

Daily The Spokesman RAWALPINDI



NA stands dissolve as President Alvi signs summary

The National Assembly (NA) has been dissolved after President Dr Arif Alvi signed the summary sent by Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif for disbanding the legislative, "The president dissolved the National Assembly on the advice of the prime minister under Article 58-1 of the Constitution," read an official statement issued by the President's Office on X, formerly known as Twitter.



PM lauds coalition partners for showing maturity & sincerity for bringing economic stability

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauded and appreciated the coalition partners for demonstrating maturity, sincerity, dedication, and loyalty for bringing economic stability in the country. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharramul Haram 22, Thursday, August 10, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 121 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Farewell session

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Speaker and Members of National Assembly at the farewell session of the National Assembly on Wednesday.



Army chief inspects training of Strike Corps at Tilla Field Firing Range



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum today. COAS witnessed Live Fire and manoeuvres of the advanced VT-4 tanks, shoot and scoot capabilities of long range SH-15 artillery guns and innovative equipment display.

COAS appreciated combat proficiency of the crews and their mastery over state-of-the-art weaponry. COAS remarked that "Paki-

stan Army was alive to the existing and emerging challenges and possessed the wherewithal to thwart nefarious designs of its adversaries through the entire gamut of threat."

COAS appreciated high degree of professionalism, battle worthiness and offensive spirit displayed by the troops of the Strike Corps.

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Mangla Corps and was briefed on operational readiness of the Strike Corps.

PM thanks who's who of political parties for support, guidance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, in his farewell address to the National Assembly, expressed heartfelt gratitude to a diverse array of political parties, underscoring their pivotal support and guidance during the challenging term of 16 months.

He said besides other unsuitable conditions, the coalition

government also had to face other massive challenges like the worst floods and the signing of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) deal which was breached by the previous government to hurt national integrity.

He said through its poor conduct and episodes like the "cipher drama" the previous government undermined foreign relations, including with the United States, besides carrying out defamatory propaganda against political opponents.

"This is the painful story of the previous government's four years... During our 16 months, the incumbent government did not victimise anyone. Today, if a party leader has been punished, we are in no way happy over that. One should have the fear

of Allah. There is no question of distribution of sweets (to rejoice the punishment)," he remarked.

Reiterating the condemnation of the May 9 arson, the prime minister said it would be remembered as the Black Day in history as it marked the "worst conspiracy" against the state of Pakistan, the Pakistan Army and Chief of Army Staff, as well as those who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the nation.

He said the House should again take notice of that heart-wrenching incident and also pass another resolution to condemn it.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the House that he would send the advice for National Assembly's dissolution on Wednesday night. He said that he would meet

Opposition Leader Raja Riaz to hold a consultation to finalise the name of the interim prime minister.

"These 16 months were the toughest trial of my life during my 38 years of political career when the country was faced with inflation, skyrocketing oil prices, and political turmoil. Who will invest when there will be threats for long marches?" he questioned.

He said with the signing of IMF agreement, the risk for default had ebbed away, despite the evil designs of those who tried to sabotage the process.

He said the country was steered out of turmoil as a mechanism in the form of SIFC had been put in place to boost investment in agriculture, information

technology, mining and exports sectors.

The prime minister paid tribute to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and expressed gratitude PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif and all of the political leaders from both the ruling coalition and opposition parties for their support and guidance.

He said the incumbent government tried to address the problems faced by the Balochistan province and called for collective efforts to uplift the neglected province as the country's progress was linked with that of Balochistan.

He also appreciated the efforts and hard work of his cabinet members particularly Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his "best diplomacy".

PTI core committee condemns actions against chairman's legal team

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf core committee demanded the authorities to take notice of threats to chairman's life and condemned the actions against his legal team

The PTI core committee stated in its declaration that the chairman should be provided with meals from his house and drinking water.

The political party condemned the summoning of PTI chief's lawyers Naem Haider Panjutha and Khawaja Haris. It added that 'fake cases' were filed against Sher Afzal Marwat and Umair Niazi.

The PTI core committee decided to observe Independence Day - August 14 with zeal and fervor. The political party also announced to observe Thanksgiving Day on



August 10 over conclusion of the 16-month tenure of the 'criminals'.

The political party added that the nation knows Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government's destructive steps for the economy and the Constitution.

Yesterday, Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) has summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's lawyer Khawaja Haris.

As per details, Khawaja Haris was summoned by the FIA cyber crime wing in an inquiry related to alleged Facebook posts of Judge Humayun Dilawar, who heard the Toshakhana case.

Caretaker Sindh CM: Three names emerge as favourite

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Three names emerged as favourite for the caretaker Sindh chief minister's (CM) slot after ongoing consultations between the opposition parties, Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) and Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), citing sources.

The opposition parties, MQM-P and GDA continued consultations for the caretaker Sindh CM. Sources told ARY News that both opposition parties mulled over recommended names.

Sources added that Shoaib Siddiqui, Younus Dagher and Dr Safdar Abbasi emerged as the favourite contenders for the top slot.

The MQM-P and GDA will hold their third key meeting on Thursday (tomorrow) for finalising

Pakistan would never tolerate Quran desecration incidents: Bilawal

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan would never tolerate the desecration of holy Quran incidents.

As per details, Bilawal Bhutto reiterated in his farewell address at foreign office, that Pakistan's stance over its relations with India was very clear and consistent; unless it revoked its illegal and unilateral acts of 2019 over occupied Jammu and Kashmir, there was no space to meaningful engagement.

He said that India had not only violated international laws and the United Nations Security Council resolutions but also the bilateral agreements between the two countries.

"There is no space left for Pakistan to meaningfully engage with India," the foreign minister maintained while addressing a presser to highlight the achievement of the ministry of foreign affairs during his tenure.

About sending Pakistan national team to contest in the ICC Cricket World Cup in India, he said contrary to India's indulgence in immature



acts, Pakistan always maintained that there should be difference between politics and sports, adding that they still had security concerns as the security of the national team could not be compromised; and they had conveyed such to the ICC and India.

Foreign Minister Bilawal said that after fall of Kabul, there was a sharp spike in terrorist incidents in Pakistan and stressed that cooperation and engagement between the two countries was necessary to tackle the issue.

The foreign minister expressed the satisfaction that at the diplomatic front, they moved ahead with 'damage control' during the last 16 months.

He regretted that the PTI's government had caused damage to the country's relations with world capitals and strongly disagreed with the gesture of former prime minister

waving a letter sent by the EU in public.

Bilawal said that diplomatic affairs of the country should be run for the benefits of the people of the country, emphasising "consistency and continuity" in the foreign policy.

He said they did not want to see relationship with Russia through the prism of the ongoing issue, as they wanted to collectively unlock the immense potential between the two countries. They prayed that diplomacy and peace would prevail, he added.

Removal from FATF's grey list and hosting of Geneva conference were some of the conspicuous achievements for Pakistan, he added.

Visa facilitation, cooperation in science and technology resulted in opening of doors for Pakistanis seeking jobs abroad, he said, adding they had corrected the diplomatic course.

Kashmir issue had been a consistent component of the foreign policy; he said and enumerated Pakistan's efforts to address issues of Islamophobia and desecration of the Holy Quran, leading to adoption of resolution by the UN Human Rights Council.

IHC adjourns plea seeking to shift PTI chairman to Adiala Jail

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday adjourned the hearing on the plea of the PTI chairman seeking his shift to Adiala from Attock Jail.

On Monday, PTI chairman's lawyer Naem Hyder Punjutha moved a plea in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in which he also pleaded to the court to provide 'A' class facilities to his arguments before the court asked the reason to keep PTI chief in Attock Jail.

He requested the court to pass orders to shift his client to Adiala Jail from Attock and also pass orders for the provision of homemade food and meeting with him.

PM announces package to facilitate Overseas Pakistanis with multiple initiatives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday announced a package to facilitate overseas Pakistan with multiple initiatives and expressed optimism that the upcoming government would continue its implementation.

The prime minister, on the occasion, said that Pakistani diaspora had been living in different parts of the world, and on the basis of their hard work, contributions and innovations, they had earned fame for the country.

In the Gulf and Europe, the PM said, there was a huge market for skilled labour, adding if the models and the patterns used by certain countries to train their manpower, were adopted in Pakistan, they could equip their manpower properly to meet growing modern-day requirements across the world.

Will send NA dissolution summary to President Alvi tonight: PM Shehbaz

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday announced that he would write to President Dr Arif Alvi tonight to dissolve the National Assembly (NA), which would bring the government's term to a premature end.

The outgoing prime minister made these remarks while addressing the farewell session of the lower house of parliament - National Assembly as government's tenure set to end today.

Addressing the NA floor, PM Shehbaz said that his government faced several challenges and difficulties during its 16-month-long tenure, terming it as the "most difficult test of my life". "I have never faced such a difficult test before in my 38-year-long political career as the country was mired in a severe economic crisis and there was political chaos," the premier said.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM lauds coalition partners for showing maturity & sincerity for bringing economic stability

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauded and appreciated the coalition partners for demonstrating maturity, sincerity, dedication, and loyalty for bringing economic stability in the country.

Addressing the Cabinet meeting, he stressed the need for ensuring national unity as it was vital for socio-economic development of the country.

The prime minister said the political leadership had set aside all their political differences and worked diligently to bring the country out of crises.

He said the coalition government in its 16-month stint, the shortest tenure of a government in the country's

history, endeavoured to serve the people.

The big challenge faced during the period was of flash floods that hit most parts of the country, especially in Sindh and Balochistan, but the way the federal and provincial governments joined hands to cope with the calamitous situation was worth appreciating, he said. All the institutions, including National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) played a crucial role in the rehabilitation process, he added.

The prime minister also thanked Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Bajwa, Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman, Minister for Economic Affairs Ayaz Sadiq,

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Minister for BISP Shazia Marri, who worked as a team during the rehabilitation process in the flood hit areas.

PM Shehbaz said the government had to face another challenge of high inflation that affected the common man badly. The main reason behind it was the criminal negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government that had badly damaged the economic structure.

"Chinese Premier Li had told me that he himself had talked to the IMF Managing Director to support Pakistan," he said, adding during the last four months, China had also rolled over a loan of \$5 billion.

He said recently a high level Chinese delegation visited

Pakistan which showed that Pakistan was China's best friend and that the later would extend all-out support to it.

The delegation had officially announced the launch of second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) encompassing many projects in agriculture, IT, Industries and export sectors, he added.

The prime minister said the coalition government had completed many projects in Gwadar, which were lingering for long time, in the shortest possible time.

As regards the 9th May incidents, PM Shehbaz said it was the worst conspiracy against the state, the Pakistan Army and Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir. However, due to the firmness showed

by the Army Chief, the situation got under control within hours, he added.

He said the initiative of establishing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would help improve the economic conditions.

"The federal government, all provinces, and institutions especially the Pakistan Army are part of this project" and it was the best opportunity to take the country's development and prosperity to new peaks, he added.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the incoming government would continue the project with the same passion.

Many cabinet members also expressed their experiences and thanked the prime minister for his support.

