



No restriction on Nawaz after completing 5-year disqualification: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said there was no restriction on Pakistan Muslim League-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to contest the election as he had completed his five-year disqualification period. (Details on Page 8)



Pakistan HC in London commends minorities' role in nation-building

The Pakistan High Commission in London Dr Mohammad Faisal commemorated 'National Minorities Day' on Thursday to honour the vital contributions of Pakistani minority communities in nation building. The event celebrated Pakistan's diversity on Minorities Day, coinciding with August 11th annually, according to a press release received here on Friday. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Illuminated

FAISALABAD: A stunning view of the District Council Building illuminated with National Flags colors during the celebrations of Independence Day, in City.



Photo: Online

Two terrorists gunned down in Balochistan operation

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed and another was injured during an exchange of fire with security forces in Balochistan's Kech district, according to a statement issued by the army's media affairs wing.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said forces conducted a successful Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) in Mazaband Range area of District Kech, Balochistan on 10-11 August 2023.

During the operation, two militants were neutralised and one terrorist was injured.

ISPR added that weapons and ammunition were found in the possession of the militants who remained actively involved in terrorist activities



against security forces, as well as the killing of innocent citizens.

Security Forces of Pakistan remain committed to eliminating the menace of terrorism and thwarting nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan at all costs, it further maintained.

Armed forces continue operations following a series of terror attacks in KP and Balochistan regions as areas neighbored by Afghanistan witnessed serious law and orders situation amid a resurgence of TTP and other terror groups.

Supreme Court strikes down Review of Judgments Act 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday nullified Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar announced the reserved verdict on the pleas challenging the vires of the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023.

The judgment was reserved by the SC after the completion of arguments from both sides in six hearings on June 19. The Supreme Court in its short verdict remarked that the parliament had no power to enact such legislation.

The judgment has also



shattered the hopes of ex-PM Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen, who were seeking to challenge their lifetime disqualifications. Both Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen were disqualified under Article 62 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act was challenged by Riaz Hanif Rahi advocate and others, pleading with the court to declare the new act of law as void.

According to petitions, the Supreme Court Review of Judgments and Orders Act 2023 contravenes the Constitution.

Decision on caretaker prime minister likely today: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed the hope that the decision on name of caretaker prime minister would be finalised by Saturday.

The prime minister, in a farewell interaction with the PM beat reporters here, said he would meet the heads of coalition parties on Friday night to discuss the matter which would follow his meeting with Leader of the Opposition Raja Riaz on Friday or Saturday.

He explained that in case of

their inability to evolve consensus on a single name, the matter would be referred to the parliamentary committee with a mandate to dispose it of within three days. In case of no agreement at that committee level, the matter would be taken up by the Election Commission who would have to take the final decision within two days.

Responding to a question about the letter written by President Arif Alvi to him and the opposition leader to finalise the name by August 12, the prime minister said the procedure was very clear in the constitution.

He said the 16 months of his stint were the most difficult time of his 38-year political career. However, consequent to the teamwork and efforts of all the stakeholders made the government achieve success on different fronts.

He said the government machinery worked round the clock during the floods and Rs100 billion was disbursed by the previous government, besides the ones distributed by the provinces and the relevant departments.

He said the agreement with the IMF was a great challenge

that was surmounted by the team's efforts otherwise, the country could have faced chaos.

Recounting his government's success at the diplomatic front, the prime minister said they had improved the ties with friendly countries which were strained during the previous government through baseless allegations.

He said the inflation had touched 12.55 which was just 3.5% during the Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

He said the government had to spend \$2 billion to import wheat following the reduced

production.

Without naming the news story about the cipher, the prime minister said, "What happened yesterday has exposed everything."

He said the oil prices were not in the government's control; however, they passed on the impact whenever there was any decline.

He told the newsmen that the government had put in place a mechanism in the form of Special Investment Facilitation Council which was a vision for country's progress and prosperity.

PM decides to award 'Tamgha-i-Imtiaz' to doctors & health workers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday decided to award 'Tamgha-i-Imtiaz' (posthumously) to the doctors and health workers who were martyred while providing medical treatment and care to the patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was decided that 'Tamgha-i-Imtiaz' (posthumously) would be awarded to 81 doctors from Punjab, 87 from Sindh, 23 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eight from Balochistan, four from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and one each from Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad.

Likewise 59 nurses and frontline health workers from across Pakistan would also be honoured with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (posthumously) for their services and saving lives of people without caring about their lives during the corona pandemic.



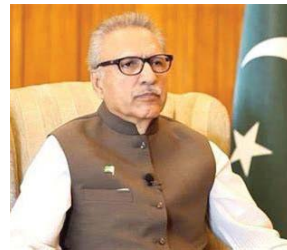
President Alvi asks PM, Raja Riaz to finalise caretaker PM's name by Aug 12

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and outgoing Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly (NA) Raja Riaz to propose a name for appointment of caretaker PM by tomorrow (August 12).

According to details, the president sought the names in a letter to the prime minister and the opposition leader.

In a letter, President Alvi said under Article 224A of Constitution, PM Shehbaz and Raja Riaz were required to propose name of a person for appointment of caretaker prime minister within three days of dissolution of National Assembly.



"Under proviso to Article 224 (1A) of the Constitution, the president appoints caretaker prime minister in consultation with Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing National Assembly", he added.

He said the prime minister advised him on August 9 for dissolution of National Assembly under Article 58 (1) of the Constitution which

he approved and dissolved the assembly on same day.

"As provided in Article 224 (1A) of Constitution of Pakistan, Prime Minister and leader of Opposition in the outgoing National Assembly may propose a suitable person for appointment of care-taker prime minister not later than August 12, 2023," the president added.

It is pertinent to mention here that PM Shehbaz and opposition leader Raja Riaz began meetings to select a candidate for the interim premier after the National Assembly (NA) stood dissolved on August 9.

Both leaders are expected to meet again today for another round of deliberations.

IMF delegation to visit Pakistan in November

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation will visit Pakistan in November to review the economic performance after the continuation of the loan programme.

Sources told that the IMF delegation will visit Pakistan in November to review the economic performance from July to September.

The Fund and the caretaker set-up will hold key dialogues. Sources told ARY News that Pakistan is expected to receive the next tranche of Rs700 million out of the \$3 billion loan programme. Sources added that the IMF is likely to disburse \$1.8 billion funds to Pakistan by March 2024. The Fund set condition for Pakistan to complete two economic reviews.

Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: With hate speech on the rise worldwide, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for collective efforts to promote inter-religious harmony when he met faith and community leaders on Thursday.

"It is our collective responsibility to combat intolerance, xenophobia, fanaticism and religious hatred worldwide," he said at the meeting, held at the Pakistani embassy, while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to promote inter-faith harmony.

Representatives of various faiths and members of the Pak-American community attended the meeting, with Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Chairman of the Muslim Institute, as the chief guest.

They included, Reverend Canon Justin Murff, Executive Director of the Anglican Office for Government & International Affairs; Muhammad Usman Noori of the Al-Mustafa Trust; Yahya Hendi, Director of the Muslim Life and Chaplaincy at Georgetown University; Dr. Maqsood Chaudhry, an interfaith activist, Imam Naeem Baig.

Int'l news report on cipher put a stamp on Khan's truthfulness, says Raouf

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan congratulated the entire nation on the completion of the tenure of the callous, criminal and fascist government imposed on the nation through foreign conspiracy, hoping that elections would be held on the constitutionally mandated timeframe to bring PTI Chairman Imran Khan back to power again.

In a video message on Thursday, PTI CIS said that an American company, The Intercept, has made the cipher public, which solidified the former prime minister's claims and put a stamp on his truthfulness. Raouf Hasan stated that although the ministers of the PDM government were constantly changing their stance regarding the existence and veracity of the cipher and even they blamed Imran Khan for its release.

However, he stated that despite all their tricks, the truth has come out today that verily the cipher was a reality, which was the story of the conversation that took place between Pakistani Ambassador Asad Majeed and the American officer Donald Lu in Washington DC.

IHC reserves verdict regarding PTI chief's shifting to Adiala Jail

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday reserved its judgment, observing that it would pass an appropriate order in an appeal of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman seeking his shifting from the District Jail Attock to the Central Jail Adiala.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the verdict after hearing arguments from respondents in the said case.

During the course of proceedings, the chief justice remarked that the petitioner was of the view that the trial court had sent him to the Adiala Jail but he was lodged in the Attock Jail.

Assistant Advocate General

Punjab Rao Shaikat produced the notification regarding shifting of the convict to the Attock Jail, saying reasons were mentioned about the action.

To the court's query, he said that a lawyer of PTI chairman had already met him on August 7 to take his signatures on the power of attorney and other documents.

The court questioned whether a lawyer could meet his client only for his taking signatures on document. Rejecting the requests to visit the prisoner could fall under contempt of court, he added.

Rao Shaikat said the jail administration had permitted the lawyer to visit Imran Khan on August 7, but they reached late on August 8 and 9.

The petitioner's counsel Sher Afzal Marawat argued that the lawyers were being humiliated in the matter of meeting their client.

The chief justice observed that the PTI chief was a former prime minister and leader of a big political party, and at the same time he was convicted, and "we have to move while keeping in mind all of this together".

Addressed

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the participants of the 118th Senior Management Course (SMC) and 33rd National Management Course (NMC) at the National School of Public Policy on Friday.



Photo: PID

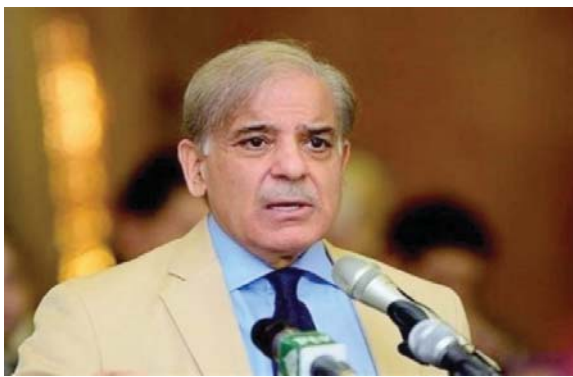
No restriction on Nawaz after completing 5-year disqualification: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said there was no restriction on Pakistan Muslim League-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to contest the election as he had completed his five-year disqualification period.

"As far as Nawaz Sharif is concerned, that law is in the field now under which the maximum disqualification period is five years. There is no restriction on Nawaz Sharif as he has completed his five-year disqualification," the prime minister said in an interview with a private television channel (Samaa News).

He said the new law promulgated by the Parliament had overwritten the previous law



which the Supreme Court has not yet annulled.

"Inshallah, I am sure that he will return by next month... He will face the law. The nation will receive him warmly... He will run the election campaign

and all of us will be with him," he stated.

Commenting about the Supreme Court's decision on the Review of Judgments and Orders Act 2023, the prime minister

said the legislature had all the powers of lawmaking.

"This is the first time in the history. I have not seen it happening anywhere in the world that legislation is stopped in anticipation," he remarked and said the legislation was the job of Parliament, not the Supreme Court.

Regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief, he said the court would decide his fate as he had no role in that regard.

However, he said the NAB-Niazi nexus victimised him and his family, Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, and sister of Asif Ali Zardari when they were also denied bail.

Contrarily, the PTI government obtained stay orders in

the cases of the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit), wheat and sugar scandals.

He told the interviewer that inflation touched 12.5% during the previous government which stood at just 3.5% during Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said his government reduced oil prices based on international rates after regular reviews, but had to increase them due to global market fluctuations.

He said the government spent Rs 40-50 billion for distributing free flour during Ramadan to support the poor. Additionally, it also provided cross-subsidy to those consuming up to 200 units of electricity per month.

Imran Khan be provided quality food due to threats to his life: legal team

Amna Malik

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legal team expressed serious apprehension about safety and security of PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, who was facing serious threats to his life in Attock jail, demanding that immediate steps should be taken to provide him home-made quality food and other facilities.

During a press conference here on Friday, PTI Chairman's lawyers Naeem Haider Panjutha and Ali Ijaz Buttar briefed the media regarding the hearing of the petition filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking meeting of lawyers, doctors and party leaders with Imran Khan as well as the facilities being provided to him in

prison.

Panjutha said that the PTI legal team tried their level best to hold meeting with PTI Chairman the other day but only Bushra Bibi was allowed to meet him.

He said that the only reason of not giving them chance to meet the former prime minister was the press conference he held after meeting Imran Khan.

Panjutha stated that it was their legal right to hold meeting with Imran Khan because they needed his instructions regarding his various cases as well as signing power of attorney.

PTI Chairman Lawyer said that keeping in view the threats to the life of PTI Chairman, they appealed to the court to give him quality food on which the judge reserved the verdict.



Regarding PTI legal team harassment by FIA, he stated that the court removed the objections and fixed the case for hearing on August 16, hoping that the agency would not take any further such steps in the future.

Panjutha lamented that lawyers, who were supporting Imran Khan, were being arrested, as General Secretary

on to say that lawyers across the country formally submitted resolutions and strongly condemned this act, which they said was alarming.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Ijaz Buttar expressed his disappointment over the treatment being meted out with PTI Chairman and said that he was not being given the right to pursue his cases like the other leaders did in the courts.

He said that they pleaded before the court that Imran Khan being a former prime minister was not being given the facilities he was entitled to as per the prison manual.

Ijaz Buttar stated that they requested the court to tell them the motives behind the shifting of prisoners from Attock Jail to other jails elsewhere on a daily basis.

China's Huawei announce 2023 H1 business results

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China's telecommunication giant Huawei announced its business results for the first half of 2023 in Shenzhen, China on Friday. Overall performance was in line with forecast.

In first half of the year 2023, Huawei generated CNY310.9 billion in revenue, with a year-on-year increase of 3.1% and a net profit margin of 15.0%.

The company's ICT infrastructure business contributed CNY167.2 billion, its consumer business CNY103.5 billion, its cloud business CNY24.1 billion, its digital power business CNY24.2 billion, and its intelligent automotive solution (IAS) business CNY1 billion.

"I'd like to thank our customers and partners for their ongoing support," said Sabrina Meng, Huawei's Rotating Chairwoman.

Pakistan High Commissioner in London commends minorities' role in nation-building

Arif Choudhary

LONDON: The Pakistan High Commissioner in London Dr Mohammad Faisal commemorated 'National Minorities Day' on Thursday to honour the vital contributions of Pakistani minority communities in nation building.

The event celebrated Pakistan's diversity on Minorities Day, coinciding with August 11th annually, according to a press release received here on Friday.

Sir Anwar Parvaiz, Dr. James Shera, Representatives of the Church of England, members of Pakistani minority communities in the UK and individuals from diverse backgrounds attended the event.

High Commissioner Dr. Mohammad Faisal, in his address, highlighted the significant role played by the minorities in shaping the nation. He paid homage to historical figures from various faiths who have contributed to Pakistan's development. Drawing from Quaid-e-Azam's historic speech, Dr. Faisal emphasized a progressive Paki-



stan with equal rights for all citizens, regardless of caste or creed.

On this occasion, the High Commissioner also reflected on the symbolic importance of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, as a pathway to interfaith

understanding and regional harmony. In this regard, he highlighted government initiatives, including the Pakistan National Commission for Minorities, job quotas for minorities, and reserved legislative seats.

Nation all set to celebrate Independence Day



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The nation is all set to celebrate Independence Day on Monday (August 14) with great enthusiasm and fervor across the country including the twin cities.

As the arrival of Independence Day is nearer, the youth of the country are enthusiastic to purchase colourful national flags and portraits of national heroes for ornamenting their houses and vehicles.

Vendors, who have set up special stalls on the roadside, have expressed happiness over an increase in sales as children throng to buy stuff.

The national flags could be seen hoisted on main roads including the highways of the federal capital.

The cultural and literary organizations have arranged special programs to celebrate Independence Day.

Children are busy collecting badges and also beautifying their bicycles

with special stickers inscribed with messages of Independence Day.

On the other hand, booksellers and shopkeepers said stickers are also in high demand this year.

A buyer, namely Sardar Santok Singh, has said that "We celebrate national days, especially independence day, with full zeal.

Another buyer, namely Muhammad Ghazanfar, who decorated his vehicles with the national flag said every year he decorate his car to celebrate Independence Day.

The educational institutions would conduct special programmes including speech, debate, essay writing, singing, and painting competitions to mark the day.

On Independence Day, the national flag will be hoisted at important public buildings, Heritage sites and monumental buildings across Pakistan. These sites would also be illuminated with colourful lights to celebrate the day.

Tarbela Dam fills to maximum conservation level of 1550 feet



Shahzad Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The mega water reservoir of Tarbela has been filled to its maximum level of 1550 feet above mean sea level, resulting in 5.809 million acre-feet (MAF) of water in the Dam, which is a good omen for agriculture and Hydel power generation in Pakistan in the days to come.

Tarbela Dam is considered an iconic project for the contribution it has been making towards the development of Pakistan by releasing the stored water for agriculture mitigating floods and providing low-cost Hydel electricity to the National Grid.

Tarbela Reservoir has a live water storage capacity of 5.809 MAF. Besides, Tarbela is the biggest electricity generating facility in Pakistan with an installed capacity of 4888 megawatts (MW), which will further increase to 6418 MW after completion of Tarbela 5th Extension Hydro-power Project.

As per the hydrological data, the river flows, outflows and the reservoir level at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the water situation at the barrages today is as under: Kabul at Nowshera: Inflows 40900 cusecs and Outflows 40900 cusecs, Khairabad Bridge: Inflows 222700 cusecs and Outflow 222700, Jhelum at Mangla: Inflows 31500 cusecs and Outflows 10000 cusecs, Chenab at

Marala: Inflows 83200 cusecs and Outflows 54300 cusecs.

Barrages: Jinnah: Inflows 216200 cusecs and Outflows 208200 cusecs, Chashma: Inflows: 228500 cusecs and Outflows 210500 cusecs, Taunsa: Inflows 310900 cusecs and Outflows 293100 cusecs, Guddu: Inflows 277500 cusecs and Outflows 244400 cusecs Sukkur: Inflows 234000 cusecs and Outflows 179500 cusecs Kotri: Inflows 246900 cusecs and Outflows 207500 cusecs Trimmu: Inflows 70800 cusecs and Outflow 62200 cusecs Panjnad: Inflows 69600 cusecs and Outflows 54200 cusecs.

Reservoirs (Level and Storage): Tarbela: Minimum operating level 1402 feet, present level 1550.00 feet, maximum conservation level 1550 feet, live storage today 5.809 MAF.

Mangla: Minimum operating level 1050 feet, present level 1238.15 feet, maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage today 7.050 MAF.

Chashma: Minimum operating level 638.15 feet, present level 644.00 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet, live storage today 0.100 MAF.

The inflows and outflows of River Indus at Tarbela, Jinnah and Chashma, River Kabul at Nowshera and River Jhelum at Mangla have been reflected as mean flows of 24 hours, whereas the other flows have been gauged at 6.00 a.m.

Pakistan saddened over loss of precious human lives due to floods in China: FO Spokesperson



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said it was saddened over the loss of precious human lives due to floods in China, and stood ready to provide utmost support and humanitarian assistance to China in the difficult hour.

"We are deeply saddened to learn about the loss of precious human lives due to floods in China. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the affected people and the bereaved families,"

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

"In this difficult time, Pakistan stands ready to provide utmost support and humanitarian assistance to China. We are confident that led by the Chinese leadership, and due to strong will and conviction of the Chinese people, China would soon surmount this temporary difficulty," she maintained.

The spokesperson further stated that like China, Pakistan was also confronting the adverse impacts of climate change manifested in heatwaves, torrential rains and floods.

"Pakistan stands ready to work with China to achieve our shared objectives of mitigating climate change, and up-grading our respective capacity for disaster management and prevention," she added.

Cabinet members return to people with respect, dignity: CM Murad

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over his farewell cabinet meeting at CM House said that he, his cabinet members, and all the MPs of his party were going back to the people with dignity and respect because they stood by them at a difficult time and served them to the best of their abilities.

The meeting was attended by all the ministers, advisors, special assistants, coordinators, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqvi, and others.

He said that at the start of his government tenure in 2018, the federal government [PTI] was not ready to cooperate and tried to destabilize the PPP government in Sindh. He further said that under the guidance of former President Asif Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he kept serving our people steadfastly.

Murad Shah said that conspiracies from the federal government were still



in progress when the fatal pandemic - COVID-19 hit hard. "It created a wave of fear and insecurity among the people," he said and added that his government took concrete steps to face the situation and save the people.

He said that the province was still surviving the COVID losses when the floods of 2022 swept almost across the province. "I had almost lost hope to

drain out such a deluge of the water but the cabinet members, party workers, and the leadership supported him and finally the water was disposed of, and wheat crops were sown," he said.

Murad Shah said that they have harvested the bumper crop and achieved more than their requirement and now a record cotton crop is being reaped. "We all - the party leadership,

ministers, advisors, special assistants, coordinators, MPs, and party workers remained shoulder by shoulder with the flood-affected people," he said and added that the houses destroyed by the floods were being reconstructed along with giving the title of the land to the affected people.

The chief minister thanked his cabinet members, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput and former chief secretary Syed Mumtaz Shah for their support and cooperation. He also thanked the secretaries, heads of provincial government institutions, staff of the CM House, and everyone who worked with him during his tenure.

The provincial cabinet members lauded the chief minister for his performance, his resolute stand to protect the rights of the people of Sindh, and his support to them when they were harassed by the NAB and other institutions at the hands of the federal government of PTI. Every member of the cabinet paid rich tribute to the chief minister for his services.

