



NA speaker extends felicitations to Pakistan Civil Award nominees

National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, on Tuesday, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the individuals nominated for the prestigious Pakistan Civil Awards in a gesture of appreciation and recognition. (Details on Page 8)



Caretaker govt jacks up petrol, diesel prices by up to Rs20 per litre

The caretaker govt has increased prices of petroleum products by up to Rs20 per litre for the next fortnight amid a rise in global oil rates. "Petroleum prices in the international market have increased during the last fortnight. As a result the consumer prices in Pakistan are also being revised," the Finance Division said in a statement late Tuesday. The petrol has been increased by Rs17.50 per litre while high speed diesel (HSD) hiked by Rs20 per litre.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired a meeting on economy on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Interim set-up: Names of cabinet members emerge



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has sped up the consultation for the formation of the caretaker cabinet.

Sources privy to the development told media that the names of caretaker ministers under consideration include former foreign secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani, former civil servant Shoaib Suddle, former senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti and former information minister Muhammad Ali Durrani.

Sources said that Jalil Abbas Jilani, which was earlier reported to be the favorite candidate for the premiership, is now being considered for the role of interim Foreign Minister.

Earlier, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar assumed his responsibilities after taking the oath of office on August 14.

After assuming the responsibilities, the caretaker premier sought a detailed briefing from all ministries on important matters.

The caretaker PM was presented guard of honour in a ceremony at the Prime Minister House.

A smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan's armed forces presented the guard of honour. National anthem was also played on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Anwarul Haq Kakar also held meetings with former provincial minister Mir Asim Kurd Gello and a delegation from Balochistan.

Caretaker govt to ensure continuity in economic policies: PM Kakar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said that the government would ensure continuity in the economic policies, besides further improving them. He said that further enhancement of foreign investment under the Special Investment Facilitation

Council (SIFC) was among the top priorities of the caretaker setup.

The prime minister chaired a meeting in which he was given a detailed briefing over the economic situation, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that work on the

public welfare projects would continue and the government would ensure provision of international quality facilities in the health and education sectors. He also directed for expediting ongoing reforms in the power sector and strict implementation of measures for increasing tax revenues. Prime Minister Kakar said that the caretaker government

would concentrate on deregulation and responsible autonomy for further improvement of the economy and expressed the resolve to focus their energies on economic reforms during their tenure. The meeting was attended by senior officials including governor State Bank of Pakistan, secretaries Finance Division and Power and chairman

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The meeting was briefed over the steps taken for bringing further improvement and stability in the economy. A detailed briefing was also given over the reforms in the power sector. The caretaker prime minister directed for submission of detailed reports regarding ongoing reforms in all sectors.

Oil tanker owners block Motorway M-9 Link Road in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Oil tankers' owners have staged a protest and blocked Motorway M-9 Steel Town Link Road in Karachi against the hike in toll tax.

A large number of oil tankers were parked on the M-9's Steel Town Link Road to protest against the hike in toll tax by the local administration and "police extortion".

The transporters' protest caused a massive traffic jam on the Link Road. The traffic from National Highway to Kathore was suspended due to the protest.

The oil tanker owners handed over their vehicle keys to the administration.

Kashmiris observe India's Independence Day as black day

Bureau Report

MIRPUR (AJK): Kashmiris living in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday observed India's Independence Day as a black day to mark protest against long forced and illegal occupation of a large part of Jammu and Kashmir State by India. According to the report, in district Mirpur, a protest rally was staged to observe the black day, through a unanimously passed resolution warning India to abstain from launching any aggression against Pakistan or Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

"Every individual of AJK is fully prepared to make a defense of inch after inch of the motherland - shoulder to shoulder with valiant armed forces of Pakistan if India dared to launch any attack against Pakistan or AJK", the rally declared. The rally thanked and paid rich tributes to the people of Pakistan for their unequivocal



full support of Kashmir's struggle for right self-determination.

The Indian independence day was marked with mass anti-India protest rallies and demonstrations in all small and major towns in the liberated territory including the capital city of Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimbher, Rawalakot, Bagh, Palandri, Neelam Valley, Jhelum valley, Haveli and other towns and villages. People from diverse segments of civil society including social, political, and other public representative organization attended the rallies holding black flags and wearing black bands around their arms to mark Indian Independence Day as black day.

In Mirpur, elders of the city representing all segments of life including social and political workers, employees of private and public sector organizations besides senior officials led the rally which marched through major city streets including Quid e Azam Chowk, Mian Muhammad Road, Allama Iqbal Road, and central Shaheed chowk raising zindabad slogans for Pakistan and the valiant armed forces of the country.

The rally expressed grave concern over the fast-deteriorating conditions of the people in strife-torn and fully-locked indefinite curfew-riddled Indian held Jammu and Kashmir for the past 10 days. India, it said, has latterly turned the occupied J&K state into the world's largest jail and garrison.

The rally, through another resolution, called upon the international community especially the United Nations to immediately move for getting the special status of the disputed Jammu & Kashmir state restored.

Govt employees banned from using social media platforms

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The government employees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have been banned from using social media platforms.

In the latest order, the KP government employees have been banned from using all social media platforms. The order was issued by the caretaker KP government.

Government employees have been banned from giving their political, sectarian or ideological opinions on social media platforms.

However, the use of social media posts can only be allowed with the approval of the administrative secretary and the concerned department.

Court grants physical remand of Pervaiz Elahi in Gujrat graft case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An accountability court granted physical remand of former chief minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in Gujrat graft case till Monday.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had sought physical remand of Pervaiz Elahi in the corruption case being heard by Judge Shehzad Kyani.

Prosecutor Waris Janjua said that 72 billion rupees development projects were approved for two constituencies of Gujrat district. Elahi approved the projects as chief minister of the province.

"Moonis Elahi fixed kicks back in these projects," the prosecutor said. "The money was paid before completion of these projects," he said.

"Within a week heavy amount were paid for all these



projects," he added.

Defence counsel Amjad Pervaiz pleaded to the court to grant permission for home food and medicines to Elahi. "He is already being given home food and medicines," prosecutor said.

Counsel Amjad Pervaiz also sought the court to grant permission to Elahi for meeting with his wife, son and his lawyer.

The court granted physical remand of the former chief minister till Monday and ordered to produce him before the court on August 21.

Jan Mohammad Mahar: Post mortem report of slain journalist issued

Spokesman Report

SUKKUR: The post-mortem report of the slain senior journalist and former president of the Sukkur Press Club has been issued which confirmed Jan Mohammad Mahar had died of bullet wounds.

Media obtained the post-mortem report of the slain senior journalist Jan Mohammad Mahar. The autopsy report stated that the journalist received four bullets which caused his death.

It stated that Mahar received one bullet near his eye, second in chest, third in throat and fourth in his wrist. The medico-legal officers confirmed that the bullet wounds near his eye, chest and throat caused Mahar's death. They confirmed that overall



six bullet wounds were found on the slain journalist's body.

In another development today, a case was registered against the killing of the senior journalist Jan Mohammad Mahar at the Section C police station over the complaint of his brother Karamullah.

Police said that 11 identified and three unidentified persons have been nominated in the First Information Report (FIR) which was registered under the anti-terrorism act.

Caretaker PM calls for efficient road infrastructure in Balochistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwarul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday called for said that efficient road infrastructure in Balochistan.

As per details, the caretaker prime minister chaired a meeting to review the ongoing road infrastructure projects and the meeting was attended by relevant authorities.

He said that an efficient road infrastructure plays a pivotal role in the development and progress of any country and stressed upon laying of road infrastructure in those areas which could attract foreign investment.

The meeting was briefed in detail about the ongoing work on Pinjarra bridge on the Quetta-Sukkur highway and Sawar bridge on Quetta-Zhob road. The work on Pinjarra bridge which

was damaged during last year's flood, would commence next month.

A causeway was constructed after the floods which restored vehicular movement. The construction period of the new bridge with 15-meter height and 12-meter width, would take about 9 months, it was further added. The prime minister directed for reducing the stipulated time period for the comple-

tion of the new bridge.

The meeting was apprised that reconstruction and rehabilitation work on 118-km long Quetta-Dhadar road and 188-km Dhadar-Jacobabad road would be undertaken anew which would not only help in fuel saving, but also reduce the vehicular pressure.

The meeting was also informed about the repair work on Sawar bridge. The repair work on the

282-meter-long bridge was in the final stages while during the work, the traffic could not be diverted due to lack of alternate route.

The reconstruction work on the bridge would commence soon and its completion would take about 6 months. He observed that the National Highway Authority (NHA) was playing an efficient role in the maintenance and construction of roads.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: A view of debris of the demolished Chambers of Lawyers at F-8 Football ground after the Supreme Court ultimatum, which was till 01-05-2021, as the Workers of Anti encroachments.



Photo: PID

NA speaker extends felicitations to Pakistan Civil Award nominees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, on Tuesday, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the individuals nominated for the prestigious Pakistan Civil Awards in a gesture of appreciation and recognition.

These awards, which acknowledge remarkable contributions in diverse fields, including social, public, educational, scientific, heroic, artistic, literary, cultural, journalistic, and medical domains, reflect the nation's gratitude for their exceptional services. A notable highlight of Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf's message was the profound tribute paid to senior political leader Syed Qaim Ali Shah. Acknowledging Shah's profound political



acumen and unmatched insights, he lauded him as a seasoned political and social luminary. "A significant historical figure, Syed Qaim Ali Shah stands as the sole surviving member of the 1973 Constitutional Committee, having the distinct honor of signing the Constitution. Given his extensive political, social, constitutional, and public contributions, the conferment of the esteemed Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian award,

is seen as a commendable acknowledgment," he maintained. Another prominent figure spotlighted in the Speaker's message was the late Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Shaheed Mufti Abdul Shakoor. Revered for his principled political leadership and renowned religious scholarship, Mufti Abdul Shakoor's enduring legacy was underscored by Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. "A posthumous recognition through the Nishan-e-Imtiaz for his religious and political contributions further commemorates his invaluable service," he added. Additional Secretary for Legislation at the NA, Muhammad Mushtaq, was also celebrated for his exceptional dedication and competence. Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf emphasized the pivotal role of the NA as a constitutional cornerstone

and lauded officers like Mushtaq as invaluable assets. Commending Mushtaq's pivotal role in enhancing legislative efficiency, he expressed gratitude for his outstanding contributions. The hope was expressed that officers like Muhammad Mushtaq would continue to shape the institution's progress and the country's welfare. He said eminent social personality Amjad Saqib's remarkable efforts in the realm of social welfare were praised as a beacon of hope for marginalized segments of society and his dedication was hailed as commendable, and the conferment of the Nishan-e-Imtiaz added to his laurels. Lastly, the speaker applauded the journalistic contributions of Waqar Sati, a distinguished journalist who has left an indelible mark in the field of journalism.