ECNEC approves various national development projects



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), which approved various national development projects.

The ECNEC approved projects including construction of Awaran and Panjgur dams, besides approving Resilient Housing Re-construction and Restoration in Balochistan

province, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The meeting also accorded approval for Punjab Urban land Systems enhancement project, dualization of road in Bahawalpur district in Punjab province and phase-1 of the establishment of regional grids in Gilgit-Baltistan region.

The ECNEC approved the construction/reconstruction of existing schools in Sindh affected in rain and floods of 2022 and revised Sindh solar project in Sindh Province.

Ahsan urges industrialists to benefit from universities' R&D expertise



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday urged the private sector to utilize the Research and Development (R&D) services and expertise of universities for their 'businesses' technological advancement to compete in international markets.

"I urge the private sector to collaborate with universities in all technological advancements to get the benefit of their R&D labs to meet international standards and increase the coun-

try's exports," he said addressing the launching ceremony of the Venture Capital Fund (VCF).

The minister said Rs 5 billion had been allocated under the initiative aimed at creating a conducive environment for the promotion of investment in digital technology. "Pakistan's future depends on matching the pace of digital technology."

The minister urged for establishing industry-academia linkages with private sector universities paving the way for development through applied research, adding development was not possible without increasing exports.

Marriyum defends PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023: 'I consulted all stakeholders

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said thorough consultations were held with all stakeholders during preparation of the PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023.

Talking to media persons outside the Parliament House, she said the Pakistan Federation of Journalists, Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Broadcasters Association and AMEND were involved in the consultation process and they supported the bill.

Major change in the PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023 was the inclusion of Article 19 which guaranteed freedom of expression and

definition of misinformation and disinformation, she added.

Marriyum said in the amended bill, the powers of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) chairman had been curtailed and entrusted to the Council of Complaints (CoC).

The minister said she had closely witnessed the difficulties being faced by the media workers when she was in opposition. The working journalists and media workers performed duties entrusted by their institutions under difficult conditions, and clauses added to the bill pertained to their welfare, which, unfortunately, was termed a black law, she added.

She said timely payment of salaries to the media workers and journalists was protected in the bill and the



government would not give advertisements to the media outlets which would clear dues of their employees within two months.

"Implementation of the minimum wage law for journalists and media workers is ensured in the amended

bill," she added.

Marriyum said presently there was no platform for the media workers where their appeals could be heard, but now media workers, journalists and owners had been given representation in the CoC.

The government had appointed a competent chairman of the Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees (ITNE), which redressed the complaints of newspaper employees, she added.

She said during the last nine months, the ITNE helped recover Rs 140 million dues of the newspaper employees.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had launched the landmark health insurance card scheme for the journalists and media workers.

NA passes PEMRA (Amendment) Bill for 2023

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Wednesday passed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 having the prime objective to benefit journalists and foster a free and responsible media environment.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb tabled the bill in the House as passed by the Senate with certain amendments.

The minister said the bill was finalized after vigorous consultation for 12 months to repeal the black law enforced in 2002. Under the bill, the Parliament had been empowered to appoint the PEMRA chairman in future, she added.

UN chief warns against nuclear catastrophe risk in Nagasaki memorial message



Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for countries to recommit to eliminating nuclear weapons in his message to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Nagasaki, observed on Wednesday.

"We mourn those killed, whose memory will never fade. We remember the terrible destruction wrought upon this city and Hiroshima. We honour the unrelenting strength and resilience of the people of Nagasaki to rebuild," he said.

More than 200,000 people

were killed when the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, bringing an end to the Second World War.

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

"Yet despite the terrible lessons of 1945, humanity is now facing a new arms race as nuclear weapons are being used as tools of coercion," he noted.

The UN chief said weapons systems were being upgraded, and placed at the centre of national security strategies, making the devices of death faster, more accurate, and stealthier at a time of division and mistrust among countries and regions.

"The risk of nuclear catastrophe is now at its highest level since the Cold War," he warned.

"In the face of these threats, the global community must speak as one. Any use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. We will not sit idly by as nuclear-armed states race to create even more dangerous weapons."

The UN chief stressed that disarmament was at the heart of his Policy Brief on a New Agenda for Peace, launched last month. "It calls on member states to urgently recommit to pursuing a world free of nuclear weapons, and to reinforce the global norms against their use and proliferation."

"Pending their total elimination, states possessing nuclear weapons must commit to never use them. The only way to eliminate the nuclear risk is to eliminate nuclear weapons," he said.

The Secretary-General added that the UN would continue working with world leaders to strengthen the global

efforts towards disarmament and non-proliferation, including through the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NPT talks have been taking place at the UN in Vienna this month and will conclude on Friday. The treaty entered into force in 1970 and aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and further the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Guterres also paid tribute to the survivors of the atomic bombings, known as hibakusha. He said their powerful and harrowing testimonies would forever serve as a reminder of the need to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

"I have pledged to do everything in my power to ensure that the voices and testimonies of the hibakusha continue to be heard," he said.

Asif terms economic stability biggest challenge after next general elections



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday said economic stability would be the biggest challenge for the upcoming government after the general elections.

In his farewell speech at the National Assembly, he said the country witnessed stability after Novem-

ber 2022 and further stability will come after the next general elections, he said.

The minister stressed the need for collective efforts to put Pakistan on the path of economic stability by utilizing its own resources instead of relying on foreign loans. Pakistan has sufficient resources for attaining self sufficiency, he said.

He also passionately appealed to the judiciary to take up the pending tax cases of FBR worth Rs 2670 billion. Had the half of the amount recovered, we would not need to go the IMF or other lending agency for borrowing loans, he said.

He also requested for vacating stays granted by various courts several years ago into spectrum related cases worth over \$ 1.5 billion.

Wildlife Management Act 2023 to enhance MHNPP protection: Sherry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the Islamabad Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Act 2023 passed by the Parliament has become a law that would enhance protection for the Margallah National Park (MHNPP) which was under constant stress from unchecked development.

The federal minister took to Twitter to share the enactment of the much-awaited legislation required to ensure optimized protection of



the Margallah Hills National Park (MHNPP).

Senator Rehman wrote, "Passing the bill to provide for the protection, preservation, and management of nature in the Islamabad Capital Territory. It will now become law as the Islamabad Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Act 2023."

Target of increasing the enrollment of children in Govt Schools successfully achieved: Captain Saqib

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain (retd) Saqib Zafar was met by a two-member delegation comprising United Nations Resident Coordinator Office Chief Shah Nasir Khan and Provincial Program Coordinator (UNRCO) Laila Rabab Jaskani. A discussion was held regarding the United Nations program Sustainable Development in South Punjab. The Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab appreciated the initiative of involving various stakeholders of the society in the sustainable development dialogue.



And said that the recommendations for sustainable development will be fully implemented. He said that the South Punjab Secretariat is trying to increase the efficiency of govern-

ment institutions and The objective of capacity building of the National Development Departments is to spend all the funds on time and avoid

budget lapses so that the development can be accelerated by making the best use of the funds available in the budget. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab said that increasing literacy and eradicating poverty is the first agenda of the South Punjab Secretariat.

He said that it is important to take local stakeholders on board to achieve sustainable development goals. He further stated that the United Nations wishes that representatives of all sectors, including intellectuals and the media, should be included in the dialogue. He expressed the expectation that all stakeholders would identify key development priorities.

Food Street rehabilitation work is in progress: Amir Khattak



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: DG Sports Punjab Asif Tufail visited Multan and took a briefing about the ongoing schemes. He along with Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak visited Multan Qila Kohna Qasim Bagh Stadium Food Street. Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak said that Food street rehabilitation work is in progress at a cost of Rs 144.8 million. 46 shops are being renovated and 4 toilet blocks are being constructed. Fort Kohna and the entire surrounding area is being converted into a tourist spot.

The sports department has been written about the rent of the food street shops. DG Sports said that the Punjab government is taking steps to organize sports and positive activities for the new generation. The centuries-old civilization of Multan is of special interest to tourists. The completion of the food street will provide opportunities for positive entertainment to the citizens. DG Sports while ordering the early completion of the food street said that the citizens will see the government's effort and the completion of the project.

Later, DG Sports Asif Tufail, Commissioner Aamir Khattak visited the gymnasium, squash court and also reviewed and appreciated the ongoing summer camp managed by the Sports Department. Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum, District Sports Officer Ferooz Latif, Sports officers of the division were also present.

Multan Cantt traders protest against increased the taxes and tariffs in electricity bills



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: While protesting at Aziz Shaheed Road Cantt against cruel taxes and tariffs in electricity bills, prices of petroleum products and cruel inflation, Secretary General Central Anjuman Tajran Cantt Moazzam Waheed Khawaja, Chief Coordinator Ghazanfar Malik, Culbe Abid Khan, Khawaja Dilshad Ahmed said IMF paid experienced rulers brought the country's economy and business to the brink of collapse in 15 months and deprived the white-collar halal earners of their right to live.

CPEC will bring socioeconomic revolution to Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sino Pakistan Friendship is ever-lasting, and China always values Friendship with Pakistan. CPEC being a flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt & Road Initiative is very important for the socio-economic up left of the global community of countries. China always believes that sharing the fruits of its prosperity with neighbors and other continents will enhance global prosperity and speed up international economic development activities. Chinese Charge d'Affairs in Pakistan Madam Pang Chunxue was speaking at a BRI/CPEC 10th Anniversary special events organized by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province at KP House Islamabad this afternoon. She, while speaking on the occasion, commended the role of Friends of China in various walks of life and appreciated PCFA-KP initiatives. She also mentioned that President Xi Jinping's special envoy Chinese Vice Premier's visit to attend to the celebrations shows the importance of this project in the eyes of Chinese leadership. She also stressed more economic activities to enhance both countries' relationships and new heights for both nations and regions. Earlier KP Minister LGE& RDD Advocate Sawal Nazir while speaking on the occasion said that Pakistan Economic Corridor commonly known as CPEC is a flagship project of BRI an idea to share prosperity among Friends and around the globe by visionary Chinese President Xi Jinping since 2013, we Pakistani as an iron brother will be benefited with the multi-billion dollars projects over the period of time, this was stated by Advocate Sawal Nazir KP Minister for LG&EDD at a cake cutting ceremony organized by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at KP House Islamabad this afternoon. The Minister stressed that we should learn from Chinese experiences in all fields of daily life for the betterment of our nation.

Meeting

Meeting of ABAD delegation with H.E. Consul General of China on Wednesday 9th August 2023 at Chinese Consulate Karachi. The meeting led by Mr. Muhammad Altaf Tai, Chairman ABAD.



