Barkat Rice Mills

First lady stresses need to raise awareness of breast cancer in women: seminar

The First Lady Pakistan Begum Samina Arif Alvi has said that fifty percent of the country's population consists of women, to encourage women to seek timely medical advice and to give up the misconceptions associated with breast cancer and to avoid this disease at large in the society... (Details on Page 3)



China, India hold Corps Commander Level meeting to resolve border issue

China and India held the 19th round of Corps Commander Leve emaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector, he said during his regular briefing held here.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharramul Haram 29, Thursday, August 17, 2023



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 128 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Addressed ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly raja Pervez Ashraf addressing Members of Parliamentary Reporters Association in Parliament House on Wednesday.

'General elections cannot be held in 90 days after census approval': NA Speaker

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said on Wednesday that the general elections cannot be held in 90 days after the 2023 census approval.

NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz again. Ashraf said in a statement that the 2023 census data.

Regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling, Ashraf clarified that to find possible solutions to the be allowed to contest elections

Orders law was not against the top court and it had not curtailed the apex court's powers. "It would be better if the Supreme Court (SC) reviewed the law."

The NA speaker said that the next assembly will review the law

stan (ECP) would announce the unsigned. He added that the election schedule after complet- PDM-led assembly carried out his return will be either by the ing the new delimitation under better legislature in a short peri-

He urged the stakeholders

the Review of Judgements and issues via political dialogues after fresh elections.

Yesterday, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) leader and former interior minister Rana Sanaullah said that the upcoming general elections will be held in February 2024.

Nawaz Sharif says. The date of party or Nawaz Sharif himself,

He said that all parties should

in the May 9 violence however it is not true that PML-N wants to remove the election symbol of PTI from the ballot paper.

On the other hand, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) central leader, Senator Raza Rabbani criti-The former interior minister cised that six days passed since He said that the president said that the nation will listen the dissolution of the National the Election Commission of Paki- had returned universities' bills only to what PML-N supremo Assembly, but the ECP has yet to announce elections

> 90 days' constitutional deadline within the period allowed by the for elections but regretfully the constitution, will bring serious Election Commission of Pakistan consequences for the federation," (ECP) has yet to issue a compre-

except those who were involved hensive statement on the election," Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator said.

"The ECP should inform about the time limit it required for fixing boundaries of constituencies after approval of the digital population census results," Raba-

"The election commission should not treat the issue as a routine matter," he emphasized "Time passes rapidly over the "The delay in holding elections Senator Rabbani cautioned.

SIFC to continue working uninterrupted for fast-track foreign investment: PM



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that the recently-instituted Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would continue to work as before to lay the foundations for fast-track foreign investments, particularly from Saudi Arabia. The prime minister, in a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, who called on him here, highlighted energy, infrastructure, agriculture, IT and manpower as potential sectors of cooperation.

The Saudi ambassador congratulated the prime minister on assuming office and conveyed best wishes and greetings on behalf of the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, as well as Crown Prince Mohammed and regional issues of common Bin Salman, and the people interest.

of Saudi Arabia. The prime minister said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed historic and deep-rooted ties. He thanked the Saudi government for its consistent support for Pakistan's economic stability and development. He particularly mentioned the large number of Pakistanis working in Saudi Arabia and requested the Saudi side to continue to extend all possible facilitation to them.

Prime Minister Kakar lauded the vision of the Saudi leadership and said that Saudi Arabia could always count on Pakistan as its trusted and reliable partner. Ambassador Nawaf reiterated that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were bound together in a fraternal relationship, which was characterized by mutual trust and understanding, and close cooperation on all bilateral

US looks forward to working with PM Kakar, his team: Vedant Patel



News Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States, noting the appointment of Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as Pakistan's interim prime minister, has reaffirmed its support in areas of mutual interest, including the conduct of free and fair elections, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said on Tuesday. Responding to a question from the correspondent of a private Pakistani television channel at his daily press briefing, the spokesperson said that the U.S. looks forward to working with the interim prime minister and his team. "We, of course, will continue to partner with Pakistan on areas of mutual interest, including our interest in Pakistan's economic stability, prosperity, and security, and the conduct of free and fair elections and the respect for democ-

IHC orders release of PTI's Shehryar Afridi, Shandana Gulzar

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday suspended PTI leaders Shehryar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar's arrest warrants under maintenance of public order (MPO) and ordered immediate release.

The IHC had earlier directed the authorities concerned to produce Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Shehryar Afridi and Shandana Gulzar before the court.

IHC Justice Babar Sattar heard the case as Afridi and Shandana Gulzar were produced



the court inquired whether Mr. Afridi has any house in Islamabad. "Yes, I have a residence in Islamabad," Afridi replied to IHC.

At this, the IHC ordered his release and prevented him from leaving Islamabad. The court also directed Afridi not to make statements on media and social media.

"No statement should be made on social media," IHC judge Sattar told Afridi.

Meanwhile, the court declared the deputy commissioner and SSP operations response to the show-cause notices issued to them as unsatisfactory. "DC and SSP operations will be charged in the next hearing," the IHC said.

Afridi was first arrested on May 16 from his Islamabad residence under Section 3 of the MPO Ordinance, 1960. He was rearrested on May 30 under the same section soon after his release from prison.

On August 3, Afridi was granted bail by the Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench but was later picked up by the police soon after his release from Adiala Jail.

It is pertinent to mention here that violent $% \left(t\right) =\left(t\right) \left(t\right) \left$ clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested from the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC)

PTI chairman booked for 'missing' cipher copy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) Counter Terrorism Wing has registered a case against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman for allegedly missing a copy of the diplomatic cipher. The FIA had registered the case against the former prime minister on Tuesday. The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the cipher case already will conduct the investigation.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing investigation into the cipher controversy, the former prime minister's principal secretary Azam Khan appeared before the joint investigation team at the FIA headquarters after he was summoned.

It is pertinent to mention here that Azam Khan, ex-principal secretary to the PTI chairman and former prime minister made startling revelations and claimed that the former PM used US cypher for his 'political gains' and to avert a no-confidence motion against him. Khan, who had earlier been "missing" since last month, suddenly appeared before the scene and made startling revelations about US cypher, while recording his statement under the CrPC 164 before a magistrate.

Looking forward to advancing trade, investment ties with **UAE: PM**



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said that he looked forward to working with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on advancing bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially trade, investment and energy. The prime minister, in a meeting with the UAE Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, who called on him here, expressed gratitude for the UAE's support for Pakistan's economic and financial stability.

The ambassador conveyed the greetings of the UAE leadership to the prime minister on his assumption of office. Prime Minister Kakar thanked the UAE government for the warm congratulatory messages and said that Pakistan and UAE enjoyed historic and deep-rooted fraternal ties.

He also wished the UAE success in hosting the COP28 Summit later this year. The prime minister also emphasized the important role played by the Pakistani diaspora in the UAE and sought the UAE government's contin-

Train, bus fares increased after petrol price hike

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The transporters and private sector on Wednesday increased the fares of passenger trains and buses in view of rising prices of petroleum products in

According to details, the increase in fares of passenger trains - Fareed Express and Shah Latif Express - by 9 percent came into effect immediately.

An official working at ticket counter stated that the fares have increased by 9pc already in their system. The train fare for Karachi to Lahore has been increased to Rs3.450.

Meanwhile, the intercity transporters have increased fares by up to Rs200 due to recent hike in petroleum prices.

The transporters increased the fare for Karachi to Larkana bus service by Rs100 to Rs1,500,

while Karachi to Shikarpur fare hiked by Rs200 to Rs1,600. Meanwhile, the fare for Karachi to Mehar increased by Rs100 to Pakistan Railways increases fares

Furthermore, Karachi to

Sehwan fare increased by Rs100 to Rs1,200, Karachi to Naseerabad fare increased by Rs100 to Rs1,400 and Karachi to Hyderabad fare increased by Rs100 to



LHC suspends condition of court's permission for **MPO** detention

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court on Wednesday suspended a single bench

decision over MPO 3 arrests. A division bench of the LHC in Rawalpindi suspended an earlier decision of the court's single bench, which had bound detentions under the MPO 3 with prior

permission of the court. The division bench

restored the deputy commissioner's authority to detain an individual at any time without any permission.

division bench comprised of Justice Jawad Hassan and Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf suspended the court's decision on the appeal of the deputy commissioner.

The court also issued notices to parties to submit their rejoinders within two

The Spokesman

Group photo ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with a delegation from his native village Kaan Mehtarzai on Wednesday.

Shamshad Akhtar, Gohar Ijaz likely to get key positions in federal cabinet

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker has more or less finalised the Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq names for his cabinet, sourc-Kakar is set to announce the federal cabinet shortly.

Shamshad Akhtar had been ered for the coveted finance selected for the key position minister slot. of finance minister. Gohar Ijaz has been named as minister and former State Bank goverfor trade and commerce while Dr Tabish Gohar will have energy portfolio.

A formal decision to the effect would be announced shortly, said sources.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar es say, as both Hafeez Shaikh and Reza Baqir are not among Sources told media that the candidates being consid-

> Ex-finance minister Shaikh nor Baqir were in the office levels. at the same time when the current economic crisis started surfacing which later pushed the inflation and the interest rates to the all-time high



The sources say Sultan Ali Allana – a renowned banker currently serving as the Habib Bank chairman and a director at the Aga Khan Fund the process.

for Development - had been picked yesterday (Tuesday) for managing the ministry in the current turbulent period.

However, things changed when his dual nationality came to light.

Hence, two other names are now under consideration for the caretaker finance minister as the new cabinet can be announced today (Wednesday) and the oath taking to take place tomorrow. Kakar is, therefore, in the final phase of consultations to complete

According to the sources, Jalil Abbas Jilani – a former foreign secretary and ambassador to the United States is expected to be the minister for foreign affairs while Syed Muhammad Ali – not Muhammad Ali Durrani as suggested by some circles will run the affairs of information ministry.

On the other hand, it is predicted that Senator Safraz Bugti – the former Balochistan home minister - would be chosen as the interior minister in the caretaker setup.

The Taliban believe their rule is open-ended and don't plan to lift the ban on female education

KANDAHAR: The Taliban view their rule of Afghanistan as open-ended, drawing legitimacy from Islamic law and facing no significant threat, their chief spokesman said in an interview marking the second anniversary of the Taliban takeover of the country. He also indicated a ban on female education will remain in place.

Zabihullah Mujahid brushed aside any quesban on girls attending school of public life.