ECP directs caretakers to ensure equal opportunities for all candidates in elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday instructed the interim governments, both at the national and provincial levels, to guarantee a fair and balanced playing field for all candidates and political parties in the upcoming general elections.

The Commission, in a notification, also banned transfers and postings of public officers to ensure transparent elections, citing Clause 2(f) of Section 230 within the Elections Act of 2017 that "prohibits the federal and provincial governments from posting or

transferring any public official after the notification's issuance without obtaining prior written approval from the ECP". The ECP also imposed a ban on all forms of recruitment within federal, provincial, and local government ministries, divisions, departments, or institutions, with only exception in cases with prior approval from the Commission.

The Commission also instructed the interim governments to abstain from declaring or initiating any new development projects at both the federal and provincial levels, except for those that were already in progress or

approved prior to the issuance of the notification.

"Starting from the moment the election schedule is announced, all development funds allocated for new projects within local government institutions across provinces and cantonment boards throughout the country will be halted. This pause will remain in effect until the announcement of the results of the general elections," the notification said.

It specified that the interim governments were obligated to execute their roles and handle day-to-day essentials necessary to govern the federation and provinces, ensuring

strict adherence to legal provisions. The ECP directed the interim governments to ensure that official residences and vehicles were promptly vacated by former federal and provincial ministers, besides the withdrawal of excess security personnel from former ministers and other individuals. The ECP instructed the interim authorities to disclose their assets information within three days of taking up their responsibilities. "This declaration encompasses assets and liabilities of both spouses and dependents," the notification said.

The election watchdog stated that it was constitutional-

ly responsible for organizing and conducting elections fairly and honestly, as required by Article 218(3) of the Constitution. "The ECP must now take essential actions according to the Constitution and existing laws to ensure the successful execution of general elections," the notification emphasized. The ECP also instructed the interim administrations at both national and provincial levels to collaborate with the it in conducting elections within legal frameworks.

"This involves adhering to all the notifications, guidelines, and regulations outlined in Section 230 of the same Act."

Pakistan's Independence Day celebrated in Jakarta

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Pakistan in Jakarta celebrated the 76th anniversary of the Independence Day of Pakistan on August 14, with traditional fervor in a simple but dignified ceremony. The ceremony was attended by a large number of Pakistani diaspora along with their families, friends from Indonesia, and media representatives, said a press release on Tuesday.

Pakistan's Charge d' Affairs Muhammad Faisal Fayyaz hoisted the national flag and read out the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Turkiye & Pakistan may jointly undertake global & regional missions: Lawmaker

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Turkish lawmaker Ali Sahin has said that Türkiye and Pakistan can work together on different missions on the global and regional scales, from security to countering Islamophobia. Ali Sahin, who heads an inter-parliamentary friendship group between Ankara and Islamabad, wrote a letter marking Pakistan's 76th Independence Day, pointing to the "genetic" nature of the relationship between the two nations, Anadolu reported. Noting that Türkiye-Pakistan relations go beyond inter-state ties, the lawmaker emphasized that the relationship was unique and



not common in other parts of the world. While pointing out that interests are the main foundation for international relations, Sahin said it was not the motivation between Pakistan and Türkiye. Considering the military capacities, the potential to generate security

and other capabilities of Türkiye and Pakistan, he said, the two countries could build a sincere and strong model to ensure security in the region. He underlined the "common genetic, social and cultural harmony that Türkiye and Pakistan have with the coun-

tries of the region, it will be seen that they have the potential to produce a very strong security for the region". "Actually, the most powerful security is a security that can be achieved through peace. Instead of the artificial security need created by the West through hostility, conflict, and threats for the purpose of exploitation, establishing a regional security model centered around peace will be both more cost-effective and a much more sincere and humane security and stability model" he added. Sahin also emphasized Türkiye and Pakistan's potential in terms of producing Muslim solution mechanisms for problems faced by Muslims.

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APHC holds protest in front of Indian High Commission

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A protest demonstration under the auspices of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Pakistan Chapter was held in front of the Indian High Commission here on Tuesday to mark India's Independence Day as black day. The protesters were holding black flags and shouted slogans against the Indian government, said a press release. "We will take away freedom, freedom is our right". They said that on India's Independence Day, there is a complete strike in Occupied Kashmir today. India calls itself the champion of democracy but now its real face has been exposed to the world, the

Hurriyat leader said. They said Pakistan Day was celebrated yesterday in Occupied Kashmir. Today, black day is being celebrated in Occupied Kashmir valley. Kashmiris living all over the world are celebrating today as black day, the leaders said.

Kashmiris have never recognized India, they added. The right to self-determination is our basic right and our struggle will continue till independence. India is illegally occupying Kashmir, they added. They urged the international community to play their due role for realization of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Picture on Page 7

SC disposes of contempt case against Ahsan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday terminated a contempt of court petition against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Ahsan Iqbal. Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, hearing the case, remarked that there were no sufficient grounds to continue the proceedings in the case.

The petition was filed by a citizen Mehmood Akhter Naqvi against

the PML-N leader. The chief justice remarked that the former minister had not given the comments which could be viewed as the contempt of court.

Only the court could determine whether it was a contempt of court or not, he added. A contempt of court case was filed against Ahsan Iqbal on May 2, 2018. The petitioner had prayed the court to declare the former minister as disqualified under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

IHC directs police to produce Sheharyar Afridi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to produce arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) leader Sheharyar Khan Afridi before it on Wednesday and also summoned the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in personal capacity. Justice Babar Sattar, hearing the case, observed that it was necessary to cite reasons for keeping anyone in custody. He issued show-cause notices to the ICT

Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations as to why not contempt of court proceedings should be initiated against them. At the outset of hearing, Afridi's lawyer argued that his client was arrested in seven cases but later granted bail. So far seven orders for his arrest under the Maintenance of Public Order had been terminated by courts. He had been in jail for the last 90 days. Besides issuing show-cause notices, the court also sought the three-month record of the MPO orders.

CM for boosting efforts to rehabilitate drug addicts

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the 'Roshan Ghar' rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Raiwand on Tuesday, where he assessed the facilities provided for the recovery of individuals struggling with drug addiction. He thoroughly inspected the various sections and wards dedicated to the drug addicts, engaging with them and encouraging them to overcome their addiction.

During the visit, Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the need to enhance the rehabilitation and treatment services for drug addicts. He also issued directives for the establishment of new centers to cater to their rehabilitation. He assigned the task of building additional centers to the Secretary of Social Welfare and the Secretary of Health, with

a mandate to complete centers with a combined capacity of 400 beds across different areas of Lahore within a span of two weeks.

The CM also highlighted the importance of providing quality nutrition and regular supply of fruits to the addicts at 'Roshan Ghar'. He pledged to allocate all necessary resources for effective treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and he stressed the significance of digitizing the records of these individuals.

While touring the facility, Mohsin Naqvi visited the computer lab and domestic tailoring lab that serve the drug addicts. He acknowledged the devastating impact of addiction on families and expressed his commitment to helping those affected find a path to recovery. As part of the effort to combat drug trafficking, a comprehensive crackdown had been initiated across Punjab.

ICT Food Authority reviews arrangements for annual 'Langar' at Bari Imam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A team from the local administration's food authority on Tuesday visited the shrine of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif, also known as Bari Imam Sarkar, to review arrangements for the annual "Langar" (community meal) to prevent distribution of the substandard food among devotees. The initiative was taken on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, said the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration's spokesman while talking to the media. He said the food authority's team which had visited the shrine was led by Dr. Tahira Sadiq. The spokesman said the DC had issued strict directives for the food authority to ensure the provision of hygienic food among the visitors.

Pakistan embassy in Hungary to arrange a maiden exhibition of Pakistani artists

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Pakistan in Hungary has announced to arrange the first-ever four-day art exhibition of Pakistani artists from September 5, in connection with the 76th anniversary of Independence Day. The exhibition titled "Chaharbagh" will display the work of eight artists interpreting their thoughts in different mediums from traditional miniatures to contemporary mix media, a press release on Tuesday said. The artists will include Alefiya, Javaria Ahmad, Maryam Cheema, Minaa Haroon, Murad Khan, Muntaz, Sakina Akbar, Sana Durrani and Sundas Azfer. Their interpretations will be skillfully presented both in a literal sense and through metaphorical nuances.

Pakistan's survival needs patriotic thinking linkage: Allama Tahir

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Under the auspices of Pakistan Ulema Council Faisalabad, a flag hoisting independence day ceremony was held at Center Osmania, Razaabad.

On this occasion, Allama Tahirul Hasaan addressed the ceremony and said that Pakistan is a great blessing from Allah Almighty and the whole nation is proud of its freedom. He pointed out that we have to move forward as a great nation to resolve our issues with brotherhood.

Presently those inshore or offshore who are plotting against Pakistan are not patriots and negative elements must be warned to stop their illicit activities.

In order to make Pakistan a peaceful & prosperous state, jointly take the country on the



path of development & all the politicians dirly need to gather on one platform and have a strong & comprehensive plan of action. Tahir further illuminated that The entire Muslim

Ummah should take guidance from the Holy Quran. It is necessary that even today there is a solution to all problems in the Holy Quran and Muslims & Islam teach respect for minorities, respect for women and moderation and tolerance. So the e whole nation stands with its Pakistan Army and security institutions.

On the occasion, the special guest Haji Akram Ansari said in a statement that our elders made Pakistan sacrificing their all & sundry. We made great sacrifices and Pakistan needs much focus like those problems' solution today. Let's Play the role of a united nation for a solution and fulfill the dream of Quaid-i-Azam and Allama Iqbal. Ansari further said adding that, now it is the responsibility of all of us to maintain this country in

all respect leaving all personal benefits.

Undoubtedly, our Madrasahs, mosques are our Islamic centers which might generate the best future for the coming generations necessary for the security and stability of Pakistan. We will have to all work together.

Furthermore, the Maulana Izharul Haq Khalid, Maulana Abu Bakr Siddique Usmani, Qari Kaleem Najam, Haji Tahir Javed, Tariq Rahmani, Sahibzada Hamza Tahirul Hasan, Mian Abid Yaqoob, Qari Yasin Ranjha, Malik Ashfaq, Malik Asif and other scholars and businessmen leaders participated and all of them expressed for unity and solidarity and said that Pakistan belongs to everyone and everyone should play his vital part for its prosperity, they said and added.

