



'PPP to move court if general elections delayed'

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will move court if the upcoming general elections are delayed. Taking to ARY News programme Khabar, PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said that PPP does not accept the ECP decision regarding the schedule of delimitations and delay in general elections is not acceptable. (Report on Page 8)



US asks Pakistan to respect prisoners' rights

United States (US) has asked stakeholders in Pakistan to respect the human rights of prisoners. As per details, Principal Deputy Spokesperson at the Department of State Vedant Patel said that the US is waiting to work with the caretaker government of Pakistan who is going to hold general elections in Pakistan, he added. He asked Pakistan to respect the rights of prisoners including the PTI chief and former prime minister and said that the Pakistani stakeholders can further comment on this matter.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Oath Taking

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to members of the caretaker Federal Cabinet, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

COAS vows to bring Jaranwala incident culprits to justice



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS addressed the participants of yearly ISPR Internship Program being attended by over 370 students from various universities across Pakistan. While addressing the participants, COAS emphasized upon the role of youth towards national development. COAS said, "Youth is future of Pakistan, which can contribute immensely towards peace, progress and prosperity of the country."

COAS also highlighted the efforts of inimical forces towards creating and fomenting fissures, intolerance, mistrust and violent behaviour among the people to spread anarchy and unrest in the country.

"It's imperative for the

youth to discern the difference between truth, half truth, lies, misinformation and disinformation." COAS remarked.

While responding to a question by a participant, COAS said "Jaranwala incident is extremely tragic and totally intolerable. There is no space for such incidents of intolerance and extreme behavior by any segment of the society against anyone, particularly against minorities." He said that all citizens of Pakistan are equal amongst each other irrespective of religion, gender, cast or creed. He emphasized that no one will be allowed to take law in own hands and those culpable of committing such crimes will be brought before the court of justice.

In the end, COAS appreciated the young internees for successfully completing the program.

Govt to ensure full use of SIFC forum for economic development: Kakar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the government would ensure full use of the forum of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to carry forward the development agenda.

Terming the SIFC a ray of hope for Pakistan's economic development, the prime minister said the government would focus on development of different sectors under the Council's umbrella.

Addressing a meeting held here in connection with the working of SIFC, Prime Minister Kakar said the caretaker government during its short tenure would fully devote all its energies to the stability and progress of the economy.

He directed to harmonize



the regulatory structure with the contemporary international requirements to improve the energy sector.

He said Pakistan had vast potential for foreign investment in the fields of agriculture, mining and minerals, information technology, energy and defence production.

During the meeting, Secretary SIFC Jahanzeb Khan and Secre-

tary Implementation Jameel Ahmed Qureshi briefed the prime minister about the steps taken to bolster foreign direct investment.

PM Kakar was also apprised about the whole of government approach under SIFC to increase the foreign investment by facilitating investors.

The meeting was further informed that under the forum, the government would provide one window facility to the investors for different projects.

The prime minister appreciated the efforts of Jahanzeb Khan and Jamil Ahmed Qureshi for bringing investment in the country, adding the SIFC would play a vital role in improving the economy.

He said there was huge potential for foreign investment in the infrastructure and tourism sectors.

Delegation of Minorities' Representatives Calls On HCJP

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An eight (8) member delegation of Sikh community, headed by Mr. Samuel Payara (Chairman, Implementation Minority Rights Forum), comprising Baba Makhhan Singh, Baba Gurpal Singh, Dr. Sahib Singh, Sardar Bishan Singh, Amrik Singh, Kaka Singh, Satnam Singh and Dharam Singh paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad on 16.08.2023.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan welcomed the delegates and felicitated them on Minorities Day. His lordship briefed them about the rights of minorities as enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. He further added that in Pakistan, every citizen has the right

to profess and practice their respective faiths. He termed the courts in Pakistan as the custodian of the fundamental rights of the people, which have always been cognizant of the rights of minorities and have delivered judgments to enforce, implement and address issues faced by minorities in Pakistan. Considerable strides have been made to safeguard the religious properties of the minorities, in particular the Christian and Hindu communities.