Parliamentary

decide interim

Balochistan CM

panel to

👺 Bureau Report



beyond sixth grade was the tions from The Associated first of what became a flurry Press about restrictions on of restrictions that now keep girls and women, saying the Afghan women from classstatus quo will remain. The rooms, most jobs and much

The Taliban seized power on Aug. 15, 2021, as U.S. and NATO forces withdrew from the country after two decades of war. To mark the anniver-

In the southern city of Kandahar, the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban, military personnel posed with in a TV studio on a rundown armored vehicles. Young men rode through the city on bicycles, motorcycles and cars, waving flags and brandishing weapons. Toddlers clutched small white Taliban flags bearing a photo of Defense Minister Maulvi Mohammad Yaqoob on the bottom right corner.

Over the past two years, it has become increasingsary, Tuesday was declared ly apparent that the seat national recognition.

a public holiday. Women, of power is in Kandahar, largely barred from public the home of supreme leadlife, didn't take part in the er Hibatullah Akhundzada, rather than the Taliban-led

government in Kabul. The interview with Mujahid took place late Monday former military compound in Kandahar. The U. N. Mission in Afghanistan and local government departments are located nearby.

The Taliban spokesman arrived in a white SUV, accompanied by a guard and a driver. He spoke calmly and politely, falling back on Taliban talking points on issues like women's rights and inter-

PTI urges caretaker PM to ensure holding of 'transparent, timely' polls

QUETTA: The decision to choose

Balochistan caretaker chief minister was left to a parliamentary committee after the government and opposition failed to reach a consensus, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

A decision had to be made within three days of the provincial assembly's dissolution under the law and Tuesday was the last day to finalise a name.

Balochistan's Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, and the Leader of the Opposition, Malik Sikandar, yesterday proposed Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki's name as the interim chief minister, sourc-

Earlier in the day, the two discussed the names of proposed candidates to reach a consensus for the slot of interim chief minister.

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday urged caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwarul Haq Kakar to ensure holding of transparent elections within the 'constitutionally mandated period of 90 days'.

In a letter written to caretaker PM, PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi noted that the issue of fresh delimitation Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after the "belated approval of Census 2023 results" cannot be taken as a pretext to delay

the elections.

"You [Anwarul Haq Kakar have been entrusted with the solemn task of guiding the country to the elections which are scheduled within the constitutionally mandated period of 90 days," the letter stated.

The PTI urged that caretaker prim minister to emphasise the "cardinal importance of upholding the constitution, in letter and spirit, which is the bedrock of our democracy and guarof constituencies raised by antees the rights and freedoms of every citizen which, unfortunately, have been badly tampered with in the

recent past".

elections is crucial to maintaining public trust, upholding democratic values, and ensuring a smooth transition of power," the letter added.

It also pointed out that as per the constitution, apart from the Prime Minister, the composition of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) envisages the participation of the Chief Minister of each province

meeting, Chief Ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakh- all contestants so that the tunkhwa had already failed to hold general elections in their respective province which divisive currents could within the constitutionally stipulated period. Appropri-"The timely holding of ately, we also intend to chal- of the state".

lenge the said decision of the CCI in the relevant court of law," it added.

It further stated, "We urge you to take steps to create an environment that would be conducive to fostering political openness, encouraging freedom of expression, and guaranteeing safety and security for all political parties and their candidates."

The letter also said that "At the time of the said it was important to provide a "level playing field" to "consequent elections carry a stamp of credibility failing be unleashed that would damage the ethos and fabric

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Elders' delegation from Kaan Mehtarzai calls on **Prime Minister**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of elders from village Kaan Mehtarzai, Balochistan on Wednesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar. The delegation hailed from the native village of the caretaker prime minister. They felicitated the submitted an application for a grid prime minister on assuming his office station.

and presented him with a traditional turban, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister assured them of the resolution of the grid station issue and all other lingering issues of the province, on priority basis. During the meeting, the delegation

JI announces countrywide protest against spike in petroleum prices

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Jamat-e-Islami (JUI) Emir Sirjul Haq on Wednesday gave a call for holding countrywide protest against the whooping increase in petroleum prices on Friday.

Haq said the caretaker government had endorsed the unjust policies of the outgoing coalition government by increasing the prices of petrol and diesel.

Calling it an injustice to the poor people of the country, he said the rulers were putting pressure on them to please the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He urged the caretaker government to provide relief to the



The JI chief also asked people to join his party's peaceful protest against the petroleum prices.

The caretaker government on Tuesday increased the price of petrol by Rs17.50 per litre, taking the price to a record high of Rs290.45 per litre.

The price of high speed diesel was also increased by Rs20 per litre. After the increase, high speed diesel will be available at Rs293.40 per litre.

SCBA challenges CCI decision to hold elections on fresh census



😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The decision of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to approve the new census was challenged in the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Abid Zuberi filed a petition under Article 184/3 in the apex sought suspension of the decision to hold elections on the fresh census for general elections.

The petitioner implored that the Election Commission should be ordered to announce the date of the elections immediately. The federation, the CCI, the four provinces and the Election Commission have been

made parties to the petition. It has been also begged that the

the CCI decision.

In the meeting of the CCI, the caretaker Chief Ministers of KP and Punjab participated, the formation of the council was not constitutional. The council was not a relevant forum for holding elections based on the new census.

It has been stated in the petition that Article 224 Clause 2 of the court. In the petition, the SCBA Constitution mandates the holding of elections within 90 days. The court should declare that the Election Commission cannot extend the elections beyond 90 days.

It has been argued in the petition that the task of the caretaker governments is to conduct elections according to the constitution and law. The caretaker chief ministers cannot exercise the same powers as the elected chief ministers, it said. The caretaknotification issued on August 5 er chief ministers were not eligible to should be declared illegal in light of participate in the CCI meeting.

№ Tribute to Baba-e-Urdu **Urdu University is fruit** of life-long struggle of Maulvi Abdul Haq

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Acting Vice Chancellor of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST), Professor Dr. Muhammad Ziauddin on Wednesday paid a glowing tribute to Baba-e-Urdu Maulyi Abdul Haq on his 62nd death anniversary and said that FUUAST is the fruit of life-long efforts of Maulvi

Abdul Hag. He was speaking during visit to the shrine of Maulvi Abdul Haq on the occasion of the 62nd death anniversary of the Baba-e-Urdu. said a spokesperson of FUUAST. On the occasion,, he said that the language is the identity of any individual and nation and Baba-e-Urdu Maulvi Abdul Haq dedicated his whole life for the promotion of Urdu language.



less work and efforts of Maulvi Abdul Haq. We have to successfully complete the mission of Baba-e-Urdu, he said. He recalled that Babae-Urdu Maulvi Abdul Haq had paid special attention to education and research work. We will not let go in vain struggle of Maulvi Abdul Haq and we will make the sapling plant-He said that the establishment ed by him a tree and take important of FUUAST was the result of tire- steps for the promotion of Urdu.

PM's assurance on the continuation of policies is welcomed: Mian Zahid Hussain

★ Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar's assurance of continuing the previous government's policies is timely and welcome.

This assurance was a relief for apprehensive about the prospect of a prime minister are worrisome. radical change in key economic poli-

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the continuation of the policies of the previous government also means

that the IMF programme will not be derailed, which is necessary to save Pakistan from bankruptcy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all the reforms required for the success of the IMF's November review should not be delayed; otherwise, the IMF programme will be derailed and the country's problems will increase.

He said that the sudden increase in the value of the dollar and petroleum products and the decrease of more than 400 points in the stock market the business community, which was after taking the oath of the caretaker

> The downward trend in exports and remittances is also continuing, which are signs of a deepening economic crisis, he added.

The business leader said that the

improving the economic situation through deregulation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the caretaker PM is also keen on attracting foreign investment under the SIFC, which was created by the previous government for the same

The PM's top priority will be to increase the speed of foreign investment and reforms in all sectors while also upgrading the communication system in Balochistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the business community is hopeful that the caretaker prime minister will try his best to get the economy out of its current problems and include capable and sincere people in his team so that the power sector and broadening the public and the business commuthe tax base, while he is serious about nity can get some relief.



federal cabinet should be finalised

immediately so that they could start

According to the caretaker Prime

Minister, he is keen on reforms in

Cake cutting

Independence Day cake cutting ceremony led by the Life Residencia Management, CEO Muhammad Sarfaraz Sial.

working.



Polio awareness committee meeting in ADC Wana office

Mazir Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Tehsil Alliance committees meeting for Tehsil Birmal and Shakai was conducted at ADC (F&P) office Wana under the chairmanship and supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Kashmir Khan.

The event was participated by AC Wana, AAC Wana, DHO SWL, Tehsil Mayor Wana, Tehsildars and tribal Maliks/elders from both Tehsils of SW Lower. The objective of the event was to establish alliance committees at Tehsil level under the supervision of administration for polio boycotts engagement and resolution through

The event was started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Tehsil Mayor and he welcomed all the participants in his opening remarks. The forum and requested the elders to District Health Officer SWL Dr Inayat Ur Rehman addressed the forum by highlighting the importance of routine immunization and polio vaccination for every child.

He further requested the tribal Maliks to extend support to the field team to ensure that every child is vaccicommencing from August 28, 2023.

nated in the upcoming RUR campaign to engage and resolve if any boycott The AC Wana also addressed the demand with vaccination.



extend support to create a conducive environment for vaccination. Hussain Ali Awan Deputy Provin-

cial Manager-PCE also addressed the forum and highlighted the objective of the event and allainces at every Tehsil.

These committees will work under the supervision of administration is reported and to delink any other

The tribal Maliks/ elders also addressed the forum and highlighted some issues pertaining to health and

While they assured the administration of their full support and facilitation when and where required during

The Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Kashmir Khan offered the concluding remarks and also addressed the issues highlighted by tribal elders.

AIOU extends admissions deadline for BS programs

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood has approved the extension in admission date till August 30 for face-to-face BS programs offered in autumn semester 2023. These programs include FA/FSC based 4 years BS (Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistics, Environmental Science, Agricultural Technology and Instructional Design and Technology), BSc-based 2.5 years BS (Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics and Statistics) and ADS based 2 years BS (Chemistry, Environmental Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics and Statistics).

Students can apply online for admission to these BS programs until August 30. Admissions for MPhil and PhD programs are now closed, and the entrance test/interviews will be held from August 17 to 23 while, admissions for Matric, FA, and I. Com are open until Septem-

Sardar Naeem inaugurated the newly constructed building of Accountability Bureau



MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Accountability Bureau Azad Kashmir Sardar Naeem Shiraz inaugurated the newly constructed building of Accountability Bureau. The building has been constructed at a cost of Rs 62.231 million.. On this occasion, Chairman Accountability Bureau inspected the various parts of the newly constructed building and appreciated the performance of the Physical Planning and Housing Department and the contractor for completing the construction work of the building before the stipulated period. Exxion Buildings Raja Saeed also gave a briefing to Chairman Accountability Bureau regarding this project.