Punjab government has taken a good initiative to improve the sanitation in rural areas: Umar Jahangir



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Punjab government has taken a good initiative to improve the sanitation and sanitation of rural areas. I have started a unique scheme of sewerage and sanitation under the help of you. On this occasion, Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq and local government officials briefed on the

project. That sewerage and sanitation work will be done by 8 member management committee in every union council

The committee will include assistant commissioner, revenue officers, patwari, area dignitaries. The said management committee will collect sanitation fees from commercial places and houses. In this regard, the management committee will also be authorized to spend and

recruit staff. Umar Jahangir said that in the past there was a lack of infrastructure and resources for cleaning and sewage in rural areas, but the Punjab government has taken a historic step for neglected rural areas. The local government (now the villages will shine) will implement the project. Earlier, Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq informed the participants about the project.

Independence Day strong message of unity, solidarity, peace and equality: Rabbani

Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: On the occasion of 76th Independence Day, a grand flag hoisting ceremony was organized in Bahawalpur Museum in which museum staff, children and visitors participated. Director Bahawalpur Museum Muhammad Zubair Rabbani said that Independence Day is a history-making day. On this day, the long and tireless struggle of the Muslims was sealed for freedom. He said that Independence Day is a message of unity, solidarity, peace and equality which is the central philosophy of the thoughts and ideas of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The Kingdom of God is the fruit of the constitutional struggle of our forefathers, which is the guarantee



of our bright tomorrow Muhammad Zubair Rabbani said that today is the day of renewal of the pledge that we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the promotion of our culture and high traditions and values and for the integrity of the country.

He said that the duty of guarding the nation has now been imposed on the new generation, for which they have to work on the reconstruction of the beloved country according to the teachings of the Quaid-i-Azam and the spirit of true freedom.

ICMA chief says young students have to play their role for Pakistan's development



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman of Institute of Cost Management and Accounts Multan Branch Muhammad Sajjad Aheer has said that the future development and prosperity of the young generation of Pakistan is the responsibility of all of us. Pakistan is the fruit of the eternal sacrifices of our ancestors. First of all, we have to give priority to Pakistan so that the dear country can develop twice as much day and night. Young students have to play their role to beautify Pakistan.

He expressed these views while speaking at the Institute of Cost Management and Accounts. Joint Director ICMA Samina Khan Kayani, Secretary Yusuf Siddiqui and Mirza Nadeem Baig said that today we have to pledge that we all have developed Pakistan together. I have to play my best role for the development of Pakistan, all institutions have to work together, for its development patriotic leadership is needed. Should be presented

Muhammad Shahbaz, Miss Ariba, Miss Fawzia and other students also addressed the ceremony. Members, families and children presented songs. Prizes were distributed among the students who took positions at the end. The cake was cut and the flag was unfurled. Prayers were offered for the martyrs.

Govt of Punjab has implemented Zero Tolerance Policy for Prevention of Environmental Pollution: Amir Khattak



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak has said that the government of Punjab has implemented a zero tolerance policy for the prevention of environmental pollution. said that civil society and stakeholders should also be involved in the campaign against smog. He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the Divisional Environment Committee at the Commissioner's Office. In the meeting, new petrol pumps, cold storage and wear Various cases were approved including House,

Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak while addressing the meeting said that all government departments should complete the NOCs of petrol pumps on merit in time line so that progress can be made on cases for violation of SOPs of infrastructure and master plan in new cases. Strict action will be taken. Commissioner Multan said that the process of transferring kilns to zigzag technology should be accelerated throughout the division, while the maps of commercial buildings and parking areas will also be fully scrutinized. On this occasion, Deputy Director Environment.

DC should directly monitor the health and education sectors: Amir Khattak



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak has said that the practical model of good governance is being implemented throughout the division to give relief to the people. The Deputy Commissioners should directly monitor the health and education sectors in their districts. Express these views. He presided over the divisional meeting held at the commissioner's office yesterday. The deputy commissioners of the four districts and the heads of the district departments participated in the meeting. Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak said that due to the recent weather, there is a risk of breeding of dengue larvae. has increased. 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. Earlier, the heads of the concerned departments also gave a detailed briefing on their performance on video link.

Women play their important role development of Pakistan: Rizwana Tabasum



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chairperson of Multan Annovirle Club District 340 Mrs Rizwana Tabsum Durrani has said that women have to play their role in the development of Pakistan. If the enemy exists, nothing can spoil it. Millions of Muslims gave their lives to build it. But we need Quaid-e-Azam and Fatima Jinnah. We can take Pakistan towards development by following their golden principles. She expressed these views while addressing the Independence Day ceremony yesterday.

And this is possible only with women's hard work, love and dedication. Secretary Zaida Sohail, Vice Chairman Rizwana Malik, Shamailla Shaukat, Saima Ejaz, Larib Shaukat, Dr. Manal Siddiqui, Tania Abidi and others also addressed the event. National songs were presented and in the end, prayers were offered for the security and stability of Pakistan and the cake was cut.

Work, Work & Work demanded Unity, Faith & Discipline Honestly

MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: Institutional development needs collective support phenomena said Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt.

Remembering the millions of sacrifices of our soldiers makes us active & alert to secure, said Engineer Mohammad Azim Randhawa.

Dedication with the patients enhances improvement of the hospitals, said Anjam Iqbal Butt.

According to the details, Mujahid Hospital Faisalabad held a grand ceremony on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of Pakistan in which a large number of the citizens including the employees of the hospital participated.

On the occasion Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt and other guests of honor Eng. Muhammad Azim Randhawa, Saqib Farooq Butt, Muhammad Zubair Latif, Muhammad Salim Randhawa were also present while the ceremony

was presided over by Anjum Iqbal Butt, Dr. Shafqat Javed, Dr. Khalid Fakhar, Haji Muhammad Sulaiman, Yusuf Gul Paracha. Engineer Mohammad Azeem Randhawa & expressed his views that the establishment of Pakistan is the result of the eternal sacrifices and tireless struggle of the Muslims of the subcontinent. We should value it and make every possible effort at the individual and collective level for its development and stability. Further, he expressed his views and said that the country we got includes the sacrifices of the elders and women. He presented the vision of blood and life and wealth to the country which has so many eternal sacrifices in its foundation. The foundation of the country should be strengthened. On this occasion, the special guest Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt addressed the audience and said that today is the day of renewal of the pledge, on the day of independence we should give thanks

to our forefathers who did unexpected hallmark. We are the residents of a free and dignified country. Living a free life with beliefs. He further said that today we have to remember the millions of sacrifices of our soldiers, thanks to which Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as a separate independent Islamic state. Collectively using all our abilities to make the country great, make it extraordinary, and will give it a prominent place in the world. Let's commit that in all kinds of situations we will face the troubles and problems collectively because we are a united nation and when troubles and trials come upon the nations, they face it together bravely.

Professor Mehboob Butt said that the current situation of our country requires us to work for our country and nation by using all our best abilities because our future is related to the development, integrity & prosperity of our country. He further said



that on the occasion of today's Eternal Sacrifice Day, all concerned & Mujahid Hospital's Doctors, Hods, Ard Boy's Ward Ayas and Sanitary Workers will perform their duties with more hard work and dedication for the improve-

ment of the hospital and to take it to further stages of development to ease the troubled people. Undoubtedly If the institutions are strong then the country will develop on real track. They pointed out that Mujahid Welfare Coun-

cil Patron-in-Chief Prof. Mahbub-ul-Zaman Butt always expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers and said that the people of Pakistan are standing by their side in the struggle for the legitimate rights of Kashmiris. Further Rana Amjad Hussain Amjad, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Khan, Muhammad Imtiaz, Muhammad Shafiq Irfan Yasin, Muhammad Shahzad, Shahzeb Alam, Muhammad Jawad Rashid Sattar, Abu Bakr Muhammad Ashfaq, Ali Raza, Muqrab Khalil, Muhammad Salman, Muhammad Hasnain Waraich, Zahida Nazir were appreciated for best annual performance. Distribution of cash prizes among Ward Boys, Ward Ayas and Sanitary Workers were given. Earlier, all the participants of the event offered dua after unfurling the flag under the patronage of Mujahid Welfare Council Prof. Mehboobuzaman Butt. Later, sweets were distributed among the participants of the event.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:58 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:58 pm
Maghrib 6:55 pm
Isha 8:25 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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

PAC holds Musical night 'Mera Pakistan'

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A musical night "Mera" was organized in Punjab Arts Council to celebrate Pakistan Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the chief guests of the musical night. While addressing the ceremony Waqar Ahmad said that the folk songs of Punjab have their unique place in the culture of the whole country, in which the traditions, simplicity and sincere love of the people of Punjab are hidden. The artists of Punjab have preserved their folk songs, their tunes and unique tone in a rich way and today's young generation is also benefiting from this. Punjab Arts Council is also playing a significant role in promoting the culture of other provinces and federal units. Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman said that the identity of any nation is its civilization and culture and those nations prosper which are connected to their culture. Punjab Arts Council is providing a platform to the youth in the fields of drama, music, fine arts and literature and this program is also a link in the same series. In the musical night, Sonia Azeem, Dr. Mubashir Hafeez, Rizwana Khan, Ishaq Malik Ghorri, Samina Khalid and Rameez Ishaque created the magic of their voices and received a standing ovation from the audience. The singers presented beautiful songs from all four provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. During the musical night, the hall of the Arts Council was packed with fans.

Peace and development in South Asia linked Kashmir dispute: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that lasting peace and development in South Asia was inescapably linked to the settlement of the long running Kashmir dispute that has now assumed dangerous proportions. In his special statement, the AJK premier said that the Kashmiris on both sides of the line of control (LoC) and the world over have observed India's independence day as a black day, as a mark of protest against its illegal and forcible occupation of their motherland.

He said that the Kashmiris have yet again proved that they don't accept India's illegal control over the territory. While voicing his serious concerns over the devastating impacts of the long-drawn conflict on the lives of Kashmiri people, the PM said that it was quite unfortunate that the long outstanding issue pending on the UN agenda was still hanging over and the Kashmiri nation's future hung in balance for the past seventy-six years.

Referring to the dangerous dimensions of the long-drawn conflict, he said that it



was high time that the United Nations must take practical steps to implement its resolutions on Kashmir.

He said that despite using all possible means of oppression and suppression, India has not been able to suppress the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self determination guaranteed to them by the world community.

Terming the Kashmir issue as an internationally recognized dispute, the PM said, "Illegal actions of the Indian government

took on and after August 5, 2019 cannot change the disputed status of the Kashmir issue". India, he said, cannot impose its will on Kashmiris. "Kashmiris will continue their struggle till they achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's occupation".

The PM said that the world community must realize the fact that peace and stability in South Asia would remain a distant dream if Kashmir was left unaddressed he warned.



ISLAMABAD: M. Tahir Khan, Tasleem and others cutting the cake on the occasion of Independence Day.