Leadership of Quaid-e-Azam great struggle for making of Pakistan: Zubair Rabbani

Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: Director Bahawalpur Museum Muhammad Zubair Rabbani said that Tehreek-e-Pakistan was successful due to the practical struggle of Masaheer Pakistan. Pakistan is the interpretation of the dreams of the Muslims of the subcontinent, who made endless sacrifices in their journey from Tehreek-e-Pakistan to the establishment of Pakistan. The freedom movement is the great story of our determination and passion, which is the selfless practical struggle of the leaders with courage and determination. The political insight of these scholars is also a torch for us. He expressed these views on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the five-day photo and book exhibition



"Azadi Ka Safar" held at Tehreek Pakistan Gallery of the Museum in connection with the 76th Independence Day. He said that famous Pakistan political vision is still a torch for us. The director of the museum said that under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Great Struggle For Making Of Pakistan, the clear objective of the Hurriyat leaders

was the establishment of an independent state, for which they did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives and property.

On this occasion, Public Relations Officer Nadia Noreen while briefing the director of museum and staff said that the purpose of this photo exhibition is to recall the effects of the 1857 war of independence and the events that took place after that which were the

foundation of the establishment of Pakistan. become Earlier, Assistant Librarian Benish Sabah briefed about the historical books related to Tehreek-e-Pakistan exhibited. Deputy Director Rashid Ahmed Arshad, Chemist Sadia Noreen, Syed Muhammad Washam, Arshad Niaz, Rukhsana Shaheen and all museum staff and visitors attended the exhibition.

Mazhar Latif Group Won Election WAPDA Hydro Workers Union

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Qazi Aftab Hashmi of Mazhar Latif Group won with a huge majority in the election of Vice Chairman of Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Workers Union New Multan Sub-Division. obtained 44 votes, the total votes were 79, which were fully cast. On this occasion, Regional Chairman Chaudhry Ghulam Rasool Gujjar Chaudhry Muhammad Amjad Shakeel Baloch Sajjad Baloch Rana Mazhar Latif Saeed Sial Shabir Gujjar Mehr Altaf Usman Venus Atif Zaidi addressed and congratulated to Qazi Aftab Hashmi

On this occasion, Qazi Aftab said that workers are united under the leadership of Chaudhry Ghulam Rasool Gujjar and we will take back all the lost seats. But Tariq Mehmood Bhatti Asif Bhatti Jan Muhammad Akram Ghori Rana Parvez Nadeem Raf Asif Baloch Rana Khizr Hayat and others also addressed and congratulated and distributed sweets.

Shaanxi Investment Group signs strategic cooperation agreement with China Pakistan Business Development Council

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Shaanxi Investment Group signs strategic cooperation agreement with China Pakistan Business Development Council On August 6, a strategic cooperation agreement signing ceremony between Shaanxi Investment Group and China Pakistan Business Development Council was held at Chinchuan Yuan Financial Center, Xixian New District. was held Shafiqur Rehman, Honorary Advisor to the Investment Committee of the Government of Pakistan and Chairman of the China Pakistan Business Development Council and Zhang Feng, Member of the Party Committee and Deputy General Manager of Shaanxi Investment Group attended the signing ceremony and witnessed

the signatures.

Pakistan is an important trading partner of China's westward opening. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the construction of the "China Pakistan Economic Corridor". It is an important pilot project of China's "Belt and Road" construction, and it has become the path to the prosperity of China Pakistan Unicom. As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor enters the second phase, Shaanxi Investment Group responded to the strategic setting of the provincial government to open up to the west, actively integrated into the overall pattern of "Belt and Road" joint construction, and Its expansion is the new situation of the high-level opening of Shaanxi

The main content of the strategic cooperation agreement between the

two sides: First, the construction of the China-Pakistan Commercial Development Digital Service (Xian) base, the realization of the base in Xi'an, the service of Shaanxi, the illumination of the whole country, and the development of digital capabilities. Economic and trade development of China and Pakistan through; the second is to build an open economic digital trade platform in Shaanxi to promote China-Pakistan cross-border trade which can be expanded in the future to develop bilateral trade between China-Central Asia and China-South Asia. ; The third is to organize a series of activities for the development of China-Pakistan trade. Xi'an, Shaanxi, China Pakistan as a distribution center for commercial goods, increasing the scale of trade,



Strategic between Shaanxi Investment Group and China Pakistan Business Development Council. Pakistan's Honorary Advisor Shafiqur Rehman and China's Zhang Feng are signing the cooperation agreement.

promoting suitable investment cooperation for projects, assisting, Pakistan

improves the level of industrialization, promotes the development of related

industrial chains of Qin Chuanguyan and the economic development of Shaanxi counties.

And the theme of trade exhibitions and cultural exchanges is to actively manage multilateral contacts. Cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises; The fourth is to promote the integrated construction of "Transportation-Trade-Warehouse-China" along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and advance the innovative applications of trade and commerce integration in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Prior to the signing ceremony, the two sides held special discussions on China-Pakistan business development opportunities, Shaanxi's open economy and Shaanxi Investment Group's strategy of opening up to the West.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:52 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:02 pm
Maghrib	7:01 pm
Isha	8:34 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& 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 Enquiry	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

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission organized one-day Seminar



Haron

PESHAWAR: On August 09, 2023, Directorate of Quality, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission conducted a one-day seminar focusing on the implementation of the Minimum Service Delivery Standards (MSDS) in MTL, Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar. The seminar brought together clinical and administrative staff of the hospital to ensure implementation of the essential components of the Minimum Service Delivery Standards.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Nadeem Akhtar, Chief Executive Officer Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ayaz Khan, Medical Director of Khyber Teaching Hospital. Both shared their insights and underlined the significance of adhering to the implementation of the Minimum Service Delivery Standards. Dr. Shabnum Gul, Director of Licensing, Mr. Mohsin Ali Turk, Director of Legal Affairs, and Dr. Uzma Syed, Deputy Director of Quality, were the main presenters of the informative session.

The seminar covered various aspects of the Minimum Service Delivery Standards for Category 1 Hospitals. Comprehensive presentations shedding light on the core components/indicators of the standards and emphasized the need of how they can be effectively integrated into the hospital's operations.

Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day with pride: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that Pakistan's Independence Day will be celebrated all across the liberated territory (Azad Kashmir) with patriotic zeal and national fervor.

While presiding over a high-level meeting, which was held here to review arrangements being made in connection with Pakistan's Independence Day, the AJK premier directed the concerned departments to ensure that the national flag was hoisted on all government and private buildings.

On the eve of Independence day, the PM said, torch-bearing rallies should be held in all cities and towns of Azad Kashmir to pay homage to the relentless struggle of Pakistan's founding fathers.

Seminars and symposiums should be



organized on August 14 to highlight the significance of the independence day", the PM said, adding that the important buildings should be lit up with colourful lights to celebrate the day with traditional zeal.

He said that pictures of national leaders who struggled tirelessly to achieve a common goal for Muslims of South Asia should be displayed in major cities.

The meeting was attended by the

Senior Most Minister and Chairman of the Events Committee, Colonel Retired Waqar Ahmed Noor, Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Usman Chachar, Principal Secretary Fayyaz Ali Abbasi and the secretaries of the relevant departments and other officers.

Pertinently, all government offices, including educational institutions, will remain open on the day.

Chief Secretary AJK presided over a high-level meeting through video link



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Chief Secretary of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Muhammad Usman Chachar, presided over a high-level meeting through video link regarding the celebration of Pakistan's Independence Day in which the secretaries of the government, the heads of departments and the commissioners of the three divisions and the Commissioners and Deputy

commissioners participated, the chief secretary of Azad Kashmir said that on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, the Independence Day of Pakistan should be celebrated in full patriotic zeal follow the written plan, the deputy commissioners pledged and assured that all arrangements are complete in this regard, including officers, civil society, lawyers, journalists. The businessmen and the representatives of all schools of thought have been explained the strategy in this regard in the meeting, the instructions of the government of Azad Kashmir will be followed in all respect.

Report on Darbar Baba Shadi landslide prepared, to be sent to PM AJK



Bureau Report

SUMAHNI: A report on the incident of landslide on Darbar Baba Shadi Road will be prepared and sent to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. After the incident of landslide on Darbar Baba Shadi Road, at Jandi Chontra, Deputy Commissioner Bhimbar Mirza Arshad Mahmood Jaral SSP Raja Muhammad Akmal. Khan, SDM Samahni Ahmad Subhani, Exion Tahir Mahmoudbutt, Mubarzala Council Chaudhry Muhammad Salim and other officers reached the spot, made a detailed inspection of the incident site, reviewed the road maintenance work, while closely observing the situation Deputy Commissioner said that luckily the nearby population, tourists, pilgrims, travelers and livestock were also miraculously safe during this major accident, the Deputy Commissioner prepared a report which will be sent to the Prime Minister. Darbar Baba Shadi Manager Qari Nisar Ahmed, Tehsildar Farrukh Quddus, S. DO Chaudhry Tanveer gave an overall briefing, reviewing the remaining part of the mountain to move it to a safe place, Chairman Deputy Commissioner of SDMA Bhimbar Mirza Arshad Mahmood Jaral said that all the government machinery including SDMA to save public lives. SSP Raja Muhammad Akmal Khan Police, traffic police will be on duty on August 14, so that there is no harm, timely awareness will be provided to the public, public awareness campaign will also be carried out by the media. During the visit, DIO Bhimbar Adnan Mukhtar, Department of Finance, officers and employees of Atwqaf Highway, local dignitaries were also accompanied.

Collectorate of Custom's instant action Seizes further smuggling cases

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: Under the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Sargodha, Faisalabad & DG Khan range, the

Collector Muhammad Ismail, Additional Collector Muhammad Tahir Khat-tak, Assistant Collector Muhammad Usman and Inspector Waqas Guriah.

Sargodha, four different teams of Anti-smuggling squads were constituted. These teams performed very well and made seizure more cases efficiently of worth 270- million in a week.

It is the second mega operation against the smugglers.

According to the details of the currently seized goods are as follows;

1. Sulphonic Acid (34,000) Kgs
2. Shopping bags (32, 000) Kgs
3. Plastic granules (22,000) Kgs
4. Auto parts (25,000) kgs
5. Diesel (26,000) litres
6. Tyres (105) No
7. Chinese salt (1000) kgs
8. Betel nuts (500) kgs
9. Solar inverter (64) Nos
10. Suzuki cars (2)Nos

The collectorate is trying its utmost to curb menace of smuggling with limited resources and staff. Remember that, the Collectorate of Custom caught the Smuggling items worth Billion rupees with red handed the few days earlier to it.

As per collectorate's previous output, the Collectorate Custom while performing brilliantly in a short span of 6 months, in spite of limited resources and lesser personnel, recovered with red handed the smuggled goods worth 301 million.

Furthermore, Mr. Mohammad Ismail Collector Customs and Additional Collector Dr. Tahir Khattak told that, viewing the reliable mobile information was received some days earlier recovery at Faisalabad Airport by Collector Customs Enforcement Sargodha. Then that time the Collector alerted the airport staffs and specially deployed immediately the Faisalabad Anti-Smuggling Squad at the airport. He personally supervised the operation, which successfully led to the recovery of high value mobile phones and many other electronics items.

The details of smuggled items were as follows: iPhone Various (785), 2- Samsung (120) 3- OnePlus (15) 4- iPad (78) 5- Drone Battery (10) 6- The total value of the confiscated goods, estimated by the appraising officer to be Rs 163 million including laptops, play stations and drones (14).