Accused in sexual harassment, blackmail case get five years in prison

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Judge Muhammad Saeed Rafiq of the Model Court for Gender Violence, Multan, accused the accused in the case of sexual harassment, blackmail, spreading objectionable material and other charges by pretense of marriage. Upon conviction, a total of 5 years imprisonment, a fine of 15 lakh rupees and a compensation of 5 lakh rupees have been ordered to be paid to the victim. In case of non-payment of the fine, an additional ten months of imprisonment has been ordered and the property has also been ordered to be confiscated for compensation. On this occasion, the plaintiff's counsel Muhammad Arslan Khan said that the punishment of the accused in such cases is a strong message to the criminals in the society. Harassment of a person is not allowed

While giving arguments, he demanded the punishment of the accused as well as payment of compensation. The case was investigated by Assistant Director FIA Cyber Crime Cell Mohammad Zeeshan Habib. Accused Muhammad Arshad was named and arrested on December 22, 2021 in Case No. 195 for obtaining objectionable photos and videos of 64-yearold Abdul Hameed's daughter on the pretense of marriage.

Increased prices of electricity and petroleum products are unbearable: Khawaja Suliman

MULTAN: The Central Chairman of the Central Association of Trade Unions of Pakistan, Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui, said that after the increase in electricity prices in the country, the huge increase in the prices of petroleum products is unbearable. A new storm of inflation will come in the country, which will sweep away everything with it. In a statement issued last day, he added that the increase in the prices of petroleum products and the unbearable electricity bills have become a death certificate for businessmen and the poor and middle class. There is no such example in the past that electricity Customers may have had a heart attack or someone has committed suicide after seeing the heavy bills, it has become difficult for more than 90% of the customers to pay their electricity bills.

Half of the total income of most people with low resources is being spent on paying electricity bills, the costliest electricity and petrol is having a devastating effect on business. All the taxes involved should be removed immediately, the electricity prices should be clearly reduced, the slab rate fraud should be abolished and the electricity rates should be set at the same rate, the drama of peak time and off-peak time should be ended, every level including elites Free electricity and petrol facilities should be abolished, electricity meters should be installed easily and cheaply, electricity theft should be prevented at all levels, and the use of air conditioners should be restricted in government institutions.

Increase interest rate and petroleum products is failed policies of the PDM Govt: Dr Rubina

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Dr Rubina Akhtar said that the increase in interest rate in petroleum products is the failed policies of the PDM Government. A new storm of inflation will come. Dr. Rubina Akhtar, the political leader of South Punjab, has said that the recent increase in the price of petroleum is bringing out the cries of the people. The caretaker government has now replaced the fugitive government and we hope Mr. Kakar will try to redress the sufferings of the people.

He said that the increase in petroleum products will bring a new storm of inflation. The rate at which the dollar is becoming expensive, the debt burden on the government is also increasing at the same rate, which is an alarm bell for the economy.

Bumper cotton crop is expected in South Punjab

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak has said that a bumper crop of cotton is expected in South Punjab, including Multan Division, thanks to the effective measures taken by the Punjab government. Yesterday, while meeting the delegation of Cotton Growers and Seed Association in the Commissioner's Office, the Commissioner assured the solution of the problems of cotton and seeds of growers and farmers. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on the policy regarding cotton production and seed supply. On this occasion, officers of Agriculture Department, members of Cotton Growers Association and representatives of Seed Association participated in the meeting. Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak said that due to effective measures in South Punjab, cotton production is excellent.

Power sector has become a big problem for public and businesses

55 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Wednesday that the most important sector of electricity is suffering

from incompetence and corruption. This sector has become a big problem for the people and the business community, and the economy cannot be improved in the presence of a dysfunctional power

Since 1994, such policies have been intro-

duced in the power sector, which made domestic and foreign investors happy, but the masses, traders, and industrialists were put to the axe, he added.

Saifuddin Sheikh said in a statement issued here today that over the past decades, every government has made lofty claims to revive this sector but worsened the situ-

He said that the agreements made since 1994 did not take into account the interests of the country and the nation, which never allowed the GDP to increase.

carried out, and several times the GDP was artificially inflated to achieve political ends, which further distorted the energy sector and the overall economy.

He said that by the end of last year, the circular debt of this sector had increased to 2.31 trillion rupees, which continues to increase due to the absence of reforms.

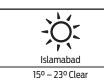
The reasons behind the fall of the electricity sector include dependence on imported oil, a lack of interest by authorities in solar and wind power, increased taxes on

During this time, reforms were not renewable energy, electricity theft, non-payment of bills, free electricity to the elite, and neglect of local oil and gas production.

Sheikh said that the former government increased electricity rates by Rs 15 per unit from July until the end of their tenure, which caused irreparable damage to the people and the economy leaving exporters unable to compete in the international market.

He observed that attempting economic development without improving the power sector is nothing but a pipedream.





Namaz Timings . 6:54 pm

.. 8:24 pm **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
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Zong4G and hands join forces to empower youth through digital education

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, a pioneering force in Pakistan's telecommunications landscape, has forged a strategic partnership with the Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS), ushering in a new era of transformative education in underserved regions.

This strategic initiative is poised to establish an advanced digital lab at the FAS Noor Muhammad School in Karachi, outfitted with cutting-edge computer systems and technology, aimed at enhancing students' technical prowess and access to the digital world. The partnership's core objective is to empower the youth by harnessing digital technology to create new avenues for learning, thus equipping the next generation with invaluable skills that can be used in their careers.

Designed to cater to 91 students, with more than 50% of the strength being girls, this facility is positioned to emerge as the epicenter of digital learning for the surrounding. By granting unrestricted access to myriad computational resources and cutting-edge educational tools, Zong 4G and HANDS are bridging the digital divide, empowering young minds with indispensable knowledge imperative for excelling in the digital world.

First lady stresses need to raise awareness of breast cancer in women: seminar

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The First year. Lady Pakistan Begum Samina Arif Alvi has said that fifty percent of the country's population consists of women, to encourage women to seek timely medical advice and to give up the misconceptions associated with breast cancer and to avoid this disease at large in the society. There is a need to raise awareness. One in every eight women in the country is at risk of breast cancer, in addition, one woman falls victim to this disease every 13 minutes. Addressing the Seminar on Cancer Awareness, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Special Persons First lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi said that women should understand the seriousness of the situ-

in order to reduce the number of deaths due to breast cancer every

He said that worldwide the cure rate of breast cancer patients is around 95-98% while in Pakistan this rate is 45% due to late diagnosis. He urged the students of the medical college to spread the message of awareness to other women around them to overcome the challenges faced in development, there is a need for change in social attitudes. Actions are needed to make special people useful and active citizens of the country, special children should be educated under an education plan according to their individual needs. He said that efforts should be intensified to educate and train special children on modern lines, steps should be taken to make ation and take care of their health children independent and able



to get employment. employed on the allotted quota, the problems faced in people's these. Speaking on this occasion,

for mental health we are all work-Special people should be ing together to find solutions to

lives and in this regard I thank the lady health workers who are all Public Health Secretary Mujir General Zaheer Akhtar said that the reason for the increase in Indian cancer in Azad Kashmir is the lack of awareness on the request of the Health Department. The federal government will establish a cancer hospital in Muzaffarabad so that better and cheaper treatment is available to the people of Azad Kashmir.

On this occasion, the Principal Medical College Dr. Hussain Bukhari said that the medical students of Azad Kashmir Medical College are working on awareness regarding breast cancer, mental health and special people. WHO Special Representative Maryam Malik, Prof. Medical College Dr. Naheed Akhtar, Dr. Farzana Saber and Col. Mubashir Shah also briefed the participants

AJK PM blasts Swedish desecration of Holy Quran: 'Stop the recurrence of such despicable acts'

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while condemning in strong terms the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, has said that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) must take a unified stand to stop the recurrence of such despicable acts.

In his special statement, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said thatPakistan should summon the ambassador of Sweden to convey to him the sentiments of the Muslim

He said that there was a dire need to remind the international community of interna-



to discrimination, hostility or violence. He said that Euro-

tional laws that clearly prohib- Quran and realize the fact it any advocacy of nation- that Muslims cannot toleral, racial or religious hatred ate any kind of desecration that constitutes incitement of the Quran or other Islamic symbols.

He said that such senseless pean countries should under- and vile attacks were bound stand the sanctity of the Holy to damage interfaith harmo-

ny and incite religious hatred across the globe. He said that it was the prime responsibility of all the member states of the UN to ensure the respect of all holy books and religious scriptures under the Charter of the United Nations.

The PM stressed the need to exercise the right to freedom of expression responsibly and in accordance with relevant international human rights covenants and treaties. He also stressed the need for dialogue between religions, cultures and civilizations to ensure durable peace and harmony in the world. And said that the goal of peace could only be achieved by promoting understanding and cooperation.



CANADA: Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association PWCTA Celebrating Pakistan Independence day at Vancouver Club Vancouver BC with Janbaz Khan Consul General Pakistan in Vancouver: PPA

Hamdard Naunehal Assembly to focus on drug abuse of children: Sadia Rashid

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: The monthly meeting of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly, Karachi chapter was held yesterday at Bait-ul-Hikmah Auditorium, Madinat al-Hikmah, on the topic "Dedication of Children, Narcotics-free Pakistan". The assembly was presided over by Ms. Sadia Rashid President, Hamdard Foundation Pakistan. Sister Elizabeth Nizamat, Principal of St. Joseph's College For Women, was invited as the chief guest to address the gathering. She said that the increase in use of narcotics and other harmful substances among the younger generation is a matter of grave concern, which proves that our society is not fulfilling our responsibility of protecting our youth. Drug addicted youths are seen on every road and intersection which clearly means that they have an easy access to drugs. This is a question mark on the efficiency of state institutions. Sister Nizamat added that teachers and school management should conduct drug tests on children and share the results with parents. Addressing the psychological and mental challenges faced by vulnerable children, including mental stress, is vital to prevent addiction. Moreo-

ver, a public awareness campaign is needed, she added. Sadia Rashid in her presidential address stated that the nation's development, prosperity, and freedom hinge on both mental and physical well-being. She pointed out that a person with a weak body and



mind, regardless of talents, cannot effectively benefit him/herself or society. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, who dedicated his life for the betterment of Pakistan used to lay a great emphasis on the importance of children's physical and mental wellbeing for the country's bright future. In order to eradicate the menace of narcotics from our society, multifaceted measures are needed including educating youth about the negative effects and consequences of using narcotics and banned substances, and take strict action against drug dealers. Drug peddlers are anti-national elements who

do not deserve any concession. In the meeting, the young speakers from different schools also expressed their views. Students also presented national songs. The meeting was moderated by Speaker Naunehal Assembly, Armin Khan, a student of Hamdard Public School. At the end of the meeting, Ms. Sadia Rashid and Sister Elizabeth Niamat distributed gifts and certificates among the participants. The meeting concluded with the recitation of Dua-i-Said, presented by the students of Hamdard Public School and Hamdard Village School.