KORT and Pakistan Army 64 Brigade Artillery distributed sewing machines



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir's well-known welfare organization KORT and Pakistan Army 64 Brigade Artillery distributed sewing machines to institutions located in Muzaffarabad under the auspices of TEVTA. In this regard, a grand function was organized in which Secretary/Chairman TEVTA Razzak Ahmed Nadeem was the chief guest. Army officers and soldiers, the presidents of the vocational training centers in Muzaffarabad district participated the ceremony. TEVTA is playing a role in imparting vocational training to men and women across Azad Kashmir. With technical and vocational education, TEVTA is active in making educated youth skilled through training. 64 Major of Artillery, Mr. Viji Ul Hasan, while addressing the event, said that the Army should play a role in providing facilities to TEVTA institutions throughout Azad Kashmir. Zahid Ali Qamar and president of Education VTC Tariq Abad Musrat Rasheed also addressed the event. At the end of the ceremony, Chairman TEVTA and Major Rabia Hassan distributed the machines among the President of Vocational Education.

Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference are shouting slogans during protest outside Foreign Office to commemorate Indian Independence Day as Black Day because of their oppressor attitude with the innocent citizens of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Digital Cooperation Organization announces the launch of the Digital Prosperity Awards

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) today announces the launch of the highly anticipated Digital Prosperity Awards to honor and celebrate the remarkable digital contributions that enable prosperity for all, particularly in advancing the digital economy, which has a critical role in boosting nations' development and growth.

The Digital Prosperity Awards are structured around three core pillars and each pillar is bestowed in individual

award categories, each representing a crucial aspect of digital advancement. The three core pillars are: Digital Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Empowering Society.

"The launch of the Digital Prosperity Awards is a significant milestone in recognizing outstanding digital contributions of the organizations that enable prosperity for all", said Ms. Deemah AlYahya, the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO). "We are looking forward to identifying the best digital innovators from

the DCO's Member States and worldwide that benefit humankind."

Ms. AlYahya added, "The awards aim to acknowledge exceptional initiatives in adopting best practices, policies, and strategies to accelerate digital transformation in their respective countries. The objective is to accelerate digital economic advancement and lay the groundwork for constructive cooperation, cultivating shared vision and aspirations among all stakeholders.

In each category, there will be a winner from the public

sector and another from the private sector or civil society, both exclusively representing DCO Member States. Those victorious from the private sector or civil society will be eligible for the DCO Member Prize for Digital Prosperity for All. Additionally, there will be one finalist from global civil society for each category which is open to nominations from the public, and the ultimate recipient will be handed the DCO International Prize for Digital Prosperity for All.

To learn more about the award categories and the nomi-

President of Pakistan confer the Hilal-i-Imtiaz to Raja Naem

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The President of Pakistan is pleased to confer the Hilal-i-Imtiaz upon Raja Naem Akbar in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the successful settlement of the billion dollars Reko-Diq dispute. As Federal Law Secretary he remained instrumental in handling litigation related to Reko-Diq and has also represented the Government of Pakistan at different forums. He played a vital role in concluding successful negotiations and helped to boost the confidence of foreign investors by extending assurances to the foreign company regarding their investment.



Raja Naem Akbar matchless contributions and professional legal services proved to be instrumental in the resolution of the long-standing Reko-Diq dispute, which could have caused significant financial loss to the national exchequer of Pakistan. His dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the negotiations process, litigation related issues as well as the effective representation before the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Cabinet helped to make sure that the settlement agreement was fair, transparent and beneficial for all parties involved therein.

The President of Pakistan extends his heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Raja Naem Akbar on this well-deserved honor, and acknowledges his outstanding service to the Nation.

Finale of National Music Competition 'JeetayGa Pakistan' held at Radio Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Grand Finale of National Music Competition 2023 "JeetayGa Pakistan" under the aegis of Radio Pakistan was held at National Broadcasting House in Islamabad, radiating an air of excitement and celebration.

Fariyal Amber from Faisalabad clinched the first position, followed by HafsaH Nadeem from Multan in the second place and Ahmed Niazi from Rawalpindi in the third position.

Director General Radio Pakistan Tahir Hassan gave away prizes and certificates to the winners.

The top spot was awarded a handsome prize of one hundred thousand rupees, while the second and third place holders received seventy-five thousand and fifty thousand rupees, respectively. Twenty five thousand rupees each were given to other participants.

The competition's core objective was to provide a platform for young talent to shine, aligning with the vision of Director General Radio Pakistan, Muhammad Tahir Hassan.

Speaking at the event, DG Radio Pakistan Tahir Hassan highlighted the ongoing efforts to equip the national broadcaster with cutting-edge technology and innovation. He emphasized that the music competition is a manifestation of the efforts being made to harness the potential of the youth in the realm of music. Tahir Hassan underlined the unifying power of music, saying it fosters connections that transcend diverse communities and bridges gaps.

Our mission is to provide affordable, quality and modern living to every Pakistani: Sheikh Tayyab

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nation celebrate their independence day with glory, today we should pledge that we will work with dedication and honesty for our country. CEO Mega City and Al Aziz Builders Sheikh Tayyab Zahid said this while addressing the ceremony on the occasion of Pakistan's 76th anniversary. He said real estate industry is playing an important role in providing economic development, promoting environmental construction, and providing employment opportunities in country. Our aim is to ensure affordable, quality and modern housing to every Pakistani. Despite the economic conditions, we are determined to make education, health and employment common in this country.

Roots International Schools celebrates Independence Day at Wellington Campus

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Roots International Schools and Colleges, Wellington Campus, proudly celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event was graced by the honorable presence of H. E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan, who served as the chief guest for the ceremony.

The day commenced with the stirring sight of the national flag being hoisted by H. E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula, accompanied by the resonant strains of the national anthem.



The moment was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave heroes of the past and an acknowledgment of the continued efforts to build a prosperous nation.

The celebration was marked

by various activities that reflected the spirit of unity and dedication to the nation. A plantation drive was undertaken by the chief Guest and students, symbolizing the commitment to environmental conservation

and the growth of the country. Following this, a cake-cutting ceremony took place, signifying the sweet harmony that can be achieved through collective efforts and unity.

One of the highlights of the event was the recognition of academic excellence. H. E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula presented shields to the high achievers of the Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) May June 2023 examinations. This acknowledgment not only honors the exceptional achievements of the students but also reflects the commitment of Roots International Schools and Colleges to nurturing academic brilliance.

Speaking on the occasion,

H. E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula expressed his delight in being a part of the celebrations and praised the students and faculty for their dedication and passion. He emphasized the importance of education and encouraged the youth to continue striving for excellence while maintaining a strong connection to their cultural heritage.

The event at Roots International Schools and Colleges, Wellington Campus, was a resounding success, fostering a sense of unity, patriotism, and academic achievement among the students and faculty. The ceremony served as a reminder of the value of independence and the collective responsibility to uphold and cherish it.

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History Counts Victories....

In order to evaluate and draw conclusions about the events of an era or period in history, it is necessary to look at its background and the events that preceded it and its effects, because each era was a product of the period that preceded it. Unless it is understood, the vision cannot be realized. For example, to understand the India of 2023, an unbiased but in-depth study of the psychology and mentality of India of 1947 is necessary, from which this era was born and which inherited the traditions and values of that era. Thus, when a society does something collectively, its reaction is not only on the present but it also affects the coming times and the course of events. Every generation makes decisions under the influence of needs and psychology. A philosopher once said, "One age's wisdom is another age's folly." This fact can also be hypothesized in the opposite context.

In the present era, the Pakistan Army is paying special attention to agricultural reforms to improve the country's economy and the campaign to make uninhabited and deserted areas arable is being accelerated. When our country becomes self-sufficient in agriculture, the wheel of its industry will also turn faster and we will get the achievements in the agricultural sector that have been dreamed of many times but could not be realized in changing governments. Focusing on defense along with the national economy is very important for the country. Let us turn back the pages of the past and see how many bright examples our ancestors and our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) left for the Ummah in these two areas, following which the non-Muslims nations set the ladder of development. In this regard, there is a great argument from the recent history in the following incident, which the readers will be aware of the truth after reading.

It was 1973, war was about to break out between Arabs and Israel. In such a situation, an American senator came to Israel for an important job. He was the head of the arms committee. He was immediately taken to Israel's first female prime minister, Golda Mayer. Golda Mayer welcomed the senator like a housewife and took him to her kitchen. Here she made the American senator sit on a chair near a small dining table and put water for tea on the stove and sat there herself. She started trading cannons, planes and missiles with him. She smelled the tea brewing, she got up quietly and put a cup of tea in two cups in front of the senator and handed the other one to the American guard standing at the gate, then sat down on the table again and spoke to the American senator. After a few moments of negotiation and exchange, the terms were settled. Meanwhile, Golda Mayer got up, folded the bowls and washed them, turned back to the senator and said, "I agree to this deal. You send your secretary to my secretary for written agreement."

It should be remembered that Israel was suffering from an economic crisis at that time, but how "simply" Golda Mayer made such a big deal for the purchase of arms in the history of Israel. Surprisingly, the Israeli cabinet itself rejected this huge deal, they were of the opinion that after this agreement, the Israeli nation will have to be satisfied with one meal a day for years. Golda Mayer listened to the cabinet members and said, "Your fears are correct, but if we win this war and we force the Arabs to retreat, history will declare us the victors, and history declares a nation victorious. When history declares a nation victorious, it forgets

how many eggs the victorious people had eaten during the war and how many times they had eaten daily, whether there was honey, butter, jam on their table or not, and how many holes were in their shoes or old ones torn by their swords. The winner was only the winner."

Golda Mayer's argument had weight, so the Israeli cabinet had to approve the deal. The coming time proved that Golda Mayer's action was correct and then the world saw the Jews knocking on the doors of the Arabs with the same weapons and ships. The war broke out and the Arabs lost a shameful defeat to an "old woman". (It is also a strange fact that two women had a hand in dividing the Muslim Ummah into pieces in the 20th century, i.e. Golda Mayer in exterminating the Arabs and Indra Gandhi in defeating the Muslims of Ajam.)

Shortly after a long period, a correspondent for the Washington Post interviewed Golda Mayer and asked, "Did the argument that came to your mind for buying American arms come to you immediately or did you have a pre-planned strategy?" Golda Mayer's response is shocking. She said, "I took this reasoning from the Prophet (Muhammad) of our enemies (Muslims). When I was a student, the comparison of religions was my favorite subject. In those days, I read the biography of Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). In that book, the author wrote at one place that when Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) passed away, there was not enough money in his house to buy oil to light the lamp, so His wife Ayesha (Sadiqah) bought oil by pledging His armor, but even at that time, nine swords were hanging on the walls of the room of Muhammad (PBUH). When

I read this incident, I thought how many people in the world would know about the poor economic condition of the first state of Muslims, but Muslims are the conquerors of half the world, the whole world knows, so I decided even if I and my nation have to starve for years, live in tents instead of solid houses, we will still buy weapons, prove ourselves strong and get the honor of the victor."

