



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 Level Meeting at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side on Aug 13-14. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday. The two sides had a positive, constructive and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the remaining 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

Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing Members of Parliamentary Reporters Association in Parliament House on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

'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 Ashraf said in a statement that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would announce the election schedule after completing the new delimitation under the 2023 census data.

Regarding the recent Supreme Court ruling, Ashraf clarified that

the Review of Judgements and 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 again.

He said that the president had returned universities' bills unsigned. He added that the PDM-led assembly carried out better legislation in a short period.

He urged the stakeholders to find possible solutions to the

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.

The former interior minister said that the nation will listen only to what PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif says. The date of his return will be either by the party or Nawaz Sharif himself, he added.

He said that all parties should be allowed to contest elections

except those who were involved 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 criticised that six days passed since the dissolution of the National Assembly, but the ECP has yet to announce elections.

"Time passes rapidly over the 90 days' constitutional deadline for elections but regrettably the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has yet to issue a compre-

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," Rabbani said.

"The election commission should not treat the issue as a routine matter," he emphasized. "The delay in holding elections within the period allowed by the constitution, will bring serious consequences for the federation," Senator Rabbani cautioned.

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



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-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 Bin Salman, and the people

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 and regional issues of common interest.

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 continued support to them.

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

City Desk

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 before the court. During the hearing today,



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 clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested from the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9.

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.

Train, bus fares increased after petrol price hike

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 the country.

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 Mehrar increased by Rs100 to Rs1,400.

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 Rs600.



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.



Photo: PID

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

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar is set to announce the federal cabinet shortly.

Sources told media that Shamshad Akhtar had been selected for the key position of finance minister. Gohar Ijaz has been named as minister for 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 has more or less finalised the names for his cabinet, sources say, as both Hafeez Shaikh and Reza Baqir are not among the candidates being considered for the coveted finance minister slot.

Ex-finance minister Shaikh and former State Bank governor Baqir were in the office 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



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

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 the process.

According to the sources, Jail 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.

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 Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. The delegation hailed from the native village of the caretaker prime minister. They felicitated the prime minister on assuming his office

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 submitted an application for a grid station.

Jl announces countrywide protest against spike in petroleum prices

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirjul Haq on Wednesday gave a call for holding countrywide protest against the whopping 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 masses.



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 court. In the petition, the SCBA 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 notification issued on August 5 should be declared illegal in light of

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 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 caretaker chief ministers were not eligible to participate in the CCI meeting.

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

News Desk

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 questions from The Associated Press about restrictions on girls and women, saying the status quo will remain. The ban on girls attending school



beyond sixth grade was the first of what became a flurry of restrictions that now keep Afghan women from classrooms, most jobs and much of public life.

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 anniversary, Tuesday was declared

a public holiday. Women, largely barred from public life, didn't take part in the festivities.

In the southern city of Kandahar, the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban, military personnel posed with 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 increasingly apparent that the seat

of power is in Kandahar, the home of supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, rather than the Taliban-led government in Kabul.

The interview with Mujahid took place late Monday in a TV studio on a rundown 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 international recognition.

Parliamentary panel to decide interim Balochistan CM

Bureau Report

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, sources said.

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

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

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 of constituencies raised by 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 prime minister to emphasise the "cardinal importance of upholding the constitution, in letter and spirit, which is the bedrock of our democracy and guarantees the rights and freedoms of every citizen which, unfortunately, have been badly tampered with in the recent past".

"The timely holding of

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.

"At the time of the said meeting, Chief Ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had already failed to hold general elections in their respective province within the constitutionally stipulated period. Appropriately, we also intend to chal-

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 it was important to provide a "level playing field" to all contestants so that the "consequent elections carry a stamp of credibility failing which divisive currents could be unleashed that would damage the ethos and fabric of the state".