Shangrilla Hotels & Resorts celebrate Independence Day with number of activities



ISLAMABAD: Shangrila Hotels & Resorts, Murree, Changla Gali, Malam Jabba, Kalam, Swat arranged number of activities in connection with the celebration of Independence Day of August 14.

To mark the day, Mr. Mukhtar Ali Manager PTDC, hoisted National Flag in a simple but impressive ceremony here on Monday. Mr. Nadeem Sarwar Satti Resident Manager, Shangrilla Hotel and other Senior Employees and Staff and staying guest and children from local schools participated in the Flag Hosting and Cake Cutting Ceremony. were also present besides other senior officials and employees.

To commemorate this day, Shangrilla Hotels and Resorts arranged a number of activities including Illumination on 13th & 14thAugust 2023. The students paid tribute to the relentless struggle of forefathers and national heroes is their quest for a separate country. The Chief Guest distributed prizes among the students thanked the Shangrilla Hotels and Resort for organizing such memorable activities to mark the independence day.

Mr. Nadeem Sarwar Satti Resident Manager, Shangrilla Hotel highlighted the services of heroes of Pakistan movement on the day paid tributes to the extraordinary contributions in making Pakistan a reality.

Mr. Mukhtar Ali Manager PTDC informed the newsmen that the Government fully support to promote tourism in the country. He said that domestic tourism in the country has regained momentum this year. Being the National Tourism Organization of the country, PTDC regularly undertakes a number of activities for student and youth groups to introduce and create awareness about tourist attractions of Pakistan.

AIOU celebrates Independence Day enthusiastically

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) enthusiastically celebrated the 76th birthday of the beloved country Pakistan (Independence Day). University security guards presented a guard of honour to the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and then he hoisted the flag. On this occasion, a collective prayer was offered for the stability and development of Pakistan. Children dressed in green and white clothes expressed their love for the country by performing national songs, speeches and a beautiful tableau named "Pakistan Zindabad".

The guests from Turkiye and Russia also attended the ceremony. Mr Aleksandr Mikhailov, Ms Anastasiia Tenikhina and Mr Rasim Akhatov from Russia, while from Turkey, the Director of Yunus Emre Institute, Dr Halil Tokar, Consul of Turkiye Embassy, Ms Balqees and Education Attaché, Mehmet Toyran attended the event. Turkish artists conveyed the message of Turkiye's love through music on Independence Day.

VC AIOU, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood said that the youth are the future of the country, so it is necessary for them to give full attention to education and skills. He further said that great nations never forget the sacrifices of their forefathers and that is why today the Pakistani nation is paying homage to the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and our national poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other leaders of Tehreek-e-Pakistan. Dr Nasir Mahmood, while addressing the children said that you all should learn from your ancestors, respect your parents, teachers, and elders, help the needy, care for each other's rights and learn the manners of living in society. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof Dr Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dr Samina Aman, Dr Zahid Majeed, Dr Halil Toker, Mr Aleksandr Mikhailov and Ms Anastasiia Tenikhina also addressed the ceremony.

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Asim Nazir Ahmad Vice Chairman: Managing Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan.

(mszk786@gmail.com Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com) Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Igbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Pakistani mangoes in China

he relevant Pakistani authorities have completed all arrangements to hold the mango gala at the China-Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo starting from Thursday in Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. The king of fruits from Pakistan will be exhibited at the Pakistan pavilion set up at the expo scheduled to be held from August 17 to 21, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said here on Wednesday.

Pakistani traders would get a great opportunity to market different kinds of mangoes and attract Chinese buyers during the expo. Pakistani mangoes are in big demand in China and have already generated huge responses in several Chinese cities like Guangzhou, Chengdu and Beijing, and added, the expo would help further increase the export of our mangoes to China, he told APP. Ghulam Qadir informed that the Senate of Pakistan will hold the mango exhibition at the invitation of the government of Urumqi.

Senator Rana Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan will lead a six-member delegation of the Senate of Pakistan at the opening ceremony of the expo. Responding to a question, he said that with the exhibition, we want to reach out to the Chinese companies which are interested in procuring mangoes from Pakistan and introducing this lovely fruit in China. Our main objective is to encourage the Chinese enterprises to come to Pakistan and invest and modernize infrastructure, he said. With their help, Pakistan farmers could improve farming practices to enhance mango production and make better use of this fruit through value ad-

The commercial counsellor said that Pakistan lacks cold storage facilities and the Chinese companies could set up such facilities like in China to increase the shelf life of mango which will be useful.

He said that the relevant Pakistani and Chinese authorities are discussing ways and means to enhance mango trade between the two countries through land routes. The representatives of 1,300 businesses in 40 countries including Pakistan will gather for the fourth edition of the expo which aims to deepen cooperation between Asia and Europe. On the sidelines of the expo will be trade talks, forums and workshops on regional economic cooperation.

This year's expo will focus on trade promotion and we will host a record 33 trade talks, panel discussions and workshops to promote trade, investment and industrial cooperation. The event will also feature a seminar on the development of industries and commerce along the Silk Road. Guests from the five Central Asian countries and about 300 Chinese and international businesspeople will participate in the seminar, which will highlight the role of private businesses and provide a platform to expand Xinjiang's cooperation with other Chinese regions and neighbouring countries.

Over 1,300 businesses have confirmed their participation in the expo, including 25 of the world's top 500 companies. A total of 40 countries and regions and seven international organizations will send representatives.

Addressing Challenges for Free and Fair Elections in Pakistan

Muhammad Haroon

has been marred by recurring challenges, hindering the achievement of truly free and fair elections. The need for an autonomous, neutral, and trusted institution to conduct elections, with the confidence of citizens and political parties, is paramount. Countries like Pakistan, marked by periods of dictatorship, have seen the integrity of elections compromised as regimes manipulate results to suit their agendas. Tactics such as timing uncertainty, the disqualification of "undesirable" political parties, administrative support to favored candidates, and a deliberately weakened election body have eroded the credibility of the process, leading to skepticism and even political turmoil.

To address these issues and pave the way for genuinely free and fair elections, Pakistan must confront a multitude of challenges that intersect at the nexus of political, social, and economic dimensions. One such challenge is the prevalence of dynastic politics. Dynastic politics has established a prominent foothold within Pakistan's political arena, yielding substantial influence on the conduct of elections and shaping the broader contours of the country's political landscape. At the heart of this phenomenon lies a recurring pattern where political power remains concentrated within specific families, a practice that has endured through generations. The roots of this trend can be attributed to a combination of factors that contribute to its persistence.

However, the prevalence of dynastic politics is not without its drawbacks.

akistan's electoral journey The stifling effect it has on democrat- Candidates with excessive financial cance of madrasas, where leaders may ic vibrancy and renewal is a notable backing can gain an unfair advantage, mobilize students and followers toward concern. With leadership roles often confined within a single family, opportunities for new voices and diverse perspectives to rise to the forefront are curtailed. The practice of nepotism, where family members are appointed to key positions regardless of their qualifications, ensure that elections truly reflect the will can result in inefficien-

cies and the erosion of meritocracy. Furthermore,

concentration of political power within a particular family can notentially undermine democratic checks and balances, leading to an imbalance in the distribution of authority. Such a concentra-

tion also perpetuates inequalities, limiting opportunities for individuals from non-dynastic backgrounds to participate in shaping the nation's political course.

While kinship-based voting can empower marginalized or underrepresented groups, it also has its downsides, potentially diverting attention away from broader national issues and limiting political diversity and meritbased representation. Fostering stronger democratic institutions, raising political awareness, and championing transparent governance can collectively work to strike a balance between the valuable aspects of kinship connections and the imperative for a more inclusive and effective democratic system in Pakistan.

The influence of financial resources in the electoral process poses a significant barrier to free and fair elections.

drowning out the voices of those without similar resources. Enforcing strict spending limits, increasing transparency in campaign financing, and promoting equal access to political resources are crucial steps to level the playing field and

of the people. Addressing broader societal inequalities is equally essential. Illiteracy, gender bias, and entrenched cultural norms often restrict individuals' ability to make informed decisions. Empowering

women to exercise their voting rights without undue influence from male family members, tackling unemployment, and challenging patriarchal structures are vital for creating a more equitable electoral environment.

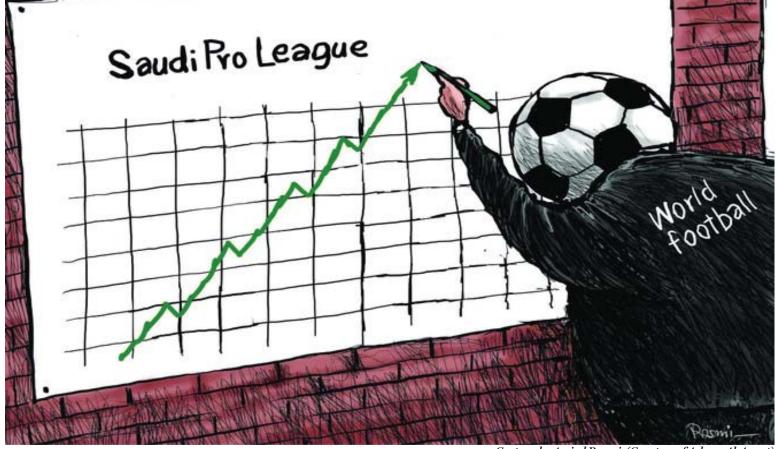
Religious factors exert a notable influence on elections in Pakistan, a country deeply rooted in its religious identity. The diverse population often sees political parties leveraging religious sentiments as a means to garner support. Several religious parties hold sway, advocating Islamic issues and garnering the votes of those who prioritize religious values. The sensitive topic of blasphemy, with parties espousing differing stances on blasphemy laws, has the potential to sway voters by appealing to their religious convictions. The question of minority rights, especially for religious minorities, can also be a determining factor in voters' decisions. The signifi-

a particular voting pattern, cannot be overlooked. The rise of parties with robust religious platforms, often influenced by various Islamist movements. further underscores the role of religion in shaping the political landscape. The endorsement or opposition of influential religious figures carries weight and can sway a considerable portion of the

For Pakistan to achieve genuine free and fair elections, it must embark on a comprehensive reform journey that tackles these challenges head-on. Strengthening the independence and capacity of the election conducting body, breaking the shackles of dynastic politics, promoting inclusivity, empowering voters through education, and curbing the influence of money in politics are essential components of this reform. It requires a collective commitment from citizens, political parties, civil society, and the government to create an electoral landscape that respects the fundamental principles of democracy, ensures equal participation, and ultimately restores faith in the electoral process.

By addressing these challenges, Pakistan can overcome its history of compromised elections, restore citizens' trust, and chart a path toward a future where free and fair elections are not just a goal but a living reality that shapes the destiny of the nation.