The delegation apprised the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan about the Sikh history and various issues, including their security and protection of their religious properties. The Hon'ble Chief Justice termed the safeguard of minorities rights as the fundamental duty of the state and assured the delegates of taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.

Two prime suspects in Jaranwala incident arrested

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi said that two prime suspects in Jaranwala incident have been arrested.

As per details, the caretaker chief minister said that in an important breakthrough two prime suspects of the Jaranwala vandalism have been arrested.

He applauded the efforts of Chief Secretary and IG Punjab in the arrest of suspects who were involved in the Jaranwala incident.

Earlier today, the Jaranwala police registered terror cases against more than 600 people for "vandalizing multiple churches and torching homes belonging to the Christian community".

According to the FIR, a mob of 500-600, who were led by a group of people, "attacked the Christian community, ransacked the people's homes after entering them and torched Christians' homes and the church building".

Over 600 booked as high-level probe underway into Jaranwala incident

Spokesman Report

FAISALABAD: The Jaranwala police on Thursday registered terror cases against more than 600 people for "vandalising multiple churches and torching homes belonging to the Christian community".

According to the FIR, a mob of 500-600, who were led by a group of people, "attacked the Christian community, ransacked people's homes after entering them and torched Christians' homes and the church building".

The FIR invoked sections 7(1)(d), 7(1)(j), 7(1)(g) and 7(1)(h) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. It also invoked sections 148, 149, 153A, 186, 295A, 324, 353, 427, 436 and 452 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). The FIR also included sections 5 and 6 of the Punjab Sound Systems (Regulation) Act 2015.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government also ordered the formation of a high-level inquiry committee to investigate the incident, in line with directives issued by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq.

In a statement, Punjab police



said it had made over 100 arrests while Rangers had also been called in.

In light of the situation, the district administration has imposed Section 144 for seven days, prohibiting all kinds of assembly, except for events organised by the government.

Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar took notice of incidents that took place in Jaranwala city of Punjab's Faisalabad district.

In a message on X (formerly Twitter), PM Kakar wrote, "I am gutted by the visuals coming out of Jaranwala, Faisalabad."

He vowed, "Stern action would be taken against those who

violate law and target minorities. All law enforcement has been asked to apprehend culprits and bring them to justice. Rest assured that the government of Pakistan stands with our citizenry on equal basis."

While condemning the Jaranwala incidents, former PM and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif wrote on X, "What is happening in Jaranwala is sad and disturbing. There is no place for violence in any religion. All religious places, Holy Books and personages are sacred and deserve our highest level of respect."

ECP halts NOC issuance for new housing societies, demands commission's clearance

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday banned the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for new housing societies, making commission approval necessary even in cases of urgency. The ECP's notification stated that while the caretaker government has the capability to manage routine operational emergencies, it is advisable to refrain from making significant policy decisions. The ECP's notice highlights a growing concern - changes in land usage initiated by the provincial government across various districts. The issuance of NOCs by deputy commissioners to multiple housing societies has begun to compromise vital green spaces and productive agricultural land. This trend could potentially lead to disorderly and unplanned residential expansion, accompanied by possible corruption concerns in specific regions. The responsibility of devising an appropriate policy to tackle this challenge falls squarely on the shoulders of the elected government, bypassing the caretaker government. Consequently, an imme-

PTI rejects ECP schedule for delimitations

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has rejected the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) schedule for delimitations.

As per details, PTI has decided to challenge the Council of Common Interests (CCI) decisions in Supreme Court tomorrow.

The PTI spokesperson said that the constitution bounds the ECP to hold elections within 90 days after the dissolution of assemblies.

The ECP schedule is a criminal attempt to extend the duration of caretaker government and the commission wants to violate the constitution as it did in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Read more: Elections not possible in 90 days: ECP

Earlier today, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that general elections are not possible within 90 days. As per details, the Election Commission of Pakistan decided to hold the upcoming general election on the census 2023.

The ECP stated that the commission is bound to carry out the delimitation process. The first publication will be on October 9 while the final publication will be on December 14.

The meeting decided to seek assistance from the provincial governments and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in the delimitation process.