Ex IGP KP's brother Elder Habib Mehsud killed in Tank along with gunman

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Former IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Salah Uddin Mehsud's brother Elder Habib Mehsud has been killed after being abducted by unknown persons in Pathar area of Tank district, while later they opened fire on the car of SHO Gomal Asghar Wazir, the car was hit by bullets but the police personnel remained safe.



During the exchange of fire, one of the attackers was injured, but the arrest could not be made, said DPO Waqar Ahmed.

According to local sources, on Friday afternoon, Malik Ghulam Habib Mehsud was riding a motorcycle with a gunman near his house in Pathar area when unknown persons fired indiscriminately at him, as a result of the firing, the gunman was injured and has been shifted to District Headquarter Hospital Dera Ismail in critical condition the motorcycle-riding attackers abducted Malik Habib Mehsud with them after the incident, the police started a search operation in search of the kidnappers by blocking various entrances and exits of the district.

According to the police, the body of the kidnapped Malik Habib Mehsud was recovered from Manzai area of Tank, who was shot and killed and on the other hand, his gunman died of his injuries.

It should be noted that Malik Habib Mehsud was the brother of former IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Salah Uddin Mehsud and was also a former Nazim Local Government.

Later, DPO Tank Waqar Ahmed told the media during an emergency press conference in his office regarding the incident that the police tried to stop the suspicious motorcycle.

The kidnappers were taking Malik Habib to an unknown place by sitting on a motorcycle, meanwhile, SHO Gomal Asghar Wazir's car was going on the said road when the police saw suspicious motorcyclists. On this time, the police reduced the speed of the vehicle, but during this time, the kidnappers opened fire on the police vehicle.

During the exchange of fire, the attackers escaped, later the body of the kidnapped Malik Ghulam Habib Mehsud was found near Manzai while his gunman Amal Khan also died in the hospital.

According to the sources, the police vehicle was also hit by bullets and the police personnel miraculously escaped during the firing. According to the DPO, operations are continuing from different angles.

Joint Kashmir statement pays glowing tributes to Sheikh Aziz on 15th martyrdom anniversary

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference, AJK and Pakistan chapter Secretary information Intiaz Wani in a statement issued in Islamabad said that 15th martyrdom anniversary paying glowing tributes to prominent martyred Hurriyat leader, Shaheed-e-Azamat Sheikh Abdul Aziz, on his martyrdom anniversary, today, reaffirmed the Kashmiris' resolve to accomplish the mission of their martyrs at all costs. Sheikh Abdul Aziz was shot dead by Indian troops on 11th August, 2008, while he was leading a procession from Srinagar to the Line of Control against the economic blockade of the Kashmir Valley by Hindu extremists of Jammu. Sheikh Aziz as a visionary political leader as well as a brave commander who faced bullets on his chest rather than to succumb or surrender before the Indian military might. He also condemned the continued unlawful detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists. He also expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri and others betrays the frustration of the Indian authorities and its forces in Kashmir. Intiaz Wani appealed to the international human rights organisations including the UN Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and International Committee of Red Cross to take cognizance of the plight of the Kashmiri detainees and impress upon New Delhi to release them forthwith.

Women's University Multan Admissions for Session 2023-24 are ongoing

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Women's University admissions for session 2023-24 are ongoing, the number of applications has exceeded 10 thousand according to the spokesperson. Admissions will be done in DP, BA, BSc two-year MPhil, PhD programs and Diploma. Candidates are admitted in 28 subjects for undergraduate and postgraduate, 22 subjects for MPhil and 14 subjects for PhD. BA one and a half year, early childhood education, graphic designing, drawing and painting.

Diplomas in Modeling and Sculpting and Ceramics will be conducted. Till this time, the university has received more than 10,000 applications for admission in various departments, while the last date for submission of applications has been fixed on August 18. Candidates will have to apply online. All the admission details are released on the university website.

MEPCO Provide Non Stop Electric Supply to Customers in 14 August: Mehrullah

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana has issued orders to keep 220 complaint centers open for uninterrupted supply of electricity and immediate and timely redressal of consumer complaints on the occasion of Independence Day. On August 14, 2023, the flag will be hoisted in all sub-offices including MEPCO headquarters. A ceremony will be held at the headquarters for songs/speeches on the occasion of Independence Day. On the orders of the Chief Executive Officer, the power distribution center of the headquarters will be monitored in three shifts.

While SEZs of operation circles have been instructed to keep transformers trolleys and additional materials ready to deal with emergency situations. Circle/Divisional/Sub-Divisional Complaint Centers/Customer Services Centers will be open round the clock for timely and prompt redressal of customer complaints and immediate action will be taken on complaints received/registered. All Operational Officers have also been instructed to be present at the Complaints Centres/Customer Services Centres.

Urban Unit Assigned by Punjab Govt to Collect Data of Various industries and Trades

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Ms. Sara of the Project Management Unit (PMU) Urban Unit of the Department of Planning and Development of the Punjab Government visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan and met Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh on this occasion Hamidullah Bhutta, Manager Geographical Information System (GIS), Syed Zubair Asghar from Regional Plan-9 (PITB), Waqar Ahmed from Samedia Multan Office and members of RO Plants Association, Multan, Assistant Secretary of Small Traders Chamber Multan and Assistant Secretary of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan. Sajid Ansari was present

Happiness

KARACHI: Participants from minority communities take part in a dance at Frere Hall to mark National Minorities Day, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Sacrifices made by elders under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam for the establishment of Pakistan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: All Pakistan Women's Association organized a ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan Day, cake was cut and saplings were planted. On this occasion the flag was unfurled and besides cutting the cake, saplings were also planted by Begum Farrukh Mukhtar, Begum Farah Faisal, Mrs. Nazia Yasir, Mrs. Dr. Shehla Aftab, Mrs. Yasmin Khalil Bukhari, Mrs. Tehmina Munir, Mrs. Rafat Sadaf, Mrs. Samar Qasim. Principal Shamila Mirza, Marketing Manager Mantha Arsalan, Hania Mansoor, Anila Ashraf, Waleed Khan.



Miss Tawariha Rauf, Mrs. Hafsa Khalid, Laiba Rubab, Mrs. Ifat Naeem participated in the ceremony. The participants expressed their good wishes regarding Pakistan Day and their commitment to the country's development and development. He also expressed his determination not to

hesitate to sacrifice. Former member of Majlis Shura Mrs Farah Mukhtar said that the establishment of Pakistan is nothing less than a blessing and a miracle. He said that the sacrifices made by our elders under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for the establishment of Pakistan

Because of this, we all Pakistanis are living in a dirty air. Mrs. Farah Mukhtar said that all of us religious. Forgetting political and caste differences, for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, we have to work together as a nation and move forward with honesty and sincerity.

Strict action will be taken against head if dengue larvae are found in govt offices and public place: Amir Khattak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: An anti-dengue meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak. In the meeting, the measures of anti-dengue campaign and awareness campaign were reviewed in detail. Strict action will be taken against departments with poor performance. He ordered to form committees to check cleanliness of government departments across the division and said that action will be taken against the head if dengue larvae are found in government offices and Public Places.

Commissioner Aamir Khattak while entrusting the task of success of the anti-dengue campaign to the Depu-

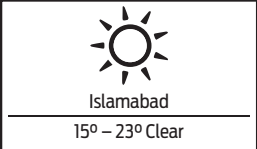


ty Commissioners said that it is the determination of the Punjab government to rid the province of dengue. Dengue control teams were seen in the field, false reporting will not be tolerated. Multan division should be at the top position in the entire province in dengue control. Anti-dengue activities

should be uploaded on the portal under modern Android system. On finding dengue larvae. Commercial and private buildings should be sealed. He said that special checking of under-construction buildings and buildings will be done. District departments should take special measures regarding cleaning measures.

Complaints received on dengue portal should be resolved immediately. Aamir Khattak said that dengue treatment facilities have been provided in all hospitals. So far this year, dengue larvae have been found in 8337 indoor places and 665 places during outdoor surveillance. 209 prosecutions were filed in one day, 76 places were sealed.

10 people were arrested. Dr. Attaur Rehman said that all the dengue patients in the division recovered. No case of dengue was reported in the division in 48 hours. 369 beds have been allocated in the hospitals of the division for dengue patients. Heads of concerned departments, concerned Deputy Commissioners and officers were also present on video link



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:54 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:01 pm
Maghrib	6:59 pm
Isha	8:31 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail visited Multan



Sports Desk

MULTAN: Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail was accompanied by Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khattak, Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum, District Sports Officer Farooq Latif and other officials during his inspection visit.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail visited Multan Stadium, Gymnasium, Squash Court, Summer Camp, Food Street and Qila Kuhna Qasim Bagh.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that Punjab govt is taking all necessary measures to hold sports competitions and healthy activities for the young generation. He appreciated the holding of SBP Summer Camp activities in Multan.

He said the centuries old civilization of Multan is of special interest for tourists. He directed the early completion of the food street project. "The completion of the food street project will provide more entertainment opportunities to the people of Multan".

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail also presided over an important meeting at Circuit House to assess the performance of all district and tehsil sports officers of Multan Division.

Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khattak in his briefing said that Rs 136 million has been sent to the Sports Department for the upgradation of Multan gymnasium.

"New grass is being planted in the stadium and seating area and drainage system is also being improved".

Govt resolved the common masses problems at their doorstep: PMAJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that raising the standard of living of the common masses, getting their problems resolved at their doorstep and galvanizing world support in favour of Kashmiris' just struggle for the right of self determination were amongst the top priorities of the incumbent coalition government. The AJK premier made these assertions while talking to members of different delegations who called on him here today.



Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that good governance was indispensable for the region's prosperity and socio-economic development. He said that economic prosperity of the common people was important for the development of the state. He, however, maintained that the first and foremost priority of his government was to correct the governance system, implementation reforms and improve service delivery.

Referring to the government's initiative to reduce expenditures, the PM said that the basic aim of reducing government expenses was to spend maximum funds on the development and prosperity of the region.

He said that the government was determined to improve the efficiency of government institutions and ensure good governance in the region. He said that the present government has taken a number of

initiatives to solve the problems of the people at the local level. He said that elected representatives (MLAs) have been provided funds to ensure uniform development in all areas on an equal basis. He said that the government was functioning well under the ambit of the constitution and as per the law of the land. He said that the change on the ground would be visible only if all the development projects allocated in the budget were completed on time.

MOU

ISLAMABAD: MOU signed between Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. for Export Quality Pink Rock Salt Crushing & Packaging facility.



Spokesman Photo

IIUI Public Relations via gmail.com

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), H. E. Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi has appreciated the services of outgoing Provost Men's hostel, Dr. Muhammad Ibrar Anver in a meeting with him at the President office of the university.

On this occasion, Worthy President said that Students Facilitation has always been his top priority. He appreciated the services rendered by Dr Ibrar Anver for about four years as Provost Men's Hostels IIUI. President said that Dr Ibrar Anver worked day and



night to provide the peaceful and secured environment

to hostel students, especially during the Corona period when foreign students from about fifteen nations were residing in hostels.

