the Chief Election Commissioner was mandated to decide the future course of action regarding the elections. However, he added, all the parties were unanimous for holding of the elections as early as possible.

Shazia Marri distributes ownership right certificates among flood-hit women

Bureau Report

SANGHAR: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme, Shazia Marri on Tuesday distributed ownership rights certificates to 105864 homeless women here on Tuesday.

Addressing the ceremony, she reiterated the pledge of the Pakistan People's Party to assist



desstitute people and said that PPP was the only party which

always felt the pain of destitute people and spent a huge amount on their financial help, providing relief and construction of damaged houses and would continue their assistance in future.

She said that Sanghar district was more affected by last year's floods, however, people were not disappointed and faced a difficult time. She said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was among those

leaders who have always served people without any discrimination and helped flood-hit people. The ceremony was attended among others by PPP Leader Shahid Khan Thaheem, Jawed Nayab Leghari, Jahangir JUnejo, Umer Gul Higorjo, Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch, DIG Younis Chandio, and Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Muhammad Ishaque Gaad

IHC orders provision of jail facilities to PTI chief 'as per law'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered the jail authorities to provide facilities to the former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief 'as per law', ARY News reported on Tuesday.

The IHC directed concerned authorities to provide jail facilities to the PTI chief as per the law and jail manual.

In another development today, the Islamabad High Court removed objections to the PTI's petition requesting the transfer of the former prime minister from Attock Jail to Adiala Jail.

National Growth Center' to augment economic prosperity: Ashan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ashan Iqbal on Tuesday launched the National Growth Center (NGC) aimed at putting the country on a steady path of economic development, innovation and prosperity.

Addressing the launching ceremony here, he highlighted the importance of fostering an environment of sustainable development, creating jobs, empowering communities, and stimulating economic diversification. "Our goal is nothing short of positioning Pakistan as a hub of innovation and progress on the global stage."

The main NGC center would be based at the Planning Minis-

try while such facilities would be operating in various universities of the country.

He said the NGC was not merely a physical space but a symbol of commitment to the future, a testament to an unwavering belief in the potential of people and national resources.

"We envision these growth centers as catalysts for holistic growth where industry, academia, and government collaborate seamlessly, groundbreaking research meets practical application, and local communities flourish alongside the national economic expansion."

In the pursuit of this vision, the minister said, the government would lay the foundation for a thriving ecosystem by focusing on several critical areas including infrastructure devel-

opment, education research, industry and entrepreneurship, sustainability and green initiatives besides local community empowerment.

Elaborating, Ashan Iqbal said modern infrastructure was the backbone of any thriving economy. "Therefore, our growth centers will be equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, world-class transportation networks, reliable energy sources, and cutting-edge communication systems - that will attract both domestic and foreign investments."

Commenting on education and research, he said knowledge was the key to progress and these centers would house prestigious research institutions and universities, nurturing a culture of innovation and intellectual

excellence. "This will not only retain our brightest minds but also attract international talent, spurring technological advancements and driving economic growth."

About industry and entrepreneurship, the minister said these centers would serve as incubators for start-ups and entrepreneurs, providing them with the necessary support, mentorship, and funding to turn their ideas into thriving businesses. "We will establish special economic zones within these centers, enabling industries to flourish and trade to thrive."

Explaining sustainability and green initiatives, he said environmental responsibility was a cornerstone of the incumbent government's development strategy.

Modernizing infrastructure crucial to eliminate gas shortages

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hamid Hameed, the Parliamentary Secretary for Energy (Petroleum), highlighted the necessity of upgrading the gas distribution system to alleviate gas load-shedding.

Hameed made these remarks in response to a calling attention notice addressing the issue of Sui Gas load-shedding across the country.

He emphasized that despite system upgrades, areas receiving connections were experiencing gas load-shedding due to an increasing burden on the system.

He acknowledged the depletion of gas reservoirs and stressed the importance of a comprehensive system upgrade to prevent further strain on the network.

Hameed also underscored the need to improve infrastructure in overloaded regions to address load-shedding.

The Parliamentary Secretary noted that the mover of the calling attention notice had pointed out instances of gas load-shedding in certain areas of Peshawar and Chitral.

He assured that efforts were underway to resolve this issue, and a detailed report would be shared with the mover.

MoS Khar, Saudi minister discuss regional, global issues Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign



Affairs Eng. Waleed Abdulkarim El Khreji on Tuesday discussed the regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The Saudi vice minister is leading a high-level and representative delegation with members from the Saudi Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Energy, Health, Environment and Agriculture, Industry and Mineral Resources, Investment etc, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

During the meeting, MoS Hina Khar expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of bilateral relations.

She also appreciated the Kingdom's interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan and apprised the Saudi delegation of the constitution of a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate and fast-track potential investments from GCC member states especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long history of relations marked by mutual trust and understanding and close multifaceted cooperation.

Meeting held to review progress relating to outsourcing of airports



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee and guide the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports' operations.

Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, Chief Executive Officer Public Partnership Authority, Director General Pakistan Civil Association Authority, International Finance Corporation team and other government officials attended the meeting, said a press release.

The committee was briefed about the latest status of outsourcing of Islamabad Airport transaction for advertisement has been published in all leading local and international newspapers.

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the efforts and contribution of all the members of the Committee which have made the plan of outsourcing possible in order to bring the best international aviation practices and services at Pakistani airports.

Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique also thanked the Finance Minister, on behalf of all the authorities involved, for his continuous support during the entire process.



MoS Khar, Saudi minister discuss regional, global issues.

FIA detains PTI chief's lawyer Naeem Haider

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has detained Naeem Haider Panjutha, lawyer of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, in a case related to alleged Facebook posts of judge Humayun Dilawar, who heard the Toshakhana case.

Sources told ARY News that the investigation agency had detained PTI chief's lawyer while interrogation in a case related to alleged Facebook posts was underway.

Talking to Twitter, PTI lawyer Sher

Afzal Khan Marwat said that Panjutha's clerk had confirmed the arrest but it was not clear whether it was a formal arrest or not as the first information report cannot be "registered directly and without permission of Islamabad High Court".

"Naeem Haider Panjutha went to FIA headquarters to join inquiry in Humayun Dilawar's Facebook posts," the PTI leader tweeted.

Sher Afzal said that Panjutha's arrest "would unite the legal fraternity" and would not stop the PTI chief's legal team from discharging their "professional obligations".

Military Awards Conferred Upon Pakistan Navy Personnel

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Investiture Ceremony 2023 was held at Islamabad. Chief of Staff (COS) Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the ceremony as Chief Guest and conferred various military awards to the naval personnel.

The recipients of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) were: Cdre Syed Naved Ahsan SI(M) and Cdre Amir Hanif SI(M).

The recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) were: Capt Dr Amjad Nawaz TI(M), Cdr Rizwan Ahmad TI(M), Lt Cdr Muhammad Imran TI(M), Lt Cdr Faisal Ayub TI(M) and Lt Cdr Syed Muhammad Hasan Rizvi TI(M).

02 Awards of TK(M)-II and 09 awards of TK(M)-III were also conferred upon CPOs and Sailors of Pakistan Navy whereas Letters of Commendation from Chief of the Naval Staff were awarded to 17 Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians.



The ceremony was attended by officers of the Pakistan Navy.

Protest against increase prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products: Hafiz Sadiq



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the leadership of central president Hafiz Sadiq Hussain, a protest against the increase in the prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products organized by Central Association of Tajran Timber Market was held in Timber Market.

Addressing the protest, Hafiz Sadiq Hussain said that the government should stop dropping electricity, gas and petrol bombs on the people and inflation has taken a toll.

The government should oppress the people as much as they can bear tomorrow. Due to the daily increase in the prices, the small businessmen and the people are in serious trouble. The purchase of medicine has gone beyond the reach of the poor, the household unit of electricity has become 60 rupees.

Government employees who have a salary of lakhs of rupees are benefiting from all kinds of facilities.

Al-Khidmat organized awareness walk for World Hepatitis Day

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Al-Khidmat Diagnostic Center Kalma Chowk organized an awareness walk and free screening camp on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day.

The anti-hepatitis awareness walk organized in this regard was led by President Al-Khidmat Foundation District Multan Ahmed Chughtai, Dr Gohar Ali Arshad, Director Al-Khidmat Diagnostics Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar and they also inaugurated the Hepatitis Free Screening Camp. The participants of the walk carried banner placards with slogans on hepatitis awareness. The walk started from Khidmat Diagnostics to Kalma Chowk.

On this occasion, Dr. Gohar Ali Arshad said that hepatitis B and C are liver diseases which are spread by the transmission of a virus called hepatitis B and C, and this virus attacks the liver and gradually destroys it. Inactivates the liver, he said. Precautions are essential to prevent hepatitis. Avoid using used syringes while injecting. Use personal trimmers while shaving or cutting hair.

Kidney patients should use sterile machines while undergoing dialysis, dental treatment should be done by a certified doctor and his instruments should be sterile and other such precautions should be taken. Use razors and nail clippers etc. for personal use and do not give it to any other healthy person for use.