The administrative measures will be completed by August 31 whereas the delimitation will be carried out across the country from September 8 to October 7.

Protest

HYDERABAD: Members of Christian Community hold a protest rally against the Jaranwala (Faisalabad) incident, in City.



Photo: Online

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to October 7.

Delimitation committees will be constituted on August 21 and the complaint regarding the delimitations can be submitted to the from October 10 to November 8. The ECP has allotted four months for the delimitation process.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued instructions to the caretaker governments ahead of the general elections.

The ECP instructed the caretaker governments, both at the national and provincial levels, to guarantee a fair and

balanced playing field for all candidates and political parties in the upcoming general elections, the state news agency reported.

The Commission, in a notification, also banned transfers and postings of public officers to ensure transparent elections, citing Clause 2(f) of Section 230 within the Elections Act of 2017 that "prohibits the federal and provincial governments from posting or transferring any public official after the notification's issuance without obtaining prior written approval from the ECP".

'PPP to move court if general elections delayed'

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will move court if the upcoming general elections are delayed.

Taking to ARY News programme Khabar, PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said that PPP does not accept the ECP decision regarding the schedule of delimitations and delay in general elections is not acceptable.

He said that ECP will also be approached to carry out the delimitation process after elections as timely elections are PPP's stance from day one.

Faisal Kundi said that the number of constituencies increases after the delimitation and the ECP would need an amendment for an increase in the constituencies.

Furthermore, PPP suggested the coalition parties to hold elections within 60 days after the dissolution

of assemblies however they wanted election in 90 days.

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ECP stops Punjab caretaker set-up from exceeding powers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has stopped the caretaker Punjab set-up from exceeding powers.

The election commission wrote a letter to the caretaker Punjab chief minister (CM) and chief secretary. The letter stated that the caretaker set-up cannot take major decisions and can only exercise powers for running day-to-day affairs.

The ECP took notice of the issuance of NOCs to the housing societies in green belt areas by the deputy commissioners. The commission warned the caretaker set-up to refrain from taking such decisions which do not come under its jurisdiction but an elected government.

The commission directed the Punjab caretaker set-up to immediately stop issuing NOCs to the housing societies and issue instructions to the deputy commissioners.

It further stated that the ECP expects decisions from the caretaker government within the constitutional limits.

On Tuesday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued instructions to the caretaker governments ahead of the general elections.

The ECP instructed the caretaker governments, both at the national and provincial levels, to guarantee a fair and balanced playing field for all candidates and political parties in the upcoming general elections, the state news agency reported.

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Caretaker federal cabinet takes oath: Here are the names!

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has administered oath to the caretaker federal cabinet members at the President's House today.

The caretaker federal cabinet took oath today in a ceremony held at the President's House.

The caretaker cabinet members include Jamal Shah, Umar Saif, Murtaza Solangi, Sarfraz Bugti, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Tabish Gohar, Gohar Ijaz, Shamsah Akhtar, Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Aneeq Ahmed, Anwar Ali Haider, Dr Nadeem Jan, Muhammad Sami, Madad Ali Sindhi, Manzoor Ranjha and Ahmed Irfan.

Portfolios (Caretaker Ministers):
Shamsah Akhtar (Minister for Finance, Privatisation)
Ex-Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani (Foreign Minister)
Murtaza Solangi (Information and Broadcasting Minister)
Sarfraz Bugti (Minister for Inte-



ISLAMABAD: Murtaza Solangi, assumed the charge as Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting.

rior, Overseas Pakistanis & Narcotics Control)
Lt Gen (Retd) Anwar Ali Haider (Minister of Defence, Aviation)

Ahmed Irfan Aslam (Minister for Law, Natural Resources, Climate Change)

Industrialist Ijaz Gohar (Minister for Commerce, Textile & Industry)
Dr Umar Saif (Minister for IT, Science & Technology)

Sami Syed (Minister for Planning & Development)
Jamal Shah (Minister for National Heritage & Culture)

Madad Ali Sindhi (Minister for Education, Youth Affairs)
Dr Nadeem Jan (Minister for National Health Services)