This speedy action failed the attempts. As a result, mobiles worth Rs 138 million and prohibited drugs worth Rs 20 million have also been seized by Collectorate of Customs Enforcement Sargodha, mobiles and electronics worth Rs 301 million from Faisalabad International Airport were also taken in custody.

Remember that, the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement Sargodha is a newly established Collectorate comprising of three Civil Divisions of Sargodha, Faisalabad and DG Khan.

ASEAN day

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Dr Asad Majeed Khan visits along with Chair of the ASEAN Committee and High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Mazlan others during ceremony to celebrate 56th Anniversary of the ASEAN Day at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Saudi Embassy, Fund for Development inaugurates King Abdullah University Chattar Class

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: During the inauguration of the newly constructed King Abdullah University Chattar Class donated by Saudi Arabia, the officials of the Saudi Embassy and Saudi Fund for Development visited the Department of Art and Design along met with the campus in-charge Dr. Ayaz Arif. During the visit, the in-charge Professor Dr. Ayaz Arif along with the chair person Art and Design Dr. Rukhsana Khan, faculty members and

all the students welcomed the distinguished guests. Visited textile lab, graphics lab, computer section and library and gave briefing. On this occasion, a photo exhibition on the subject of Kashmir was organized in the exhibition hall. In the exhibition organized, Kashmiri culture was beautifully presented through paintings, graphical posters, collage work, calligraphy and textile work. The experts of the Saudi project members watched with great interest and appreciated the efforts

of the teachers and students. Campus Incharge Professor Ayaz Arif on behalf of Mr. Vice Chancellor Dr. Kaleem Abbasi expressed special thanks to the Saudi project members, who ensured the supply of furniture and modern computers and printing, painting and textile machinery for the Department of Art and Design. It should be noted that these modern machinery, furniture and modern devices will be handed over to the Department of Art and Design. By which this department will move towards

further development and the students will get strength in meeting modern academic requirements. Dr. Rukhsana Khan, chairperson of the Department of Art and Design, thanked the Saudi government on this occasion and said that we are grateful to our benefactors and the efforts made in the field of history, heritage and archeology under the new vision of the Saudi government. Appreciated. Dr. Rukhsana Khan said that the measures taken by the Saudi government to protect the historical sites

Experts reinforce commitment to safeguard nation's heritage

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A momentous consultative workshop on the National Cultural Narrative 2023 was convened at the National Library of Pakistan, where eminent personalities from diverse sectors gathered to deliberate and share their insights. This collaborative event was jointly organized by the National Culture and Heritage Division, Hashoo Foundation, and Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad.

The purpose of the workshop was to seek inputs from all the relevant stakeholders and foster collaboration among professionals from various fields. The desired result is, a Cultural Policy Framework that the provinces can readily implement for their further development and social harmony. Attendees from across Pakistan,



actively engaged in thought-provoking focal group discussions, examining the draft document jointly developed by the National Culture and Heritage Division, Hashoo Foundation, and Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. Senator Sehar Kamran, commended the collaborative efforts, highlighting how this event marks a significant milestone in preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, as a National Cultural Narrative for

the year 2023'.

Raheela Durrani, The First Woman Speaker of The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, being a woman breaking barriers in leadership, appreciated this much needed and timely initiative especially for Balochistan that has such a uniquely rich cultural identity.

Fareena Mazhar, Secretary National Culture and Heritage Division said while addressing the audience that through this workshop, "we reinforce

our commitment to safeguarding our nation's heritage, empowering future generations to cherish our unique past".

Ayesha Khan, Country Director Hashoo Foundation enlightened the audience explaining the role of the cultural economy in the Cultural Policy Framework and the need to make that a core policy directive. She explained how that would enable people to celebrate their cultural heritage and identity while earning their livelihoods.

Dr. Salma Malik, Defense and Strategic Studies Department, Quaid-e-Azam University said "In forging a collective cultural narrative, we underscore the essence of resilience, honoring the valor of our past while envisioning a brighter future."

The valuable input from the Consultative session will be incorporated into the draft document 'National Cultural

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
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 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislambad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Rampant Child Abuse: Poverty is the root cause

“Child abuse is not an isolated incident but rather a consequence of broader social and economic inequalities.”—Sara McLanahan, Sociologist

A recent incident of a civil judge’s wife allegedly torturing a teenage girl working as a maid at her home is a very heart wrenching incident. The girl was a resident of district Sargodha, Punjab, and was working on 10,000 per month wage. But, these kinds of incidents aren’t new.

As stated in a recent report compiled by the Punjab home department — during the first five and a half months of 2023, some 1,400 children were abused in Punjab; 69pc of them boys. The report admits that numerous cases may be unreported as “cultural taboos make it difficult to report the criminality”. Gujranwala topped the list with 220 cases, followed by Dera Ghazi Khan and Faisalabad. According to the study, of the total number of perpetrators fronting trial for abuse, 55pc were neighbors of the victims, while 32pc were strangers. Though these numbers represent Punjab only, the situation in the other provinces isn’t too different. Perhaps, this is just the tip of the iceberg, as the weakened and most underprivileged parts of society — children, women, the poor — often don’t report the trauma they endure.

The state and society therefore carefully craft breeding grounds and opportunities that promote child abuse. Children who work as domestic or industrial labor are

exposed to child abuse by adults. Children who are left unattended by parents are susceptible to child abuse by domestic help, family members and neighbors. Poverty is hunger; Poverty is the absence of shelter. Poverty is falling sick and not being able to have a doctor. Poverty is the inability to send your child to school. Poverty is living as a day-to-day wagger — one day at a time. Poverty is fearfulness of a pension-less future. Poverty is forcing your child to become a domestic worker. Poverty is eight-year-old Zohra Shah, beaten to death for accidentally releasing a caged bird. Poverty is the 14 years of Rizwana, tortured by the judge’s wife. Poverty isn’t being able to spend time with your children for your shift demands 12 hours a day for 30 days in a month.

Pakistan’s disproportionately high number of child protection departments, authorities and commissions are essentially ceremonial and self-consuming in nature. They’ve not been able to produce any functional or effective mechanism to prevent child abuse, to remove child beggars from streets, to release child domestic help from homes, to prevent under-age marriage of girls or to save

thousands of “unnoticeable” children who work as sanitary workers in full public view. Despite the Zainab Alert Bill that was passed by the National Assembly on 8 October 2019. The Bill, however, remains only words on paper and awaits implementation. There are multiple laws aimed to deal with the menace of child abuse, but lack of “implementation, enforcement and collaboration” means that victims don’t get justice and the culprits aren’t punished. When major cases make the headlines such as the repulsive Kasur child sexual abuse scandal, the terrible murder of Zainab Ansari — the state swings into action, ostensibly, to soothe the public rage. But soon enough, the protection of children is once again relegated to the margins, with little action to back the tough talk against abusers.

Sociological examination highlights a correlation between child abuse and social inequality. Vulnerable populations, such as those living in poverty or marginalized communities, may be at a higher threat of abuse due to limited access to resources and support systems. This underscores the need for broader social reforms to address the root causes of abuse and

secure children from harm. Unless we can come to grips with our runaway population and our hefty poverty, the results of any child protection measures would be no different than expecting a fish to avoid getting wet while swimming in an ocean. The setting up special courts for child abuse cases also has merit, so that these cases don’t get lost in the hefty judicial backlog. The advice about focusing on victims’ rehabilitation also needs immediate attention, so that scarred young people can rebuild their lives, and get professional support to overcome their unimaginable pain. Addressing the complex issues of poverty and child abuse requires amulti-faceted approach that addresses the root causes while giving support and protection for those affected. By enforcing comprehensive solutions that tackle poverty and child abuse in tandem, societies can work towards creating a safer, healthier, and more equitable future for all their members. Only through collaborative efforts and a commitment to change can we break the cycle and result in a brighter future for vulnerable children and families. Child abuse is a ghastly societal issue that demands critical attention and comprehensive solutions.

Writer is student of BS Sociology student at Quaid-e-Azam university, Islamabad. He can be reached at @zubairhassan003



Analysis
Zubair Hassan

Pakistan’s rice exports likely to touch all-time high level this year

Pakistan’s rice exports will not only be higher than the previous year but are likely to touch an all-time high level this year as a result of the expansion of planting area and the improvement of technology.

In addition, the ban on rice exports by India will also help to explore new export markets for Pakistani exports. Pakistan will earn US\$2.7 billion to US\$3 billion through the export of rice during this fiscal as sufficient rice stocks will be available.

And the global food shortage caused by various factors has further pushed up export prices. Quotations for Pakistani rice exports (25 percent broken) climbed to an average of US\$503 per metric ton in May, an increase of 11.0 percent month on month, to their highest level since August 2008. Further, by July 15, Pakistan rice prices rose to US\$ 600 per metric ton China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Pakistan’s rice export to China in 2022 surpassed US\$455 million with a volume of more than one million tonnes, for the first time in the China-Pakistan rice trade, said Ghulam Qadir Commercial Counsellor.

China imports of semi or wholly-milled rice (Commodity Code: 10063020) from Pakistan touched US\$211.88 million, while two kinds of broken rice (Commodity Code: 10064020,10064080) reached US\$162.78 million and US\$80.74 million respectively. Pakistani rice is getting popular in the Chinese market, he emphasized.

We started importing Pakistani rice in 2018, with the annual import volume has been stable at more than 200,000 tons in recent years. Both basmati and non-basmati rice are within our scope.

In China, basmati is used as a kind of high-end rice, mainly for Southeast Asia and South Asia restaurants. This long-grain rice, which has a chewier taste, requires less water when cooking. It is suitable for making baked rice and hand-picked rice, Ding Yong, East China Regional Manager, Shenzhen Vintop Import and Export Co., Ltd. said.

More Chinese should be promoted to learn about basmati rice, my way of thinking, which will be of great help to stimulate the export of Pakistani rice. Basmati rice is a business card of Pakistan, thus more publicity on local customs will be of great benefit to expanding the domestic market, Ding added.

As per estimated, Pakistan will produce some 9 million metric tons of rice during the year and this will help to export more commodities, noted Rafique Suleman, Convenor FPC- CI Standing Committee on rice.

Due to the flood-induced crop failure, in terms of volume rice export shrunk by 25 percent during the last fiscal year.

Pakistan exported 3.717 million metric tons of rice including basmati and other varieties during July-June of FY23 as against 4.97 million metric tons in the corresponding period of the previous year.

But expected bumper crops this year will bring hope to the industry as a whole.

The country’s rice exports will not only be higher than the previous year but likely to touch an all-time high level, Suleman said.