Meanwhile, more than 100 people were screened in the Hepatitis Free Screening Camp where Dr. Nadeemullah Talpo, Hasan Butt, Rehan Mubeen and other medical staff attended the event.

Chief Election Commissioner Hyderabad decided to conduct the awareness campaign

Qayoom Saroqi

HYDERABAD: The Chief Election Commissioner of Hyderabad district and political and social organizations have decided to conduct an awareness campaign among the voters to increase the turnout in the general elections. A meeting was held in the office of District Election Commissioner Hyderabad with social organizations regarding the awareness campaign about the importance of vote cast among the public, in which CDDP CEO Abdul Sattar, Executive Director of Institute for Social Change Abdul Jabbar Bhatti, journalists, Abdul Qayoom Saroqi, Zeb Al-Nisa, AWF President Nazish Fatima, Firdous Sangi, Shaista, Syeda Sana Rizvi, Khadija Parveen and representatives of other welfare organizations participated. District Election Commissioner Muhammad Younis Majidano on this occasion says that People should be made aware that vote is most important for democracy system, which should be given in any cast. Voter turnout in elections is low due to population. Through awareness campaign, voter turnout can be increased.



IIUI President calls on rector NUML University

City Desk

ISLAMABAD:- In a stride towards enhancing the educational landscape and fostering academic excellence, the President of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, paid a visit to the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) where he held a meeting with its Rector, Major General (R) Muhammad Jaffar.

During the meeting at the Rector's office, both heads of the institutions engaged in discussions encompassing various spheres of mutual interest while initiatives aimed at elevating the standards of education and the pivotal role that universities play in shaping societies were discussed. Prominent collaborations for educational advancements were also discussed on this occasion. Rector Muhammad Jaffar explained the evolutionary journey of NUML, tracing its roots back to its inception in Rawalpindi. He underscored NUML's ongoing expansion in academic offerings, ensuring a diverse array of disciplines for prospective students.

Raylee (Traditional Blanket)

LAHORE: A gypsy woman is sewing blanket along her road side tent house as in the 21st century such people are still living like ancient nomad tribes, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Digger plants 2000 saplings in collaboration with WWF at UET KSK

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Digger, the emerging outdoor footwear brand in Pakistan, has taken a significant stride towards environmental well-being by successfully executing a massive plantation activity in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

A total of 2000 saplings were planted today at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Campus KSK, marking a remarkable initiative towards combating climate change and fostering a greener future.

Digger's commitment to its mission of creating authentic outdoor products for active consumers while promoting the environment-

tal well-being of communities in urban and non-urban landscapes has been put into tangible action. The plantation activity at UET



Campus KSK is a testament to Digger's dedication to its vision of becoming the most preferred outdoor footwear brand in Pakistan, not only by providing high-quality

products but also by actively contributing to the betterment of society and the environment.

The collaboration with

WWF adds an extra layer of credibility to Digger's environmental efforts. WWF, renowned worldwide for its conservation efforts and commitment to biodi-

versity, joined hands with Digger to create a powerful impact through this plantation activity. Together, Digger and WWF strive to address the serious challenges posed by climate change in Pakistan, including floods, rising temperatures, food scarcity, and changing environments.

This initiative is just the beginning of Digger's ambitious plans for environmental well-being. The company envisions a greener and healthier Pakistan by planting 4000 saplings in the initial phase of its plantation activities. These saplings will be distributed across two major cities, Lahore and Faisalabad, making a visible and lasting contribution to the local landscapes.

MULTAN: The ill-fated Hazara Express Train Reached Multan after about 24 hours: Hamad Hasan Mirza

MULTAN: The ill-fated Hazara Express Train Reached Multan after about 24 hours. DS Railway distributed food to the passengers twenty to twenty-five minutes after the departure, according to the details, the ill-fated Hazara Express train reached Multan Cantt Station last night at around 11 o'clock last night at about 24 hours late, where DS Railway Multan Division Hamad Hasan Mirza, Divisional Medical Officer Dr. Syed Abdul Sami along with other railway officers were present.

Hazara Express train reached Multan after about 24 hours: Hamad Hasan Mirza

Asim Tanveer

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Meanwhile, Dr. Syed Abdul Sami examined the minor injured passengers on Hazara Express, while DS Railway Hamad Hasan Mirza distributed juice, water and food boxes to the passengers. On this occasion, DS Railway issued instructions to send the commercial team along with the train and said that the passengers should not face any difficulties on the way.

Pakistan's Education System: A Catalyst for Change

Niamatullah Harifal

“Nelson Mandela once said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' Until the agricultural revolution, there was no formal education system in place. However, it was limited to feudal sons and tenants who were taught gymnastics, manners, and rhetoric. The industrial revolution brought about a transformation in the education landscape, extending it to the masses. This led to a credential society, as thoroughly elucidated by American sociologist Randall Collins.

Education became necessary for labor to operate intricate machinery. In

this credential society, a diploma served as the differentiating factor between the educated and uneducated, signifying the importance of education in our lives.

In 1875, American President Ulysses S. Grant campaigned for a constitutional amendment to mandate free public schools. In 1918, Mississippi became the final state to enforce mandatory public schooling.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948, deemed education a necessity for all under Article 26.

“When Pakistan emerged as a nation, its education system was modeled on the century-old British system. However, the education sector, like much of the region, was underdeveloped. An astonishing 85 percent of Pakistan's popula-

tion was illiterate. The realization that nation-building hinged on a robust education system became evident. Muslims were particularly lacking in education within the subcontinent. The National Educational Conference in 1947, chaired by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, emphasized education's role in nation-building. Jinnah asserted, “There is no doubt that the future of our state will greatly depend upon the type of education we provide to our children.” This conference underscored the imperative of primary education.

“The National Plan of Education Development 1951-57 spanned six years, focusing on additional teachers and primary schools. Various plans followed until 1972. The Education Policy 1972-80 aimed to universalize

elementary education up to grade five. Several governments formed committees with recommendations, yet governance challenges and discontinuity hindered implementation. The Single National Curriculum initiated by the PTI government aimed to streamline education. Despite these efforts, Pakistan's literacy rate remains around 60 percent. Article 25-A of the Constitution grants the right to education to every citizen.

“However, Pakistan's education system grapples with multifaceted challenges. There's a lack of uniformity, with disparate systems like madrassas, elite private institutions, and public schools. The management of these systems lacks a cohesive approach. Pakistan's education system lacks direction; it doesn't equip individuals with job-finding skills

or real-world market expertise. The public school curriculum is outdated, failing to align with current demands or include modern scientific principles.

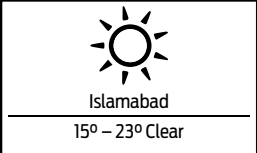
Teacher professional development is lacking. The examination system is concerning, relying heavily on rote memorization and reflecting an antiquated 'banking model' approach. Critical literacy is absent, impeding the production of critically thinking individuals. Limited resources strain the education sector, with inadequate funding hindering comprehensive progress. Proper resource audits are missing.

Pakistan's literacy rate is still among the lowest in South Asia, trailing behind even Afghanistan. “Addressing these issues necessitates a multifaceted approach. Teacher training, curriculum enhancement, class-

room modernization, infrastructure development, improved rural education access, and the promotion of girls' education are essential steps. Without a comprehensive reform effort that garners collective support, Pakistan's competitiveness in global education will remain a challenge.

“In conclusion, the transformation of Pakistan's education system is pivotal. Guided by Mandela's words, education stands as a potent instrument for change. By rectifying shortcomings, fostering comprehensive reform, and unifying educational efforts, Pakistan can forge a more promising educational future.

Writer is student of School of sociology Quaid I Azam University Islamabad



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 3:51 am
 Zohr 12:14 pm
 Asr 5:03 pm
 Maghrib 7:02 pm
 Isha 8:35 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
 CDA 9208301-04
 Met Office 9250360-6
 RDA 5555864
 TMA 5770886
 Cantonment Board 9270151-3
 Islamabad Metropolitan
 Corporation 9209224
 Potohar Town 9209224
 Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

171 teachers of education deptt Attock promoted

By Raaza Naqvi

ATTOCK: As many as 171 teachers serving in primary, middle and high schools in six different tehsils of district Attock promoted after a departmental promotion committee meeting has given official nod for their promotion to next cadre.

According to statement issued by the district information office, a meeting of departmental promotion committee meeting was held at the CEO Education Office, in which promotion cases of 185 teachers of various categories were presented, out of which the committee approved the cases of 171 teachers while 14 teachers were rejected. "The cases were deferred due to various legal and technical objections".

The statement further revealed. The statement said that the data of promoted teachers were uploaded on school Information System (SIS) School Education Department Punjab for their adjustment on the posts vacant of various schools of the district and addresses the paucity of teachers accordingly.