Golda Mayer concealed this fact but at the same time requested the interviewer to keep it "off the record" and not publish it. The reason was that using the name of the Prophet of Muslims (Muhammad) where people could be against her would strengthen the position of the Muslims of the world, so the correspondent of the Washington Post deleted this incident. Then time passed slowly until Golda Mayer died and the interviewer also withdrew from practical journalism. Meanwhile, another reporter was interviewing twenty major reporters in the United States. In this regard, he started interviewing the same reporter who had interviewed Golda Mayer as a correspondent for the Washington Post. In that interview, he also narrated the incident of Golda Mayer, which was related to the Prophet's biography. "He now feels no shame in narrating the incident," he said. Golda Mayer's interviewee added, "When I studied the history of Islam after this incident, I was amazed at the war tactics of the Bedouin Arabs because I learned that Tariq bin Ziyad, who had conquered Gibraltar) had conquered Spain by way of more than half of his army's mujahids did not have full clothing, they spent 72 hours on a glass of water and a few pieces of dry bread. This was the occasion when Gold Mayer's interviewer was convinced that "History counts victories, not eggs, jam and butter on the table...."

Writer is senior analyst.



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

Chinese enterprises participation in Karachi expo

The Chinese enterprises showed great interest in the diverse Pakistani products at the recently concluded first International Food and Agriculture Exhibition in Karachi and expressed willingness to do business with local companies injecting essential momentum into Pakistan's efforts to enhance exports to China, said Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir on Tuesday.

"It was a wonderful event wherein we were able to arrange many business-to-business meetings between the Chinese and local manufacturers and they were very excited to see the diversity of outstanding products during the expo," he told APP here.

Ghulam Qadir led a delegation of around 110 Chinese representatives from Beijing and neighboring provinces at expo.

This year's theme of the exhibition was Growing a Sustainable Future, and the expo brought international and local communities together to generate hope for building a common future.

A large number of the Chinese seafood and grain associations participated in the exhibition after the signing of the protocols for meat, chili, and other products.

The commercial counsellor said that the expo was very well arranged by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the response of the Chinese businessmen is very encouraging.

"Chinese are very happy and they want to do business. The prices are competitive. The products range is very good. Diversity is there and so I think we have a lot of export prospects," he added.

He informed that the Chinese enterprises wanted to import rice, sesame, sesame oil, and meat from Pakistan which will help increase our exports to China.

A number of Chinese companies were wanting to visit meat factories and some of them have shown interest in high-quality chili.

Responding to a question, he said that the Chinese delegations have held very important meetings in Karachi and they were very satisfied to explore new opportunities and make smooth strategic alliances.

It also provided an opportunity for the Chinese delegation to explore partnerships with local businesses and build strong relationships with Pakistani customers.

In addition, this event was a great opportunity for these companies to tap into new markets and gain greater market share in the country," he added.

Are we experiencing a phase of intellectual obscurity in the Muslim world? - II

The challenge of not incorporating philosophy and history is evident in the hesitance to effectively address religious concerns regarding scientific concepts. Imported science curricula frequently lack comprehensive treatment of contentious ideas like Darwin's theory of evolution, resulting in a shallow and fragmented approach.

Another noteworthy hurdle pertains to the medium of instruction. Frequently, especially within university-level science subjects, English is the language of instruction. However, only a minority possess the necessary proficiency to fully comprehend the content presented in a non-native language, leaving many individuals grappling with significant loss of information. Apart from the content and language of instruction – two considerable concerns within the Islamic world – the way science and mathematics are taught is equally crucial. With limited exceptions, science curricula in Muslim-majority universities often lean towards extensive topic coverage rather than fostering a profound comprehension of scientific principles, the thought processes of scientists, and effective problem analysis.

Presently, there is a global consensus emphasizing the necessity of incorporating evidence-based practices for innovative pedagogy in science education. Traditional

lecture-style teaching, known for encouraging rote memorization and stifling innate creativity and curiosity of students, is being challenged. Inquiry-based science education (IBSE) is gaining prominence and attempts are being made in various Muslim nations to introduce these methods into classrooms. However, universities in the Muslim world still lag their counterparts in developed nations, which are actively pioneering novel approaches for teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Numerous factors contribute to this

deficiency in faculty competence. However, at a grassroots level, endeavors are being undertaken, often without substantial government backing, to promote inquiry-based science education among younger students and the public. Pakistan, for example, hosts various organizations such as Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Buraq Planetary Society, Khwarizmi Science Society (KSS), and

Pakistan Science Club, all actively engaged in advancing this cause through activities like science fairs, astronomy events, and interactive sessions. Addressing the notion of relevant and adaptive science, it

has been a prevalent understanding, often grounded in empirical evidence, that the scientific progress in the Muslim world, encompassing research publications, patent innovations, scholarly citations, etc., has historically lagged global benchmarks. Several Muslim nations are adopting the strategy of swiftly importing foreign universities to conduct cutting-edge research rooted in local challenges. Initiatives like the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia, Masdar Institute in the UAE, and American university campuses in Qatar's Education City exemplify this approach, showing some success albeit with ongoing sustainability concerns. However, these ventures are costly and thus

inaccessible to most OIC member countries. More modest, internally developed efforts aimed at establishing globally competitive yet contextually relevant research programs are evident at institutions like Pakistan National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Aga Khan University (AKU), and Iran Sharif University of Technology.

Thus, establishing universities capable of fulfilling these ambitious aspirations requires a fundamental transformation. Universities must

embody meritocracy by attracting and retaining top-tier faculty through incentives, thereby creating an environment that sustains intellectual vigor and engagement. The greatness of the historical Muslim Golden Age of science was rooted not solely in the scientists' attributes, but in a society that upheld rationality, inquiry, doubt, and above all, merit. Therefore, the objective of science education and the university endeavor should transcend impact factors and rankings, aiming to cultivate a society that values skepticism, reason, curiosity, and merit. Since universities serve as both microcosms and incubators of future scientists, engineers, and citizens, their role in championing these values is paramount. Achieving this transformation requires comprehensive reengineering, granting autonomy, measuring and rewarding the right outcomes, and shifting the focus from quantity and superficial targets to quality and genuine merit. Universities must prioritize recruiting exceptional faculty, nurturing impactful scientific careers, and empowering graduates with the values and skills necessary to excel in an intricate and competitive world.

Concluded
 The writer is a student in the school of Politics and International Relations at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. She can be reached at sarwar_malaika18@gmail.com



Malaika Sarwar

Supreme Court Strikes Back with Vengeance - II

The government amended Section 232 of the Election Act of 2017 to reduce the maximum period of disqualification from life to five years for any lawmaker who is disqualified by a court or the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). This was done in order to overturn the supreme court's earlier decisions of lifelong disqualification from public office and ten-year ban on Nawaz Sharif running for office. The amendment reads, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, any other law for the time being in force and any judgement, order or decree of any court, including the Supreme Court and a high court, the disqualification of a person to be elected, chosen or to remain as a member of the Parliament or provincial assembly under paragraph (f) of clause (1) of Article 62 of the Constitution shall be for a period not exceeding five years from the declaring of the disqualification."

The most significant beneficiaries of this amendment were Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen, who had exhausted all legal resources to overturn their convictions and had been disqualified for life.

We may also see announcements in the coming days on many other matters pending before the Supreme Court on key national concerns, such as the decision to keep military tribunals, which no longer has the backing of the parliament or the administration.

This decision has completely altered the game. The players, both formal and informal, will now have to reshuffle their power pieces on the political chess board. All political parties' strategies will be rewritten.

The PML(N) will have to rethink their electoral plan in the absence of their primary power

broker, Nawaz Sharif.

PTI will redraw its chess pieces with whatever little power pieces it has, but without its Queen, Mr. Imran Khan, who will be imprisoned in Attack Jail or any other high security jail. Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who was shockingly freed from jail without making any public statements against the PTI and in support of the army, and who seemed to have struck some type of tacit arrangement, is likely to steer the shattered party according to the script.

PPI will be forced to compete for office without Mr. Tareen, which will sap any drive from him to spend his riches and energy and delegate control to some of his cronies.

The PPP will benefit from the result of this ruling. It has both King Asif Ali Zardari and Queen Bilawal out in the open to plan and run their election campaign without any towering personalities to oppose them.

However, for the smaller parties, this choice may be of little relevance or effect. They will wait for the winner and then conveniently join him to enjoy the power, which is normally more than their representation in parliament.

After Tareen is out of the race, the Establishment, which now has a far larger interest in whichever government comes to power as the main brain and driving force beyond SIFC, will have to carefully choose the successor and will now be thinking about betting on the best horse in the race.

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)).



Qamar Bashir

Xi makes instructions on China's first National Ecology Day

Xinhua

HANGZHOU: Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged the whole society to vigorously promote and act as role models in practicing the concept that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the instructions as the country marks its first National Ecology Day on Aug. 15.

Ecological conservation is of vital importance for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation, Xi said, calling it a major political issue that concerns the mission and purpose of the CPC as well as a major social issue that bears upon public wellbeing.

On the new journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects, efforts should be made to maintain strategic resolve in advancing ecological progress and promote high-quality development in sync with



high-standard protection, Xi said.

With a focus on carbon peak and carbon neutrality, the country should facilitate the gradual transition from dual control over the amount and intensity of energy consumption to dual control over the amount and intensity of carbon emissions, Xi noted.

Efforts should be made to promote the transition towards green and

low-carbon production methods and lifestyles, and accelerate the advancement of modernization featuring harmony between humanity and nature to build a Beautiful China in all respects, Xi said.

He called for concrete and constant efforts across the society to make greater contributions to jointly build a clean and beautiful world.

Xi's instructions were conveyed

by Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, at the opening ceremony of an event marking National Ecology Day held Tuesday in Huzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province.

Addressing the ceremony, Ding stressed the significance of building a Beautiful China, and called for more efforts to create a high-quality ecological environment to support high-quality development and accelerate the advancement of modernization featuring harmony between humanity and nature.

Ding urged grasping Tuesday's event as an opportunity to deepen the public's understanding of Xi Jinping's thought on ecological civilization and improve people's awareness and behavior in protecting the ecological environment.

Lawmakers adopted a decision to designate Aug. 15 as National Ecology Day at the third session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress in June this year.