The outgoing Provost extended his profound gratitude to the President for his all-out support that the Provost enjoyed throughout his tenure. The outgoing Provost categorically admitted that without the patronage of the President and his team, he would have not been able to run the Hostels effectively. On this occasion, the President also gave a shield to Dr. Ibrar Anver, in recognition of his valuable services and professional commitment.

AIOU regularizes 34 employees under PM Family Assistance Package



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has regularized the family members of 34 employees who passed away during service. This regularization has been made under the Prime Minister's Family Assistance Package. Moreover, 1881 employ-

ees have also been upgraded through the recent upgradation and dispensation policy of the Federal Government. Employees Welfare Association of AIOU organized a ceremony yesterday regarding the distribution of letters of upgradation and permanent appointment. Ceremony was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr.

Nasir Mahmood. The deans, registrars and principal officers of the university also participated.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the regular and upgraded employees and said that the university is taking care of the rights and needs of all the employees. He added that the current admin-

istration is following the policy of giving employees their rights on priority, he also directed the employees to show good faith, dedication and honesty in performing their duties. Registrar, Raja Umar Yunis and the President of Employees Welfare Association, Yasir Mahmood congratulated the regular and upgraded employees.

Fourth meeting of the steering committee held

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The fourth meeting of the steering committee was held with reference to Phase 1 of National Program for Improvement of Water Resources in Pakistan AJK under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Mr. Fayyaz Ali Abbasi who is also Additional Chief Secretary Development ' Secretary Irrigation Sardar Javed Ayub and other members of the committee also attended the meeting. In the meeting, the committee approved the cash and work plan 2023 - 24 of Rs 479.581 million under which 226 water channels will be constructed and 120 water harvesting structures will be constructed during the current financial year. 50% share will be provided to the farmers for lease land leveler to improve the land. With the completion of the proposed projects for the current financial year, water facility will be available to about 6,500 acres of Azad Kashmir. The Executive Committee of National Economic Council approved this project for Azad Kashmir in 2019. Under this project, construction and improvement of water channels in Azad Kashmir, construction of water tanks as well as providing shares to farmers to make the land cultivable.

Independence Day of Pakistan will be celebrated in a dignified manner: DC Haveli Kahota

Spokesman Report

HAVELI KAHOTA: A meeting was held regarding the celebration of Pakistan Independence Day on August 14 under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Haveli Kahota Chaudhry Sajid Aslam under the direction of the Prime Minister of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq at here yesterday. Officers of different Departments and Local leaders of political parties, journalists, businessmen and members of association participated in the meeting. Speaking on this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner has said that the Independence Day of Pakistan will be celebrated in a dignified manner; it is the responsibility of all of us. It is expected that people of all schools of thought should play their role to celebrate the Independence Day. We will celebrate Pakistan Independence Day fully within our limited resources. Officers of all departments, civil society, business associations, journalists should play their role. On the occasion of Independence Day, every person should do their best to celebrate this day. Arrangements should be made to light the buildings. Department of High ways District should put up flags on the main entry points, bridges, programs should be organized in educational institutions regarding Pakistan Day. Organize a clean-up week at the district headquarters. On the occasion of Pakistan Day on August 14, the Civil Defense Department will sound the siren at 08:58, after which the police will give salute and the flag will be hoisted. Deputy Commissioner Haveli Chaudhry Sajid Aslam has directed that all the district officers and their subordinate staff should ensure their attendance on August 14. Civil society association, businessmen, students and students should play an active role in highlighting the importance of this day.

Public Defence of Iqra University's Ph. D. Scholar Mr. Shahzad will be held

News Desk

KARACHI: Faculty of Business Administration Iqra University's PhD Scholar Mr. Shahzad's Public Defence will be held on Saturday August 19, 2023 at 03:00 pm at ORIC. Scholars, Faculty members and students of the same field will participate in it.

Mr. Shahzad completed his PhD Dissertation under the supervision of Associate Prof. Dr. Mirza Amin ul Haq. As per HEC requirements, his PhD Dissertation has already been approved by foreign evaluators.

PHA gears up for grand Independence Day celebrations across Lahore



City Desk

LAHORE: A meeting convened at the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) headquarters, led by Director General Muhammad Tahir Watto, focused on arrangements for Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting encompassed plans for the flag hoisting ceremony at Race Course Park on August 14, as well as the strategic placement of billboards and streamers throughout the city.

Among the key decisions reached during the meeting was the allocation of plants to be distributed among Lahore's citizens. These plants will find homes at prominent locations such as Liberty Roundabout, Allah Ho Chowk, Bekheywal Morr, and Istanbul Chowk. Notably, a captivating circus is set to grace Greater Iqbal Park, promising top-tier entertainment for all visitors.

Prominent figures in attendance included Additional Director General Safi Ullah Gondal, Administration Director Musa Ali Bukhari, and other participants.

Syngenta Pakistan kicks-off its Annual Tree Plantation Drive 2023

Commerce Desk

PAKISTAN: To commemorate the national independence day of Pakistan, Syngenta Pakistan Limited—a leading agriculture innovation and technology company that provides crop protection, seeds, biologicals and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers – has kicked-off its annual Tree Plantation Drive namely 'Plant a Tree' across its offices, warehouses, formulation plant and distribution network.

As part of this drive, the main event was held at the Rice Research Institute KSK, Government of the Punjab where the Director General (Field) of Agriculture Department Punjab—Engr. Ahmed Sohail—and Director Rice Research Institute KSK – Syed Sultan Ali – joined as the honorable guests. During this vibrant event, Syngenta Pakistan's employees participated in planting over 1,000 trees of different varieties.

Addressing the distinguished guests on this occasion, Syngenta Pakistan's General Manager—Zeeshan Hasib Baig – shared that Pakistan was already among the most vulnerable countries with regards to the climate change and stressed the importance of trees in mitigating the climate crisis that the country is facing while highlighting the need to focus on conserving our beloved country's natural resources. The participants appreciated this green initiative by Syngenta Pakistan.

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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: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Our startups, our great hope - II

When I waited for the next candidate, my mood had entirely changed. They were two, one teacher and one student, who created a 3-D printer for the construction industry, allowing the construction of highly durable houses in a fraction of the time compared to conventional house building processes, at a cost that is 35% less, and will give the designer the flexibility of choosing any design of the walls, the rooms of any dimensions that one can imagine, adding innovation and unique design to each house and each room. A layer of material, such as concrete or plastic, will be deposited on top of another layer via the computer-controlled construction process. This procedure is repeated till the object is finished. They stated that they had developed the prototype, but that it now needed to be scaled up to satisfy the requirements of large-scale construction. The concept made so much sense that it was approved without any thought.

Two young men were the next candidates. One of them, who was in the lead, confidently showed their indigenously made application capable of analysing the area in terms of texture, composition, and rock formation type. It will also identify the water pathways in the land parcel and will confidently propose the water channel required to remove rain water in the event of urban flooding. According to them, this application is unique, indigenously built, and particularly cost effective for the end user in terms of producing sound plans and designs for large-scale building and housing projects. They had already launched the programme, which was used by the construction business in Pakistan. They were also planning to promote it to the rest of the globe as a unique and cost-effective application that will aid in the construction of safe, secure,

reliable, and long-lasting structures and housing projects. They needed to improve the application's effectiveness, efficiency, and usability. They requested funds for the project, which was quickly granted. One competitor after another presented innovative products and services that demonstrated innovative solutions to complex problems. Indeed, they are evidence of the creativity and innovation of the Pakistani people. My eyes were filled with floods of pure joy, and my heart was brimming with optimism and hopes for a better future. It was the first time in my lifetime that such a transparent and merit-based system was adopted to approve high-value startup projects based on indigenous research and innovation while utilising locally available goods, services, and expertise.

This prompted me to explore the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan (PMKJ). It is a government-backed program that aims to provide financial assistance to the young entrepreneurs at subsidized rates starting from Rs. 5 million to help them start and grow their businesses without having to worry about high-interest rates. The program also provides training and mentorship to young entrepreneurs to help them start and grow their businesses and to learn the skills they need to be successful in business. It gives the young entrepreneurs access to government resources, such as land, licenses, and permits to overcome some of the challenges they face when starting a business in Pakistan.

The financial details were disclosed by the State Bank of Pakistan. Under PMKJ, financing is available to all Pakistani citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 who

have entrepreneurial potential and a valid CNIC. There are options for both long-term and working capital loans. The funding is divided into three categories. Under tier-1, loan limits range from Rs 100,000 to Rs 1,000,000, under tier-2, from Rs 1,000,000 to Rs 10,000,000, and under tier-3, from Rs 10,000,000 to Rs 25,000,000. Markup rates for tier-1 loans are 3 percent, tier-2 loans are 4 percent, and tier-3 loans are 5 percent.

It is indeed encouraging that the startup ecosystem in Pakistan is expanding rapidly and that startups are making significant contributions to the country's economy by creating jobs for both skilled and unskilled workers, developing new technologies, exporting goods and services to international markets, and attracting venture capital and other foreign investment.

Careem, a ride-hail-app, Bykea, a motorbike taxi service, Foodpanda, a food delivery service, Tapmad, a mobile payments platform, Airlift, a logistics company, and Byonyks, a biotechnology startup that develops affordable healthcare devices, are just a few of the companies already making their mark in the country.

Mera Maweshi is an agriculture startup that utilises artificial intelligence (AI) to provide smartphone-based diagnostics for cattle diseases to small producers. Smart Helmet is a safety venture that employs the Internet of Things (IoT) to detect poisonous gases and guide illiterate miners to safety. Tawazun is a fintech venture that offers microloans to rural Pakistani women. Edunext is an EdTech venture that provides Pakistani students with online courses and resources. Befiler, a tax and business advisory services, Adal-

Fi, a credit-scoring platform for digital lending, Swag Kicks, a pre-owned e-commerce startup, Trukkr, a managing logistics and financing for trucking companies, and Maqsad, a seed funding platform, are recent market entrants.

During my assignments in Malaysia and France, I was able to examine their educational systems. In Malaysia, 25% of their enormous budget is allocated to Education. In France, there is only one school system, in the Public Sector, to which all school-aged children, regardless of socioeconomic status, are required to attend. As a result, the school system produces outstanding students, and both countries excel in all sectors.

Creating a supportive regulatory environment, providing funding and mentorship, promoting entrepreneurship education, connecting startups with investors, attracting foreign investment, and building a strong startup community are a few additional steps that must be taken.

Work ethic, entrepreneurial skills, a desire for research and development, and the ability to create straightforward solutions to complex problems are unquestionably assets. We must establish a critical mass of Startups to become one of the largest growth engines. They are few, but give the nation great hope. We must create a large number of them, which is only possible if, as a nation, we recognise the importance of imparting quality education throughout the country and ensure that every school-aged child attends school and receives quality education and proper upbringing.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

China resumes outbound group tours to Pakistan

China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that China will resume outbound group tours for Chinese citizens to around 80 countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Mexico, etc. It is the third batch of destinations in China's pilot program for outbound group tours.