With the establishment of Working Folks Grammar School

Educational backwardness to be removed in the area: Sajid Turi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Sajid Hussain Tori inaugurated the Parachinar Working Focus Grammar School at the headquarter of Karam district. Secretary Welfare Board Irfan Wazir and Secretary Workers Welfare Fund Zulfikar Ahmed were also accompanied by the Federal Minister. Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi at Para Chinar, the headquarters of District Karam Inaugurated Working Focus Grammar School on Kadman Road.

In his address, the Federal Minister said that the establishment of schools will remove the educational backwardness in the area and the educational problems of the students will be solved. On this occasion, Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi while talking to the media said that due to the lack of educational institutions in Karam district including Para Chinar, students are facing serious problems and like other areas, the suburbs of Para



Chinar, Kadman Road and In the adjoining Zeyran desert too, female students were forced to go to distant areas for education due to lack of schools. Keeping in view the public problems, he inaugurated the Working Focus Grammar School on Kadman Road with the funds of his ministry. Inshallah, the work on the school will start very soon. By which the educational backwardness of the area will be removed. On this occasion, the tribal elders and the people of the area thanked Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori and appreciated his efforts in the development of the area.

Jashan-e-Azadi

ISLAMABAD: A family is selling National Flags and other stuff along the road side at Sector F-7 to earn daily wages for the livelihood of their self.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

FFC holds Second Corporate Briefing for the Year 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) held its Second Corporate Briefing for the year 2023 as part of its best corporate governance practices.

FFC has been recognized by Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as first amongst Top 25 Companies consecutively for 12 years attributed to its Compliance of Code of Corporate Governance, Company Performance and Efficient Management.

In the same backdrop the subject briefing for the half-year ended 30th June 2023 was held at FFC's corporate Head Office, Rawalpindi. Virtual access was also provided to all desirous stakeholders. Prominent capital market analysts and dignitary from Pakistan Stock Exchange attended the event.

Company Secretary FFC, Brig Irfan Khan T. Bt (Retd) opened the briefing and apprised the house about significance of the event. Chief Financial



Officer, Syed Atif Ali briefed the house about FFC's performance for the half year 2023 and assured Company's commitment to achieve higher standards of performance and sustained earnings. Company Secretary concluded the briefing and further ascertained Company's perseverance in ensuring continual improvement for its stakeholders.

People of Occupied Kashmir are fighting for the completion of Pakistan: Sardar Attique

By Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the people of Occupied Kashmir are fighting for the completion of Pakistan. It has been made and the Kashmiri people are facing more than 10 lakh occupying Indian forces. The people of Occupied Kashmir are still making sacrifices following the footsteps of martyrs of Kashmir, India is suppressing the voice of truth and truth of Kashmiris like the Dogra rulers. He said that Kashmir issue has become the flash point of South Asia. Yes, if the world does not realize the seriousness of this issue the

dream of peace, stability and development in South Asia will not be fulfilled. Dozens of Kashmiris are being martyred in the area every day, but despite this, the spirit of freedom of Kashmiris is not diminishing. Kashmiris have resumed India's oppressive tactics in the past and will continue their struggle for freedom in the future. The people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are creating an eternal story of sacrifices for Pakistan. He appealed to the international community to take effective measures to stop India's illegal and inhumane tactics, by the silence of the international community to India. The media should play its role in bringing the Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir before the world to expose Indian government atrocities he added.



Admission Desk should be established immediately: Kalsoom Paracha

By Kiran Asim

MULTAN: It has been decided to build an admission desk and create a central time table in the Women's University Multan.

According to the spokeswoman, an important meeting of the faculty members of the university was held under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Paracha, in which all the situation of the university was reviewed.

It has been told in the meeting that so far more than 9 thousand applications have been received for new admissions while the candidates can submit the applications till the second decade of August.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha specially instructed that an admission



desk should be established immediately where complete details will be provided to the incoming candidates.

And parents and students should be guided, candidates should also be made aware of the subjects regarding career counselling, the vice-chancellor added that a central time table should be prepared so that the problem of shortage of classrooms can be solved immediately.

AIOU holds BASR meeting



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 65th meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. This meeting was presided over by the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, in which all the four Deans, prominent scholars, subject specialists, supervisors, and heads of departments participated in the meeting. The meeting was organized by the Directorate of BASR while the Director BASR, Professor Dr. Syed Amir Shah hosted it. He presented a detailed report on the implementation of the decisions of the previous meeting.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized to the deans, and heads of the departments that considering the current situation, students should be given such topics in their PhD and MPhil/MS theses which can contribute for the country in any aspect. He also instructed Director BASR to organize a board meeting regularly every two months. This meeting will continue for two days in which 28 PhD students will give presentations on their synopses (research proposals). 16 PhD scholars from Education, Business Management, History, Iqbal Studies, Agricultural Sciences, Library and Information Sciences and Department of Islamic Studies presented their proposal. The Board directed some scholars to review and present their synopses again in the next meeting.

Jashan e Azadi cricket match between journalists and artists of the twin cities on August 10

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Expressing love for the beloved country Pakistan, a Jashan e Azadi cricket match between journalists and artists of the twin cities organized by All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation was organized on Thursday, August 10 at 3 o'clock at Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Cricket Ground, G 7 Markaz, Sitara Market, Islamabad. A large number of journalists and artists from the twin cities will attend to watch the match. The cricket team of journalists will be led by President Pakistan Union of Journalists (PFUJ)

Afzal Butt, while the artists' team will be led by President (APCOYF) Aasma Butt. Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Pakistan Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Noor Ul Amin Mengal will be the special guests of the Independence Day Cricket Match. The purpose of organizing the cricket match is to express our love for Pakistan and to convey the message that the friendship between Pakistan and China will grow stronger with time. China is not only with Pakistan in every moment of difficulty, but also in all moments of happiness. The Chinese government stands with the people and youth of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day.

The Aga Khan University is aware of the ongoing conversation concerning the annual entry test conducted

News Desk

KARACHI: To uphold our commitment to fairness and academic excellence, the Aga Khan University has decided to redo the entrance test for the MBBS programme, 2023-2024 academic year. The revised entry test is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 19, 2023. Further details will be communicated to the candidates from the AKU Admissions Office.

We would like to thank all of our applicants for their interest in our programmes and have taken this decision after careful consideration. At Aga Khan University, we are dedicated to providing the highest standard of education to our students. It is our commitment to this singular focus that has earned us the trust of thousands of parents and students worldwide, making AKU their preferred choice for pursuing a successful career. Safeguarding their confidence and best interest remains at the core of our mission.

We wish all applicants good luck for the revised test.

DFP remembers Shaheed-e-Azeemat Sheikh Abdul Aziz on his martyrdom anniversary

Spokesman Report

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has paid glowing tributes to renowned Kashmiri leader Shaheed-e-Azeemat Sheikh Abdul Aziz on his 15th martyrdom anniversary.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman, while highlighting the supreme sacrifices rendered by the martyred leader, said that Shaheed Sheikh Abdul Aziz was truly a man of honesty and integrity who devoted his entire life to the Kashmir cause.

Referring to the martyred leader's role in the ongoing liberation struggle, he said that he was one of the pioneers of the freedom movement who went through trials and tribulations during his years' long struggle for the right to self-determination.

He said that Sheikh Abdul Aziz Shaheed would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history for his indomitable role and peerless contribution in the freedom struggle.

Recalling the incarcerated party chairman Shabir Ahmed Shah's long association with the martyred leader, the DFP spokesman said that both the leaders had worked together for years and served the noble cause of freedom with utmost dedication and commitment.

Condolence meeting held

By Arif Chaudhary

MANCHESTER: Greater Manchester's prominent social figure, pioneer of women's rights, TV foremost in charity work and chairperson of Kamboh Foundation, businessman Arshad Mehmood and Tahir Mehmood's mother, Razia Bano Raziqi, who died suddenly a few days ago, Anush Chaudhary and his The family held a condolence meeting at a local hall in Manchester. Community leader and former candidate for Mayor of Greater Manchester Chaudhry Aslam Kamboh, distinguished scientist Altaf Mughal Tafi, special attendance- Chaudhry Shabbir Gujjar-Mahmood Riaz-Arbab-Aftab-Adnan Abrar-Javed Aslam-Chaudhry Nadeem-Dr. Anjum-Muhammad Haris and Hafiz Muhammad Afzal were included-The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Muhammad Haris-Tahir Hafeez recited the Lord of the Universe. Devotional flowers were showered in Bargah Aqdas-on this occasion, the special guest, property tycoon, former candidate for mayor of Greater Manchester and member of the European Parliament, Chaudhry Aslam Kamboh said that the deceased used to help the poor and the needy behind the scenes and brought harmony and harmony within the community. Her role in establishing an atmosphere of unity was prominent which will always be remembered.

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 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

An Unending Practice of Child Abuse in Pakistan-Does Wealth Trump Justice? - I

The persistent threat of child abuse in Pakistan continues to raise pressing concerns, prompting a critical question: does wealth hold more sway than the principles of justice? Despite efforts to combat this grave issue, the influence of affluence often appears to overshadow the pursuit of rightful accountability. Instances of child abuse, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds, should be met with impartial legal action and stringent consequences, ensuring that the scales of justice remain balanced and unswayed by financial power.

early negative experiences like abuse or neglect, casting a shadow over an individual's physical and mental well-being in the long run.