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

SIFC- A Roadmap for Development of Pakistan - III

Army Chief General Asim Munir described the Pakistan-China ties as “unique” and added that the militaries of the two countries will continue “safeguarding collective interests”. He made these remarks while addressing the ceremony held at GHQ in Rawalpindi to celebrate the 96th anniversary of the founding of People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of China, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The Army chief of Pakistan is also taking keen interest in the smooth continuation of SIFC which is a good sign. Recently, Army Chief General Asim Munir has said that our land is rich in minerals and it is our social responsibility to play our role in the country’s economy. Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Summit, Army Chief General Asim Munir said that the Government of Pakistan has ensured the establishment of SIFC in collaboration with all institutions. It lays down new rules for ease of doing business for foreign investors. The Army Chief said that persistence is the only way to stay on the path of peace and prosperity, mineral projects are the ladder of people’s development. General Asim Munir said that Allah Almighty said in Surah Rahman, “And which of the blessings of your Lord will you deny?” The Army

Chief made it clear by referring to the Holy Quran that Allah helps those who help themselves.

The remarkable services of Army Chief and Pak Army for economic revival of Pakistan are in front of us while on the other side is the shameful role of Anti State elements which always try to defame the forces. Those elements tried to spread misunderstandings about the recent Official Secrets Act 1923 Amendment Bill. Here are some facts from reliable sources which are shared here to counter the false propaganda. In reality, this amendment is not related to the events of May 9 and is not applicable retrospectively to any case. This amendment to the Official Secrets Act, 1923 which is a 100 year old law has been updated with the new legal requirements so that the law can be effectively used in accordance with the contemporary laws. England, which enacted this law at that time, has also updated and amended its official laws several times according to modern requirements. This law does not apply to everyone, but it is related to people who leak sensitive information related to the security of the country, because the purpose of the Official Secrets Act is to guard and protect the sensitive information

of the country. The old 1923 law doesn’t mention the modern use of modern technology for espionage and spying and included provisions to counter today’s digital espionage techniques. It is important to clarify that in this amendment also the power to arrest any person has been reserved with the FIA. In this amendment, the old written word “document” and “intelligence agencies” has been explained and expanded in which the document has been added to electronic, digital, agreements, memorandum, plans, in addition to a written document. Intelligence Agency has been explained to mean ISI and Intelligence Bureau.



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

Expanded munitions of war to include ships, submarines, aircraft, tanks, vehicles, and weapons that could be used in war. Therefore, its modern security challenges, which can be exploited by the adversary to harm Pakistan, have been updated and upgraded according to today’s legal requirements. No doubt, the current situation in Pakistan is extraordinary and the enemy is using its advanced technology, employing modern spying techniques to counter which the Official Secrets Act of 1923 has been amended to create negative propaganda and political purposes.

The nation fully acknowledges the notable services of Pak Army and condemns such propaganda from our enemies. No force can stop Pakistan to move forward in spite of all the dirty tactics of Anti State elements.

Readers, the establishment of the Pakistan Special Investment Facilitation Council marks a significant milestone in Pakistan’s efforts to boost economic growth and attract investments. By providing a conducive environment for investment, streamlining regulatory processes, and offering tailored support to investors, the PSIFC plays a crucial role in driving economic development and fostering a vibrant business landscape in Pakistan. As the council continues to forge partnerships and promote the country’s potential on the global stage, it is hoped that it will help unlock Pakistan’s economic potential and pave the way for a prosperous and sustainable future. SIFC is a best and remarkable example of Civil-Military collaboration aiming to achieve the goals of development of Pakistan and is warmly welcomed by the people of the country. Pakistan is quickly proceeding on the way of development and the nation is hopeful that all sincere efforts taken in this regard by our Civil and Military Leadership will be successful.

Concluded (Writer is senior defense analyst)

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

Nonetheless the wife of a civil judge was granted temporary bail by a district and sessions court in the federal capital, in case involving the alleged abuse of Rizwana, a 14-year-old maid and subsequently, was cleared of these accusations and released from any liability pertaining to this incident.

This is how the influence of affluence overpowers or undermines the proper administration of justice in cases of child abuse. It implies that individuals with greater wealth and resources may have the ability to evade or manipulate the legal system, potentially leading to reduced accountability or lenient consequences for their actions. Financial resources could enable individuals to evade the law altogether by leaving the jurisdiction or using their wealth to create barriers against investigation and prosecution. Economic power hinders a thorough investigation into allegations of child abuse. Wealth facilitates out-of-court settlements, allowing the accused to resolve the matter privately without facing the full legal consequences of their actions.

Economic disparities thus potentially lead to unequal access to justice and unequal outcomes.

Though the challenge of attaining justice is a global issue, and this concern holds even greater significance for nations like Pakistan. In our context, the matter encompasses not only the pursuit of impartial justice but, more importantly, the availability of and prompt access to justice. In a nation where a small minority holds most of the wealth, and where approximately

27.6% of the country’s total income is earned by the wealthiest 10% of the population, it is evident that the legal sector primarily caters to the requirements of this privileged segment, typically ranging from the top 10% to 20% of society. The exploitation and mistreatment of the underprivileged is widely recognized within the court system in Pakistan. They can secure the services of expensive and well-connected legal representatives, obtain preferential treatment and documents through illicit payments to government officials, ultimately leading to a favorable outcome in their legal proceedings.

In the realm of addressing child abuse in Pakistan in terms of recent Rizwana’s torture case, the question persists: Does wealth truly triumph over justice? Sadly, the prevailing evidence suggests that economic influence continues to cast a shadow over the pursuit of justice for the most vulnerable members of society. As long as financial power affords individuals the means to manipulate legal processes, secure expert representation, and navigate the corridors of authority, the inherent promise of equal justice remains compromised. Until comprehensive reforms are enacted to ensure equitable access to justice, regardless of economic status, the threat of child abuse will persistently loom, casting doubt on the nation’s commitment to safeguarding its future generations.



Analysis
Malaika Sarwar

Concluded The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. She can be reached at sarwarmalaika18@gmail.com

Regional identity in Central Asia

The significance of the period of the Sheibanid dynasty

Salikhbayev Anvar / KarimovAzizjon

In recent years, the historical science in Uzbekistan has undergone significant changes. There was a rejection of outdated methods, new methodological approaches appeared, modern programs, textbooks and methodological manuals were created, as well as previously undeveloped topics entered the problematic field of historical science.

However, until now the period of the coming to power of the Sheibanid dynasty in Transoxiana and its century-old rule remains an insufficiently studied topic and a thorough analysis is not presented. Most scientific publications do not provide detailed information about the contribution of the Uzbek dynasty to ensuring the independence of Transoxiana from Safavid Iran, about the development of science, culture, literature, education, architecture and handicrafts in the XVI century.

The studies note the increased attention of the board to the rivalry of the outstanding representative of the dynasty – Muhammad Sheibani Khan with the Temurids for the Samarkand throne and the negative influence of the Sheibanids on the processes of internecine wars of the Temurids. As a result, the reader has a biased idea of the role and significance of the Sheibanid dynasty period in Central Asia. Meanwhile, it should be noted that it was Muhammad Sheibani Khan who united numerous Turkic tribes, creating one of the most centralized states for that period. He managed not only to continue, but also to develop many traditions, elements of the foundation of state-building, which were laid by Amir Temur.

As a sovereign, Sheibani Khan was a skilful ruler and diplomat. He sought to create, as some researchers believe, a kind of multicultural state. During his reign, intensive resettlement of various tribes and ethnic groups from the Volga region, Southern Siberia, Dashi-Kipchak and other regions of Central Asia began. At the same time, Sheibani Khan allowed a certain independence of the ethnic groups that were under his patronage, and pursued a fairly flexible internal policy. This circumstance allowed him to more effectively resist external enemies and strengthen the international image of the state. He was distinguished by an astute mind, deep knowledge of religious sciences, and was known as a patron of culture, art and science. The emergence of such qualities in Sheibani Khan was facilitated by his proximity to the settled culture of Transoxiana, since he studied with Islamic scholars in Bukhara and Khorezm, where he became close to Sufi tariqas. The principles of Sheibani Khan's

rule, as many scholars believe, were based not only on the nomadic traditions of the Turkic tribes, but also on the centuries-old experience of governing the state and the settled population of Transoxiana, which was based on Sharia. Appealing to the architectural tradition of the Timurid dynasty, Sheibani Khan was a tireless builder and initiator of the construction of monumental complexes that were not inferior to the Timurids in luxury.

The customers were Sheibani Khan himself, members of his family, representatives of the secular authorities and the clergy. The Sheibanids hosted receptions in the Bagh-i Nau palace complex, the former residence of the Temurids in Samarkand. In another garden of Temur's descendants, the suburban Kan-i Gil, Sheibani Khan built his residence. Sheibani Khan himself wrote poetry under the pseudonym "Shibani". The sofa of his poems, written in the Central Asian Turkic literary language, is currently stored in the Topkapi Manuscript Collection in Istanbul of 192 pages. In 1507, he wrote the essay "Risale-yimaarif-iSheibani" in the Chagatai language. In 1507, it was dedicated to his son, Muhammad Timur. The essay talks about the need for knowledge of Sharia to the sovereign. It follows from the essay that Sheibani Khan was an adherent of the tariqa of Ahmad Yassavi. This manuscript is also kept in Istanbul.



It is necessary to emphasize the regional aspects of the rule of Sheibani Khan, the role and importance of Sheibanids in the development of integration processes in Central Asia between various Turkic tribes and clans, the influence of these processes on the formation of modern national states in the region and a unified cultural identity of Central Asia. Thus, the study of many historical sources indicates that the name of Sheibani Khan is associated with the formation of a new political unit—Central Asia, which outlined the borders of its state without expanding the territory outside the region.

In a very short time, Sheibani Khan established control over Transoxiana (1499-1505), Khorezm (1505) and Khorasan (1506-1508). It is obvious that separate political tribal unions of that time were again united around the ancient capital—Samarkand.

Another difference is that Sheibani Khan sought to create a national state, as well as to ensure the integration of settled and nomadic Turkic tribes. This once again emphasizes that the representative of the Sheibanid dynasty, first of all, sought to strengthen the political, cultural and ideological foundations of his own state. The borders of the Sheibanid state in the north reached the city of Turkestan and the Syrdarya cities, in the east stretched to the Tien Shan, in the south it included Khorasan, to the borders with Iran. Defending his northeastern borders of the state, Sheibani Khan repelled local attacks of the Khazars, who were supported by the Shah of Iran Ismail I (1487-1524), on the territory of Afghanistan. As a result, the troops of Kyzylbash Shah Ismail I, in the battle near the village of Mahmudabad at Merv in November 1510, managed to decide the fate of the battle in their favor, which led to the death of Sheibani Khan. The remains of his body are laid to rest in a dakhma in Samarkand.

After the death of Sheibani Khan, the real power in the state remained in the hands of Ubaidullah Khan, who

lively and quick mind. He thoroughly knew the Koran, provided it with comments in the Turkic language, was fond of music. Despite the difficult military-political situation in the state, he paid great attention to the development of science and culture.