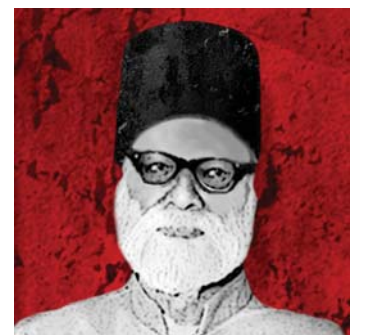
Tribute to Baba-e-Urdu Urdu University is fruit of life-long struggle of Maulvi Abdul Haq

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 Maulvi Abdul Haq on his 62nd death anniversary and said that FUUAST is the fruit of life-long efforts of Maulvi Abdul Haq.

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.

He said that the establishment of FUUAST was the result of tire-



less work and efforts of Maulvi Abdul Haq. We have to successfully complete the mission of Baba-e-Urdu, he said. He recalled that Baba-e-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 planted by him a tree and take important steps for the promotion of Urdu.

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

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the 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 the business community, which was apprehensive about the prospect of a radical change in key economic policies, he said.

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 after taking the oath of the caretaker prime minister are worrisome.

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



federal cabinet should be finalised immediately so that they could start working.

According to the caretaker Prime Minister, he is keen on reforms in the power sector and broadening the tax base, while he is serious about

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 purpose.

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 public and the business community can get some relief.

Sardar Naeem inaugurated the newly constructed building of Accountability Bureau



Abdul Majeed Tahir

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. Excion 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-year-old Abdul Hameed's daughter on the pretense of marriage.

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

Asim Tanveer

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.

Cake cutting

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



Polio awareness committee meeting in ADC Wana office

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 Malik/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 tribal elders.

The event was started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Tehsil Mayor and he welcomed all the participants in his opening remarks. The 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 Malik to extend support to the field team to ensure that every child is vaccinated in the upcoming RUR campaign commencing from August 28, 2023.

The AC Wana also addressed the



forum and requested the elders to extend support to create a conducive environment for vaccination.

Hussain Ali Awan Deputy Provincial Manager-PCE also addressed the forum and highlighted the objective of the event and alliances at every Tehsil.

These committees will work under the supervision of administration to engage and resolve if any boycott is reported and to delink any other demand with vaccination.

The tribal Malik/ elders also addressed the forum and highlighted some issues pertaining to health and education.

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

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

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 September 5.

Power sector has become a big problem for public and businesses

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 sector, he said.

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 situation.

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.

During this time, reforms were not 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.

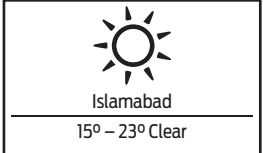
The reasons behind the fall of the electricity sector include dependence on imported oil, a lack of interest by authorities in solar and wind power, increased taxes on

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.





SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:59 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:58 pm
Maghrib 6:54 pm
Isha 8:24 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886

Zong 4G and hands join forces to empower youth through digital education

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 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 situation and take care of their health

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

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 children independent and able



to get employment.

Special people should be employed on the allotted quota,

for mental health we are all working together to find solutions to the problems faced in people's

lives and in this regard I thank the lady health workers who are all these. Speaking on this occasion,

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 in the event.

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 that Pakistan should summon the ambassador of Sweden to convey to him the sentiments of the Muslim Ummah.

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



tional laws that clearly prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. He said that European countries should understand the sanctity of the Holy

Quran and realize the fact that Muslims cannot tolerate any kind of desecration of the Quran or other Islamic symbols.

He said that such senseless and vile attacks were bound 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 Nizam, 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 Nizam 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. Moreover, 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



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shangrilla 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 Hoisting 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 & 14th August 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

City Desk

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 Tokar, Mr Aleksandr Mikhailov and Ms Anastasiia Tenikhina also addressed the ceremony.

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Addressing Challenges for Free and Fair Elections in Pakistan

Pakistan's electoral journey 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.

The stifling effect it has on democratic vibrancy and renewal is a notable 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, can result in inefficiencies and the erosion of meritocracy.

Candidates with excessive financial backing can gain an unfair advantage, 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 ensure that elections truly reflect the will 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.



Analysis
Muhammad Haroon

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.