These effects manifest as accelerated aging, chronic ailments, and, in some cases, premature mortality. Pakistan has a historical tendency to address issues reactively, rather than proactively.

Child abuse, though prevalent, tends to be inadequately acknowledged as a significant societal challenge within the country.

As per the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPSCAN), a total of 41.69% of the participants reported experiencing some form of sexual abuse within the past year. Derived from the data, it can be inferred that the count of victimized children in Pakistan surpasses 12 daily. When examining the gender distribution, the reported instances of child abuse reveal that 55% (2,325 cases) pertained to girls, while 45% (1,928 cases) were related to boys. Approximately 500,000 children (about half the population of Montana)

experience physical assaults annually in Pakistan, as indicated by a report presented by child experts. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated in 2020 that around 12.5 million children (about twice the population of Arizona) in Pakistan were engaged in child labor, which represents a significant proportion of the child population.

In its Annual World Report for 2022, the Human Rights Watch highlighted allegations of widespread rights violations targeting both women and children in Pakistan, placing the country at the 167th position out of 170 countries on the Global Women, Peace and Security Index.

The report underlined that Pakistan faces a persistent issue of violence against women and girls, encompassing acts such as rape, homicide, acid attacks, domestic abuse, and coerced marriages. This report serves as a somber reflection of the human rights conditions in Pakistan and the pervasive incidence of child abuse within the nation.

Physical child abuse among children employed as domestic workers in

Pakistan presents a harrowing concern. These young laborers, often vulnerable and lacking legal protection, frequently find themselves subjected to physical mistreatment at the hands of their employers.

Their marginalized status within society exacerbates the issue, making them susceptible to exploitation due to their economic desperation.

In a recent incident, the spouse of Civil Judge Asim Hafeez is alleged to have subjected her 14-year-old maid, Rizwana, to physical abuse. The accusation stems from the wife's belief that the teenager had stolen gold jewelry, leading her to resort to vigilante actions rather than pursuing legal channels. The victim's family disclosed that Rizwana had been employed as a domestic worker at the residence of the civil judge in Islamabad for half a year prior to enduring the mistreatment inflicted by his wife. Law enforcement officials have noted the presence of around 15 marks of torture on the girl's body, including her face. A case of torture has been filed against the judge's wife, filed by the girl's father under Section 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which pertains to wrongful confinement of an individual.

To be continued



Analysis

Malaika Sarwar

7th China-South Asia Exposition

The 7th China-South Asia Exposition will be held in Kunming, China from August 16 to 20, with the theme of "Solidarity and Coordination for Common Development". Last week, the first batch of 59 exhibits from Pakistan and other countries entered the exhibition hall under the supervision of Kunming Customs.

"The exhibits include clothing, money clips, leather hats, etc. transported to Kunming Airport by air. All exhibits of the Expo can be declared through nationwide integration of customs clearance procedures, which can help reduce logistics costs and ensure that the exhibits are cleared quickly and exhibit on time," said Fu Yu, customs manager of Yunnan Easy-Trans International freight forwarder Co., Ltd.

60 countries and regions have signed up for the expo, including all South Asian and Southeast Asian countries and RCEP member states, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

Around 1,000 enterprises signed up to participate in the exhibition, among which 50 are of the Global 500 companies.

The Expo of this year has 15 pavilions with an exhibition area of 150,000 square meters," introduced Li Chenyang, director of the Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province, China.

"This year, we will focus on inviting more professional visitors according to the different needs of exhibitors. We will also help exhibitors match target buyers precisely so that more exhibits can be turned into commodities." Li Fei, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China, revealed the highlights of this year's expo.

"We will also fully adapt digital platforms to provide 'one-stop' services for exhibitors of the Expo. Exhibitors and visitors who cannot attend the event in person can participate, negotiate and purchase online."

China-South Asia Expo has been successfully held six times and has gradually developed into an increasingly influential platform integrating trade, economic communication, commodity display, investment cooperation and e-commerce. "In 2013, when the first China-South Asia Expo was held, the total trade volume between China and South Asian countries was less than USD100 billion, the number increased to USD200 billion last year, representing an average annual increase of 8.3 percent," Li Fei said.

"China is also the largest trading partner of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and other South Asian countries. Exports of aquatic products, tea and nuts from those countries to China keep increasing and gaining popularity among Chinese consumers." He added.

Li also stressed the efforts that China has made in synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative with the development of South Asian countries, especially mentioning its iron brother, Pakistan.

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan, created 192,000 jobs, added 6,000 megawatts of electricity, 510 kilometers of highways and 886 kilometers of the national core transmission grid."

The 27th Kunming Import and Export Fair will be held simultaneously with the expo.

SIFC- A Roadmap for Development of Pakistan - II

SIFC strives to attract both foreign and domestic investments by showcasing Pakistan's economic potential, market opportunities, and investment-friendly policies. The council works towards streamlining bureaucratic processes, reducing red tape, and simplifying regulatory procedures to make it easier for investors to set up and operate businesses in Pakistan. SIFC identifies priority sectors for investment and focuses on their development through targeted policies and initiatives. This approach aims to maximize the impact of investments and promote sustainable growth. The council acts as a liaison between the private sector and the government, advocating for policies that support investment and economic growth. SIFC offers comprehensive support services to investors, including assistance with project approvals, permits, licenses, and any other challenges they may face during their investment journey.

SIFC launches investment promotion campaigns through various mediums to create awareness about investment opportunities and business potential in Pakistan. The council aims to establish a one-stop shop for investors, providing them with all necessary information and services in a centralized and efficient manner. SIFC identifies key sectors with high growth potential, such as information technology, renewable energy, manufacturing, and agriculture, and tailors specific incentives and support to attract investment in these sectors.

After the previous state of the Pakistani economy, now Alhamdulillah, extensive and comprehensive measures are being taken for its improvement and self-reliance on a permanent basis, in which, under the platform of SIFC, Pakistan's natural resources and sectors that have vast potential in Pakistan. It is found that the work on them has started with full attention and uniformity. Along with this, the work on regional connectivity, regional trade and CPEC projects is also speeding up. The projects on which the government and the army have jointly started work through SIFC include farming in the agricultural sector on barren lands according to modern requirements, model farming, livestock, land information

management system, foreign investment in the IT sector. SIFC is also aimed to take advantage of Pakistan's vast resources of mining and minerals and to create favorable conditions for foreign investment, investment in defense and energy sector and foreign direct investment through SIFC's one-window operation. With all these measures, countless opportunities have been opened for Pakistan to improve its economy and now

Pakistan is looking towards an economic self-sufficiency as direct investment in these fields with Pakistan's friendly countries is fast.

The forces that cannot see Pakistan on its journey to self-reliance have also been fully mobilized. Those external forces are fully engaged in creating economic misery, despair, doomsday scenarios, and defamation of institutions in the country by using internal elements. In the past, economists like Qaisar Bengali had spread despair and disappointment by saying that Pakistan is sinking and going to be default. Anti Pakistan elements want to keep the people in constant despair and do not want to let the country economically get out of the clutches of those forces. The biggest obstacle in the journey of economic self-reliance of Pakistan is these hostile elements who want to thwart all such steps in Paki-

stan that will help Pakistan get rid of the economic mercy of these forces.

There is an even possible attempt by these forces and their facilitators inside and outside the country to make the recent economic improvement measures in Pakistan controversial and fail so that Pakistan's weak economy will always make us economically dependent on these forces. They continued to force us so that we always raised our hands in front of them. In recent days, it has been seen that these elements, sitting inside and outside the country, are following a specific and nefarious agenda and spreading false and misleading propaganda on the journey of self-reliance of the Pakistani economy, spreading frustration and confusion among the people.

Pakistan is very lucky that now we have such an Army Chief who is himself on forefront for economic revival of the country. He visited a lot of countries and met with many foreign Officials in Pakistan including Visiting Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, Lieutenant General Alfonso Mais, Chief of German Army etc. Of course economic revival and investment opportunities would also have been discussed along with discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and defense cooperation. The 10th anniversary of CPEC was celebrated in Pakistan where Civil and Military leadership showed full commitment with the core issues of the country.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Would PIA restructuring work now? - II

The goal of this thorough reproduction of SIAL is to emphasize that the SIAL airport and Aairsial are administered by a Board of Directors wholly composed of Pakistanis. The management that runs both SIAL and Aairsial is of Pakistani origin, and the human resources that run the operations of SIAL airport and Aairsial are also Pakistanis, bringing home an important point that we don't need to look for foreign partners, which some analysts believe would be a sell-out, while others are concerned that joint ventures would not be in the best interests of PIA.

It also implies that we have a successful model of SIAL airport and Aairsial, which may be replicated in other parts of the country. This will not be a difficult task. In every major city, there is a Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Each CC&I can form two separate companies, one to administer airports and second to run an airline by buying 51% shares in PIA assets located in its jurisdiction.