The move to expand the number of destinations comes as China's overseas tourism industry has been on a firm trajectory of quick recovery during the past month, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The return of more Chinese travelers is also expected to provide a much-needed boost to the global tourism industry and channel optimism into the global economy, observers pointed out.

"The outbound tourism sector is a market-driven one, and many service products need to be prepared in advance," suggested Jiang Yiyi, a professor of leisure sports and tourism at the Beijing Sport University.

To enhance Pak-China cooperation in the tourism sector, Pakistani Embassy in China launched a website called Discover Batic, which contains information about the main tourist attractions in Pakistan and links to the official websites of major museums, malls and hotels.

Earlier, a Gandhara Art Exhibition was held at Palace Museum in Beijing, which showcases 173 artifacts come from Pakistan. "It's a step to tell the Chinese brothers and sisters what Pakistan can offer," Sardar Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, commented.

"Pakistan is the topographic heaven for tourists. There are snow-covered mountains, lakes, pine trees and waterfalls, which are especially attractive to those who are keen on adventurous tourism. Tour guide training in Pakistan has started to promote tourist visits from friendly countries." Sardar Muhammad noted Pakistan's current efforts in promoting travel facilitation.

"The Task Force on Tourism had already been formed to achieve milestones in the tourism sector. We need to ensure a better and more secure environment and ease of traveling for international tourists. We can promote group tourism through registered and licensed tour operators globally, ensuring an amicable environment for international tourists," said Rana Aftab, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC).

Can Artificial Intelligence be harnessed to effectively combat the climate crisis? - I

The growing significance of artificial intelligence lies in its ability to tackle a range of critical global concerns. One promising avenue is its potential to offer an effective strategy for tackling the difficulties posed by climate change. This is achieved through its capacity to offer valuable insights into intricate environmental systems.

Numerous experts have pointed out the potential of utilizing AI for enhancing the accuracy of climate models. These models play a pivotal role in comprehending shifting climate patterns and anticipating future scenarios. This knowledge can serve as a basis for shaping policies and devising more efficient strategies to both counter and adapt to climate change. Additionally, AI can play a role in anticipating and responding to extreme weather occurrences, such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. By doing so, we can better equip ourselves to prepare for these events and minimize their impact on both people

and the ecosystem. Moreover, AI application extends to energy systems, particularly in the context of smart grids. By employing AI algorithms, we can better forecast energy supply and demand and subsequently optimize production and distribution processes. This approach contributes to curbing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the repercussions of climate change, especially as we transition towards a more sustainable energy framework. Furthermore, AI's capabilities can be harnessed in the development of novel technologies for carbon capture and storage. For instance, AI algorithms can facilitate the fine-tuning of carbon capture system designs and forecast the behavior of subterranean storage reservoirs.

An instance of an AI-driven project aimed at addressing environmental issues is FarmBeats, supported by

Microsoft's "AI for Earth" initiative. This endeavor is focused on aiding farmers in enhancing their resource utilization and minimizing their ecological footprint. Through the utilization of sensors and drones, pertinent information concerning soil moisture, temperature, and additional environmental variables is gathered. Subsequently,

machine learning algorithms scrutinize this data, providing insights and suggestions to farmers on how to efficiently manage water and other resources. Artificial intelligence holds promise in tangibly alleviating the impacts of climate change; however, its current application is not without constraints. Notably, AI models demand substantial computational resources, leading to elevated energy usage and the emission of greenhouse gases—ironically counteracting the very objective they seek to achieve.

Hence, a crucial focus should be placed on the development of AI models and infrastructure that are more energy efficient.

Undoubtedly, precise predictions and recommendations hinge on the utilization of high-quality data. Nevertheless, climate-related data often exhibit scarceness, incompleteness, or subpar quality, thereby curtailing the efficacy of AI. In computational terms, the principle of "garbage in, garbage out" applies—where in poor input yields unsatisfactory output. The acquisition of accurate, dependable, and comprehensive data not only enhances AI models but also fosters public confidence. Concerns regarding trust also extend to AI algorithms, which can be intricate and challenging to decipher. When individuals lack insight into AI's programming, their trust in policy decisions driven by this technology diminishes. Addressing this concern entails the development of transparent AI systems that are open to auditing and explanation.

To be continued



Analysis

Malaika Sarwar



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

The Role of Caretaker Governments

Muhammad Haroon

The concept of a caretaker government before elections is generating significant attention in Pakistan.

It is the responsibility of this government to ensure that elections are conducted in a fair and transparent manner. The appointment of the caretaker setup often sparks heated debates in Pakistan's political landscape. This raises questions about the importance of the caretaker government, its constitutional powers, its existence in other countries, and its authorities.

The caretaker government, as the name suggests, is primarily established to oversee elections. Its formation and significance are worth exploring. In Pakistan, both federal and provincial caretaker governments are formed under Article 224 of the Constitution. This provision states that if the assembly is dissolved or completes its term, a caretaker setup must be put in place.

The caretaker government's term is 60 days if the assembly completes its term, while elections must be held within 90 days if the assembly dissolves at any time. There is no provision for extending the caretaker government's term in the constitution.

The primary responsibility of the caretaker government is to conduct elections and manage day-to-day affairs. However, it does not have the authority to make policy decisions. In cases of emergency, some legal experts suggest that the caretaker government can make temporary policy decisions after consulting the President and the governor, particularly concerning foreign policy and state system matters.

Regarding financial matters, if the assembly is dissolved and it is neces-

sary to present the budget, the caretaker government can sanction expenditures for up to four months under Article 86 of the Constitution. However, it cannot impose new taxes due to the dissolution of the assembly. Some experts argue that new taxes could be imposed through ordinances, but they would need approval from the new assembly, or they would expire.

The caretaker government is not authorized to appoint or transfer government officers and officials of any grade. According to Section 230 of the Election Act 2017, the caretaker government must maintain impartiality in its decisions. Members of the caretaker government do not receive lifelong benefits, and the caretaker Prime Minister does not have any privileges after their tenure.

It is important to note that the assemblies in Pakistan are dissolved or complete their fixed term, and the assembly formed after the election serves for five years only.

While caretaker governments are present in a few countries, including Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the Netherlands, it is not a universally established practice before elections. Each country has its own unique system and duration for the caretaker government. The parliamentary system of government is prevalent in countries where caretaker governments are established.

Traditionally, members of the former government are not included in the caretaker setup in Pakistan, and they are not allowed to contest elections. However, in many countries, government officials are part of the caretaker government. For example, in Australia, the Prime Minister himself leads the caretaker government before the election, with limited powers focused on day-to-day affairs.

In India, there is no concept of a caretaker government before elections. The

government does not make major decisions after the election date is announced, and measures are taken to ensure neutrality and fairness. The Election Commission has the power to replace any member of the government who is attempting to influence the election.

In Bangladesh, caretaker governments were formed until 2008, with the Chief Advisor serving as the Caretaker Prime Minister. However, the provision for a caretaker government was abolished by the 15th amendment under Sheikh Hasina's government.

Comparing the legislation on caretaker governments' responsibilities in different countries, Pakistan appears to be at the forefront, while other countries primarily rely on traditions for their caretaker setups. It is notable that the United Kingdom, despite being under the British Crown, does not have a caretaker government system. Similarly, other Commonwealth member states do not have caretaker governments.

The establishment of caretaker governments in Pakistan arose from the need for fair elections, especially following allegations of rigging. Over time, the process of appointing caretaker governments has evolved and undergone constitutional amendments, transferring power from the President to the Election Commission.

Although caretaker governments are intended to ensure fair and impartial elections, their existence does not guarantee the absence of fraud or controversy. Rigging allegations often arise after elections, highlighting the need to focus on constitutional and legal requirements for caretaker governments.

Writer is Student of political science at Quaid e Azam university Islamabad He Can be reached at mehsudadi100@gmail.com

Allottees move anti-graft watchdog against fraud Singaporean builder

News Desk

KARACHI: Hundreds of families, who have lost billions of their hard-earned earnings to a fake Singaporean builder operating in Karachi's defense housing society, have requested Public Accounts Committee to investigate the mega real estate scam.

About 300 allottees of the stalled Creek Marina project have written a letter to Nour Alam Khan, the chairman of anti-corruption watchdog, with a request to start probe into the multi-billion rupees scam that also involves money laundering.

Meinhardt Singapore PTE Limited (MSPL) and its self-declared owners Shahzad Nasim and his son Omar Shahzad are already under the investigation of the Federal Intelligence Agency (FIA) for defrauding investors and the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) through siphoning at least three billion

rupees off the allottees of Creek Marina housing project the foreign firm had launched in 2005 in Karachi's posh Defence neighbourhood.

The "delinquent foreign company", which has not delivered a single apartment to its customers during the last 18 years, is also accused of laundering at least \$2.7 million out of Pakistan to its associates identified as Nasim, Omar, Nudrat Mand Khan, Aisha Varsey, Salman Mand Khan, Richard Charles Coventry, Syed Asghar Ali Shah and Akbar Ai Shakir through fake accounts the company management was operating in local banks.

The foreign companies are required to get the approval of Board of Investment (BOI) before opening their account in Pakistani banks under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act 1947, Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010 and the Companies Act 2017.

"The project has been carefully craft-



ed by its owners to not only defraud the public at large by also the DHA," said a letter Syed Daanish Ghazi wrote to the PAC chairman on behalf of the allottees. Khan, however, seized to be the PAC chief after the dissolution of National Assembly on August 10. The new PAC chairman is expected to take up the issue once named by the new government.

MSPL, which was registered as an engineering and not a development firm in Singapore, was able to open multiple accounts in Habib Bank, MCB Bank,

Meezan Bank and Silkbank to launder its ill-gotten earnings from Creek Marina project in connivance with the bank staff, the letter said.

"The owners of the project have engaged in illegal conduct by using underground banking to take money out of Pakistan," it said adding Nasim and his accomplices had sent millions of dollars to Singapore through benami transactions and fraudulent bank accounts.

The allottees also found considerable irregularities in the manner the DHA had allotted the Rs 46 billion public land to the fraudulent company against deferred consideration.

"It is strange and illegal that whilst contracting with MSPL, DHA had executed lease over valuable public land to companies which are ultimately owned by a single person" Nasim, who at the time was an employee and not owner of MSPL, the letter said.

The DHA, the letter said, had got its valuable land overridden with controversy by allotting it to Nasim.

The project is owned by one shell company after another and it would be literally impossible for anyone to litigate against its true owner in case of a default.

"It is impossible for DHA, any investor, or the public-at-large to ascertain who the ultimate owner/beneficiary of the project is," the allottees told PAC.

However, it has come to light that Shahzad Nasim is the owner of Creek Marina Pvt. Ltd. and he was an employee and not owner of MSPL at the time of grant of lease.

The FIAs findings suggest that Creek Marina Pvt. Ltd.'s parent company Creek Marina Singapore PTE Limited is owned by Swifteam Holding Limited, a shell company registered in the British Virgin Island.