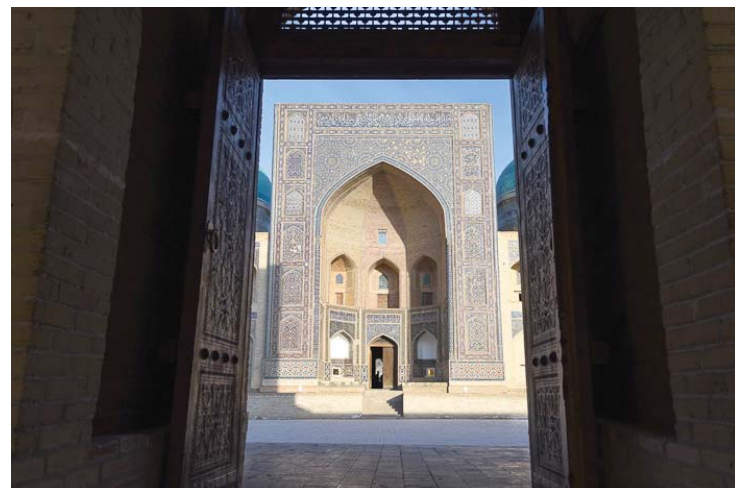
He is considered to be the founder of the first real library in Bukhara, in the walls of which a style of miniature painting was created, subsequently improved under the heirs of Ubaidullah Khan and called the Bukhara School. Also, by order of the khan, as a gift to the outstanding Yemeni Sheikh Seyid Abdullah al-Yamani, who was his spiritual mentor, in 1530-1536, the Miri Arab madrasah was built in Bukhara.

Among its features is the presence of 114 rooms designed for listeners according to the number of surahs of the Holy Quran. In 1993, "Miri Arab" was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Graduates of this madrasah in our time were: the late Chief Mufti of Uzbekistan and Chairman of the Board of Muslims of Uzbekistan Usmankhon Alimov; the late Chairman of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Sheikh Muhammad Sadik Muhammad Yusuf; the late First President of the Chechen Republic as part of the Russian Federation, Ahmad Kadyrov; Ratbek Nysanbayev, Supreme Mufti of Kazakhstan (1990-2000); Haji Allahshukur Gummetoglu Pashazade Sheikh-ul-Islam of Muslims of the Caucasus; Ravil Gainutdin, Chairman of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Council of Muftis Russia and many others. The name of Ubaidullah Khan is associated with the formation of a significant court literary circle in Transoxiana in the first half of the XVI century. Ubaidullah Khan himself wrote poems in Turkic, Persian and Arabic under the pseudonym Ubaidiy.

He was able to put an end to internal strife. It is noteworthy that in foreign policy, Ubaidullah Khan's priority was to get recognition by his neighbors of the Sheibanid state within its borders, which is similar to the aspirations of Sheibani Khan, while maintaining ties with the Ottoman Empire and China. Ubaidullah Khan was buried in one of the cells of the Mir Arab Madrasah in Bukhara, next to his mentor Abdullah al-Yamani.

The Sheibanid state achieved significant success under Abdullah Khan II (1534-1598), who managed to further strengthen the power and authority of the dynasty in this region. By the end of the reign of Abdullah Khan II, the borders of the state stretched from the Caspian Sea in the West to Issyk-Kul in the East, from the Aral Sea in the North and to Herat and Mashhad in the South.



In domestic and foreign policy, Abdullah Khan II largely adhered to the ideology and traditions of the founder of the dynasty, Muhammad Sheibani Khan.

Abdullah Khan II, like his other predecessors, paid attention to science, literature, urban planning, including military affairs. Under him, Uzbek troops massively mastered firearms, and the quality of the guns of Uzbek gunsmiths was known throughout the East.

In the economic field, Abdullah carried out an important reform—instead of silver coins, he introduced copper coins into circulation, establishing control over their circulation and solvency with their help. He died and was buried at the mausoleum of Bahauddin Naqshband near Bukhara.

Under the Sheibanids, historical science also develops, and many historical books appear. Kamaliddin Binoi, Mullah Shodi, Muhammad Salih, Fazlullah ibn Ruzbehan also wrote their works by order of Sheibani Khan.

Abdullah ibn Muhammad ibn Ali Nasrullah wrote the historical work "Zubdatul-ozor", the poet Tanysh Bukhari "Abdullah-name" ("Sharafno-maishohiy"), Zainiddin Vosifi "Badoel-wakoe" (Amazing events) In the madrasah of Samarkand and Bukhara under the Sheibanid dynasty in Transoxiana, scientists who continued the traditions of the Mirzo Ulugbek Academy, such as mudarris Kamaliddin Ibrahim, Mavlon Abdullahan Khoja Muhammad, astronomer Kiyamuddin Shaiddo, created their works. Famous physicians Muhammad Mazid, Hakim Shahrisabzi, surgeons Bako, Rafe, Muhammad Hussein ibn Shirak Samarqandi, who wrote a book on medicine and pharmacology in 1541, oculists Shokhali ibn Suleiman, Khoja Hakim, Abdulkhakim ibn Sultan Mahmud, who received the title of head of the tabibs. Khoja Hassan-Nisari in his book "Muzak-kiriakhbol" (In Memory of friends) notes special merits in mathematics and astronomy of Kavkabi. As a result, the term "Uzbek" is wide-

ly used in Central Asia. This period is of particular importance in the process of ethnogenesis of Uzbeks and other peoples of the region. In the middle and at the end of the X century, the creation of the Kazakh Khanate was marked, formed during the collapse of the Golden Horde in 1465 and the Uzbek Khanate in 1468 and the completion of the formation of the Kazakh ethnic group.

Evidence of fraternal friendship and kinship ties of Uzbeks and Kazaks is a monument to the founders of the Kazakh Khanate as well as the Sheibanids, direct descendants of Jochi Khan—Haji Gerei (1397-1466) and Zhanibek Khan (1428-1480), installed in the capital of Kazakhstan in Astana in 2010.

Such closeness in the line of rulers who played a key role in shaping the national borders of Central Asia once again confirms the centuries-old nature of friendship and cultural and ethnic similarity of the Uzbek and Kazakh peoples, who today adhere to a single system of values and continue to develop positive multilateral political and economic relations with the Kyrgyz, Tajik and Turkmen peoples of our region.

Thus, it should be noted that many system-forming events took place in Central Asia during the ruling Sheibanid dynasty. The main one was the formation of the current geographical contours of Central Asia.

In this regard, deepening the historiography of the Sheibanid period becomes an urgent task, in the context of a positive reset of relations between the Central Asian countries, on the general cultural, humanitarian, political and economic landscape of the region.

Salikhbayev Anvar, Senior Expert at the International Institute of Central Asia, Former Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Pakistan

KarimovAzizjon, Senior Expert at the Institute for Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Italian athletes in love with host city Chengdu

Xinhua

CHENGDU: Two-week stay in Chengdu really impressed Italian athletes and delegation officials who are attending the Chengdu Universiade, which will close on Tuesday.

Elena Altamura, Italian women's water polo player, took a lot of photos in her last day at the arena after the final match, in which Italy settled for a silver, on Monday.

"The facilities are great, the atmosphere is great, much better than I expected," said Altamura.

Altamura was impressed not just by the games, but also by the giant pandas, who are exclusively bred in Sichuan province. She definitely hopes to have a chance to return to Chengdu.



"We spent some time getting over the jet lag when we first arrived in Chengdu, but the next two weeks were really memorable, we had a lot of fun, apart from training, we toured the city, both the city center and the old town, and we went to see the pandas," she said. "Surely I'll come back."

Altamura also experienced the enthusiasm of volunteers at the Village and the venues, commenting that the organization of the games was outstanding.

Like Altamura, Andrea Ippolito from the Italian University Sports Federation agrees that the facilities for the Chengdu Universiade are modern and beautiful. "From my point of view, everything is perfect, the

university village is good, the organization is great, and we are well looked after," he said.

Ippolito has visited China many times, including the 2001 Universiade in Beijing and the 2011 Universiade in Shenzhen. "I also hope to return to Chengdu, which is a place I like very much," the official said. "China has been developing fast over the years, and I think China is a great country."

As a big fan of Chinese food, Ippolito said, "I like spicy food, and I can learn about the country's culture and traditions from the food."

"I love Chinese food too," said Julien Lanfranco, Italy's men's water polo player.

Lanfranco and his teammates also had a tour around Cheng-

du. "It is my first time in Chengdu, the city is beautiful, all the people are warm, and we also saw the pandas, I will remember it forever," said the 22-year-old Italian.

"I'm leaving Chengdu, and I'm going to miss this place, it was a great experience, maybe I will come back in a few years, I am grateful to all the people who helped us."

Lanfranco has bought too many souvenirs, mostly panda-themed licensed products, these days to fill in his suitcase, so he has to buy another one back home.

"I have learned a lot in Chengdu this time. I will soon graduate from school and continue to take on the water polo," Lanfranco added.

Delegation of Kashmiri leaders meets Turkish Member of Parliament Dogan Bekin to Advocate for Kashmir Cause

Sohail Anjum Malik

ANKARA, TURKIYE: A delegation of esteemed Kashmiri political and Hurriyat leaders from both sides of the State of Jammu & Kashmir convened a productive meeting with Turkish Member of Parliament, Dogan Bekin, who also holds the position of Istanbul Deputy in the Re Prosperity Party.

It is notable that the delegation included eminent figures from both sides of Kashmir. The delegation from the state of Jammu and Kashmir comprised notable individuals such as head of delegation Speaker of the AJK Legislative Assembly, Chaudhry Lateef

Akbar; Convenor of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar; Former Member of Legislative Assembly of AJK, Abdur Rasheed Turabi;

Senior Member of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Jammu Kashmir Altaf Ahmed Bhat and Senior Vice Chairman of Kashmir Diaspora Coalition, Dr. Mubeen Shah.

The meeting was conducted in a cordial and welcoming atmosphere, marked by a commitment of Dogan Bekin for advancing the Kashmiri cause on a governmental level. Mr. Bekin extended a warm and gracious welcome to the delegation, affirming his support for

the Kashmir cause and pledging to lend his voice to the ongoing struggle for justice and human rights in the region.

The delegation wholeheartedly appreciated Mr. Bekin's dedication and efforts toward advocating for the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In a series of comprehensive discussions, the delegation articulated their key demands. Emphasizing the pressing need for international attention to the Kashmir issue and the grave violation of human rights taking place, the delegation urged for the involvement and activation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) contact group to address the Kashmir conflict.

The call to engage OIC's diplomatic influence in the matter is essential to pave the way for a peaceful and just resolution.

Additionally, the delegation mentioned that Indian occupation forces are target killing the future of Kashmir: Youth, and their educational careers are being destroyed.

After the unilateral decision of Modi led BJP government of India: abrogation of article 370 and 35A 5th on August 2019, the Indian government has unleashed reign of terror upon the besieged people of IIOJ&K.