Each CC&I can appoint BOD, and bring in top management to enjoy the flexibility and freedom to make decisions. It may bring in trained, efficient, and highly qualified human resources. Rationalise the PIA and CAA assets acquired by each CC&I in each city to make them more efficient and cost-effectively.

Refocus on regional routes, which would allow it to be more focused on its target market, renew the fleet with younger aircraft, which would make it more fuel-efficient and less expensive to maintain, and improve

its customer service, which would help to improve its reputation. It should also bring in new technological innovation to modernise and upgrade infrastructure and bring the airport and airline services at par with top airports and airlines of the world.

PIA's turnaround is not difficult; if it was, Indian Airlines would have gone bankrupt by now. Aairsial may not have existed, and many other airlines that are progressively populating the sky throughout the world may have gone bankrupt.

What we need is a strong political will and an excellent communication strategy to persuade airport and airline workers to embrace the reforms and restructuring measures happily and willingly. The Sial airport and Aairsial model can be adopted to bring airport and airline services at par with the best airports and airlines of the world.

PM Shahbaz while chairing a meeting on June 27, 2023 of the committee constituted to proposed restructuring of PIA very rightly said that PIA could only progress if run by professional and administrative experts purely on a profit-and-loss basis, whereas the government should only confine itself to policy-making and facilitation of investors, businessmen and companies. This is the only way forward to turn around our cherished and close to our heart airline, the PIA.

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



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

Israeli PM Netanyahu again confirms rejection of Palestinian state

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is accustomed to not wasting any opportunity in order to confirm his well-known positions rejecting the Palestinian state, especially in this period when there is increasing media talk about an American-Israeli interest in pushing for normalization with Saudi Arabia, which, according to what was reported through the media, is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Sisterly Saudi Arabia requires recognition of the Palestinian state and taking advanced steps towards it. In this context, Netanyahu's statement came in his meeting with the American Bloomberg Agency as an indication of his rejection of these Saudi conditions and an affirmation on his part of his position rejecting the principle of the Palestinian state.

In front of such an intransigent and refusal position of Netanyahu in dealing with the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of



which is their right to self-determination and the embodiment of their independent state, which comes as a deliberate anticipation of any possible American pressures aimed at deepening normalization with the occupying entity and trying to convince other balanced countries of this path, the question

comes about The feasibility of any upcoming or future attempt towards normalization and its timing with this occupying entity that created an apartheid regime in the occupied Palestinian territory? The feasibility of any future effort or diligence towards normalization with people who lead a state that

sponsors terrorism, destroys the Palestinian people, violates their most basic rights and destroys their capabilities, a state that refuses to recognize the rights recognized by international law for the Palestinian people?!

In this context, the Ministry believes that it is preferable to support the efforts led by the State of Palestine in exposing this entity represented by the Netanyahu government with its fascist and racist structure, which does not recognize the existence of the Palestinian people and does not recognize their rights, and works to annihilate them through terrorism and killing.

The Ministry affirms that it is more useful to collect all these efforts and capabilities at this stage with the aim of exposing the violations and crimes of the current Israeli government, and working to support the Palestinian movement before international courts. Israel and the violations it commits as an occupying power, a colonial state, an apartheid state, and now a terrorist state.

State of Palestine welcomes the Australian position announced



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomes the Australian position announced today, August 8, by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong affirming that the Australian government will adopt the term 'Occupied Palestinian Territories', clarifying that "the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza were occupied by Israel following the 1967 and that the occupation continues", in addition to strengthening the Australian government's opposition to Israeli settlements "by affirming that they are illegal under international law and are a significant obstacle to peace."

The Ministry views this significant and important development in the Australian position positively, as it aligns with international law and United Nations resolutions, and supports global efforts aimed at reviving the peace process based on international peace frameworks, foremost of which is the principle of the two-state solution. In this context, the Ministry emphasizes that the State of Palestine continues to await action by the Australian government towards implementing resolutions passed by the Australian Labor Party calling its government to recognize the State of Palestine without delay or hesitation.

The Ministry hopes that the Australian government and Minister for Foreign Affairs will recognize the State of Palestine swiftly, in accordance with international law and international legitimacy. This step not only reflects the position of the Labor Party and its members, but also the broader sentiment of the friendly people of Australia, who support the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their state within 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Jazz & UNDP extend collaboration to promote women-led social innovation in Pakistan

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's largest digital operator, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have launched the Women Initiative in Social Entrepreneurship (WISE) to promote women-led social innovation in Pakistan.

The WISE Bootcamps, registrations for which are open now, aim to empower 400 women social entrepreneurs across 12 cities of Pakistan with essential business knowledge and skills to manage sustainable social enterprises.

To strengthen the start-up ecosystem in Pakistan, in 2020, Jazz and UNDP partnered to launch SDG Bootcampsto promote social innovation and entrepreneurship by youth in Pakistan. The SDG Bootcamps engaged 401 participants, 40% of them being women entrepreneurs. The solutions addressed by these enterprises included climate action, health, and digital transformation.

Continuing the partnership - and with implementation through the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF) - the WISE Bootcamps will focus on strengthening Pakistan's women social entrepreneurs.



"WISE is aimed at empowering Pakistani women by creating opportunities for financial and digital inclusion for the women and youth," said Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz. "This outcome resonates well with Jazz's purpose of improving the lives and livelihoods of women in Pakistan through technology.

We hope that women-led businesses in WISE will address unique challenges and create innovative solutions that positively impact their communities and beyond."

"Digital space in Pakistan must be a place for gender equality, for social and economic empowerment and inclu-

sion. Knowledge and skills of technology and innovative entrepreneurship are all part of this ecosystem. If we get it right, development indicators of inclusion and gender equality will achieve their positive trajectory," remarked Samuel Rizk, UNDP's Resident Representative to Pakistan.

Governor and Minister of Sindh to jointly confer awards to 86 organizations



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The outstanding performance of 86 local and multinational companies and industries in the arena of environmental protection will be recognized at the 20th Annual Environment Excellence Awards-2023 here at a hotel on August 9 (Wednesday). The National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) is organizing the event.

Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori, and Sindh Local Government Minister, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, as the chief guests on the occasion, will jointly give the awards to the successful companies in recognition of their hard work to reverse the phenomenon of environmental degradation. Out of the 86 award winners, six companies will be specially recognized for their outstanding contributions to tree plantation campaigns.

Also on the occasion, a conference will be held on "Adapting urban transportation to climate change" to be attended by the concerned environmentalists and relevant experts. Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi, Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi will grace the conference as the guest of honour.

Other noted speakers of the conference include senior environmental activist and former SEPA DG, Mehtab Akbar Rashidi, Ashar Lodhi, Syed Omar Arif, Bilawal Suhag, Shabina Faraz, and Abdul Aziz of Bus Rapid Transit Service in Karachi.

NFEH President, Naeem Qureshi, said the Annual Environment Excellence Awards and conference was held every year regularly with the basic objective in mind to discuss prevailing serious environmental challenges in the country and also to recognize and rewarding hard work by the industries and corporate sector in safeguarding the environment

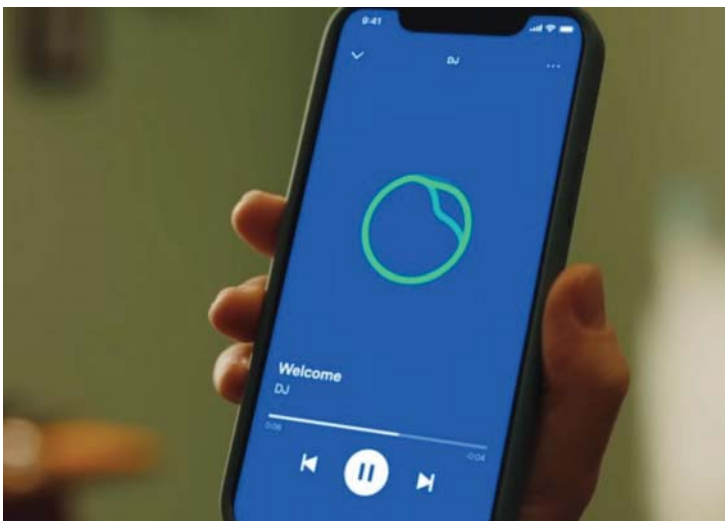
Qureshi said the recommendations of the conference would be sent to all the relevant authorities for implementation them for transforming the new urban transport facilities into environment-friendly passenger carries.

Spotify brings AI DJ to users in Pakistan

City Desk

KARACHI: Spotify is taking personalization to a whole new level with AI DJ available right in their pockets. DJ is a unique offering that gives users an insanely personalized experience where they can connect even more deeply with the artists that they love. Coupled with AI-backed features, this latest addition understands the listener and their music taste so well that it can choose what to play for them. DJ will deliver a curated lineup of music alongside commentary around the tracks and artists extracted from a variety of listenership parameters that are distinct to each individual—all with a stunningly realistic voice.