Khalil George (Minister for Human Rights, Women Empowerment)
Aneeq Ahmed (Minister for Religious Affairs, Hajj)

Shahid Ashraf Tarar (Minister for Communication, Postal Services, Maritime Affairs)
Ahad Cheema (Adviser to Caretaker PM on Establishment Division)

Waqas Masood (Adviser to Care-

taker PM on Finance)

Air Marshal (Retired) Farhat Hussain (Adviser to Caretaker PM on Aviation)

Mushaal Husseini Mullick (Special Assistant to Caretaker PM on Human Rights, Women Empowerment)

Jawwad Sohrab Malik (Special Assistant to Caretaker PM on Overseas Pakistanis)

Vice Admiral (Retired) Iftikhar Rao (Special Assistant to Caretaker PM on Maritime Affairs)

Vash Shah (Special Assistant to Caretaker PM on Tourism)

Dr Jahanzeb Shah [Special Assistant to Caretaker PM on Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)]

Syeda Arfa Zehra (Special Assistant to Caretaker PM on Education, National Harmony)
The portfolio of Brigadier (Retd) Manzoor Ranjha is yet to be announced.

Caretaker CM reviews medical facilities at Benazir Bhutto Hospital Rawalpindi

News Desk

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visits the Benazir Bhutto Hospital Rawalpindi along with Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir and inspected medical facilities, as well as the cleanliness situation, at the new emergency. He also delved into the matter of timely medical check-ups, particularly after some patients expressed concerns about delays in both check-ups and X-ray procedures, partly attributed to the absence of certain doctors and staff.

The CM instructed doctors to ensure prompt check-ups for patients, emphasizing that there should be no delays in patient check-ups in emergencies, even by a moment. The provision of free medications to patients should be ensured without fail; he added and ordered the swift completion of patient registrations at the reception counter.

Chief Minister's call for unity and restoration after Jaranwala incident

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A joint gathering of leaders from diverse faiths residing in Pakistan, including Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Hindu, and Bahai communities, was convened under the chairmanship of the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi. Addressing the assembly, Mohsin Naqvi expressed profound concern over a recent distressing incident that occurred in Jaranwala. The nation at large shares in the sorrow provoked by this incident, which preliminary investigations suggest to be a meticulously planned conspiracy. This occurrence is far from ordinary; it has united the entire nation in solidarity with the Christian community.

In his address, Mohsin Naqvi highlighted the teachings of Islam and the Holy Prophet (PBUH), which advocate respectful treatment of minorities. He lamented that such incidents contradict the clear guidelines provid-



ed by Islam to avoid such adversities. He expressed sorrow over the calculated attempt to incite chaos and disrupt the atmosphere of unity within the nation.

Mohsin Naqvi called for a collaborative effort with scholars, leaders from the Christian community, and other minority groups to devise a comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing future incidents of this nature. He commended the swift response of the Chief Secretary and the Inspector General of Police, who arrived at the scene shortly after being informed about the incident. Their prompt deci-

sions and effective management were credited with preventing loss of life.

Leaders and representatives from various religious backgrounds, including Bishop Nadeem Kamran, Archbishop of Lahore (Roman Catholic) Bishop Sebastian Shah, Dr. Allama Muhammad Hussain Akbar, Dr. Raghbir Hussain Naimi, Amarnath Randhawa, Rohia Maufadi, Pastor Mehnul Khokhar, Sardar Kalyan Singh Kalyan, Pandit Bhagat Lal, Maulana Zubair Hasan and others, also voiced their condemnation of the Jaranwala incident during the meeting. The session concluded with a prayer led by Bishop Nadeem Kamran.

In attendance were provincial ministers, including Amir Mir and Azfar Ali Nasir, as well as high-ranking officers such as the Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Secretary Auqaf, and Secretary Human Rights and Minority Affairs.

Gold price rises to Rs225,000 a tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices in the local market increased by Rs1,200 per tola on Thursday due to continuous depreciation of rupee against the US dollar despite the price hovering around its weakest level in more than two months in the international markets.