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
48,227.60	47,429.82
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,334.53	47,262.37
Index Value	Change
12,537,264,580	+797.78
Percentage	Time
+1.68%	9 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,587.30	+59.88
Percentage	Time
+0.80%	9 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
35,244.24	-70.25
Percentage	Time
-0.20%	9 Aug, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
32,204.33	-172.96
Percentage	Time
-0.53%	9 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200.5
Bahrain Dinar	759.08	767.08
Canadian Dollar	222.8	225
China Yuan	40.05	40.45
Danish Krone	42.13	42.53
Euro	321.8	324.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.56	36.91
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	1.94	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.18	937.18
Malaysian Ringgit	62.6	63.2
New Zealand \$	173.96	175.96
Norwegians Krone	28.08	28.38
Omani Riyal	741.33	749.33
Qatari Riyal	78.41	79.11
Saudi Riyal	77.9	78.7
Singapore Dollar	211	213
Swedish Korona	26.93	27.23
Swiss Franc	326.47	328.97
Thai Bhat	8.18	8.33
U.A.E Dirham	81.6	82.4
UK Pound Sterling	373	376.5
US Dollar	293.8	296.7

IMF compliance is the only way to improve credit ratings: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the country is going through a difficult period of economic instability, a low growth rate, and unbearable inflation. Under these circumstances, full implementation of the IMF conditions is the only means of improving Pakistan's credit rating, through which more loans, rollover of old loans and the initiation of foreign investment are possible, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that an improved global ranking will enable access to cheap loans, which are essential for our survival. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that from January 2022 to June 2023, the value of the rupee has decreased by 62% against the dollar, which has eroded the purchasing power of the people.

After the approval of the standby programme from the IMF and the acquisition of a loan of 1.3 billion dollars, the foreign exchange reserves in the State Bank have exceeded 8 billion dollars, the interest rate has been increased to 22 percent, and import restrictions have apparently been removed. But clearance of imported merchandise is slow, while dollar deregulation has been lifted and the Pakistan Stock Market has crossed 48 thousand points, which shows the confidence of the business community. Mian Zahid Hussain said that inflation has come down from 39% to 29%, while the country's global ranking has also improved slightly. The fiscal deficit has been 7.6 percent from July 2022 to June 2023, due to which new taxes have been imposed in the budget.



He informed that by June 2024, Pakistan has to pay off \$25 billion in foreign debt, which will need to be rolled over and will be impos-

ble if the IMF is annoyed by Pakistan violating the agreement. After the election, Pakistan will need a long-term IMF programme, during which real economic reforms can reduce electricity prices in Pakistan, thereby reducing the cost of doing business and increasing Pakistan's exports, he said. As the economy improves, global rankings will improve, making it easier to get loans and restoring investor confidence, he said, adding that Pakistan is one of the ten most vulnerable countries in terms of climate change. Last year, the country lost 31 billion dollars due to floods, so strong measures are needed to prevent such events in the future, for which there are no resources. We should not wait for the international community to help flood victims and rebuild infrastructure because this is our problem and we have to solve it, he said.

Lucky Draw

ISLAMABAD: Ballot of residential plots of Riverview South, Phase 4, DHA Rwp has been conducted on Aug 9, 2023. Administrator, Secretary and other officers of DHA-R were also present at the occasion.



Netherlands wants to further bolster trade & investment ties with Pakistan

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Mrs. Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of Netherlands to Pakistan said that her country enjoys strong relations with Pakistan and wants to bolster bilateral trade and investment ties with it. She said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) that called on her, led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President.

The Ambassador said that this year marks the 75 years of bilateral relations between Netherlands and Pakistan. She discussed areas of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Netherlands, especially in agriculture, floriculture, dairy, livestock & water management and added that Pakistan can learn best practices from the Netherlands in these sectors to improve its economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Netherlands had crossed US\$ 2 Billion in 2022, with trade balance in favor of Pakistan, which was encouraging. He said that the Netherlands is the world's second largest exporter of agricultural products and it should share its technology, knowledge and expertise with Pakistan for improving our agricultural productivity. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice Pres-



ident ICCI highlighted the lucrative economic avenues present in Pakistan in which both countries can further deepen their economic relations. He also spoke about the possible avenues for mutual collaboration between the Dutch and Pakistani businesses. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG laud-

ed the progress achieved by the Netherlands, especially in the agriculture sector and invited the Dutch companies to visit Pakistan in order to explore investment opportunities in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, dairy, water management and renewable energy. He said that by investing in Pakistan, the Netherlands can increase its exports to many countries.

PTA takes action against illegal provisioning of internet services

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a resolute stride to eradicate the proliferation of illegal internet service providers, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), conducted a raid against an illegal internet service provider situated on Walton Road, Lahore.

During the operation, an operational internet setup was discovered, being operated without valid license. As a result, three individuals were apprehended, and equipment including 1 server, 1 router, and 30 Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) were seized. The premises have been sealed, and FIA is probing further enquiry as per law.

The achievement in



combating illegal internet service providers can be attributed to PTA's steadfast commitment, constant vigilance, and persistent endeavors to illegal internet services. These actions play a pivotal role in curbing tax evasion and revenue misreporting, thus curtailing loss to the national treasury. PTA advises the public to only avail telecommunication services from PTA-licensed operators to avoid any sudden disruption of services. List of licensed operators is available at: <https://pta.gov.pk/en/industry-support/home/list-of-operators>

SECP standardizes the structure for the issuance of Sukuk



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Shariah Advisory Committee (SAC) of the SECP has approved standardization of the Shariah Structure based on Musharakah (Shirkat ul Aqd) for the issuance of sukuk, along with draft agreements for Sukuk issuance, Sukuk subscription, Issue agency agreements, and Musharakah.

The standardized requirements shall facilitate the preparation of requisite documentation for seeking approval for the issuance of Shariah-compliant securities under the Shariah Governance Regulations, 2018, and the subsequent issuance of sukuk, promoting consistency in practice and transparency in disclosures.

Notable interest is being observed in the issuance of Sukuk by companies to meet short-term working capital requirements as an avenue to fund their financial resource requirements.

However, different extents and manners of disclosure were being used by issuers.

Therefore, standardized documentation with the flexibility to make changes has been introduced aimed at reducing regulatory burden, encouraging harmonized disclosures, and facilitating the grant of Shariah compliance certificates by the SECP and subsequent issuance of Sukuk by the companies.

SECP remains committed to the development and promotion of Islamic finance in its regulated sectors in light of its mandate and the recent judgement of the Federal Shariat Court. Soft copies of the documents are available for download and can be accessed through SECP's official website at: Agreements (Draft Agreement (Musharakah, Shariah structure, Sukuk issuance and Sukuk subscription and Issue agency) | SECP

Alibaba.com Reaffirms Commitment to Unlocking Pakistan's Textile Industry Potential at GTEX Expo 2023



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce, has concluded its participation in the GTEX Textile Machine and Chemical Brand Expo held from 3 to 5 August 2023 in Karachi, reaffirming its commitment to assisting Pakistan businesses on their journey towards digitalization and global expansion.

OIC collectively condemned blasphemous incident in Sweden

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has strongly condemned the utterly unacceptable, blasphemous and intolerable incident of desecration of the Holy Quran. The business community collectively and strongly demands that the government of Pakistan should engage the Swedish government at the highest-level and convey our protest vociferously, unequivocally and categorically, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh maintained that the business community is the most peace-loving and law-abiding community; but, we cannot tolerate any such blasphemous incidents and the sanctity of our beloved religion comes first before any other interests - whatsoever!

FPCCI has proposed that the government should invoke the 57-country strong alliance of OIC; utilizing Pakistan's unique position and influence within Muslim Ummah; in a way that forces the Swedish authorities to take strongest possible action against the culprit and ensuring that no such incident is repeated in Sweden.

CCP fully functional after assumption of charge by chairman, two members

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan appointed four Members of the Competition Commission of Pakistan, namely Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Salman Amin, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, and Captain (retired) Saeed Ahmad Nawaz on 17 July 2023. Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu was subsequently nominated as the Chairman of CCP. Dr. Sidhu has taken charge following the issuance of a notification by the federal government on 8 August 2023.

Two newly appointed Members Mr. Salman Amin and Mr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh have also joined the Commission. The appointment of Chairman and Members have now rendered the Commission fully functional.

Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu completed his undergraduate, Master and PhD from Manchester University. He specializes in the Regulation of Abuse in Markets. He has previous experience of working in insurance, legal, financial, academic, research and government Institutions in the UK and Pakistan.

Tribal elders demand mobile network & 3G/4G restoration in Shakai Lower SW



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: President Inam Jan Wazir chaired a press conference at District Press Club Wana regarding the suspension of Jazz and Ufone signal and internet services in Shakai Tehsil of South Waziristan Lower District and strongly demanded the federal government and military leadership, that the network signal and 3G/4G services are down in valley Shakai and should be restored immediately.

They said that the people of Tehsil Tiarza and Tehsil Shakai will hold a sit-in against the suspension of network signal and internet services tomorrow in front of Shakai Brigade.

They said that the people of Tehsil Shakai and Tiarza have been deprived of network and internet services, while most of the people of Tehsil Shakai are spending the days and nights of travelers for the purpose of

labour in other countries and are disconnected from their own and therefore, we the people of Tehsil Shakai are protesting due to non-availability of network signal and internet services.

Regarding this issue, meetings have been held with Shakai Brigade, DC Lower South Waziristan and DPO, all of them have asked for two days' respite and assured to restore it,

but despite the passage of days, the internet service was not restored, so we were left with no other option but to stage a sit-in.

President Inam Jan appealed to all the political parties, elected representatives and people including Tehsil Chairman to participate in the sit-in in front of Shakai Brigade.

On this occasion, Malik Kalam Uddin Wazir, chairman Pir Zar Kalam Wazir and social worker Din Muhammad Wazir were also present.

Pakistan Cables lifts the 46th FPCCI Best Merit Performance Export Award 2022-23

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Cables won the 46th FPCCI Merit Export Award organized at a ceremony held in Karachi. The Chief Guest at the occasion was the Governor of Sindh, Kamran Tessori who conferred the award to Aimen Agha, Execu-

tive Export Sales, Pakistan Cables Ltd. Pakistan Cables Ltd. is the only cable manufacturer in Pakistan to win the Best Export Performance Award 2022-2023, in the exports category. Prior to this, the Company won the Merit Export Award successively during 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

PM directs a corporate structure for construction of Olympic Village in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to formulate a corporate structure for the construction of the Olympic Village in Islamabad which should be supervised by the relevant experts.

The prime minister, who chaired the meeting on the construction of an Olympic Village of international standard in Islamabad, said the majority of

Pakistan's population comprised youth. The sports activities enabled the youth to utilise their energies in a productive manner, he added.

Recalling the government's historic steps for the promotion of sports in the country, he said a national sports programme was launched and the foundation for the first sports university in Islamabad was also laid.

Calling the Olympic Village a national project, the prime minister said a corporate structure should be formu-

lated for the project and the relevant experts should monitor the construction.

The meeting was told that the Olympic Village would be developed over 1200 kanals of land at the foothills of Margalla Hills. It would feature facilities of international standards for various sports, including a cricket academy, an international cricket stadium, a hockey ground, a tennis complex, an athletics stadium, indoor sports, an international hotel, and parking facilities.

It was further told that an estimated budget of Rs 3 billion had been allocated for the construction of the Olympics Village.