Write is Student of political science at Quaid eAzam University, Islamabad. He can be reached at mehsudadil00@ gmail.com



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

CPO's slap on abominable trap

responsibility is to protect the life and property of the citizens, under the guise of police uniform, a few black sheep continue to tarnish the reputation of the police department. In the province of Punjab, the illegal business of abducting citizens and collecting ransom has been started by the police officers for a decade. A few days ago, the SHO of Mumtazabad police station Abdul Rahman Gill and the investigation officer of the same police station Yaqub Awan along with others. With the help of the police officers Muhammad Ehtsham was kidnapped and brought to the police station. The police officers and officials made a fake and false witness on their behalf to realize their nefarious purposes. The police threatened to kill him in the encounter. The Police officers extorted 18 lacs rupees by instilling fear of encounter. After paying ransom to the police, the abducted citizen complained to the CPO Multan about this illegal ect. The CPO handed over the inquiry to SP Cantt. SHO, Mumtazabad police station, and others nominated in the inquiry. On this CPO issued orders to register a case against the accused in Mumtazabad Police Station, on which FIR No. 1838/23 u/s 365,386,342T and 155C have been registered. It is first juncture that the CPO

took timely action and started the process of accountability. While earlier in the same police station, these officers had caught two pick-

as extortion. The DSP was aware of this incident but the said DSP had saved the criminal policemen. Certainly, improving police morale and ensuring strict accountability measures are enforced against officials involved in criminal activof integrity, transparency, and ethiagencies. On time holding account- tial information with criminals to

ability those who violate the law, a police department strengthen its reputation. CPO Multan has public rebuilt trust and creates a safer environment for the traders and common

people. Taking decisive action lead to a breakdown of communiagainst criminal police officers is ty relationships. It is important for not only a matter of justice but also a crucial step towards boosting the mechanisms in place to prevent and morale of the entire police force. IO Yaqoob Awan (SI) has dirty past in his service record. It is surprising for me how corrupt and ineligible police officers get appointed at important posts. Masses say the process of accountability in this department is only to the extent of show. Action against police employees is fictitious

There have been instances reported where some police officers have maintaining order and upholdbeen involved in criminal activities or have formed alliances with that public trust is the cornerstone

pockets and kept them in illegal uniform. Such cases raise concerns detention and collected 7 lacs rupee about corruption, abuse of power, and the erosion of public trust. Some police officers providing protection or police personal and secret information to criminals. Some are participating in drug trafficking, extortion, bribery, or other illicit activates. In uniform they ities is of utmost importance. This misuse their authority to commit process involves fostering a culture crimes, such as theft of assault. It is common practice of Thana police cal conduct within law enforcement officers, they sharing confiden-

evade capture of prosecution. This kind of behavior, where officers use their positions of authority for personal gain through illegal means, is a breach of public Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

trust and can law enforcement agencies to have address officer misconduct to maintain public trust and the credibility of the police force. In this case CPO Multan has fulfilled a great responsibility. Instead of saving the skin of his subordinated, he gave importance to the rule of law. Because of this work increased the respect of the police department among the

Police play a critical role in ing justice within society. We know criminal gangs while wearing their of effective policing. When police

people.

officers engage in criminal activities, it erodes the community's confidence in law Police officers are entrusted with upholding the laws and protecting citizens. When officers themselves break the law, it is a betraval of their sworn duty. Punishing and removing police officers from service is essential to maintain the credibility of the entire iustice system.

It is not uncommon for police officers to show solidarity and support for their colleagues, which can sometime lead to protecting their fellow officers even in case of misconduct or murder of citizen. This "blue wall of silence" can hinder accountability and transparency in our police department. Mostly Multan police officers and employees are engaging in money collection practices have raised concerns about abuse of power and corruption. This can lead to unequal treatment of citizens based on financial transaction, undermining the principle of equal protection under the law. Banning money collection practices removes the temptation for the officers to misuse their authority for personal gain. Implementing annual asset checks for police officers and others employees is a proactive measure to prevent and detect any unethical behavior related to financial matters. The revelation of such heinous acts by educated police officers reinforces the fact that police officers are engaged in practices against the morale and good name of the department of greed, this practice needs to be

Navigating Economic Governance Challenges in Pakistan

Niamat ullah Harifal

he hallmark of a nation's prosperity and economic well-being lies in its governance, a pivotal indicator of success. However, achieving economic goals and holistic development requires not just strong institutions but also well-justified policies. The World Bank defines good governance as the art of public officials and institutions harnessing authority to shape public policies and deliver essential services. These institutions, in turn, are molded by cultural nuances, the global environment, and a nation's socio-economic condition. The crux of governance credibility rests upon transparency, efficiency, accountability, and impartiality. While government's purpose centers on delivering goods and services, fostering equality, and upholding justice, its path is influenced by intricate factors such as political and social frameworks, cultural dynamics, geographical land-

scapes, and economic circumstances. However, a disconcerting pattern emerges in Pakistan's recent history—witnessed as a diminishing quality of governance and dwindling institutional trust. The deterioration in macroeconomic stability, economic contraction, and weakened governance foundations can be ascribed to the decline in institutional capacity. This collision of powerful interests and weakened institutional strength undermines the very essence of governance. Crafting policies might seem straightforward, yet their successful implementation is an intricate puzzle.

Pakistan's perpetual oscillation between civilian and military governments has cast a shadow on sustained economic transformations. Civilian administrations often chase short-term economic gains to bolster electoral support, whereas military regimes strive for civilian legitimacy through economic incentives. The recurring theme of political instability remains a chronic

ailment that afflicts Pakistan's economic landscape. Frequent shifts in power hinder policy execution and create a void in consistency. Unlike developed countries, where succeeding governments uphold the policies of their predecessors, Pakistan faces disruptions. The current regime might halt or even reverse previous initiatives, exacerbating economic hardships and squandering public funds.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stands as a cornerstone for national growth, yet Pakistan grapples to attract significant FDI due to prevailing volatility. The unpredictability of civilian tenures dissuades foreign entities from committing capital. Interestingly, during military rule, the stability that prevails encourages substantial FDI, bolstered by the assurance it provides. Trust forms the bedrock of a nation's economic fabric. In an uncertain environment, market fluctuations deter private investments. The practice of patronage and cronvism, which grants special privileges like tax exemptions, licensing advantages, and tariff concessions to favored individuals, sows seeds of skepticism. Such practices impede economic growth, perpetuate a lack of rule of law, amplify institutional frailty, and fuel illicit markets.

Nations marred by political instability and ethnic divisions grapple with sluggish economic growth, feeble adherence to the rule of law, inadequate institutional health, and rampant black market activities. In summary, robust economic governance hinges on elements such as transparency, accountability, political stability, rule of law, continuity, and eradicating corruption. To spur economic growth and cultivate investor confidence, Pakistan must confront its governance challenges holistically. By fostering stability, ensuring policy continuity, and championing transparent governance, Pakistan can embark on a transformative journey toward sustainable

The Writer is Student of School of Sociology in Quaid-e-Azam university Islamabad.

strictly controlled.

Violent extremism is a struggle for power, many red lines have been crossed: Senator Sherry Rehman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and Senior PPP leader Senator Sherry Rehman has said that violent extremism was a struggle for power, and that many red lines had been crossed by the proliferation of hateful narratives.

Senator Rehman stated this at the launch of the research report 'Beyond the Red Line: Contemporary Trends in Conflict Discourse in Pakistan' by Communications Research Strategies (CRS) here at a local hotel (Marriott).

The report was prepared under the 'Conflict Discourse Mapping', a project by CRS, with support from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Experts this endeavor, we stand united, ing consequences of extremist

from various sectors attend- knowing that the path forward ed the event. Senator Sherry Rehman was the chief guest, while the panelists included Dr Adnan Rafiq, Member-Planning Commission of Pakistan, Amber Shamsi, Director-Center for Excellence in Journalism IBA and Fasi Zaka. a senior development expert.

In his welcome note Aniq Zafar, CEO - CRS, while thanking the chief guest commented, 'We harbor the sincere hope that the insights gleaned from this meticulous investigation will serve as the bedrock for evidence-informed policymaking, effective interventions, and strategies designed to counteract violence and extremism. In

requires collective determination and shared vision".

Commenting on the report, Senator Rehman said that hateful narratives had gone beyond extremist and violent groups, and are instead being shaped by political forces as well through currency of anger and hate as can be seen in online trolling. She lamented the weaponization of fake news for personal interests.

While speaking to the audience, Imran Khan, Resident Director - USIP said, "The report has explored the intricate dynamics and complexities of violence and extremism in Pakistan, while touching upon underlying causes, catalysts, and far-reach-



discourse by scrutinizing critical data and associated developments".

The report, authored by communication and digital experts Usman Zafar and Fatima Yamin, analyses various trends in religious, political and social discourse on various conflicts in Pakistan, and forecasts an onset of extremist violence leading up to the next General Elections due to heightening violent rhetoric. It further states that unless the Pakistani state generates a uniform narrative against terrorism and extremism, targeted and planned attacks may occur against political parties and members of the public, with the online space becoming weap-

Interning Students of Kashmir Institute of International Relations visit ISSI

News Desj

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a delegation of University students working as Interns at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Islam-

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, delivered a wide-ranging talk on Pakistan's foreign policy in the evolving global and regional environment marked by traditional and non-traditional security threats and challenges, including major-power competition, Russia-Ukraine conflict, Covid-19 pandemic, and climate change. He also dilated in detail on Pakistan-India relations and the historical, legal and security dimensions of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He stressed the importance of whole-of-nation approach while advancing the just Kashmir cause.

The talk was followed by a lively interactive session, in which different



Pakistan's place in the global arena, and the role of youth in promoting Pakistan's interests and positive image were discussed.

Earlier, the Acting Director of the India Study Centre, Malik Qasim Mustafa, greeted the delegation and aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy, provided an informative presenta-

tion on the ISSI structure and its five CENTERS of excellence.

Ms. Mahwish Hafeez, a Research Fellow at ISC-ISSI, shared a comprehensive overview of ISC's activities, highlighting past events, research publications, and future research proposals.

At the end of the visit, Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), expressed appreciation for the support and cooperation of ISSI and ISC in hosting the delegation. He encouraged the delegation to represent Pakistan positively.

Hindutva supporters, Sikhs clash in London on India's Independence Day

seriously injured and getting hospital treatment as a bloody clash broke out between hundreds of Indian men South Hall, Broadway in West of communal clashes as it happened

the night of 15 August here.

celebrating their country's Independ- London where hundreds of Indian ence Day and a group of around five men were raising slogans in support

15th August.

The clashes have raised the spectre last year in Leicester when a Hindutva mob attacked local Muslims and pro-Khalistan British Sikhs who of India, the Bharatiya Janata Party damaged their properties, unleash-carrying flags of Khalistan.