Further, the Panama Papers revealed that John George Collin Gee, a British

banker of Singaporean origin and an expert of setting up offshore companies and money laundering, is the chief executive officer of Creek Marina.

In December last year, Aisha Varsey and Salman Khan, impersonating as the officials of Creek Marina Pvt. Limited and MSPL, had allegedly minted a huge amount of money from the troubled allottees through creating dubious WhatsApp and Instagram accounts.

The two accused, one of them, Varsey, recently having resigned from CMPL as a CEO, appeared to have no connection with any of the companies nor did they have any exposure in the field of real estate.

"Nearly 300 allottees are affected by the failure of Shelzad Nasim and his cohorts in delivering the Creek Marina Project," said the letter.

Nasim is estimated to have misappropriated and siphoned off more than Rs3 billion of public money, it added.

PSO helps spur tourism in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pioneering the way forward in Pakistan's energy sector, Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has yet again made its mark with a significant achievement. The national flag bearer energy company opened the doors of its brand-new aircraft refueling installation at the Skardu international airport in the magnificent region of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Khasan Murtaza, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), said,

"The alliance between two national flag carriers for the development of our country's aviation infrastructure has indeed been a significant achievement. This facility will not only enhance the operational efficiency of the airport but also provide a hassle-free experience for airlines. We would like to express our gratitude to PSO for their continuous support and commitment to delivering unparalleled products and services for the aviation industry."

Talking at the event, Air Vice Marshall, Muhammad Amir Hayat, Chief Executive Officer, PIA, said:

"Regional and Interna-



tional connectivity which will be a game changer for the economic development of Gilgit Baltistan. Owing to this facilitation by PSO and CAA, PIA has attained the unique distinction of operating first international flight to Skardu."

Expressing his views, Syed Taha, MD and CEO of PSO, said, "Taking pride in over four decades worth of expertise in aircraft refu-

eling, PSO has consistently been at the helm, bolstering the advancement of Pakistan's aviation industry. We are excited to unveil our latest facility, a testament to our dedication in addressing the ever-evolving energy needs of our nation. Our pride is unrivaled as we contribute to Skardu's bloom into a vibrant tourism hotspot. Our commitment is unwavering in steering the future course

of Pakistan's tourism sector. At this juncture, we wish to convey our sincere appreciation to CAA for their ceaseless backing throughout this incredible voyage."

PSO is committed to delivering exceptional value and quality through the supply of best-in-class products, furthering the growth and development of Pakistan's aviation sector and other industries.

Aria Suleiman, 14, wins British Miss Junior Teen in first semi-final



News Desk

KARACHI: Aria Sulimen, a fourteen years old girl from mixed ethnicity who is born and bred in the British environment, was selected for the first semi-final in the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain competition.

Aria not only showed her talent and ability all over the world, but also gave a strong message to the world that young ladies are not less in recognition in today's challenging society for our youth.

She has made her communities proud, such intelligent girls are the country's asset who definitely deserve a tribute.

She has shown her great intelligence through her young age in engaging with heart touching charity contributions and youth work, which has touched and changed many young lives through her dedicated charity work.

It was not easy to be in the semi-finals as other British female contestants were just as strong, but Aria Sulimen made the impossible possible, which is surely a clear sign of positive change in the coming time and this first step towards her success will inspire more young ladies.

Aria is a role model for all those girls who aspire to make a place in the world with their intelligence and ability, irrespective of their religion or race.

International Youth Day

Spokesman Report

Every year, International Youth Day celebrates the determination, ideas and leadership of young people as we pursue a better world.

Across all of today's challenges, young people are calling for bold and accelerated action, standing in solidarity with the most vulnerable, and designing solutions to ensure social, economic and climate justice, and peace and prosperity for all. To expand their participation, I recently launched a policy brief calling for governments to make youth participation the norm, rather than the exception, across decisions and policies around the world.

This year's theme reminds us of the importance of ensuring young people gain and apply skills in the burgeoning green economy. From innovative sustainable technologies and renewable energy, to revolutions in transportation systems and industrial activity, young people must be equipped with skills and knowledge to shape a cleaner, greener, more climate resilient future.

Humanity depends on the boundless energy, ideas and contributions of youth everywhere. Today and every day, let's support and stand with young people in shaping a just and sustainable world, for people and planet.



Wildfire in Hawaii's Lahaina leaves 55 dead, decimating 80% of town

Death toll from Hawaii wildfire in Maui's Lahaina town killed at least 55 people leaving 80% of the town decimated 55 Thursday, according to Governor Josh Green, making it the deadliest wildfire in US history in which hundreds of firefighters are on the ground to contain the fire.

The blaze started on Hawaii's Maui island Tuesday and was fanned by winds from a nearby hurricane.

According to the authorities, the blaze moved so quickly that many could not get time to escape, trapped in the streets or throwing themselves into the ocean.

"What we've seen today has been catastrophic... likely the largest natural disaster in Hawaii state history," Governor Green said.

"In 1960 we had 61 fatalities when a large wave came through Big Island," he said earlier in the day, referring to a tragedy that struck a year after Hawaii became the 50th US state.

Maui County officials said just after 9:00pm Thursday (0700 GMT Friday) that fatalities stood at 55, and firefighters were still battling the blaze in the town that served as the Hawaiian kingdom's capital in the early 19th century.

"This time, it's very likely that our death totals will significantly exceed that," the Governor noted.

"It really looks like somebody came along and just bombed the whole town. It's completely devastated," said Canadian Brandon Wilson, who had travelled to Hawaii.

"It was really hard to see," he said. "You feel so bad for people. They lost their homes, their lives, their livelihoods."

The fires follow other extreme weather events in North America this summer, with record-breaking wildfires still burning across Canada and a major heat wave baking the US southwest.

Europe and parts of Asia have also endured soaring temperatures, with major fires and floods wreaking havoc.

The burned skeletons of trees still stand, rising above the ashes of the buildings to which they once offered shelter.

Green said 80% of the town was gone.

"Buildings that we've all enjoyed and celebrated together for decades, for generations, are completely destroyed," he said.

Thousands have been left homeless and Green said a massive operation was swinging into action to find accommodation.

"We are going to need to house thousands of people," he told a press conference.

"That will mean reaching out to all of our hotels and those in the community to ask people to rent extra rooms at their property."

Human rights

KARACHI: Participants from minority communities take a part in a tableau at Frere Hall to mark National Minorities Day, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

AKU Examination Board Announces its Annual Examinations 2023 result

City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) has announced the annual examination results for Secondary (SSC) and Higher Secondary School (HSSC) qualifications.

This year, 95 high performing students made it to the list of AKU-EB High Achievers in different categories, with girls taking the lead in AKU-EB results showing 65% high achievers reflecting the Board's commitment to fostering academic excellence across its affiliated schools.

AKU-EB announced one national level position for SSC and HSSC qualifications each, and top three provincial level overall and groupwise positions

for both SSC and HSSC. These exemplify the Board's dedication to promote quality education across its diverse schools in Pakistan.

Rameesha Ahmad from Sindh (Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Karachi) achieved national level overall first position in HSSC and Urwah Ahmad from Punjab (Nusrat Jehan Academy Girls High School, Chenab Nagar) achieved national level overall first position in SSC.

"The success of each student today is attached to AKU-EB's emphasis on conceptual learning and understanding. Students know that they are not going to be assessed based on rote learning but complete understanding of concepts, ability to think out-of-the-box, creativity and

problem-solving skills and so on...Today, as I prepare for the MDCAT examinations, I can confidently say that the AKU-EB pattern of learning has been my biggest strength in the preparation. The Board has prepared me well to achieve my aspirations and I am grateful," said Rameesha Ahmad.

Urwah Ahmad, excited to hear the news said, "The AKU-EB remains unique. The well-structured study materials, practice papers, and sample questions provided by AKU-EB were invaluable resources that greatly aided my preparation for the annual examinations. AKU-EB not only prepares students for exams but also establishes itself as a top choice for in-depth quality education, paving the way for lifetime success."

The Board also announced its HSSC results at the provincial level. First provincial level overall positions were awarded to Amtul Hafiz Maheen Tariq from Punjab (Nusrat Jehan College, Chenab Nagar); Rameesha Ahmad from Sindh (Aga Khan Higher Secondary School,



Karimabad); Sheeda Ali from Gilgit Baltistan (Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Gahkuch); and Hayat Younus from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Chitral).

At the SSC level, first provincial level overall positions were

awarded to Lubna Jeswani from Sindh (H. H. Prince Aga Khan Secondary School Amynabad); Urwah Ahmad from Punjab (Nusrat Jehan Academy Girls High School, Chenab Nagar); Durr E Sameen from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Aga Khan Higher Secondary School Kuragh, Chitral) and Arshila Murad from Gilgit Baltistan (Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Hunza).

The Board proudly acknowledges its affiliated schools and students for their hard work, effort, and dedication.

Dr Shehzad Jeeva, CEO of AKU Examination Board notes, "The very purpose of education is to have learners access knowledge and skills necessary to enable them to develop their full potential as lifelong learners. This is where our role

as educators comes into action – to be able to foresee the new demands of quality education and innovate different approaches in our teaching, learning and assessment methodologies. I am proud that AKU-EB assessment reflects the true ability of the student who is seen as a lifelong learner."

Dr Hina, the Principal of Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Karachi states that "This achievement is a testament to the talent and hard work of our students, and the commitment by our teachers to think out of the box and innovate-values which are at the heart of the Aga Khan University Examination Board. The robust foundation provided to our students allows them to excel not just in board examinations but also in secur-

ing admissions to top colleges and universities."

Ms Rashida Sohaib, the Principal of Nusrat Jehan Academy Girls High School, Chenab Nagar states that "With the unique learning pattern of AKU-EB, our students are able to graduate from school being confident young individuals having sound education and knowledge. AKU-EB has played a unique and powerful role in improving teaching and learning at middle and secondary schools across Pakistan, through an innovative mix of standardised testing, teacher training and syllabi development. We are honoured to be affiliated with the AKU Examination Board. It is an unbiased and reliable education system of our country."

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,424.40	47,808.34
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,898.82	47,968.51
Index Value	Change
15,004,497,104	+616.06
Percentage	Time
+1.29%	11 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,524.16	-94.44
Percentage	Time
-1.24%	11 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,255.07	+78.92
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	11 Aug, 1:34 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,473.65	+269.32
Percentage	Time
+0.84%	10 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	764.53	772.53
Canadian Dollar	222.8	225
China Yuan	39.84	40.24
Danish Krone	42.5	42.9
Euro	322.6	325.6
Hong Kong Dollar	36.77	37.12
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	1.94	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	933.45	942.45
Malaysian Ringgit	62.84	63.44
New Zealand \$	173.68	175.68
Norwegians Krone	28.09	28.39
Omani Riyal	746.64	754.64
Qatari Riyal	78.9	79.6
Saudi Riyal	78.5	79.25
Singapore Dollar	214	216
Swedish Korona	26.85	27.15
Swiss Franc	327.47	329.97
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	81.7	82.7
UK Pound Sterling	374	377.25
US Dollar	295	298

Dawlance wins 'Environmental- Excellence Award'



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Dawlance is the leading producer of home-appliances in Pakistan and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Arcelik - the 2nd largest manufacturer of electronics in Europe. Due to its strict adherence to global best-practices for a sustainable future, Dawlance has recently won the prestigious 'Environmental Excellence Award' from the 'National Forum of Environment and Health (NFEH).