A protest on Black Day held in front of Indian Embassy in Brussels



Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmiri Council Europe (KC-EU) organized a protest demonstration to mark the "Black Day" on 15th August 2023 (Tuesday) in front of Indian Embassy in Brussels, the capital city of Belgium.

It is important to mention that Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the Indian Independence Day as "Black Day" on Aug 15 every year.

The protest gathering in Brussels was attended by a number of political and social organizations and other sympathizers of the oppressed Kashmiris. The participants of the protest were holding placards and banners having slogans in favor of the oppressed Kashmiris and against the Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir.

On the occasion of the demonstration, Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Mr Ali Raza Syed said, purpose of our protest is to raise our voice against Indian atrocities on Kashmiris. India is doing extreme atrocities on Kashmiris.

Chairman KC-EU Ali Raza Syed determined that the peaceful struggle for liberation of Kashmir would be continued.

IIUI holds flag-hoisting ceremony on Independence Day



International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Monday held a flag hoisting ceremony at New Campus of the university in connection with Independence Day celebrations, where President IIUI, H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and Sector Commander Panjnad Rangers, Islamabad, Brig. Shehryar Farouq Lodhi hoisted the Pakistani flag.

An organized squad of university guards was also present in the ceremony. H. E. Dr. Hathal Homoud said on the occasion that Pakistan came into existence due to prudent thoughts and untiring efforts of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and great thinker Allama Muhammad Iqbal. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have an immortal friendship and bilateral ties between the brethren countries are heart to heart. He maintained that unity and prosperity of Pakistan was unity and prosperity of Muslim world. President IIUI urged for Muslim unity and said that it was a need of hour. He stressed upon the educational institutions to nurture youth in best manner.

PSO celebrates Independence Day

KARACHI: PSO celebrated Pakistan's Independence Day at PSO's head office in Karachi. Managing Director and CEO, Syed Taha hoisted the national flag. To reaffirm our commitment for a greener Pakistan, tree saplings were planted. Company officials attended the event with great zest and zeal.



Photo: Online

'Interim Afghan Govt in Power-Two Years On'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) hosted a webinar titled "Interim Afghan Government in Power-Two Years On". The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers at the webinar included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Charge d'Affairs/ Minister Counselor, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Ms. Nargis Nehan, Former Afghan Minister of Mining and Petroleum, Ambassador Ayaz Wazir, Former Pakistani Diplomat, Dr Malick Ceasay, Head of Office, UNAMA Liaison Office, Islamabad, Ambassador Omar Samad, Nonresident Senior Fellow Atlantic Council and Mr. Adam Weinstein, Research Fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. The concluding remarks were given by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that completion of the two year since

Kabul's fall and the establishment of Interim Afghan Government's was an important juncture to take stock. He recalled the several unanticipated developments including short timeline of eventual U. S./NATO troop withdrawal, meek response of ANDSF to Taliban advances, and sudden departure of the then Afghanistan President that shaped the turn of events culminating in the transition of 15 August 2021. He underscored Pakistan's role in mobilization of international support for preventing a humanitarian crisis and crafting a regional response with Afghanistan's neighbors through the establishment of Six Neighboring Countries platform. He added that besides humanitarian assistance, unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets was pivotal for building a sustainable economy in Afghanistan. He noted that while territorial control had been established and security environment had improved, terrorist attacks by Daesh/ISKP had continued.

Ms. Amina Khan stated that initially, there was lack of clarity regarding the Taliban's return to power, but the

past two years have provided significant insights into the Taliban's approach, which can be described as a blend of authoritarian policies and pragmatism. Despite lacking formal recognition, the group has consolidated their position as the de facto and not de jure political authority.

Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb highlighted the Interim government's achievements in Afghanistan's security and economy. He noted a substantial 90% reduction in poppy production and highlighted the efforts regarding drug addicts rehabilitation, which included a vocational program for drug addiction recovery.

Ms. Nargis Nehan stressed the importance of an inclusive government, women's rights, and safeguarding minority rights for effective national functioning. She highlighted fundamental pre-transition institutions and urged stability through a Taliban-consensus framework, emphasizing women's education.

Ambassador Ayaz Wazir acknowledged the present peace in Afghanistan but expressed concern over human rights violations and women's education.



He proposed that a framework be established to effectively address the matter of co-education based on religious principles.

Dr. Malick Ceasay highlighted Afghanistan's evolving landscape with the Taliban's security efforts, curbing regional warlord influence and fostering local security. Despite UN and US

sanctions, he also acknowledged China's growing influence through diplomatic and economic collaborations.

Ambassador Omar Samad expressed that this juncture is crucial in Afghanistan's history, highlighting the impact on Afghan lives. He said that shared narratives involving all segments of society are essential, encompassing

security, stability, counterterrorism, women's education, and economic growth.

Mr. Adam Weinstein, while expressing his views, said that we need to work towards more sustainable solutions. While shedding light on some of the achievements of the Taliban, he said that the Taliban have managed the economy and infrastructure development. However, on the downside of things, he said that the ban on girls education and restrictions on their presence in work places have further plunged the Afghan women into isolation.

During the Q&A session further comments were made on the issues of security, counter-terrorism, recognition, role of Afghan diaspora, nature of the resistance front, and regional and international diplomacy.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood concluded by addressing Afghanistan's situation, noting achievements but acknowledging international concerns on human rights, terrorism, and inclusive politics. He urged constructive dialogue over static opposition.

Greetings to the People of India on their Independence Day celebration: Dr. Fai

News Desk

WASHINGTON: "India will celebrate its 76th Independence Day to commemorate its independence from colonial British Raj. We extend our warm greetings to the people of India on their Independence Day celebration. India certainly has the right to celebrate this historic day within its legal boundary. However, India persists in allying itself with a position that has no legal, moral or constitutional authority to celebrate this auspicious Day in occupied Kashmir which is not the integral part of its territory. In fact, under the international law, today, Kashmir does not belong to any member country of the United Nations. It is recognized by the United Nations as a

disputed territory whose future is yet to be decided by its people," this was stated by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum.

Dr. Fai added that it is a historical fact that the dispute over the status of Jammu & Kashmir can be settled only in accordance with the will of the people which can be ascertained through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite, internationally supervised. This was the common ground taken by both India and Pakistan. It was supported without any dissent by the United Nations Security Council—and prominently championed by the United States, Britain and France. These are not resolutions in the routine sense of the term.

Their provisions were negotiated in detail by the United Nations Commission with India and Pakistan, and it was only after the consent of both Governments was explicitly obtained that they were endorsed by the Security Council. They thus constitute a binding and solemn international agreement about the settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

"It is beyond any doubt that for more than 76 years, India has treated Kashmiris more like ink blots to be ignored than as human beings to be respected. Indian Government has betrayed most of its high-minded ideals in Indian occupied Kashmir that marked its entry into the family of nations after long years under the British raj; shocking human

rights violations, including more than 100,000 killings in the last three decades alone, torture, rape, mutilations, arson, plunder, abductions, arbitrary detentions, and draconian punishment for the exercise of peaceful political dissent; and, contempt for international law and binding self-determination resolutions of the United Nations Security Council," Fai observed.

Dr. Fai added that India's attempt to legalize its illegality rests on a bogus instrument of accession by a Hindu Maharaja, which the ruler had not authority to sign in any event. All that has been convincingly proven by British Scholar, that the Instrument was as bogus document An original has never been found, and

there is no plausible explanation for a disappearance if an original had ever existed.

India claims to be the largest democracy. The impartial and neutral agencies of the world testify that when it comes to Kashmir, India is nothing but an occupier. To quote Bertrand Russell, "The high idealism of the Indian government in international matters breaks down completely when confronted with the question of Kashmir."

The United Nations has the opportunity to affect a positive resolution to the conflict and resulting humanitarian situation by promoting the conditions of the original mandate. It is only through international recognition and inclusive representations

that a genuine and lasting peace can ensue. The risks of maintaining the status quo—for Kashmir, South Asia and the world—are too great to ignore.

Dr. Fai urged the community of nations to seize this opportunity to promote an initiative towards bringing about conditions necessary for settlement of the Kashmir dispute. The urgent necessity to help put the issue on the road to the settlement is: to demilitarize the area of conflict -- the State of Jammu & Kashmir -- through a phased withdrawal of the troops (including paramilitary forces) of both India and Pakistan from the area under their respective control.

Fai quoted US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield who said on MSNBC on July 31, 2023,

"What they (Russia) are doing undermines everything that the UN stands for. It undermines the Charter of the United Nations.' Doesn't Madam Ambassador know, Fai asked that India equally undermines everything that the UN stands for. India also undermines the Charter of the United Nations by refusing to fulfill its pledge given to the people of Kashmir -- right to self-determination. Doesn't the world community recognize such double standards? How is international credibility and trust engendered by such behavior?"

Dr. Fai is the Chairman, World Forum for Peace and Justice. He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6135. Or: gnfai2003@yahoo.com

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
48,565.75	48,424.40
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,794.12	48,293.02
Index Value	Change
7,160,974,067	+141.35
Percentage	Time
+0.29%	15 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,389.64	-117.51
Percentage	Time
-1.57%	15 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
35,037.39	-270.24
Percentage	Time
-0.77%	15 Aug, 1:26 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,238.89	+178.98
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	15 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	765.69	773.69
Canadian Dollar	224.8	227
China Yuan	39.71	40.11
Danish Krone	42.19	42.59
Euro	323.8	327
Hong Kong Dollar	36.82	37.17
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.94	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	935.78	944.78
Malaysian Ringgit	62.91	63.51
New Zealand \$	172.29	174.29
Norwegians Krone	27.53	27.83
Omani Riyal	747.77	755.77
Qatari Riyal	79.09	79.79
Saudi Riyal	79.25	80
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.66	26.96
Swiss Franc	328.12	330.62
Thai Bhat	8.17	8.32
U.A.E Dirham	82.25	83
UK Pound Sterling	375.25	379
US Dollar	299.1	302

Rs1 trillion should not be wasted on failed Govt enterprises: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Tuesday welcomed the Caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwar Haq Kakar, and said that the current price of electricity will never allow industry, trade, and the overall economy to flourish.

The cost of doing business is increasing due to the continuous increase in electricity prices; there is a continuous decline in output; and our manufacturers are not able to compete in the global market, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the high energy prices are closing businesses while the majority of people are unable to pay their bills.

Talking to the business community, the veter-

an business leader said that instead of increasing the price of electricity, reforms should be made in this critical sector.

Electricity should be made cheaper by getting rid of the 800 billion in line losses, theft, inefficiency, and defaults in this sector, he added.

The business leader noted that the solution of 71% capacity payments should be resolved and the production costs of industries should be reduced by providing cheap electricity during the winter.