LONDON: Two Indian men are refused to join the celebrations on (BJP) and the RSS on the night of ing five days of violent disturbances. Video footage showed that a large number of Hindu men were marching outside Broadway in South Hall carrying Indian flags when met by a group of around five Sikhs who were

AKUH expands heel-prick test to catch inherited metabolic disorders in newborns

E City Desk

KARACHI: Screening newborn babies for inherited metabolic disorders well before symptoms surface is crucial for early detection and timely treatment. The Aga Khan University Hospital on Monday, August 14, expanded its newborn screening process to include inherited metabolic disorders, marking the introduction of a powerful lab tool for the first time in a clinical setting in Pakistan.

Simply put, metabolic disorders refer to abnormal chemical reactions in the body which, for example, can disrupt a baby's intellectual or physical growth and potential. Elsewhere in the developed world, newborn babies are put through mandatory screening for such disorders—but this has not been the case in Pakistan, until now.

"From 14th August, 2023 we have started screening for 12 inherited metabolic disorders," said Associate Professor Dr Bushra Afroze, a clinical and biochemical geneticist who led the teams. This is in addition to the testing for hearing impairment and congenital heart disease and this development ramps up the potential for AKU researchers to assess the prevalence of disorders and disease

The decision to work on newborn screening by clinical, research and laboratory teams, began back in February, according to Chair of Paediatrics and Child Health Dr Fyezah Jehan. "Collectively, we made a decision to do what was morally, legally and ethically right," she said. "We always want to provide hope rather than hopelessness $\,$ to families. "She thanked Dr Lena Jafri, Dr Salman Kirmani, Dr Azeema Jamil, Dr Ghulam Zainab and their colleagues for pushing this innovation through.

According to Dr Farhat Abbas, the CEO of AKUH and a renowned Urologist, the ease of use of this test as well as its innovation will greatly aid in early detection and potentially save lives. "When I was resident," he said, to add some historical perspective, "you needed a syringe to draw blood for a TSH test."

AKU President Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin said that such an effort exemplified a core strength of the University: the ability of AKU researchers, faculty and AKUH clinicians to identify a need, acquire the technology and capability and use this to impact the population at large.

Nurses, who play a crucial role, will conduct the test as a simple heel prick to collect a few drops of blood on a special piece of paper. The blood analysis is done through Liquid Chromatograph Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS/MS), a powerful analytical technique. It identifies chemical properties of metabolite molecules in the blood and this is the first time LC-MS/MS is being done in a clinical setting in Pakistan.

Special article on 8th Death Anniversary

A world without General Hameed Gul

eneral Hameed Gul always used to say "I am neither retired nor tired. How is it possible that I retire at a time when my country needs me more than ever? I feel disappointed when people call me a Retired General. I have taken an oath to protect this country from All enemies (foreign and domestic). Leaving the uniform and active service could never terminate that oath. I am and would always be

You can take a man out of the army but never the army out of a man. The world would never be the same without him. Pakistan would never be the same without him. He carried the enormous responsibility of struggling against the Soviet Union for many years, was in the limelight even after he retired from Pakistan Army but was famous for his modesty and humility. One of the most powerful Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence and Military Intelligence, he was one of those few people in the army who were not willing to write off Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion. Under his leadership, order, and strategy. ISI was set to become the world's supreme intelligence agency and yet he was going to live a life of struggles and odds.

"A death by thousand wounds



when the world witnessed a superpower retreat from Afghanistan and General Hameed Gul's concept of how to fight that war succeeded. The only devastation Afghan Jihad witnessed was the famous Jalalabad attack where he deviated from his original guerrilla war strategy and mujahideen suffered a serious setback. But it was all part of the game to win, lose and learn from the mistakes.

Operation Trojan Horse was one of his most successful operations which made him a topic of discussion in Indian Intelligence Communities.

He strategized the Afghan Strategy" proved to be so right who was then DG ISI and at the refused. He proudly stated that

same time, General Hameed Gul kept a close eve on India's Strategic threats when Pakistan Army was busy with Soviet Union. He worked closely with CIA during Afghan Jihad but he became their greatest critic after they turned their back on Afghanistan following Soviet Union's withdrawal. He also met with RAW Chief twice during his reign as ISI Chief on the burning issues of Khalistan and Siachen. He was removed from ISI

in 1989 following the defeat of Mujahideen in Jalalabad. During the first tenure of Nawaz Sharif, he was appointed as DG Ordi-War alongside General Akhtar nance Factories Wah, which he

"How could I had ever accepted the job of a factory manager. I was a true soldier who had always fought on the front line and had always been the part of Team A." And was retired from Pakistan Army. General Hameed Gul became

the voice of Pakistan soon after his retirement specially he turned very vocal after US invasion of Afghanistan. An upstanding patriot that he was and a fearless analyst, he continued to serve Pakistan and defend it's ideology even after his retirement from Pakistan Army. He was one of those few people who have always protected the honor and integrity of Pakistan against the war hysteria of Indian Media. He was a strong advocate of 9/11 being an inside job and the entire plot constructed by Jews and Zionists. He did not believe that after spending \$40 million every year on its 11 Intelligence agencies US was taken by surprise on 9/11. The revelations during the investigations of Khalid Sheikh Mohamed in Guantanamo bay in 2006 by CIA (in the cover of Saudi Intelligence) further strengthened General Hameed Gul's Theories especially the secret and sudden deaths of three Saudi Princes following Khalid Sheikh's interrogations.

General Gul was a firm believer that Osama Bin Laden's killing in Pakistan was faked and was an eyewash. US has always

an and often called him as Father

of Taliban. General Gul was always credited by India for being the brain behind proxy wars in Kashmir historical importance for both aspects of this struggle is the and Indian Punjab. Some accuse him for being behind the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai, India. Indian



have always kept a close eye on him even after his retirement till his demise suspecting him to be behind everything that happened against India. He was so much on India's nerves. Even his counterparts in RAW have always known him to be a man with limited resources who can do anything in any part of the world. General Hameed Gul had warned India many times for intervening in the internal matters of Pakistan and maltreatment against Kashmiri Muslims.

Despite the plathora of Political and terror-related Controversies surrounding him. He was never tainted by any charges of

Financial or moral corruption. I believe that Pakistan and in sacrifice and commitment, for.

seen him as a supporter of Talib- Afghanistan both owe a debt of embodying the spirit of the Kashgratitude to him. I salute him. We will miss you General Hameed

> Gul. Pakistan will miss you. August holds significant Pakistan and India, as they commemorate their Independence Days on the 14th and 15th, respectively. However, despite the commemorations, amidst these celebrations, the people of Kashmir remain far from the path of freedom, with the destiny of Kashmir and its inhabitants still uncertain. The region's future is shrouded in uncertainty, despite the dreams and aspirations of its people for self-determination. Our independence keeps reminding us of our years

One individual who symbolizes the enduring struggle for touching depiction of the silent Kashmir's freedom is this little girl, Raziyah Sultan, a representative of the fourth generation of a endured for decades. The intrifamily deeply rooted in the fight for autonomy. This legacy spans across the borders, encompassing leaders like Mohammad Yasin Malik in Kashmir and his wife, Mushaal Hussein Mullick in Pakistan, who have tirelessly advocated for the rights of Kash-

Raziyah Sultan's connection Mushaal and Yasin, gives her a future where the people of Kashunique perspective and a potent voice. Her lineage is steeped freedom they have long yearned

miri people who have endured decades of challenges in their pursuit of freedom.

One of the most poignant continued imprisonment of Razia Sultan's great father. Her call for his release resonates deeply, echoing the sentiments of countless Kashmiri families who have been separated and affected by the ongoing conflict.

By standing together, united for the cause of Kashmir's freedom, we can amplify the voices of those who have dedicated their lives to this pursuit and serve as the symbols of solidarity, of the shared responsibility to support the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

This sketch, I hope, serves as a suffering and untold stories that the people of Kashmir have cate lines and shading skillfully convey the depth of their pain, capturing the emotions that words often fail to express. Through art, I'd continue to shed light on their struggles, fostering empathy and understanding that transcends borders and backgrounds. Let us join hands to raise awareness at least, advocate to the cause, as the daughter of for change, and work towards a mir can finally experience the

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
48,146.43	48,565.75	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
48,614.47	48,108.87	
Index Value	Change	
6,246,544,148	-419.32	
Percentage	Time	
-0.86%	16 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7,356.88	-32.76	
Percentage	Time	

Index Value	Change	
7,356.88	-32.76	
Percentage	Time	
-0.44%	16 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Averag		
	-	

index value	Unange	
34,866.46	-79.93	
Percentage	Time	
-0.23%	16 Aug, 1:17 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag		
Index Value	Change	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag		
Index Value	Change	
31,766.82	-472.07	
Percentage	Time	
-1.46%	16 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
0	For a Botton	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	770.83	778.83
Canadian Dollar	224.8	227
China Yuan	39.83	40.23
Danish Krone	42.5	42.9
Euro	324.8	328
Hong Kong Dollar	37.05	37.4
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2.02	2.1
Kuwaiti Dinar	942.2	951.2
Malaysian Ringgit	62.52	63.12
NewZealand \$	173.22	175.22
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	752.76	760.76
Qatari Riyal	79.62	80.32
Saudi Riyal	80	80.8
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	330.49	332.99
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	83	83.8
UK Pound Sterling	379.3	383
US Dollar	301.5	303.5

Shell Pakistan announces financial results for H1 2023



跨 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) announced half year results for the company on August 16th. The company posted a profit after tax of PKR 3.5 billion compared to the profit after tax of PKR 7.5 billion made in the same period last year.

On June 14th, 2023, Shell Petroleum Company Limited, a subsidiary of Shell plc, announced its intention to sell its

The period witnessed devaluation of the Rupee, rising inflation and macroeconomic uncertainty. Continued economic challenges resulted in slowdown in economic activity, decrease in demand and risks to supply security for the company. The results also reflect the impact of one-off technical service fee waiver received from Shell International Petroleum Company.

Summit Bank Limited shareholders approve the name change to Bank Makramah

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Summit Bank Limited on Tuesday convened its Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM), where the shareholders granted their consent on the name of the Bank to be changed from 'Summit Bank Limited' to 'Bank Makramah Limited'.

Secretary BOI urges Sargodha Chamber to exploit lucrative market for Halal meat

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mr Asad Rehman Gilani, Secretary Board of Investment (BOI) on Wednesday said that there is a huge potential for Pakistani businessmen to invest in the and Europe. field of Halal meat to China

Talking to a delegation of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), led by its president Mr Sajid Hussain Tarar, he urged the chamber to dig out the unconventional investment opportunities in China, USA

Mr Gilani said instead of exporting orang-



Sommerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST

16: In order to safeguard the

public from falling into debt

traps of illegal loan apps,

the Securities and Exchange

Commission of Pakistan

(SECP), in coordination with

Google, Apple and the PTA, has ensured removal of 120

illegal Loan apps that were

previously available at Goog-

The phenomenon of ille-

gal personal Loan Apps has

surfaced recently, raising seri-

ous concerns about mis-selling, data privacy violations,

and coercive recovery practic-

es. The SECP not only tight-

ened its regulatory framework

for licensed Non-Banking

le and Apple Stores.

es in raw form, the SCCI should adopt latest technologies and export value addition citrus prducts to the USA, such as orange pulp etc.