The coveted award was presented to Dawlance in a formal ceremony, by the Secretary of Energy, Government of Sindh - Mr. Abu Bakar along with the Consul General of United Arab Emirates in Karachi - Mr. Bakheet Ateeq Al Remethi.

The honorable guests appreciated the Dawlance management team, including; Nomanullah Khan, Syed Shabih Haider, Summaya Khaliq and Syed Safwan Abdullah for promoting global best-practices for eco-friendly operations, to preserve the environment for the future generations.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance - Umar Ahsan Khan thanked NFEH for this honor and stated that: "Dawlance is committed to its policy: 'Progress today, Preserve tomorrow."

It ensures the wellbeing of the Pakistani nation and promises a sustainable future for the planet. We have a vision for elevating the quality of life for our customers, employees, dealers' and the masses in general."

Despite inflation, private sector is unable to increase salaries: Mian Zahid

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 Friday that despite the inflation, the private sector is unable to increase the salaries of their employees as required due to the increasing cost of doing business.

Increased uncertainty and the rising cost of doing business have put the survival of many companies at risk, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country's production and exports have been steadily declining, bringing the GDP close to zero. Due to inflation, demand is also continuously decreasing, and due to the decreased production, thousands of private companies are facing

surplus staff.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that now the majority of the companies have only the option of laying off the surplus staff and reducing the salaries for their survival, due to which the morale of the employees of these organisations is falling.

Political conditions, a constant increase in the price of everything, including electricity, gas, and petroleum products, and bank markups have brought economic activity to a standstill, so many companies have no option but to downsize to survive, he added.

Masses are paying heavy costs for all these developments with no relief in sight, he said, adding that manufacturers who are unable to reduce their business costs will not be able to withstand the financial pressure for long and will go bankrupt.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that many



large manufacturers are not retrenching despite the losses as they will not be able to re-hire the laid-off skilled workers after the situation

improves, which will put them at a disadvantage. Apart from this, some labour laws also prohibit downsizing. Private sector companies that lay off staff are not considered reasonable concerns, and talented people dislike working in such companies.

On the other hand, almost all sectors do not like to employ people who have lost their jobs somewhere else because it is generally believed that they will be incompetent.

Lack of communication between employer and employee also increases misunderstandings, which affect the business environment, he observed.

Companies facing financial difficulties should strengthen their relationships with employees, take them into confidence about the current difficult situation, make them aware of their constraints, and only then make tough decisions, he advised.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Malik Sohail Hussain Chief Convener Islamabad Industrial Association IIA & Secretary General US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce & Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association called on Mr. Khalil Bajwa Counsel General for Pakistan Toronto Canada with Amir Shamsi Chairman Canada Pakistan trade and business association CEO universal promotions, Majid Khan and Mian Adnan at Pakistan Consulate Toronto.



PepsiCo is celebrating International Youth Day with Roshan Kal

Abid Saeed

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo, one of the world's leading companies for food and beverages, is commemorating International Youth Day by highlighting "Roshan Kal", a progressive and inclusive internship program.

One of the largest initiatives for youth skills development in Pakistan, this initiative is powered by a one-of-a-kind collaboration with prestigious private-sector organizations from diverse industries such as KFC, Hum Network, Lucky core Cement, and Daraz, joining forces for youth empowerment.

Roshan Kal represents PepsiCo Pakistan's unwavering commitment towards creating an environment that facilitates growth and equal opportunities for the youth of Pakistan, enabling a future where they can positively contribute to the development of their respective communities and the nation.

What sets Roshan Kal apart is its core ethos of reaching every graduating student across Pakistan through a hybrid approach, targeting students from smaller cities, and ensuring 50% gender diversity while mobilizing a multi-industry collaboration.

For the first cohort of Roshan Kal internship program, an application was rolled out in partnership with Pakistan's premium job site Rozee.pk, through which thousands of applications were received and merit-based internships awarded by a joint panel of experts from partner organization. Selected



interns are being given the opportunity to work across different participating organizations and will get the chance to engage and build a network with mentors from all over Pakistan.

Through the streamlined partnership with Rozee.pk, PepsiCo Pakistan has delivered a digital platform to simplify the application process for candidates that will also build a strong alumni network.

Speaking about the program, Furqan Ahmed Syed, CEO of PepsiCo Pakistan said, "PepsiCo is devoted to empowering the youth of Pakistan as they are the architects of our future. Roshan Kal leverages collaboration with 18 partner organizations to provide young adults the opportunity to acquire insights into diverse and complex industries, enabling them to develop unique and multi-faceted skills while cultivating leadership capabilities, critical thinking, and innovation required for the future-fit youth of Pakistan. This is part of our larger commitment to youth develop-

ment, in line with our long-standing partnership for the Amal Career-Prep Fellowship program with Amal Academy, which has been supported by the PepsiCo Foundation since 2018 and recently celebrated the graduation of 10,000 Amal Fellows.

The positive impact created is evinced through the 88% alumni who are now engaged in wide-ranging jobs and entrepreneurial ventures, with a significant women representation raising the bar on equity and diversity."

Sarah Hassan, Senior HR Director at PepsiCo Pakistan added, "Roshan Kal is the embodiment of the values that underscore PepsiCo's global PepsiCo Positive (pep+) sustainability agenda. Much like our collaborative community uplift projects such as Millions of Meals, Farmer Day Care and PepsiCo - IRM Smart Schools, Roshan Kal represents PepsiCo's dedication to initiatives that benefit individuals and communities while working towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Zong 4G celebrates Pakistan's 76 years of independence

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, the country's leading telecom provider, is showcasing its patriotic zeal by celebrating Pakistan's 76th Independence Day with an extraordinary offer for its customers!

Zong 4G's latest discount on the Weekly Azaadi Offer allows customers to enjoy an impressive package featuring 76GB of data, coupled with 1000 Offnet and 10,000 on-net minutes, all for an unbeatable price of only PKR 476. This remarkable offer strikes the perfect balance between data and calling resources, delivering incomparable value to customers at an affordable rate. By introducing this outstanding discount, Zong 4G takes its place at the fore-

front of the telecom industry, solidifying its commitment to offering unparalleled value and premium services to its cherished clientele.

This limited-time offer not only presents a unique chance for customers to join Zong 4G's celebration of success but also reflects the company's commitment to narrowing the digital divide across diverse regions of Pakistan.

In an industry where innovation reigns, Zong's latest offer stands tall as a true game-changer, resetting the standard for weekly plans. Seize the moment and revel in a week of uninterrupted connectivity and communication, powered by Zong 4G's exclusive Weekly Azaadi Offer.

SECP registers 2,220 companies in July

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,220 new companies in July 2023, a 25% increase from the previous year. The total capitalization for these companies was Rs. 3.3 billion. The total number of registered companies in the country rose to 197,828.

About 57% of Pakistan's companies are private limited companies, 41% single-member companies, and 2% not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, and LLPs. 99.7% are registered online, and three foreign companies have established business in Pakistan. 86 foreign applicants have registered from overseas.

The information technology sector took the lead with incorporation of 316 companies, trading with 309, services with 260, real estate development & construction with 252, food & beverages with 96, tourism with 91, education with 90, corporate agricultural farming with 70, e-commerce with 64, textile with 57, marketing & advertisement with

48, transport with 45, engineering with 42, healthcare with 41, pharmaceutical 36, mining & quarrying with 35, power generation with 30, lodging with 28, communications with 26, chemical with 24, cosmetics & toiletries 21, auto & allied and broadcasting & telecasting with 20 each, paper & board with 19, cables & electrical goods with 12, and 168 companies were registered in other sectors.

SECP integration with FBR and provincial departments led to 2123 NTN registrations, 69 EOBI, 40 PESSI/SESSI, and 51 excise and taxation departments, registering 2123 companies.

Foreign investment has been reported in 42 new companies, having foreign investors from Afghanistan, Canada, China, Djibouti, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UAE, UK, US and Vietnam. Major chunk of investment was received from China with 16 companies, Singapore and UAE with 3 each, Afghanistan, Iran, US and Vietnam with 02 each, and in 12 companies from other countries.

Kuwaiti-based EnerTech holding explores collaboration with K-Electric

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: "Pakistan's energy landscape is rapidly changing, and clean energy is increasingly taking center stage. At EnerTech Holding, we have been exploring various markets and identifying partners in leading utilities with whom we can collaborate and catalyze the transformation. We're very pleased to see K-Electric's ambitions for Karachi and its alignment with the country's renewable energy vision. We believe that a collaboration which combines EnerTech's expertise and K-Electric's legacy can have tremendous implications to accelerate these efforts." These comments were made by His

Excellence Abdallah Al-Mutairi, CEO of EnerTech Holding during a meeting with CEO K-Electric, Moonis Alvi.

The meeting between EnerTech and KE management marks a significant step towards furthering clean technology initiatives in the region, which form an integral part of KE's forward-looking vision. In addition to a PKR 484 billion investment plan in transmission and distribution until the year 2030, K-Electric has also shared a comprehensive Power Acquisition Program outlining the inclusion of up to 1200 MW of renewable energy into its generation mix through strategic partnerships across the country. K-Electric antic-



ipates that by 2030, the company will be serving 5 million customers with a demand of 5,000 MW. Through investments and strategic partnerships with entities like EnerTech, the company intends to serve up to 30% of this projected demand through renewable energy. This is also going

to reduce dependence on imported fuels for electricity production, benefiting the national exchequer.

CEO K-Electric Moonis Alvi expressed his enthusiasm about the meeting, stating, "Now, more than ever, it is important to address the energy trilemma that is facing almost

40 million electricity users across the country. We have to ensure reliability, affordability, and sustainability of energy, and our investment plans and the Multi-Year Tariff requests we have made with the regulator are specifically to provide the enabling environment to cater to the current and future needs of our customers.

EnerTech Holding is a leading force for strategic investments in renewable energy, clean technology, and energy efficiency. Their keenness to invest in Pakistan is indicated by a USD 750 million agreement with the Pak Kuwait Investment Company (PKIC) to collaborate and jointly explore investment opportunities and business potential within the country.

Serena Hotels and Margalla Greens Golf Club hosted the closing ceremony of the 'Tee to Triumph' golf programme

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, through its Sports Diplomacy Initiative, partnered with MGGC to launch its 'Tee to Triumph' Golf Training Programme for girls. The programme launched on the 31st of July and culminated on the 11th of August with a certificate & awards-distribution ceremony. This unique programme was designed to empower young girls by training them in the game to promote gender equality and foster sportsmanship.