Solar power should be given priority for cheap generation of electricity; this sector should be encouraged, as presently only 1.4% of electricity is generated by solar. In Australia, 15% of electricity is generated through solar power. Nine to 14 percent of electricity in Italy, Spain, and Germany is derived from solar resources.

For decades, the IMF has been assured by



the authorities to improve the power sector, but these promises have never been implemented, and the disastrous process of raising the price

of electricity has been considered the solution to all problems, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the governments blame the IMF for the increase in the price of electricity, while the IMF has never demanded an increase in the price of electricity but has always said that electricity, gas, or anything should not be sold cheaper than its cost of production because it creates a deficit that the government cannot bear and loans are taken for it, which is wrong.

The production cost of electricity in Pakistan is currently skyrocketing due to incompetence, corruption, and vested interests, which have ruined the power sector. It is hoped that the caretaker prime minister will implement the required reforms. While one trillion rupees per year has to be spent to artificially keep failed government institutions alive, a process that should be stopped.

Closed for new price

ISLAMABAD: A view of the closed fuel station at Sector G-8 as station authority closed it after the news of price hike of patrol once again in country.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Emirates cabin crew numbers cross 20,000 and counting

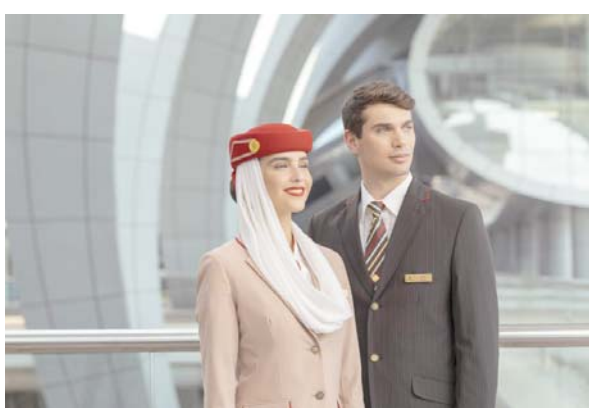
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: They say the journey is just as important as the destination and Emirates couldn't agree more. At the heart of its customer journey are exceptional cabin crew who deliver the airline's signature inflight experience at 38,000 feet.

Emirates' cabin crew team recently crossed a milestone and are now 20,000-strong, as the airline continues to recruit cabin crew globally to meet its planned growth trajectory.

Since 2022, the airline has hosted recruitment events in 340 cities across 6 continents - truly reflecting the diversity of its cabin crew team and the destinations it serves.

The instantly recognisable Emirates cabin crew uniform has undergone four transformations in three decades, including a design by the legendary Spanish designer Paco Rabanne in 1997. The airline has consistently kept the iconic beige, and the subtle modern tweaks have



stayed true to the elegant and classic style the uniform has echoed over the years.

Loving the flying - Emirates' long serving crew

Two cabin crew who've worn most of these uniform variations include the airline's longest serving cabin crew - a male Emirati purser who joined in 1987, and the longest serving female cabin crew, who joined the airline in 1994.

Moosa Mubarak, Emirati Purser and Emirates' longest serving cabin crew, said: 'I've

flown as Emirates' cabin crew for 36 years on over 3,500 flights. Even now, after all these years, I'm always keen and excited to start my duty onboard. Mentoring my crew colleagues and serving as an ambassador for Emirates and my country is what I am most proud of. I have had a long and successful career, incredible experiences and have made mind-blowing memories doing exactly what I love.'

Diverse cabin crew team, now 20,000 strong
In a diverse team represent-

ing over 140 nationalities with 130 languages spoken, and an office with views from 38,000 feet and different cities each week, the allure and ever-changing nature of the job continues to nurture and challenge Emirates' cabin crew to reach their full potential.

Many crew have long been a part of Emirates' growth story with over 4,000 crew serving between 5-9 years; close to 3,000 serving between 10-14 years; over 1,500 crew serving 15-19 years; and some 400 crew members having crossed the milestone of 20 years of service. Three crew members have been with the airline for more than 30 years.

Career progression opportunities for cabin crew include upgrading to a higher cabin, becoming a cabin supervisor, trainer or purser. Today the airline has over 1,100 pursers who have moved through the ranks from junior cabin crew, after successfully completing rigorous training and assessments.

'Careem Club' application launched exclusively for Captains

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Careem Pakistan, the leading ride-hailing and technology platform, announces the launch of an exclusive application designed specifically for its esteemed Captains. This revolutionary app, developed in collaboration with Vouch365 (the app's developer), offers an array of unbeatable benefits, empowering Captains with extraordinary savings and exclusive offers.

Available in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, the exclusive application brings forth a plethora of exciting features and enticing opportunities for Careem's top-performing Captains.

Commenting on this innovative launch, Imran Saleem, General Manager Ride Hailing at Careem stated, "Careem is thrilled to

present this exclusive application, tailored to reward our Captains for their outstanding dedication and service. This app is a testament to our commitment to supporting our Captains beyond their rides, ensuring they reap the benefits of their hard work and dedication. We are proud to empower them with extraordinary savings, exclusive offers, and opportunities to enhance their lives."

The exclusive application is set to elevate the captains' journey with Careem, enriching their daily experiences and contributing to their overall satisfaction and happiness. As Careem continues to revolutionise the transportation industry, the launch of this app reaffirms the company's commitment to nurturing a mutually beneficial relationship with its valued Captains.

ABHI and Lucky Textile Mills join hands to provide AbhiSalary to employees



City Desk

KARACHI: ABHI, a leading fintech company, has announced a groundbreaking partnership with Lucky Textile Mills, a renowned textile manufacturer, to provide AbhiSalary to its 5,000 employees. This collaboration aims to provide convenient access to advance salaries to LTML employees, showcasing the company's unwavering commitment to employee welfare.

AbhiSalary-Earned Wage Access allows employees to access a portion of their earned wages before their official payday, empowering

them with greater control over their finances. This service provides a safety net for unexpected expenses or emergencies, ensuring that employees can meet their financial obligations without resorting to expensive loans or incurring high-interest debts.

"ABHI is thrilled to join forces with Lucky Textile Mills to offer the service of earned wage access to their dedicated workforce," said Mr. Mohammed Zaidi, CCO of ABHI. "We understand the immense pressure individuals face due to financial constraints, and our mission is to provide them with the tools to achieve financial stability."

Implementation of GSP plus Conventions to help Pakistan enhance trade with EU countries - Belgium Envoy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Charles DELOGNE, Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan said that the implementation of GSP Plus conventions, especially labor rights, human rights and environmental protection would help Pakistan to further improve its trade with EU countries. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Abid Hussain, Trade Commissioner of Belgium Embassy also accompanied him on the occasion.

The Envoy said that Belgium is the 5th largest trading partner of Pakistan in the EU and it is interested to further

enhance cooperation with Pakistan in various sectors including trade, scientific research and education sectors. He said that the IMF agreement was key to Pakistan as it has provided more flexibility to it and added that Pakistan should ensure its implementation to save its economy from more problems. He said that PIA is in negotiations with the EU to reopen its flights and the start of PIA flights would facilitate Pakistan's trade promotion with EU countries. He said that Pakistani educated and skilled workers can directly apply to Belgium companies and his embassy is ready to facilitate them in signing employment contracts in case of their selection by Belgium companies.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan and Belgium enjoy cordial relations, but their bilateral trade of just over US\$ 1 billion is not matching with their actual potential. He said that both countries should promote business linkages between their private sectors to explore new areas of promoting bilateral trade. He said that Belgium can also cooperate with Pakistan in agriculture, food processing, IT, renewable energy and construction sectors. He said that Pakistan is establishing many special economic zones under CPEC and investors of Belgium should explore joint ventures and investment

in them. He assured that ICCI would like to work with the Belgium Embassy to further strengthen connectivity between private sectors of both countries.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF would address the balance of payment issues of Pakistan and stressed that Belgium should share its expertise in achieving better economic development with Pakistan to improve our economy.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that Pakistan has suffered huge human and economic losses due to being the frontline country against war on terrorism and EU countries should cooperate



with Pakistan in overcoming its current economic challenges.

Kashif Zaheer, Khalid Chaudhry, Aslam Khokhar, Ch. Irfan, Malik

Shabbir, Akbar Siddiqui Chughtai, Ms. Nagina Khaleeqe, Ms. Nasira Ali and others were also present on the occasion.

Match officials for Pakistan v South Africa women's series announced

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Muhammad Javed Malik and Ali Naqvi, both part of ICC International Panel of Match Officials and PCB Elite Panel of Match Referees will lead the playing control team in the six limited-overs matches between the national women's sides of Pakistan and South Africa in Karachi from 1 to 14 September. Also, for the first time in Pakistan, two female umpires Afia Amin and Saleema Imtiaz, who are part of PCB's Women's Panel of Umpires, have been included as reserve umpires in an international bilateral cricket series.

Saleema recently officiated women's exhibition matches in Rawalpindi. Addi-

tionally, both Afia and Saleema were part of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup in Hong Kong.

Three T20Is will be played at the National Bank Stadium from 1-4 September. This will be followed by the three ODIs, which are part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 and will be played from 8-14 September at the same venue. Meanwhile, the third T20I, which was originally scheduled to take place on 5 September, has been rescheduled and will now take place on 4 September. Faisal Afridi, Rashid Riaz and Tariq Rasheed will form the umpiring panel. Faisal and Rashid are part of PCB Elite Panel of Umpires and PCB match officials on the ICC International-

Panel. Tariq is part of PCB Elite Panel of Umpires.

The T20Is will begin at 1930 PKT, while toss will take place at 1900 PKT.

The first ball in the ODIs will be bowled at 1530 PKT. Umpire and match referee appointments (Matches from 1 to 14 September) 1 September – First T20I. Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz (on-field umpires), Tariq Rasheed (third umpire), Afia Amin (reserve umpire); Muhammad Javed Malik (match referee) 3 September – Second T20I.

Rashid Riaz and Tariq Rasheed (on-field umpires), Faisal Afridi (third umpire), Afia Amin (reserve umpire); Muhammad Javed Malik (match referee) 4 September – Third T20I. Faisal Afridi and Tariq Rasheed (on-field umpires), Rashid Riaz (third umpire), Afia Amin (reserve umpire); Muhammad Javed Malik (match referee) 8 September – First ODI. Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz (on-field umpires), Tariq Rasheed (third umpire), Saleema Imtiaz (reserve umpire); Ali Naqvi (match referee) 11 September – Second ODI. Rashid Riaz and Tariq Rasheed (on-field umpires), Faisal Afridi (third umpire) and Saleema Imtiaz (reserve umpire); Ali Naqvi (match referee) 14 September – Third ODI. Faisal Afridi and Tariq Rasheed (on-field umpires), Rashid Riaz (third umpire) and Saleema Imtiaz (reserve umpire); Ali Naqvi (match referee).