Already available to users in the US, Canada, UK, and Ireland, DJ has



already transformed the listenership experience for Premium users in these

regions. On days when users tune in, fans spend 25% of their listening time with DJ—and they keep coming back. More than half of first-time listeners came back to listen to DJ the very next day. And DJ has especially resonated with Gen Z and Millennials, who make up 87% of DJ users.

DJ will be available to Spotify Premium subscribers across 50 markets around the world including Pakistan. To find your personal AI DJ, open the Spotify mobile app on your iOS or Android device. From there, you have a few options:

- Use the Search bar—and type "DJ"
- From the Search tab, scroll to find your Made For You hub
- From Home, tap Music to access your Music feed, then tap Play on the DJ

In recognition of Pakistan's heroes, Naheed Manzoor deserves more

The struggle of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Fatima Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Liaquat Ali Khan and other historical figures are involved in bringing Pakistan into existence after the ALLAH PAK. There, the role of Pakistan forces and our heroes was very prominent in giving Pakistan a prominent place in the world. Whose practical struggle construction and development of Pakistan. Our heroes are our most valuable asset. Whose services are impossible to forget, because their names have become immortal in history. But it is a pity that there are many of our heroes who have been awarded national honors in recognition of their services after their departure, which amounts to total injustice.

A prominent name in the promotion of culture and art of Pakistan is the founder of Rawalpindi Arts Council Ms. Naheed Manzoor. She is

a clear and transparent person with a soft heart. Where the artist community is connected to each other as a family with its culture and traditions. There, Naheed Manzoor holds the status of an elder sister, a teacher for the artists of the twin cities. Which has become a school in terms of its services and experiences. Naheed Manzoor dedicated his entire life to the service of art and artists. It would not be wrong if I say that Naheed Manzoor is a woman of great qualities. If Naheed is not given this status even after his lifetime association and struggle with the institution, it will be a great loss to her. Which is not acceptable for any artist.

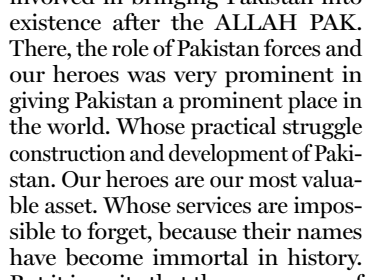
When the arts councils across the country including Rawalpindi were closed down during the regime of former President General (ret'd)

Zia-ul-Haq, on the ground that dancing was taking place there. So Naheed Manzoor was furious at the loss of rights to her artists. She was dedicated to the fact that the Arts Council of any city reflects the culture and traditions of its country and province. Where the young generation is not only exposed to their culture. Rather, they are taught ethics. Therefore, the impression that the Arts Council is only a venue for dancing and singing is completely wrong. Disapproving of the government's

wrong decision, she took a bold decision and stood up for the rights of artists community. Naheed Manzoor called for a strike and along with artists staged a sit-in at GPO Chowk Saddar Rawalpindi. As a result, the government bowed down to Naheed Manzoor and retracted his decision. Thus,

Naheed Manzoor became victorious in her ideological struggle. Through the efforts of Naheed Manzoor, land was allocated for Rawalpindi Arts Council on Shamsabad Double Road. After which Ms. Naheed Manzoor founded the Rawalpindi Arts Council by taking funds from the Punjab government.

Besides being the resident director of Rawalpindi Arts Council, Naheed Manzoor is a multi-talented artist. She is an excellent dramatist and director, whose many plays have become popular. The establishment of Rawalpindi Arts Council has sent a wave of joy among the artists of the twin cities, who got an official and respectable platform to show their essence. The artists raised their hands and prayed for Naheed Manzoor. Even today, if any artist of Rawalpindi Islamabad faces any problem, they prefer to go to Rawalpindi Arts Council. Despite her illness, Naheed Manzoor will stand by her artists in every difficult time. Numerous artists started their artistic



Analysis
Aasma Butt



careers from Rawalpindi Arts Council, who became successful and went on to emerge as bright stars, one of them being the famous singer Ibrar Ul Haq, who also started his career to Raw-

pindi Arts council, who is very popular among the people today.

I feel it necessary to draw the attention of my readers to this important issue that it is good that we recognize the services of our legends in their own lifetime, because it is grossly unfair to them to honor their families after they are gone. It is equivalent to, the services of our heroes should be appreciated in their life, so that they can get the reward of their life-long hard work and struggle, which is no less than oxygen for them. It is very sad to say that Naheed Manzoor, the founder of Rawalpindi Arts Council, the best writer and a teacher among artists, has been completely neglected by the government, whose artistic services are obvious to all. I appeal to the government to recognize Naheed Manzoor's valuable services in her life and award her with the Presidential Award.

(Author is President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation)

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
47,429.82	48,386.25
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,415.46	47,335.32
Index Value	Change
10,743,347,290	-956.43
Percentage	Time
-1.98%	8 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,527.42	-27.07
Percentage	Time
-0.36%	8 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,209.20	-263.93
Percentage	Time
-0.74%	8 Aug, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,377.29	+122.73
Percentage	Time
+0.38%	8 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	40.05	40.45
Danish Krone	42.43	42.83
Euro	320.8	323.5
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	77.75	78.4
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	26.75	27.05
Swiss Franc	329.02	331.52
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U.A.E Dirham	81.5	82.3
UK Pound Sterling	371.8	375.5
US Dollar	293.6	296.5

Women empowerment is a noble cause: Zunaira Omar

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A women-led company has launched a programme to empower future leaders and women entrepreneurs. The programme aims to connect marketing brilliance and a positive social role to pave the path for a better future.

The programme was launched by The SquarePeg, a digital marketing company, it offered free training to mentees and digital marketing services to three businesses including, Ariana Stylz, Sweet & Savoury, and SAM Accessories. The program also included a corporate cook off arranged by ZarZ kitchen.

SquarePeg's CEO, Zunaira Omar, said on the occasion that we want to foster entrepreneurial culture and self-employment among the youth.

"I believe that our mentorship programme wasn't just about guiding the next generation; it's about igniting the spark of brilliance within them, she added.

Zunaira Omar said that we want to empower youth to shape their destiny and create a better tomorrow together, while emphasising the importance of social impact.



She said that for sustainable development, gender equality and women's econom-

ic empowerment are necessary. Higher female earnings greatly contribute to children's education and family health, impacting the overall economic growth of a nation, she added.

Speaking at the occasion, Abdullah Khan, Project Head, Ignite National Technology Fund, a body working under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, said that the government is giving high priority to women's empowerment.

Sustainable economic growth is unthinkable without women's empowerment, and measures for gender inclusion are the driving factor of social progress and economic growth, he added.

Abdullah Khan said that women's empowerment is very important for national development and that empowered women are playing a very important role in social and economic development.

We must promote a sense of self-worth in women; they should be free to determine their own choices, which is key to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous world.

He lauded the initiative by The SquarePeg and assured full support in this regard.

CAMON 20 Series set to launch in a spectacular live CAMON Fashion Night

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TECNO, the leading mobile company in Pakistan, launched its highly anticipated CAMON 20 series on Monday, 7th August. The launch event took place during a digital fashion show live on TECNO Mobile Pakistan's official channels and the Daraz app.

Adding to the excitement, TECNO has selected the renowned superstar Sajal Aly as the brand ambassador for the CAMON 20 series. She was also an integral part of all the thrilling activities during the event, adding her star power and charisma to the show.

This virtual fashion show created a unique and immersive experience, engaging customers across the country. It was incorporated with fun and interactive activities with a lot of different surprises, in which everyone could participate from the comfort of their house. Participants had the opportunity to win exciting prizes.

Meticulously designed for tech-savvy individuals, photographers, and fashion enthusiasts, the CAMON 20 series features stunning camera qualities, cutting-edge technology, and a sleek, stylish look with its industry-first CAMON PUZZLE Deconstruction Design, promising a spectac-



ular user experience that surpasses all its previous innovations. The series offers a range of versions, including CAMON 20, CAMON 20 Pro, CAMON 20 Pro 5G and, CAMON 20 Premium, catering to a wide variety of users worldwide.

"TECNO CAMON 20 is a blend of innovative technologies and modern design in one striking, high-performance series," said Jack Guo, General Manager of TECNO, "There are many moments in life that are meant to be kept safe. TECNO CAMON

20's advanced portrait and video technologies let users capture those emotional moments with sharper detail, while its strikingly aesthetic design, great quality and exceptional user experience make it an all-rounder device."

The new CAMON 20 Series comes in Predawn Black, Serenity Blue, out of which CAMON 20 is now available online on the official website of TECNO Mobile Pakistan, Daraz App, and offline markets across the country.

SI Global Solutions Upgrades Cranes in Deep-Sea container port



News Desk

KARACHI: SI Global Solutions has achieved unprecedented success by upgrading cranes at Deep Sea container port with a state-of-the-art advanced surveillance system and the latest technology to bring efficiency in port operations such as cargo and shipment handling.