The Secretary highlighted the huge demand of Halal meat from China which needed to be explored by the SCCI.

Mr Asad Rehman Gilani said BOI and Paki-

stan Embassy in Korea recently organized a business conference in Seoul which was participated by over 200 Korean companies.

President SCCI appreciated the business vision of the Secretary BOI and informed that the Chamber is planning to hold first ever Citrus Festival in three different countries.

SECP strikes down

Below poverty

ISLAMABAD: Street vendors are waiting for customers along the road side at Aabpara Market to sell their stuff but due to extremely high inflation people are helpless to buy such things across the



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Finance Companies (NBFCs) but also initiated effective steps with the relevant authorities to shut down unauthorized and illegal loan apps. Through efficient surveillance and complaints received

through the SECP's dedicat-

illegal personal loan applications ed complaint site, the regulator had identified 120 unlawfully running personal loan apps and reported them to Google, Apple and the PTA for prompt blocking and referred these to the FIA for further action in accordance with the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act of 2016.

> ence of any illegal apps. As a result of SECP's efforts and continuous engagement, Google has introduced Pakistan's Personal Loan App Policy, according to which Google only allows SECP-approved Personal Loan Apps for placement on its Google Play Store.

> SECP regularly checks the

Google Play Store and the

Apple App Store for the pres-

Personal loan borrowers are advised to obtain loans only from licenced NBFCs. The SECP's regulatory framework for approved Apps requires transparent disclosure of fees, loan duration, instalments, and charges.

Bank of Khyber and Khyber Medical University Collaborate for Digital Payments through Kuickpay

E Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The management of Bank of Khyber (BOK) and Khyber Medical University (KMU) jointly celebrate a momentous achievement that marks a paradigm shift in the way payments and admissions are handled. The successful collaboration between BOK and KMU has led to the swift digitalization of the entire cash collections and admissions process for KMU, with the transformative power of Kuickpay technology.

Prof. Dr. Zia ulHaq, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "This strategic partnership represents a significant leap in enhancing the student experience



and streamlining university operations. We are delighted to collaborate with Bank usher in a new era of convenience and efficiency."

ing Director of Bank of Khyber, innovation and excellence. banking sectors."

Mr. Muhammad Ali The successful digitalization Gulfaraz, the Worthy Manag- of KMU's admissions and payments processes epitomizes of Khyber and Kuickpay to remarked, "This achievement the potential of collaboration reflects our commitment to between the technology and

Historic hike in petroleum prices is equivalent to adding fuel to the fire: **Suleman Chawla**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has strongly rejected the massive hike in the prices of petroleum products effective from August 16, i.e. petrol by 6.4 percent or PKR. 17.50 per liter to make it 290.45 & high speed diesel by 7.3 percent or PKR. 20.00 per liter to take t to 293.40 per litre.

It will ruthlessly fuel the existing inflationary pressures even further; resulting in multiplier effect of upsurge in cost of living and cost of doing business - which is already the highest in the entire region, Mr. Chawla

Acting FPCCI Chief, Mr. Suleman Chawla, explained that the apex body forewarned the authorities a number of times over the last few months that they need to address the teething problems in the import of the Russian crude, i.e. handling of oil cargoes; adjustments required vis-à-vis refining processes and commercial transactional procedures to settle oil payments. Nevertheless, the authorities failed to listen to us; else, we would have more Russian crude by now, which is cheaper by a whopping 35 - 40 percent

as compared to internation-

al markets today, he added.

Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan assures support to ICCI in land acquisition for industrial estate project

156 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan said that he has provided including Bharia Town and Capital Smart City and assured that he would support ICCI in land acquisition for its industrial estate project.

He said that ICCI should target industrial estate on the CPEC route or identify any other suitable place and he would cooperate in land acquisition for this project. He said that the business community is the backbone of an economy and its Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamfacilitation would help in strengthening the economy.

business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce art industrial zone in the region to & Industry (ICCI). His son Barrister boost industrialization, create jobs, Danial Chaudhry also accompanied him on the occasion.

land to many projects in the region related standing committees of the

He said that the outgoing PM Mian Shehbaz Sharif has inaugurated the Rawalpindi Ring Road, which is very vital to ease the traffic issues of the twin cities. He said that ICCI should play a role for skills development of youth to prepare skilled manpower for industries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan abad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI has been He said this while addressing the making efforts since long for the establishment of a state-of-theattract investment, increase exports and said that Senator Ch. Tanveer Ch. Tanveer Khan said that he Khan should cooperate in acquir-

would try to arrange a meeting of ingland for this important project. ICCI delegation with Senate Chair- He said that Pakistan needs longman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani term economic policies to revive for ICCI representation in business the economy and said that Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan should patronize the efforts of ICCI for convincing all major political parties to sign a charter of economy to set the country on the direction of sustainable

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the Chamber is making efforts for its representation as an Observer in business related Standing Committees of the Senate to present the voice of the business community in the policy making process and Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan should cooperate with ICCI in this regard.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI emphasized that the government should focus on the better development of agriculture and tourism sectors to revive the



He said that ICCI is also considering launching its own airline and cooperation of Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan was important for this inno-

vative project. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General Hassan Akhtar, Madam Saima and

in the region is of paramount importance for the future generations and hoped that the cooperation of Senator Ch. Tanveer Khan would help in early materialization of this project.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Khalid Chaudhry, Akhtar Abbasi, Raja UBG said that a new industrial zone others also spoke on the occasion.

Wahab Riaz retires from international cricket

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistans pacer Wahab Riaz on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket saying he wants to continue his journey at the highest level of cricket but in the present scenario it is impossible to get back a place in the national team. He said here that for him the retirement brings an end to his "incredible journey" as he enjoyed plaving cricket and earn respect. "It's not an emotional decision (retirement) and it is reality that I can not deliver to a high level in the presence of present day pace battery of Pakistan team. I have no regrets on calling it a day as I have always tried to give my best "Wahab Riaz told a news conference. He further said in the presence of Shaheen Shah Afridi and other top notch fast bowlers he does not see a place for himself in the team and he has decided to part his way with the game except the T20 format. The left armed 38-year-old said he will continue his association with the game by playing T20 leagues around the world. "Stepping off the international pitch. After an incredible journey, I've decided to thank you to PCB, my family, coaches,



mentors, teammates, fans, and everyone who supported me,"he said. Wahab Riaz who made his ODI and T20I debut in 2008 and his first Test appearance retire from international cricket. Big came in 2010 said "Exciting times ahead in the world of franchise cricket". Wahab

Riaz played 27 Tests, 91 ODIs, and 36 T20Is for Pakistan and claimed more than 200 wickets in international cricket. During his Test debut against England at The Oval in 2010, Riaz bagged figures of 5 for 63, becoming the ninth Pakistan

bowler to claim five wickets on debut. Wahab Riaz said he has enjoyed playing cricket from Pakistan and achieved a lot from the game and in his career he met success as well as failure. "When I started playing cricket long ago it was my dream to represent the country at the highest level of the game and finally achieved it" said Wahab Riaz. His best performance in ODI cricket was against arch-rivals India, when he took 5 for 46 during the World Cup semi-final in Mohali. His scalps included the likes of Virender Sehwag, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni. Riaz also bowled one of the most memorable spells in Pakistan cricket history, when he bamboozled Australia's Shane Watson with his pace and bounce during the 2015 World Cup clash in Adelaide. The pacer played his last international game in December 2020, which was a T20I match against New Zealand in Hamilton, Wahab Riaz who is the Sports Minister of Puniab said it is hard to say goodbye to cricket at a time when he has focused to play the 2023 World Cup. "I am thankful to my family, the Pakistan Cricket Board for their all out support to me and I am leaving the arena with pride and respect ", he added.

Lahore Divisional Cycling Association celebrates 76th Independence Day with Jashan Azadi Races

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Jashan Azadi Cycling Races organized by Lahore Divisional Cycling Association in collaboration with Unique Group of Institutions was won by male professional Shakeel Jutt while women's race was won by Aswa Afzal. The race was inaugurated by Senior Vice President Punjab Cycling Association Colonel (Rtd) Jahanzeb Khan Niazi. The race started from Marhaba Factory and ended in front of Wahdat Road UGI Head Office. After unfurling the flag and cutting the cake, the chief guest of the closing ceremony, Prof. Abdul Manan Khurram, distribut- al Cycling Association Pres- pendence Day. Lahore Divi- the Punjab Police and ed the prizes to the winning players Afeef Ashraf, Riaz General Secretary Sakhawat ing Amjad Khan, Shafique the event successful. This ul Haq and Waseem Anwar Shah thanked the Unique Babi and Qaiser Masih also event was the biggest profeswere also present at the Group of Institutions for thanked the UGI and his sional event on the occasion



ident Shahzada Butt and

sional Cycling official includ- Rescue personnel for m

ceremony. Lahore Division- celebrating the 76th Inde- team and they also thanked of this Independence Day.

Lionel Messi's massive 9-goal streak propels Inter Miami to Leagues Cup final

Argentine legend Lionel Leagues Cup scoring chart showcased his provess in the propelled the team to the the field. final of the Leagues Cup with phia Union on Tuesday.

This triumph positions the

sensational. This impres- ry books. sive feat has not only placed him at the pinnacle of the Philadelphia Union, Messi

Messi's 9th goal within his but also solidified his status 6th game for Inter Miami as a game-changing force on

ascended to the third spot on Inter Miami's all-time scorclub on the brink of clinch- ing list. With a mere 20-goal ing its inaugural trophy after gap behind fellow countryfour seasons of competition. man Gonzalo Higuain, the Since joining Inter Miami, club's top scorer, Messi's been nothing less than name into the team's histo-

During the game against

20th minute by launching a formidable low rocket from beyond 30 yards out. The ball Remarkably, within just a deftly evaded the outstretched a 4-1 victory over Philadel- few weeks, Messi has already fingers of Union's keeper Andre Blake, ricocheting off the right post and finding the

The first half continued to witness Inter Miami's dominance as Spanish Messi's performance has rapid rise has etched his veteran Jordi Alba contributed a third goal in stoppage time, solidifying the team's commanding lead.

back of the net.

Although Alejandro

Bedoya managed to pull one back for Philadelphia with 17 minutes left, any hopes of a Union comeback were swiftly dashed as David Ruiz sealed Miami's victory with a fourth goal in the 84th minute.