Babar Azam denies wedding rumours

A Sports

Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam on Tuesday, subtly denied the rumours regarding his wedding after the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup.

Social media went abuzz on Monday with the rumours of Babar Azam's wedding in November after the conclusion of the ICC Men's World Cup in India.

The rumour began to circulate when a local news channel reported that the Pakistan captain Babar Azam is set to tie the knot in November after the World Cup.

The news spread like wildfire, however, Saya Corporation, the management company of Babar Azam, laid the rumours to rest, calling them 'fake.'

"The earth-shattering news of Kaptaan Babar Azam's wedding in November is completely fake. In fact, this is a 'news' for even him and his family. Kindly avoid sharing the unverified news. Thank you," Saya Corporation posted on their X account.



Babar Azam then reposted the post from his X account and also shared the screenshot on his Instagram story to further confirm that he is not getting married anytime soon.

Babar Azam has a busy cricket schedule in upcoming months as he is currently playing for Colombo Strikers in the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) and will join the Pakistan squad in Hambantota to lead them

in the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan.

The three-match ODI series will be played on August 22, 24 and 26. The first two ODIs will take place in Hambantota, while the third game will be played in Colombo.

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

unbeaten in all.

Afterwards, Babar Azam will lead Pakistan in the Asia Cup, starting on August 30 at Multan Cricket Stadium. Pakistan will face Nepal in the curtain raiser.

After the conclusion of the Asia Cup, the national team will fly to India for the aforementioned ICC Men's World Cup, where Green Shirts will kick off their campaign against the Netherlands on October 6 in Hyderabad.

Pakistan's Hamza Amin wins golf championship

KARACHI: Overcoming the elements and a stiff challenge from European Tour winner Martin Wiegele, Pakistan's Hamza Amin — who is married to acclaimed actor Ushna Shah — claimed the Austrian National Open Golf Championship in Oberwaltersdorf, Austria, The News reported Tuesday.

Making the win more memorable, Hamza's father — the legendary Taimur Hassan — was on the bag as the golfer made a series of birdies to win the championship by two strokes on Monday.

With scores of 71, 70, 75, and 69 in challenging conditions, Hamza — representing Rumanza Golf Club — emerged on top with a fantastic back nine on Sunday, birdieing holes 11, 13, 15, and 17 to win by two shots.

"It's an amazing feeling to win the Open again, especially with my father on the bag. We created history and will have this memory forever. I was playing well but didn't have a good third round.

"Conditions were extremely difficult and the wind was blowing hard. Thankfully I birdied the 18th on Saturday to stay 2 behind and remain in the hunt.

"Psychologically, that birdie gave me good momentum heading into the final round. The putter was cold all day but I told myself to stay patient and keep at it. That's when I started holing putts and making birdies," he told The News.

Taimur, Pakistan's most celebrated amateur golfer, was over the moon.

"It was a wonderful experience to caddy for Hamza and be part of his victory. Great joy in the father and son combination," he said.

'It feels great to be praised by world-class Babar Azam,' Abdullah Shafique

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's batting prodigy Abdullah Shafique shared that he feels contented over being praised by captain Babar Azam but his focus remains on improving his performance.

Shafique, while talking to the media on the sidelines of the ongoing national team's training camp for the ODI series against Afghanistan and Asia Cup spoke highly of Babar Azam and called him "world-class" before revealing that he feels great on being praised by the Pakistan captain.

"Babar Azam is a world-class player, it feels great to be praised by him, however, the effort is to keep improving my performance," said Abdullah Shafique.

"I have shown good performances in PSL and Test, I am trying to perform well in ODIs," he added.

Abdullah Shafique, who has been a regular part of Pakistan's red-ball set-up, enjoyed remarkable success in the recently-concluded two-match away Test series against Sri Lanka while aims to carry his form in ODI cricket.

"Good form helps a player perform well, I have shown good performances in PSL and



Test cricket and I am trying to perform well in ODIs," he said.

"ODI cricket has changed now, and we try to play according to the plan," he added.

Abdullah Shafique has so far played only three ODIs and managed to score a mere 28 runs, contrasting his test cricket exploits, where he accumulated 1220 runs at an average of 50.83, including his maiden double hundred which came against Sri Lanka in the second Test.

Talking about facing India, he said: "The spirit is different against India, however, as players we focus on our performance."

Registration for ICC Men's World Cup 2023 ticket sales commences today



Sports Desk

DUBAI: The registration for the ticket sale for this year's ICC Men's World Cup in India has kicked off, the apex cricketing body announced on Tuesday.

Cricket fans across the globe are required to register before getting their hands on ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 tickets, to guarantee their attendance at the upcoming cricket extravaganza in India.

"Ahead of tickets going on sale, fans will have the opportunity to register their interest via <https://www.cricketworkcup.com/register> from 15 August [today]. This will enable them to receive ticket news first and help secure their spot at the World Cup, and experience the joy of cricket in one day," the ICC said in a statement last week.

The sale of tickets will commence on August 25, and conclude on September 15.

Tickets for the warm-up matches of the World Cup will be available for sale on August 25, while the tickets for the Pakistan-India clash will go on sale on September 3.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup tickets will be sold in phases and the dates for ticket sales are as follows:

25 August – Non-India warm-up matches and all non-India event matches

30 August – India matches at Guwahati and Trivandrum

31 August – India matches at Chennai, Delhi and Pune

1 September – India matches at Dharamsala, Lucknow and Mumbai

2 September – India matches at Bengaluru and Kolkata

3 September – India matches at Ahmedabad

15 September – Semi Finals and Final

The ICC Men's World Cup 2023 commences on Thursday, 5 October when 2019 finalists England and New Zealand clash at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, with the event culminating in the final at the same venue on Sunday, 19 November.

The tournament will be played in ten different venues – Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Dharamsala, Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow, Pune, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram in addition to Hyderabad will host the warm-up matches from 29 September to 3 October.

Pakistan's updated schedule for ICC Men's World Cup 2023:

October 6: Pakistan vs Netherlands, Hyderabad

October 10: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka, Hyderabad

October 14: Pakistan vs India, Ahmedabad

October 20: Pakistan – vs Australia, Bengaluru

October 23: Pakistan vs Afghanistan, Chennai

October 27: Pakistan vs South Africa, Chennai

October 31: Pakistan vs Bangladesh, Kolkata

November 4: Pakistan vs New Zealand, Bengaluru (Day match)

November 11: Pakistan – vs England, Kolkata

It is important to note that the day matches will commence at 10:00 AM Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while the day-night matches will start at 01:30 PM (PST).

Chris Woakes named ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2023

A Sports

DUBAI: Right-arm England pacer Chris Woakes got the reward for his sensational Ashes performance as he claimed the ICC Player of the Month award for July 2023.

Woakes overcame strong opposition from compatriot Zak Crawley and Netherlands' star all-rounder Bas de Leede for the coveted award on the back of his superb performances for England in the recently-concluded Ashes.

"It's very nice to have been voted ICC Men's Player of the Month for July," said Woakes in a statement released by the ICC.

"Everything we did in the Ashes was a team effort, and no individual awards would be possible without everyone else doing their job but it's always nice to be recognised, especially when it's a public vote," said Woakes about the honour.



Carmona's late stunner takes Spain into maiden Women's World Cup final

Sports Desk

Olga Carmona's stunning 89th-minute strike gave Spain a 2-1 win over Sweden on Tuesday to propel them into the Women's World Cup final for the first time in their history.

Spain's thrilling victory at Eden Park sets up a showdown in Sydney on Sunday with either Australia or England, who meet in the other Women's semi-final on Wednesday.

The last-four clash in Auckland seemed to be drifting towards extra time before suddenly bursting to life when substitute Salma Paralluelo put Spain ahead with nine minutes left.

Rebecka Blomqvist equalised for Sweden in the 88th minute only for full-back Carmona, Spain's captain, to score with a superb shot in off the underside of the crossbar from the edge of the box 60 seconds later.

"We are so proud of everything we have done and for getting to the final because now we are one small step away from glory," said Paralluelo.

It has been a remarkable run for a nation who had never previously gone beyond the last 16 at a Women's World Cup, and for a team who had been in disarray in the months leading up to the tournament.

Fifteen Spanish players told their federation last September that they no longer wished to be considered for selection, mainly out of unhappiness with coach Jorge Vilda, and only three of them returned for this Women's World Cup run.

While their dream of World Cup glory remains alive, Sweden are left with a familiar feeling after going so far at another major tournament before falling short.

This is the third time in four

Women's World Cups that they have reached the semi-finals, only to lose on each occasion.

Peter Gerhardsson's side also lost in the last four at the European Championship last year, having been beaten in the final of the Tokyo Olympics on penalties against Canada in 2021.

"Everyone just feels sadness and huge disappointment," said Gerhardsson, whose team had been so impressive in beating Japan 2-1 in the last eight.

"We were up against an excellent Spanish side and they were able to disrupt us a lot more than Japan did."

Vilda decided against handing a start to Paralluelo, after she came off the bench to score the winner in the quarter-final against the Netherlands.

Instead he recalled Alexia Putellas and the reigning Ballon d'Or winner started for the first time since Spain were walloped

4-0 by Japan in the group phase.

The plan was clearly to dominate possession and make a more physically imposing Sweden do the chasing.

Spain had far more of the ball in the first half but the closest they came to breaking the deadlock was from long range when Jennifer Hermoso laid the ball back to Carmona, whose shot whistled wide.

Sweden had taken the game to Japan in the quarter-finals but they offered next to nothing here until suddenly they almost struck three minutes before half-time.

Nathalie Bjorn sent a hanging cross from the right to the back post for Fridolina Rolfö — facing seven of her Barcelona club colleagues in the Spain starting line-up — but her side-foot volley was saved by Cata Coll.

Vilda's plan was clearly to save the pacy Paralluelo for when the



Swedish defence was tiring, and it was just before the hour mark that he turned to the former athlete.

Paralluelo replaced Putellas, who has still not completed 90 minutes at this World Cup as she continues to recover to full fitness following a serious knee injury.

The substitute's persistence

almost brought the opener for Spain with 20 minutes left as she stretched to keep the ball in play, but Alba Redondo turned her cutback wide.

Paralluelo then struck with nine minutes of normal time remaining, showing a killer instinct to lash a shot low into the corner.

Sweden drew level in the 88th minute thanks to two substitutes of their own.

Lina Hurtig had only just come on when she nodded down a cross for Blomqvist to fire home, raising the spectre of extra time.

But Carmona, the Real Madrid left-back, had other ideas as she clinched victory for Spain in style.