The project will enhance the accuracy of container movement from large-sized vessels at the terminal to its cargo storage and reduce the time of overall operations significantly. The project will also reduce the time of container loading and offloading from the vessels at Deep Sea Container Port.

On the accomplishment of this project, CEO SI Global Solutions Noman Ahmed Said stated, "The upgradation of the RTG cranes at Deep Sea Container Port is

the testament that the port sector in Pakistan is highly strategic and advanced on the technology front. He stated that SI Global Solutions is the Pakistani company to have achieved this task at international standards, which shows the potential and capacity of the local company in the technological area. This was the first ever project of its kind in Pakistan and more projects are likely in the near future."

The success of SI Global can also be attributed to its strong leadership, which has steered the ship with wisdom and foresight. By fostering a culture of collaboration, creativity, and empowerment, the company has nurtured an environment where everyone's ideas and contributions are valued, leading to continuous improvement and breakthrough achievements, Noman Said added.

Rizq-e-Halal

LAHORE: An elder vendor is selling paper fans along the road side to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online

ICCI and CDA to join hands for Tree Plantation Drive in Capital

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: CDA Member Environment Capt. (Retd) Anwar ul Haq visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) along with Director General Environment Ms. Xenia Hamayun Sanik and Director Environment Akhtar Rasool and said that ICCI should join hands with CDA to promote the tree plantation drive in the Capital as the support of the business community is very important in making this drive successful. He said that the CDA is ready to give a piece of land to ICCI for tree plantation so that the business community can plant maximum saplings there and also take responsibility for their maintenance and upkeep. He said that

CDA will identify the species of plants while the business community can also select the species in consultation with CDA. He said that filtration plants and washrooms are ready in many sectors and CDA is ready to hand over these facilities to the concerned market associations if they take the responsibility of their maintenance and operation with own resources. He said that the CDA is also ready to allow ICCI to display its digital logo on the Zero Point Bridge and maintain it with its own resources. He said that allergy-causing trees like paper mulberry are being eliminated in Islamabad to save people from allergies. He also started a plantation drive by planting a sapling in the Chamber.

Expressing his thoughts on this occasion, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that the chamber had earlier planted thousands of saplings in Islamabad under the Go Green campaign in collaboration with CDA and the chamber. This year, with the support of the business community, the plantation campaign in the markets will be carried out in an effective manner to promote a healthy environment by making Islamabad greener and greener.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum Khan appreciated the efforts of CDA to carry forward the plantation drive. He said that the keen interest of the business community in making the plantation campaign successful

in collaboration with CDA for the promotion of a healthy environment is commendable. He also informed the participants about his efforts for the plantation drive in Chakwal.



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has completed fiberization of the famous and picturesque tourist destination, Nathiagali to provide high-speed connectivity and quality user experience in the region. The blazing fast internet will support social empowerment and growth

of the local tourism industry.

The network overhaul is being carried out under PTCL's Copper Sunset project, which encompasses the replacement of copper wires with the cutting-edge PTCL Flash Fiber network, which will be the fastest internet in town giving customers blazing speeds of up to 1Gbps with unlimited downloads.

Zafar Bakhtavari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that only 10 to 15% saplings grow into trees, so special attention should be paid to their proper care. He urged the Office Bearers of Market Associations to fully cooperate with the CDA in the plantation drive to make the city of Islamabad cleaner and greener.

Lucky Cement achieves all-time high consolidated profit after tax of PKR 59.5 billion

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Continuing its streak of surpassing milestones, Lucky Cement Limited achieved an all-time high consolidated profit after tax of PKR 59.5 billion for the year ended June 30, 2023, with PKR 10.8 billion attributed to non-controlling interests. This marks an impressive 63.5% surge compared to the same period last year, translating to an after-tax gain of PKR 152.97. The remarkable increase in profit includes gain on disposal made by Lucky Core Industries, a subsidiary company, of approximately 26.5% of the issued and paid-up share capital of NutriCo Morinaga (Private) Limited resulting in an after-tax gain of PKR 9.6 billion.

In response to inquiries about the financial results for the year ended June 30, 2023, a Lucky Cement spokesperson expressed sincere gratitude for the Company's outstanding accomplishments. These achievements were attributed to the gracious blessings of the Almighty. "Our recent journey has been punctuated by significant milestones, including the commencement of profitable operations of Lucky Electric Power Plant, the strategic part-sale of NutriCo Morinaga, the announcement of a new 1.82 MT production line in Samawah, Iraq, a substantial 3.15 MT expansion in our cement division, the strategic integration of solar power plants for self-sustained energy consumption, the successful conclusion of our 1st share buyback initiative, and the start of a 2nd share buyback. An integral facet of our accomplishments is the unwavering dedication of our employees, who consistently exemplify a profound commitment to growth and operational efficiency. Their steadfast determination resonates in every interaction," the spokesperson elaborated.

Moreover, following the successful completion of the Company's first buy-back of 10.0 million shares, the Company has started another buy-back of 23.8 million of its own shares, slated for completion on November 20th, 2023. By repurchasing its own shares, the Company aims to optimize its capital structure and unlock additional value for its stakeholders.

World University Games end with breathtaking closing ceremony

PPA

CHENGDU: The breathtaking closing ceremony of the 31st FISU Summer World University Games was held at the Chengdu Open Air Music Park in Sichuan Province on late Tuesday.

Featuring a large main stage and cutting-edge sports facilities, the Music Park provided a nice ending to the games. Celebrating the achievements of the participating athletes, the ceremony was a showcase of music, dance, and cultural performances that reflected China's rich traditions and heritage.

The highlight of the closing ceremony was the official handover of the FISU flag to the next host city Rhine-Ruhr of Germany. This symbolic gesture signified the transfer of responsibility for organizing the next edition of the World University Games.

The closing ceremony offered a chance to athletes to come together



one last time, celebrate their achievements, and bid farewell to their fellow competitors. It was a joyous and emotional occasion as athletes reflected on their experiences and the friendships they had made during the games.

Overall, the FISU World University

Games closing ceremony was a grand finale that encapsulated the spirit of unity, sportsmanship, and cultural exchange that defined the games. The ceremony served as a fitting tribute to the athletes and a celebration of the international sporting community.

Around 6,500 athletes from 113 countries and regions took part in 269 events across 18 disciplines from July 28 to August 8.

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

Amtul Rehman, who is a student of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) participated in long jump and triple jump events of the Games. Uzma Azam of Government College Women University Faisalabad took part in the hammer throw event. Lahore Garrison University's twin sisters Manisha and Maliha competed in taekwondo event, while Fizza chipped in the wushu event. However none of them made it to the next round of the event in their respective disciplines.

Zaka Ashraf extends heartfelt condolences to the families of Alamgir Tareen and Ijaz Butt



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board Management Committee Chairperson Zaka Ashraf and board officials today visited the grieving families of late Alamgir Tareen and late Ijaz Butt to express his heartfelt condolences.

Zaka Ashraf met Jahangir Tareen, Alamgir's elder brother, and expressed his profound sadness on his passing. He praised Alamgir's dedication and unwavering commitment to promote sports at every level through Multan Sultans.

Alamgir was the owner of Multan Sultans and under his ownership, the franchise bagged the HBL PSL title in 2021 before going on to play the finals of the 2022 and 2023 editions.

On his visit to Ijaz's house, Zaka spoke warmly of his long-standing relationship with the former PCB Chairman and recognised his services to the sport as a cricketer and administrator.

Ijaz, a former wicketkeeper-batter, played eight matches for Pakistan from 1959 to 1962. He served as the Secretary of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan, the forerunner to the PCB from 1984 to 1988.

He was the PCB Chairman and ICC Director from 2008 to 2011.

ICC World Cup Trophy in Bangladesh on a three-day tour



A Sports

The trophy of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup to be held in India later this year, is currently on a three-day tour of Bangladesh.

The ICC World Cup Trophy reached Dhaka late Sunday night and its official photo shoot took place at Service Area 1 of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge on Monday.

The trophy was exhibited today, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur for Bangladesh's current as well as former players from both men's and women's national cricket teams.

Moreover, cricket officials, organizers, and media members were also present at the occasion.

The ICC World Cup Trophy will be on exhibition for the public at Bashundhara City Shopping Mall in Dhaka from 11 AM on Wednesday (tomorrow).

The ICC Cricket World Cup trophy embarked on the tour across the globe, on June 27, 2023, marking 100 days prior to the extravaganza starting on October 5.

The trophy will tour 18 ICC member countries across five regions — Africa, the Americas, Asia, East Asia Pacific and Europe during this 100-day tour.

The trophy will then return to the host India for the final 30 days before the event to be exhibited across the country to hype up the fans for the upcoming event.

The Cricket World Cup trophy features a golden globe, characterizing a cricket ball that is held up by three silver columns, which are crafted to resemble stumps and bails, representing the pillars of the game, batting, bowling, and fielding.

The trophy is made with silver and gilt, standing 60 cm tall and weighing approximately 11 kilos. It has been designed with platonic dimensions, which ensure that its uniqueness is immediately recognizable from every angle.