The prime minister directed to ensure transparency in the construction of the facility.

Former members of the National Assembly Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Hanif Abbasi and Anjum Aqeel, Capital Development Authority chairman and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Inzamam-ul-Haq opens up on Faheem Ashraf's inclusion in Asia Cup squad

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Inzamam-ul-Haq, the national men's selection committee head announced an 18-member squad for the series against Afghanistan and the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023, the notable selection, however, was the returning pace-bowling all-rounder Faheem Ashraf.

He returns to the side after a long hiatus of two years, his last outing in the ODI format was during Pakistan's three-match away series against England in July 2021.

In his last ODI match, Faheem Ashraf scored 10 runs off four balls, while he gave away 34 runs without any wicket.

Inzamam-ul-Haq, who unveiled almost alike squads for the Asia Cup and Afghanistan ODIs, justified Faheem Ashraf's inclusion by claiming him to be the only pace-bowling all-rounder in the circuit.

"We lacked pace-bowling all-rounders, as all the all-rounders we currently



have are spinners," he said. "We are looking towards the ICC Cricket World Cup later this year, and Faheem Ashraf will come in handy in India," he added.

He further solidified his call by terming Faheem the best pace-bowling all-rounder in Pakistan. "Faheem Ashraf is number one among all the pace-bowling all-rounders in the domestic."

An 18-player squad will take on Afghanistan in Sri Lanka from 22 to 26 August and it will be trimmed to 17 players for the Asia Cup,

departing on 17 August. The players in Pakistan will hold a three-day camp on 14, 15 and 16 August at the National Cricket Academy, Lahore.

The squad was finalised following consultations between the national men's selection committee – which also includes Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Hassan Cheema (secretary) – and Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

Pakistan's Squad:
Openers: Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq

Middle order: Babar Azam (captain), Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Tayyab Tahir and Saud Shakeel (only for Afghanistan series).

Wicketkeepers: Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Haris

Spinners: Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Mohammad Nawaz and Usama Mir

Pace all-rounder: Faheem Ashraf
Pacers: Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi

Faisal Akram's takes five again as Pakistan Shaheens beat NT Strike



A Sports

LAHORE: Another five-wicket haul from left-arm spinner Faisal Akram helped Pakistan Shaheens beat Northern Territory (NT) Strike by 84 runs at DXC Arena on Wednesday evening.

This was Shaheens' last match on Australian soil before they return home.

Pakistan Shaheens, before the two 50-over matches, appeared in six-team Top End Series, where they lost to NT Strike in the final at DXC Arena on Sunday.

Chasing 233 to win, NT Strike lost their opening batters for just seven runs on the board before Jason Sangha (34, 37b, 3x4s) and Coby Edmonstone (65, 98b, 6x4s, 1x6) added 79 runs for the third wicket.

Param Uppal (24, 27b, 3x4s) was the other notable contributor with the bat. After the departure of Uppal, the hosts lost seven wickets for just 21 runs.

Faisal Akram, who bagged five for 17 runs in the match against Papua New Guinea on Tuesday afternoon, bagged five wickets for 37 from 10 overs, which included 39 dot balls.

Earlier, after opting to bat first, Shaheens' opening pair of Azaan Awais (36, 38b, 2x4s) and Basit Ali (33, 35b, 5x4s) knitted a 53-run partnership for the opening wicket.

After the departure of the pair with 87 runs on the board, Pakistan Shaheens were in a spot of bother as they lost five wickets for 73 runs.

That the Pakistan Shaheens managed to score 232 from 160 for seven was largely due to a 44-run partnership between Ahmed Khan (39, 61b, 2x4s, 1x6) and Ali Asfand (42 not out, 42b, 5x4s) for the eighth wicket.

Pakistan Shaheens were all out for 232 in 47.3 overs. For NT Strike, Charlie Smith took four wickets for 31, while Jack Wood and Tom Menzies grabbed two wickets each.

This was Pakistan Shaheens' first win over NT Strike, after they failed to overpower the hosts on two occasions in the recently concluded Top End T20 Series.

Women's World Cup run on a par with Morocco's men in Qatar: coach

Sports Desk

Morocco coach Reynald Pedros said Tuesday his team reaching the Women's World Cup last 16 was as impressive as the country's men getting to the semi-finals of the Qatar World Cup.

Their run ended with a 4-0 loss to France in Adelaide but Morocco exceeded all expectations by getting to the knockout rounds at their debut Women's World Cup.

"Being in a World Cup last 16 for Morocco is exceptional. It has been a remarkable adventure," said Pedros, the former French international midfielder.

His team bounced back from losing 6-0 to Germany in their first game in Australia to beat South Korea and Colombia, both by a 1-0 scoreline, and advance to



the knockout stage.

"We have been together as a team since the 12th of June, working for and preparing for this World Cup," added Pedros, who became coach in 2020 and took the team to the final of the Africa Cup of Nations last year.

"I don't think we could have imagined going into our last group game with

a chance of getting to the last 16.

"I sincerely believe that getting to the last 16 with this team, for the first time, is the equivalent of the guys getting to the semi-finals.

"It is beyond fantastic. We only started building this team three years ago. There are so many things that make us proud even though we have been knocked out."

Morocco's men lost 2-0 to France in the semi-finals of the Qatar World Cup and ended up finishing fourth, the best performance by an African team at the tournament.

Pedros and his side will now regroup to try to qualify for next year's Paris Olympics, with Morocco's women never having featured at the Games before.

"I am going to congratulate and thank them because what they have given us in terms of emotions is quite incredible, and then we will get back down to work," he said.

"We have the Olympic qualifiers to prepare for but we have gained experience from this."

"I am really, really proud to be coach of this team because we have fantastic players."

Pakistan squads for Asia Cup, Afghanistan Series announced

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Inzamam-ul-Haq, the head of the national men's selection committee on Wednesday announced squads for the ACC Men's Asia Cup and the three-match One-Day International series against Afghanistan.

An 18-player squad will take on Afghanistan in Sri Lanka from August 22 to 26 and it will be trimmed to 17 players for the Asia Cup, which begins from the Multan Cricket Stadium on August 30 when Pakistan play Nepal.

Openers: Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq Middle order: Babar Azam (captain), Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Tayyab Tahir and Saud Shakeel (only for

Afghanistan series).

Wicketkeepers: Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Haris.

Spinners: Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Mohammad Nawaz and Usama Mir Pace all-rounder: Faheem Ashraf

Pacers: Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf and Saud Shakeel have been included in the squad for the Afghanistan series.

Shan Masood and Ihsanullah are the two players from the squad that played New Zealand in the five ODIs in April and May to miss out.

Faheem returns to the side after two years and further adds to the balance of the side as a fast-bowling all-rounder.

His last outing in the format

was during Pakistan's three-match away series against England in July 2021.

This is Tayyab's second call-up on the ODI side. His maiden call-up came ahead of the three ODIs against New Zealand in January following a stellar show in the Pakistan Cup 2022-23 that saw him finish as the leading run-getter in the event.

The right-handed middle-order batter recently struck a scintillating century to orchestrate Pakistan Shaheens' thumping 128-run win over India A in the ACC Men's Emerging Cup final.

Saud, who does not feature in the Asia Cup squad, has played five ODIs and his last was in March 2022 when Pakistan chased down 348 against Australia with six wickets in hand in Lahore.

Shan has missed out on selection following a string of low scores, while Ihsanullah is undergoing a rehabilitation program under the observation of the PCB's medical panel following an injury in his bowling elbow.

The team will assemble in Hambantota on August 18 with the players in Pakistan departing on August 17.

The players in Pakistan will hold a three-day camp on August 14, 15 and 16 at the National Cricket Academy, Lahore.

The squad has been finalised following consultations between the national men's selection committee – which also includes Mickey Arthur (team director), Grant Bradburn (head coach) and Hassan Cheema (secretary) – and Pakistan captain Babar



Azam. Players participating in Lank-



Provincial Commissioner Islamabad Boys Scouts Association Mr Tariq Aaleem Gill Presenting Provisional Certificate as District commissioner IBSA Federal Area To Mr Abdul Waheed Khan at PHQ Sumbal Park Islamabad, Secretary IBSA Mr Shahid Saleem Gorski also present on this occasion.

Shubman Gill moves closer to Fakhar, Imam in ICC ODI batting rankings



A Sports

DUBAI: India's batting prodigy Shubman Gill climbed two spots and moved within touching distance to Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman in the latest ICC ODI Batting Rankings.

Shubman Gill, who enjoyed an excellent campaign in the three-match ODI series against West Indies, got the reward of his brilliance as the right-handed batter achieved career-high rating points (743) and moved closer to Fakhar and Imam in ICC ODI Batting Rankings.

Fakhar (755) and Imam (745) are ranked third and fourth in the ICC ODI Batting Rankings respectively.

Gill's fellow Ishaan Kishan also jumped nine places to reach 36th rank in the ICC ODI Batting Rankings with 589 points after scoring 184 runs in the series against West Indies.

The recent ICC ODI bowling rankings saw Kuldeep Yadav jumping four places to reach the 10th spot after taking seven wickets in the series against the West Indies.

Meanwhile, Shardul Thakur, who took eight wickets in the series and was the leading wicket-taker in the series, moved up three places to 30th.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who led the Indian side in the series rose five places to acquire 11th position in ODI all-rounders ranking.

West Indian players did not enjoy the same success in the ODI series and subsequent gains in rankings as their Indian counterparts, however, they showed good performances in the T20I series and were thus rewarded in ICC T20I rankings.

West Indies explosive batter Nicholas Pooran rose six places to reach the 14th spot in the ICC T20I batting rankings, while Rovman Powell earned the 32nd spot after jumping 17 places.

Meanwhile, pace bowler Alzarri Joseph took a giant stride in the ICC T20I bowling rankings to reach 13th position after climbing 19 spots, whereas left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein rose to the 14th position after jumping six places.

India knock Pakistan out of Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

For the first time, the Pakistan hockey team have failed to finish in the last four of the Asian Champions Trophy after they were thrashed 4-0 by arch-rivals India in Chennai on Wednesday.

This is the first time Men in Green have failed to finish in the top four since the introduction of the Asian Champions Trophy.

Pakistan, Japan and Korea all had the same number of points but the latter teams made their way to the semi-finals due to better goal difference.

Pakistan started the game positively with great intensity but Indian skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored just before the end of the first quarter, giving his team an upper hand.

India started to dominate the game by the start of the second quarter and soon doubled their lead with another goal by the Indian skipper from a penalty corner. India's fantastic display continued and just within the six minutes in the third quarter, Jugraj Singh scored one more for the home side and tripled his team's lead.

India finished the game 4-0 with Akashdeep Singh adding one more to India's goal tally. The last time Pakistan won against India in hockey was back in the 2016 South Asia games, since then, they are on a 16-match winless streak.

The Green Shirts only managed to win one out of five games in the tournament. Their first game of the event ended with a 3-1 defeat against Malaysia. After that, they drew two consecutive games against Korea and Japan.

an Premier League and the directly in Sri Lanka on 18 Hundred will join the squad August.