Nashville SC's victory over Monterrey in the other Leagues Cup semifinal set the stage for a championship clash against Inter Miami. The ultimate trophy showdown is scheduled for August 19 in Nashville, Tennessee, where the two teams will vie for supremacy.

FIFA Women's World Cup: England beat Australia to qualify for final

England beat Australia in the second semi-final of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 to set up a final clash against Spain.

The remarkable match unfolded with electrifying moments as Lauren Hemp and Alessia Russo delivered the finishing blows, setting the stage for a thrilling final.

Having previously failed at the semi-finals twice, the Lionesses demonstrated unwavering determination and resilience, ensuring that history wouldn't repeat itself.

The European champions seized the opportunity to mark their first appearance in the final, making the most of their chance to etch their names onto the coveted trophy.

The momentum shifted in favour of England when Ella Toone, of Manchester United, unleashed an astonishing shot from just inside the box, sending the ball rocketing into the top right corner nine minutes before halftime.

Sam Kerr, returning to the tournament's starting lineup, roared back for the home team with a world-class goal.

Nonetheless, England held their ground, and it was Lauren Hemp who asserted her presence, muscling her way into the box to score a crucial goal. With only minutes remaining, Alessia Russo sealed the victory, calmly using her right foot to put the icing on the cake.

As England advances to the much-anticipated final on Sunday at the Stadium Australia, anticipation builds for a highstakes encounter against a formidable Spanish team that triumphed over Sweden in the semifinals. With their sights set on the championship, England's journey has been one of persistence and growth, epitomized by their European title last year under the guidance of Coach Sarina Wiegman.

Australia, despite their loss, has had their best World Cup ever, a journey highlighted by their impactful performance. Despite the defeat, the team still has a third-place playoff against Sweden on the horizon, presenting another chance to showcase their abilities on the world stage. The match's intensity saw both sides navigate nervy beginnings, with Australia striving to find their footing. A combination of remarkable saves and strategic plays defined the game, with key moments showcasing the tenacity and determination of both teams.

Punjab Group of Colleges to defend boys champion trophy in 2023: Osama Bashir

MULTAN: Director Punjab Group of Colleges Osama Bashir Said the annual sports champion organized by Board of Education Multan, has started preparations to defend the boys champion trophy for the 19th time. After participating in Multan Board's girls event for the first time last year, Punjab Group of Colleges, champions of the girls over all sports trophy, has prepared a strategy to win the girls trophy for the second time in a row and in the first phase, talent and honor based on sports. The admission schedule for the sports seats has been announced for the winning students and female athletes. According to this, the admissions on the sports quota in Punjab colleges will start from August 17.

Students desirous of admission on the basis of sports have been asked to submit their sports credentials along with their admission form to the admission office of Boys Punjab College Rashidabad and Girls Punjab College Busan Road by 20 August 2023. Punjab Group Of Colleges won the 21-sports Boys Over All Champion Trophy of Education Board Multan in May this year for the 20th time and participated in the Girls Games for the first time and also won the Punjab Group of Colleges by winning the 15-sport Overall Girls Champion Trophy. Decorated in sports showcase. And now at the beginning of the year 2023-24 with dedication to win, with new enthusiasm, Punjab Group of Colleges has asked the talented players of various sports to contact them immediately for admission on the basis of sports.

Asia Cup Sri Lanka leg tickets to go on sale today

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board as hosts of the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023 is pleased to announce the sale of match tickets for the Sri Lanka leg of the event. Tickets for the first phase of the Sri Lanka leg will go on sale from 12 pm (noon) PST on 17 August.

The tickets will be available at pcb.bookme.pk. The announcement will be made through the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official social media channels.

The second phase of ticket sales for the Sri Lanka leg will commence at 6:30 pm PST on 17 August. This second phase of ticket sales will include the much awaited fixture between Pakistan and India on 2 September.

Nine matches will be held in Sri Lanka, including the final. The Sri Lanka leg will begin with the home side taking on Bangladesh at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on 31 August.

Last week, the tickets for the Asia Cup matches in Pakistan were put on sale. The tournament kicks off in Multan when the hosts Pakistan play Nepal on 30 August.

Pak tennis sensation Huzaifa shines in USA



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's tennis sensation Huzaifa Abdul Rehman continues shining at the international level as he has annexed another title in Florida, US. The 20-year-old, outwitted his rivals in the quarterfinal and semifinal before getting a walkover in the final, according to information received here on Tuesday. The Smackdown Sarasota \$6,000 event was held at Palm Aire Country Club. This is Huzaifa's third title in his recent outings. In the round of 16, Huzaifa defeated USA's L. Conner in a one-sided affair 6-0, 6-0. In the quarterfinal, he edged passed USA's R. Olsen 6-2, 6-2.

In the semifinal, he overpowered H. Fidler of Aruba 6-1, 6-3. In the final, he got a walkover against Germany's Flix Felann as he remained unable to appear in the match. Huzaifa, who is training at Florida's Next Generation Tennis Academy told APP on the phone that the win had given him confidence. "My aim is to play in the Grand Slam events. Each win is leading me towards my ultimate destination. I've set a target for myself. But I know I'll have to move step by step as there are no shortcuts. "First, I am aiming to appear in the ATP Challenger Tour to move into 1,000 rankings in a year. Then I'll be trying to join the list of top 500 players in the next two years. Finally, of course, I will be trying to break into the top 200 to be able to contest in Grand Slam tournaments," he added.

PCB announces first-ever domestic contracts for women cricketers

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: In a significant development for women's cricket in Pakistan, a total of 74 talented women cricketers have been awarded 11-month domestic contracts, the first of its kind in women's cricket. Among the 74 players, 59 players belong to emerging and U19 categories, while 14 players have already represented Pakistan women's team at

This important advancement is set to provide a substantial boost to the confidence of women cricketers, as an action-packed women's cricket season is all set to resume from 1 September.

These domestic contracts have been conferred upon individuals who have displayed remarkable performances across various cricketing platforms, including domestic cricket tournaments, emerging tournaments, U19 domestic tournament, and the ICC U19 Women's World Cup. The players have been selected by the national women's

Test cricketer Saleem Jaffar, with recommendations from national and academy coaches. The initiative aims not only to acknowledge their hard work and dedication but also elevate the standard of women's cricket within the country. The decision to offer these

contracts underscores the commitment of the Pakistan Cricket Board led by the Management Committee Chairperson Mr Zaka Ashraf to foster the growth of women's cricket, provide a viable career path, and motivate more women to participate and excel in the sport. This step will have a ripple effect on women's cricket, encouraging more players to aspire to play at the highest level.

PCB Management Committee Head Zaka Ashraf: "I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 74 women cricketers who have earned these contracts through their sheer talent and dedication. Today marks a significant and joyous occasion for the Pakistan Cricket Board as we take

selection committee led by former a historic step towards uplifting women's cricket in our nation.

This initiative isn't just about signing contracts, it's about investing in the dreams and aspirations of these extraordinary athletes. Our women cricketers have consistently showcased exceptional skills and dedication on the field, and it is high time we provide them with the platform they deserve. It is our firm belief that empow-

ering these athletes will not only elevate the standard of our women's cricket but also inspire a new generation of girls to take up the sport." Head of Women's Cricket

Tania Mallick: "We are thrilled to announce the awarding of domestic contracts to 74 of our finest women cricketers. This historic moment not only recognises their extraordinary skills but also aims to instill confidence and determination among our women athletes. As we approach a busy women's cricket season, we are committed to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure

their success.'

In addition to the domestic contracts, the PCB has also resumed facilities for women cricketers to train in eight cricket academies across the country, seven of which are operational. The operational academies include National Cricket Academy in Lahore, Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre in Karachi, Inzamam-ul-Haq High Performance Centre in Multan, Qayyum Stadium in Peshawar, Abbottabad Cricket Stadium in Abbottabad, Bugti Stadium in Quetta and Women's Sports Stadium in Bahawalpur.

Players who been offered domestic contracts will not be a part of the women's central contracts 2023-24, which will be announced in due course. The players in the domestic contracts. in addition to receiving monthly retainers, will also receive match fee, daily allowance, and a share in prize money.

The 74 players along with their cities in alphabetical order are Aima Saleem (Rawalpindi),



Aimen Anwar (Karachi), Aisha Javed (Lahore), Aleena Shah (Peshawar), Aliza Khan (Karachi), Amber Kainat (Lahore), Anam Amin (Lahore), Areesha Noor Bhatti (Lahore), Arijah Haseeb (Karachi), Asma Amin (Faisalabad), Asma Shareef (Arifwala), Ayesha Asim (Quetta), Ayesha Bilal (Lahore), Ayesha Zafar (Lahore), Dina Razvi (Karachi), Dua Majid (Lahore), Fajr Naveed (Rawalpindi), Fareeha Mehmood (Lahore), Fatima Khan (Lahore), Fatima Shahid (Lahore), Fatima

Zehra (Rawalpindi), Gul-e-Uswa (Multan), Gull Feroza (Multan), Gull Rukh (Dera Ghazi Khan), Haleema Azeem Dar (Lahore), Haniah Ahmer (Karachi), Humna Bilal (Rawalpindi), Huraina Sajjad (Karachi), Iram Javed (Lahore), Jannat Rasheed (Quetta), Javeria Khan (Karachi), Jaweria Rauf ha Muneer (Multan), Warda (Karachi), Kainat Imtiaz (Karachi), Kaynat Hafeez (Lahore), Khadija Chishti (Lahore), Kinza Wahab (Karachi), Laiba Mansoor (Rawalpindi), Laiba Nasir (Lahore), Lubna Behram (Hunza),

Maham Manzoor (Hyderabad), Maham Tariq (Karachi), Mahnoor Aftab (Peshawar), Masooma Zehra (Karachi), Momina Riasat (Abbottabad), Natalia Parvaiz (Bhimber), Neha Sharmeen Sheikh (Karachi), Noor-Ul-Eman (Bahawalpur), Noreen Yaqoob (Lahore), Quratulain Ahsen (Lahore), Rameen Shamim (Karachi), Rida Aslam (Lahore), Saba Nazir (Muridke), Saima Malik (Quetta), Saiqa Riaz (Lahore), Saira Jabeen (Chitral), Sana Talib (Rahim Yar Khan), Sania Rasheed (Rawalpindi), Shabnam Hayat (Karachi), Soha Fatima (Lahore), Subhana Tariq (Karachi), Syeda Taskyn Fatima (Karachi), Tasmia Rubab (Lahore), Tayyaba Imdad (Abbottabad), Tahzeeb Shah (Swabi), Waheeda Akhter (Lahore), Wajee-Yousaf (Okara), Wasifa Hussain (Karachi), Yusra Amir (Karachi), Zaib-un-Nisa (Charsadda), Zamina Tahir (Lahore), Zunaira Shah (Karachi) and Zunash Abdul Sattar (Lahore)

Maham Anees (Islamabad),