The Cricket World Cup 2023 will commence on October 5, while the final is scheduled for November 19, where the top ten cricket teams will fight for the biggest trophy in cricket.

Colombia pip 'proud' Jamaica to set up England clash at World Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Colombia reached the Women's World Cup quarter-finals for the first time and a clash with England after a 1-0 win over Jamaica on Tuesday, with France or Morocco poised to join them.

Skipper Catalina Usme scored the only goal of the game in Melbourne in the 51st minute, bringing the ball down expertly and bending it into the bottom corner.

It was the first time at the Women's World Cup that Jamaica had conceded a goal.

It set a cagey game alight and sent the pumping pro-Colombian crowd into deafening delirium.

Fired up, Jamaica almost had an immediate reply with Jody Brown's shot cleared off the line in a frantic goalmouth scramble.

Behind for the first time at the World Cup and facing the exit door, Jamaica abandoned their defensive posture and threw players forward frantically looking for the equaliser.

Drew Spence almost grabbed it with a header that spun just wide, but Colombia held on.

They will now play European champions England in Sydney on Saturday for a place in the semi-finals.



Jamaica bow out but made history of their own, winning a World Cup game for the first time with a 1-0 victory over Panama and holding heavily fancied Brazil and France to goalless draws.

But despite boasting the prolific Manchester City striker Khadija Shaw, Jamaica's lack of goals proved to be their undoing — they scored just one all tournament, against Panama.

It was a victory, though, of sorts in the team's wider battle with their federation

— they hope their displays will mean more support in future from Jamaican football bosses.

"Now we're a bit low because we didn't want to end the tournament, but I'm proud of all my team-mates," said Shaw. "A lot of people didn't think we were going to make it this far."

"It shows that if you believe and work hard, anything is possible."

France, fifth in the FIFA world rankings, and Morocco kick off in Adelaide,

with the winners facing Australia.

Morocco are appearing at their first Women's World Cup and recovered from a 6-0 hammering by Germany to reach the last 16 with 1-0 wins over Colombia and South Korea.

Morocco are the lowest-ranked team left, 67 places below Herve Renard's France.

But Renard, who managed the Moroccan men's team for three years, is wary.

"Even when we have a kickabout with friends we want to win, and we are here to win and qualify for the next round," said the Frenchman.

"The important thing is that we respect our opponents and the fact that this is a last-16 tie at a World Cup."

"Morocco are not here by chance. This is a match of the same calibre as our game against Brazil."

France were held scoreless by Jamaica in their opening game before defeating Brazil 2-1 and Panama 6-3.

It will also be a special occasion for Renard's opposite number and countryman Reynald Pedros.

The Morocco coach is a former French international.

"There will be just one French coach left in the quarter-finals," Renard said.

"I hope it will be me."

Hasan eclipses Malik's heroics as Dambulla Aura edge Jaffna Kings in LPL

A Sports

PALLEKELE: Shoaib Malik's late fireworks went in vain as Hasan Ali ran through Jaffna Kings' batting line-up to guide Dambulla Aura to a thrilling nine-run win over Jaffna Kings in the 11th match of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) on Monday.

Dambulla Aura jumped to the top of the table in the ongoing LPL, after they defended the joint-second lowest total in the LPL history.

Requiring 34 off the last over of Afghanistan prodigy Noor Ahmed, Jaffna Kings had their hopes alive with Shoaib Malik on the crease.

He started the over on a high, hitting two sixes, but the young bowler held on to his nerves and bowled two dot balls to seal the deal for his team.



Malik however hit a boundary and a six off the last two balls but the game was already over by then, as Dambulla Aura won by 9 runs.

He waged a lone battle against Aura's bowlers, scoring more than half of his team's total of 125.

Shoaib Malik's innings of 74 off 56 balls was laced with five boundaries and six sixes. Besides Malik, only Dunith Wellalage (16) managed to reach double figures.

After winning the toss, Jaffna Kings put Dambulla Aura into bat, and they got off to a flying start as the first over of Maheesh Theekshana saw both openers going back to the pavilion.

Avishka Fernando ran himself out on the first delivery, while Kusal Mendis holed one straight to Malik at deep midwicket.

Sadeera Samarawickrama and Kusal Perera knitted a formidable partnership of 51 runs for Dambulla Aura before the former was castled by Dunith Wellalage. Samarawickrama's anchoring 30 off 25 featured four boundaries.

Dhananjaya de Silva (4) joined Perera but was soon bowled by Malik with just 69 on the board in the 11th over.

Perera then attempted to shift gears and take on Malik with a reverse sweep but missed the length ball and was cleaned up. Subsequently, no batter posed any real

threat to Jaffna Kings except Hayden Kerr, who scored 25 off 20 at the backend to guide his team to a modest total of 134.

Shoaib Malik and Nuwan Thushara picked two wickets each for the Kings, while Maheesh Theekshana and Dunith Wellalage managed one apiece.

Jaffna Kings started the chase in contrast to their brilliant bowling performance as they were reduced to 10-3 in four overs.

Hasan Ali removed opening batters Rahmanullah Gurbaz (3) and Charith Asalanka (5), whereas Towhid Hridoy perished for a first-ball duck off Binura Fernando.

David Miller was then involved in a brief 17-run partnership with Malik until chipping one straight to the bowler, Hayden Kerr and left the Kings reeling at 27/4 just after the powerplay.

Hasaranga powers B-Love Kandy to thrash Galle Titans in LPL

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Pallekele: Wanindu Hasaranga's all-round exploits guided B-Love Kandy to a thumping 89-run victory against Galle Titans in the 12th game of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL).

Hasaranga, who has been in tremendous form in LPL this year, played a blitzing knock of 65 off 27, before decimating Galle Titans' batting lineup with figures of 4-17.

Galle Titans captain Dasun Shanaka opted to bowl first after winning the toss. They drew first blood as Richard Ngarava sent Mohammad Harris back to the dugout.

However, they failed to capitalize on the early damage as Fakhar Zaman and Dinesh Chandimal stitched a solid 49-run part-

nership before the latter was removed by Tabraiz Shamsi with 75 runs on the board in nine overs.

Zaman was joined by Angelo Mathews in the middle and cautiously, while the opener anchored the innings before hitting a four and six off successive deliveries of Tabraiz Shamsi to bolster the total.

He added three more runs to his tally before falling to a magnificent catch at long-on by Ngarava off Lahiru Samarakoon. Zaman's 35-ball 45 featured three boundaries and two sixes.

The scoreboard read 103-3 in 12.1 overs when Hasaranga came out to bat, fancying his match-winning half-century (52* off 22) against Jaffna Kings in the last match.

Hasaranga dominated the Titans' bowlers and soon raced to

38 off 15 before Angelo Mathews joined the party with a six off Kasun Rajitha. Together, they stitched a vital partnership of 87 off 38 balls.

The destructive partnership was broken when Mathews was removed at a total of 190 by Samarakoon, courtesy of a brilliant catch by Kasun Rajitha. Mathews scored a 23-ball 40, featuring three boundaries and two sixes.

Hasaranga was still on the crease, eyeing a 200-run landmark, but he was caught at mid-wicket by Shevon Daniel off Rajitha. His blistering knock of 64 off 27 was laced with nine boundaries and two sixes.

Isuru Udana scored two off the next delivery to reach the 200-run mark, the first of LPL 2023, before the innings ended at 203 with the loss of five wickets.

Lahiru Samarakoon picked two wickets for 31 runs, while Shamsi, Rajitha and Ngarava picked one apiece.

Galle Titans started the mammoth chase on a high as Lasith Croospulle scored 11 runs off the first over, bowled by Mathews.

However, Mujeeb Ur Rahman cut their flying start short by removing Shevon Daniel (0) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (5) in his successive overs.

Lasith Croospulle continued to attack from the other end, before being cleaned up by Hasaranga in his first over. Croospulle played a quick cameo of 27 off 17.

Wanindu Hasaranga then removed a struggling Shakib Al Hasan (11 off 12), which reduced Galle Titans to 47-6 in the ninth over.

Ashan Priyanjan and Lahiru



Samarakoon then formed a solid partnership of 62 off 45 balls, however, the mounting required run rate maintained pressure on both batters.

Subsequently, the asking run rate got the better of both batters, sent packing by Nuwan Pradeep in the span of three deliveries, leaving Titans requiring 93 runs

from four overs with two wickets in hand.

Hasaranga then picked the final two wickets off consecutive deliveries in the next over to seal a dominant triumph for B-Love Kandy.

Samarakoon top-scored for the Titans with 36 off 25 balls, hitting one boundary and four sixes.

Wanindu Hasaranga finished with figures of four wickets for 17 runs, while Pradeep picked up three wickets.

The victory helped B-Love Kandy improve their net-run rate and jump to the top of the table in LPL 2023, while Galle Titans sank to the bottom.

Galle Titans will face Dambulla Aura in their next game on August 11, while B-Love Kandy will square off against holders Jaffna Kings on August 12.