Furthermore, the concentration of political power within a particular family can potentially undermine democratic checks and balances, leading to an imbalance in the distribution of authority. Such a concentration also perpetuates inequalities, limiting opportunities for individuals from non-dynastic backgrounds to participate in shaping the nation's political course.

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 significant barrier to free and fair elections.

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 merit-based 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.

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

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

Restoring 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.

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 e Azam University, Islamabad. He can be reached at mehsudadi100@gmail.com

Pakistani mangoes in China

The 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.

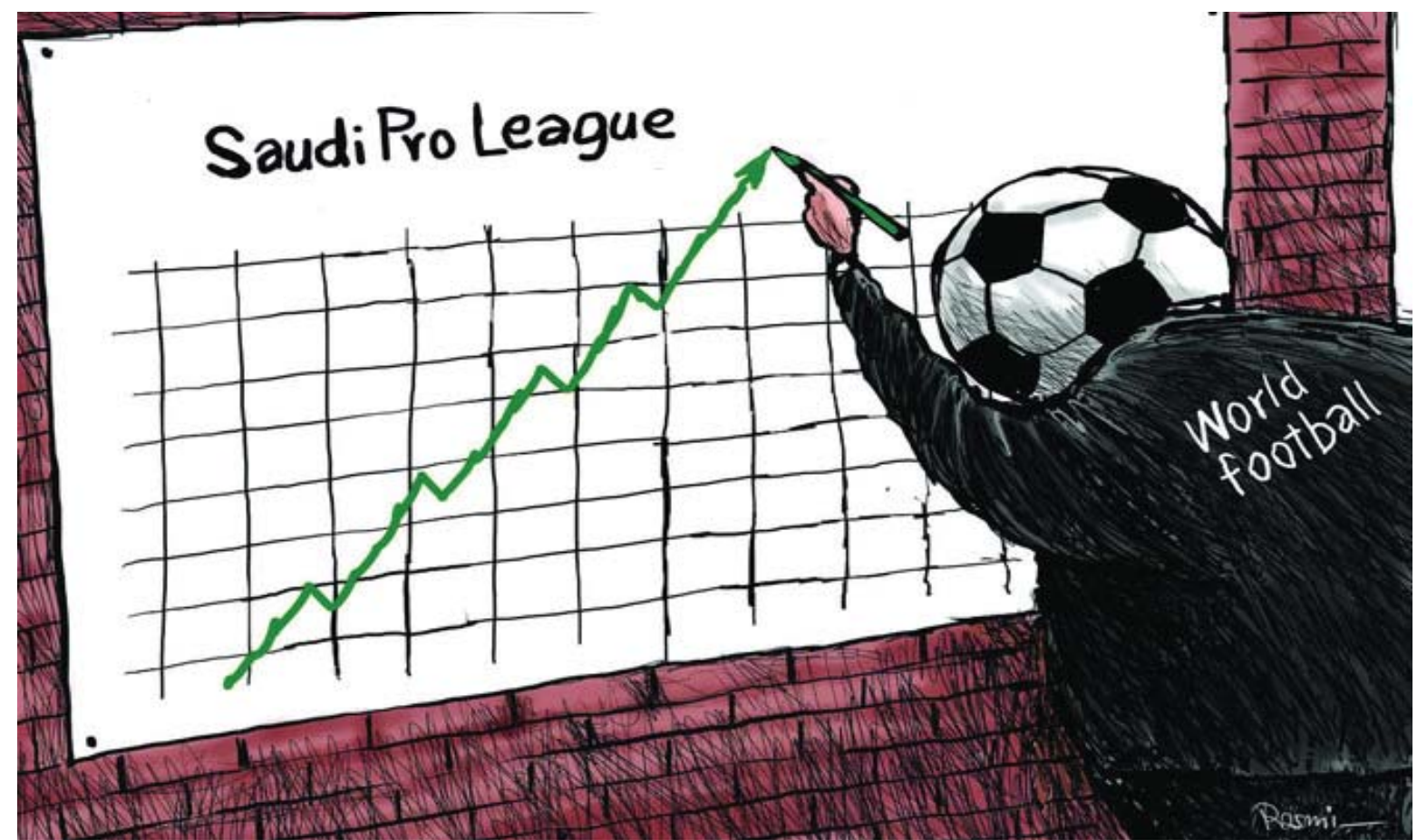
Senator Rana Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan will lead a six-member delegation of the Senate of Pakistan at the opening ceremony of the expo. Responding to a question, he said that with the exhibition, we want to reach out to the Chinese companies which are interested in procuring mangoes from Pakistan and introducing 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 addition.