According to the All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of one tola of 24-karat gold increased to Rs225,000 from Rs223,800. Similarly, the gold price for 10 grams of 24-karat surged to Rs192,901 from Rs191,872, depicting a rise of Rs1,029.

This rise in prices indicates a trend of increased demand for gold among local investors. Market analysts attribute the surge in gold prices to the ongoing volatility in both the forex and financial markets. As tradition-

al investment options display uncertainty, investors are turning to gold as a safe haven to safeguard their wealth. This heightened demand for the yellow metal has acted as a catalyst for the price escalation.

It is essential to understand that the exchange rate and international market prices play a direct and influential role in shaping the prices of precious metals like gold in Pakistan. The Pakistani rupee's depreciation against the US dollar kept the gold price high in the country. The rupee depreciated by Rs7.46 against the US dollar during the last five sessions.

On the other hand, as of 1355 hours GMT, gold futures in the international market were available at \$1,896.10 per ounce, showing an increase of \$4.70 (+0.25 percent). TLTP

Orphans need to get rid of Deprivations with proper support: Vohra

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The government should also focus on providing quality education to the orphans and destitute children along with the best care, said Alhaj Naser Yousef Vohra.

According to the details, on a cake cutting ceremony organized at the Model Children's Home in collaboration of the Department of Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Punjab. The Chief Guest of this event was the Central President of Cloth Board Ettihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naser Yousef Vohra, while the guest of honor was prominent writer Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak, former FCCI President Rana Sikandar Azam, Vice President of Press Club Ali Ashfaq Hashmi, Alhaj Guests are welcomed with flower petals, garlands and bouquets.

The Divisional Director Muzam-



il Yar, Deputy Director Amina Alam, In-charge Muhammad Tanveer Tariq and the children. Vohra said in his address that when the children grow

up and leave from here, they will be able to stand on their own feet tomorrow and not look for their needs necessities from anyone in their future life.

These things are possible only when they get good education and training. God willing, now Muhammad Tanveer Tariq has taken the charge, he will try his best to provide the best support for the orphaned children to end the feelings of deprivations.

Vohra further expressed that the poor feel the pains of orphanage & the rich one must come one step ahead to facilitate these persons on priority even on government level all orphans must be supported financially, educationally with special institutions as well as with special incentives to make them persons of equal opportunities attainments. These orphans need special focus from all segments of the society.

On this occasion, the artists presented a comedy drama which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A prayer was also offered after cutting the Independence Day cake ahead of time.

Atta Butt Dojo's Martial Arts Organisation Pakistan visited Jinnah House Lahore



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Atta Butt Dojo's Martial Arts Organisation Pakistan, successfully organised an event at Jinnah House/ coor commander House Lahore to celebrate 14th August independence day and to pay tribute to our Pak Army martyrdom and for their tireless hard working for the safety of borders as well as inside mother land Pakistan. Members of Atta Butt Dojo's Martial arts organisation Pakistan, about 80 in numbers visited the

Jinnah House and condemned the brutality of some people who attacked on the residence of our Quaid e Azam the Founder of Pakistan.

Karate master instructor/ Referee IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan, said it's so sad to saw the burned Quaid's Jinnah House. All those who took part in this brutality a strict action should be taken against them, so that no one in future even think about it.

He further added that we Pakistanis are with our Pak Army and there is no doubt about it. And our

country's enemies must understand that the people of Pakistan can give the last drop of their blood for the independence of their country. He also pay regards to the services of Secretary General Sana Ullah Ansari for the successful event and Lt Col Ahmed who himself guided all karate kaz, showed the burned building and also make us know the history of Jinnah House Lahore.

Kyokushin karate kaz also performed their skills by doing drill punches, especially in Kata's.

Sensie M Amjad Prince, Sensie Saima Batool, Sensie Adeel ashaq, Sensie Imran Majeed, Sensie Ali Adnan, Sensie Ali Raza, M Umer Black Belt, Zoela Fatima Black Belt, Aaila Zahra Black Belt, Alizay Black Belt, Ali Sabir Hussain Butt Black Belt, Sampai Zaid, Mr Rehan, Mr Hasnain, Dr Waqar, Mr Asif Rehman, Ms Yasmeen Haider, Mr Tahir Qureshi, Mr M Imran, Mr Sheraz Ali and parents of members took keen interest to make our visit successful.