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, announced the launch of this initiative at the last Invitational Golf Tournament held in February 2023 in partnership with MGGC. The Training Programme helped highlight talented young girls aged 10 to 22 and provided them with extensive train-



ing sessions which helped improve their game through comprehensive coaching, mentorship, and opportunities to showcase their talent on the



golf course. 38 young girls participated in this programme and learned all elements of the game taught by the MGGC team, which did an excep-

tional task of mentoring these talented young girls.

The chief guest was the exceptional Mrs. Yasmeen Mubarak Ali Khan, who has been playing golf since 1963 at the age of 13 and is a legendary name in golf with seven wins under her belt. She has represented Pakistan internationally twice in Sri Lanka and once in Bangladesh. She expressed her delight at the initiative that Serena Hotels has taken and showed her enthusiasm at a regular part of Serena Hotels' Sports Diplomacy Initiatives. "Serena Hotels has done a marvelous job of highlighting the need for girls in golf, and with this initiative and provided them a platform to learn and engage with other golfers of their age, we all look forward to the continuation of this great programme and look forward to many more in the future."

Pakistan thrash China to finish fifth in Asian Champions Trophy

A Sports

CHENNAI: Pakistan hockey team concluded their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy journey at fifth position after handing China a thumping 6-1 defeat on Friday.

The Green Shirts started the game on high as they quickly took a 4-0 lead in the first quarter.

Although, China, showed some grit and managed to score their solitary goal in the third quarter but the green-shirts eventually pulled them back and scored two more goals to hand them a heavy defeat by a margin of five goals.

Pakistan's Mohammad Ammad and Mohammad Sufyan both scored two goals each, while Hanan Shahid and Abdul Rana each scored one goal.

China's Benhai Chen scored the only goal of the match in the 35th minute through a penalty corner.

This was the first time that the Green Shirts failed



to qualify for the semi-finals of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy since its inception in 2011.

The national team was knocked out of the Asian Champions Trophy, after facing a daunting 0-4 defeat at the hands of arch-rivals India on Wednesday.

Pakistan's only victory in the Asian Champions Trophy came against China, which finished at the bottom of the table with one point

only.

Prior to that game, Pakistan was winless in the Asian Champions Trophy, as they drew against Japan (3-3), and defending champions South Korea (1-1), while, they were handed a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Malaysia in their first game.

Pakistan ended up with the same points as Japan and South Korea, however, it failed to qualify due to goal difference, as the other

two teams progressed to the next round.

South Korea will face Malaysia in the first semi-final today, meanwhile, India will face Japan in the second semi-final on the same day.

Pakistan previously won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while they shared the trophy with India in 2018 as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain. Meanwhile, India have won the title in 2011 and 2016.

A Sports HD, ARY ZAP to broadcast La Liga season 2023-24

A Sports

KARACHI: ARY Digital Network has once again announced an exciting update for sports lovers in Pakistan as the La Liga season 2023-24 will be broadcasted live on Pakistan's first HD sports channel A Sports HD and ARY ZAP.

After successfully broadcasting the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022 and the previous edition of La Liga, A Sports HD and ARY ZAP will air the next edition of the Spanish league.

Notably, ARY Digital Network successfully secured the rights to the next two La Liga seasons in August last

year. Viewers in Pakistan can watch the event live on A Sports or stream it through the ARY ZAP application.

Administered by the Liga Nacional de Fútbol Profesional, it is contested by 20 teams, with the three lowest-placed teams at the end of each season being relegated to the Segunda División and replaced by the top two teams and a play-off winner in that division.

La Liga has been the top league in Europe in each of the seven years from 2013 to 2019 (calculated using accumulated figures from five preceding seasons) and has led Europe for 22 of the

60 ranked years up to 2019, more than any other country.

La Liga Season 2023-24 will commence on August 12.

La Liga will embark with the home side Almeria taking on Rayo Vallecano in the curtain raiser at Power Horse Stadium on August 11. Whereas, Barcelona will be competing in the event to defend their title.

Known for promoting sports in the country, Mr Salman Iqbal-who also owns Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Karachi Kings- has the honour of launching Pakistan's first HD sports channel A-Sports in October 2021.

A-Sports has previously aired ICC Men's T20 World

Cup 2021 and 2022, PSL Season 2022 and 2023, major bilateral series of the Pakistan cricket team, Formula 1 Grand Prix Season 2022-23, SA20, Major League Cricket, Fair-Break Invitational, Karachi Open Squash Championship among other major sports events.

Pakistan's first HD Sports channel also airs the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL).

ARY ZAP, the popular app owned by ARY Digital Network, recently, live-streamed the five-match ODI and T20I series between Pakistan and New Zealand, earlier in April-May.

India refuses 'special treatment' to Pakistan over World Cup security assurance

India has refused to give any "special treatment" to Pakistan after the latter sought security assurance for the cricket team during its visit to the arch-rival country for the World Cup this year.

The Ministry of External Affairs of India's official spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, said that there would be no special treatment for the Pakistan team.

"For us, Pak Team is as important as any other team. No special treatment will be given proper cover will be provided when & wherever required," the official added.

Last week, the government in Islamabad gave a green signal to the national team to participate in the World Cup to be held in India in October-November this year.

"Pakistan has consistently maintained that sports should not be mixed with politics. It has, therefore, decided to send its Cricket Team to India to participate in the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had stated in a press release.

However, the foreign ministry expressed concerns over security for the national team in India.

Pakistan will kick off their World Cup campaign on October 6 against the Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.

Here is Pakistan's schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023:

October 6 — vs Netherlands in Hyderabad

October 12 — vs Sri Lanka in Hyderabad

October 15 — vs India in Ahmedabad

October 20 — vs Australia in Bengaluru

October 23 — vs Afghanistan in Chennai

October 27 — vs South Africa in Chennai

October 31 — vs Bangladesh in Kolkata

November 4 — vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)

November 12 — vs England in Kolkata

The day matches will start at 10:00am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures and will begin at 01:30pm (PST).

If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Kolkata.

If India qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Mumbai unless playing against Pakistan, in which case they will play in Kolkata.

The Cricket World Cup will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches.

The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

PCB confirms team management for Afghanistan series and ACC Asia Cup

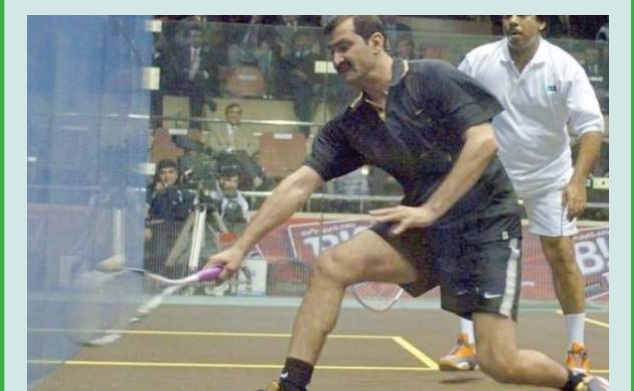
Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board confirms the support staff of Pakistan men's team for the forthcoming three One-Day Internationals against Afghanistan in Sri Lanka from 22 to 26 August and ACC Asia Cup to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from 30 August to 17 September.

Pakistan men's team will play the opening match of the ACC Asia Cup in Multan on 30 August against Nepal.

Player support personnel: Rehan-ul-Haq (team manager), Mickey Arthur (Director - Pakistan men's team), Grant Bradburn (head coach), Andrew Puttick (batting coach), Morne Morkel (bowling coach), Aftab Khan (fielding coach), Abdul Rehman (assistant coach), Dr Sohail Saleem (team doctor), Drikus Saaiman (strength and conditioning coach), Cliffe Deacon (physiotherapist), Ahsan Iftikhar Nagi (media manager), Lt Col Usman Anwari (Retd) (security manager), Ammar Ahsan (digital content producer, only for Asia Cup), Maqbool Ahmad Babri (psychologist), Talha Ejaz (analyst) and Malang Ali (masseur).

Six matches played in Hazara Region Azadi Cup Squash Championship



Bureau Report

ABBOTTABAD: The Hazara Region Azadi Cup Squash Championship continued on second day Friday with seven matches of senior and open categories played here at the Jan Sher Khan Squash Complex.

The championship has been organised by the Regional Squash Association and the Regional Sports Department.

In the first match, Saim Tariq exhibited his skills by securing a resounding victory against Abdullah Qadir by three to zero. Likewise, Abu Bakar also showcased his talent and defeated Jazib Tariq with a score of three to zero.

Likewise, Haris and Saaim Tariq emerged as victors in their matches against Ismail and Rohan respectively with the scores of three to zero.

Abdullah Naser defeated Ahmed Ali in a closely contested match with the score of three to two, while Bilal overwhelmed his opponent Faizan with a score of three to zero.

The match between Matiah and Bilal Hussain was a thrilling encounter, in which Matiah emerged victorious with a score of two to one.

APCOFY holds Jashan-e-Azadi cricket match at Bhutto Ground

Maryam Siddiq

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation (APCOFY) organised the Jashan-e-Azadi cricket match between journalists and artists of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to express solidarity with the nation on the 76th Anniversary of the Independence Day.

The match played between the Media-XI and Showbiz-XI was won by the former that managed to meet the target of 90 runs at a loss of four wickets. The Media-XI was led by President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Afzal Butt whereas the Showbiz-XI was led by Agha Shiraz.

The captain of Media-XI winning team, was awarded a trophy for his team's success



by special guest former Federal Minister Faisal Karim Kundi and Ex-Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior Ahmed Hassan Dehar distributed prizes to all the players and congratulated President, APCOFY Aasma Butt for orga-

nizing the cricket match.

The 8-over Independence Day Celebration cricket match between Showbiz-XI and Media-XI was held here at Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto cricket ground. After winning the toss, Showbiz Eleven opened the



batting first and set a target of 90 runs at the loss of 6 wickets. In the team of Showbiz-XI, Babar Abbasi scored 22 of 7 balls.

The team of Media Eleven achieved the target by scoring 91 runs in 7 overs and 4 balls at the loss of 4 wickets. Samar Abbas scored 24 runs and Fayyaz Ahmed took 1 wicket from the

Media Eleven team. Samar Abbas was awarded Man of the Match for his excellent performance.

President Aasma Butt congratulated all the players of Showbiz-XI and Media-XI for successfully participating in the charming Jashan-e-Azadi cricket match. It has always been my

endeavor that hardworking and worthy people emerge from the platform of our federation.

Former Federal Minister Faisal Karim Kundi said that CPEC was a priceless gift of the Chinese government and it had turned the tide of the fate of the nation. He congratulated all the players for a convincing cricket

match. Ex-Chairman Standing Committee on Interior Ahmed Hassan Dehar said that winning and losing was part of the game. "Congratulations to both the teams for their excellent performance. Such events will help strengthen the relationship between the two countries," he said.