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.



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

CPO's slap on abominable trap

The police, whose 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 act. 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.

pockets and kept them in illegal detention and collected 7lacs rupees 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 activities is of utmost importance. This process involves fostering a culture of integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct within law enforcement agencies. On time holding accountability those who violate the law, a police department can strengthen its reputation. CPO Multan has rebuilt public trust and creates a safer environment for the traders and common people. Taking decisive action against criminal police officers is not only a matter of justice but also a crucial step towards boosting the morale of the entire police force. IO Yaqub 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 and showy.

uniform. Such cases raise concerns 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 activities. In uniform they misuse their authority to commit crimes, such as theft of assault. It is common practice of Thana police officers, they sharing confidential information with criminals to 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 trust and can lead to a breakdown of community relationships. It is important for law enforcement agencies to have mechanisms in place to prevent and 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 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 betrayal of their sworn duty. Punishing and removing police officers from service is essential to maintain the credibility of the entire justice 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 strictly controlled.



Analysis
Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

There have been instances reported where some police officers have been involved in criminal activities or have formed alliances with criminal gangs while wearing their

Navigating Economic Governance Challenges in Pakistan

Niamat ullah Harifal

The 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 landscapes, and economic circumstances.

alignment 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.

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.

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 cronyism, 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.

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

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 prosperity.

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

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

from various sectors attended 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 this endeavor, we stand united,

knowing that the path forward 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-reaching consequences of extremist



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 weaponized.

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), Islamabad.

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 aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy,



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 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.

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

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 Afroz, 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 burden in Pakistan.

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 a 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.

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

LONDON: Two Indian men are seriously injured and getting hospital treatment as a bloody clash broke out between hundreds of Indian men celebrating their country's Independence Day and a group of around five pro-Khalistan British Sikhs who

refused to join the celebrations on the night of 15 August here.

The violence took place outside South Hall, Broadway in West London where hundreds of Indian men were raising slogans in support of India, the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) and the RSS on the night of 15th August.

The clashes have raised the spectre of communal clashes as it happened last year in Leicester when a Hindutva mob attacked local Muslims and damaged their properties, unleashing

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 carrying flags of Khalistan.

Special article on 8th Death Anniversary

A world without General Hameed Gul

General 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 a soldier."

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 Strategy" proved to be so right



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 War alongside General Akhtar who was then DG ISI and at the

same time, General Hameed Gul kept a close eye 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 Ordnance Factories Wah, which he refused. He proudly stated that

"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 its 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

seen him as a supporter of Taliban and often called him as Father of Taliban.

General Gul was always credited by India for being the brain behind proxy wars in Kashmir and Indian Punjab. Some accuse him for being behind the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai, India. Indian media and Intelligence agencies



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 plthora 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

Afghanistan both owe a debt of gratitude to him. I salute him. We will miss you General Hameed Gul. Pakistan will miss you.

August holds significant historical importance for both 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 of failure.

One individual who symbolizes the enduring struggle for Kashmir's freedom is this little girl, Raziya Sultan, a representative of the fourth generation of a family 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 Kashmiris.

Raziya Sultan's connection to the cause, as the daughter of Mushaal and Yasin, gives her a unique perspective and a potent voice. Her lineage is steeped in sacrifice and commitment,

embodying the spirit of the Kashmiri people who have endured decades of challenges in their pursuit of freedom.

One of the most poignant aspects of this struggle is the 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 touching depiction of the silent suffering and untold stories that the people of Kashmir have endured for decades. The intricate 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 for change, and work towards a future where the people of Kashmir can finally experience the freedom they have long yearned for.