Enarvel Club success full work in 8 Districts in South Punjab: Rizwana Tabasum

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chairperson of Multan Enarvel Club District 340 Mrs Rizwana Tabasim Durrani has said that our aim is to help the poor people, orphans, widows, helpless people, and provide facilities to everyone. Providing facilities is the real purpose of life and the best way to decorate your future. He expressed these views while addressing the installation ceremony of Anerville Club District 340. Hospitals in Khan, Muzaffargarh and Multan, 21



hand water taps, roofs from summit blocks for 66 flood victims, 4 ambulances and better quality shelters will be

built this year. Enarvel Club Success Full Work in 8 Districts in South Punjab. Mrs Rizwana Tabasum said

All this is happening with the support of the members, the philanthropists have to step forward, only then all this is possible. Former Chairperson Mrs. Saadat Munir, Secretary, Zaida Sohail, Vice Chairman, Rizwana Malik, Finance Secretary, Shamayla Shaukat said that Enroll Club District 340 Under the leadership of Chairperson Rizwana Tabasum, the development is progressing day and night, and that is the reason why she has been elected as our

Chairperson for the last three years. Giving a roof over the head is nothing less than a blessing

All our clubs are united under the leadership of Rizwana Durrani and will continue to serve the suffering humanity. In the ceremony, the female officials from South Punjab were given collars and badges were put on. ISO Saima Ejaz, ISO Larib Shaukat Ruhi club president Dr. Manal Siddiqui Tania Abidi and officials from all the clubs of South Punjab participated in the ceremony.

Multan Chamber Promotes E-commerce Business, Trainings/Courses: Khawaja Usman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan has decided to take measures for shortage of skilled manpower and modern means of trade, IT courses and training. Steps will be taken to establish an IT center in Multan, solve problems related to IT sector and foreign remittances. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the convener committee Khawaja Muhammad Usman, senior vice president Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, committee members Waqas Ahmed, Waqar Tayyab, Muhammad Muneeb, Muhammad Talal, Abdullah Zafar, Aqib Awan, Saifullah Malik, Farhan Mir and committee secretary Sajid Ansari attended the event.

E-commerce, IT issues were



discussed in the meeting. Convener Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, while addressing the meeting, He said that to overcome the shortage of skilled manpower, Pakistan Information Technology Board (PITB), Akhut and BZU. Comprehensive and Short I. T Courses/Trainings will be organized with support. Additionally, the e-commerce/IT sub-committee of the Multan House will visit Arfa Karim IT Park in Lahore very soon and discuss

with the administration for setting up an IT center in Multan, which is badly needed in South Punjab.

Khawaja Muhammad Usman, Co-Convenor Sub-Committee said that a round table conference will be organized very soon, in which government IT department, IT business professionals, private IT companies and stakeholders related to IT sector including Chamber of Commerce and Industry of South Punjab will be

involved which will be a platform to solve the IT problems of the region. Nadeem Ahmed Shaikh Senior Vice President of the Chamber said that the State Bank of Pakistan should E. Take concrete steps to resolve issues related to Payments/Foreign Remittances

Like PayPal, Payoneer etc. Due to the large fluctuations in interbank dollar rates and the compulsion to provide Proceeds Realization Certificates (PRCs); IT professionals/businessmen are forced to keep their funds abroad and make their payments directly from there which has a negative impact on the country's economy. The committee reiterated that Multan Chamber promotes e-commerce business, trainings/courses and Will try his best to establish an I. T Park for South Punjab.

Model Town Football Club organized Family Gala



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Various sports event were organized in connection with the 76th Pakistan Independence Day organized by Model Town Football Academy in which a large number of players men and women participated in football, dodgeball, tug of war and musical chair. A special family fun gala was also organized in which cake was also cut after the flag ceremony. The chief guest of the event, Mian Muhammad Rizwan, president of Pakistan Dodgeball Federation welcomed all the participants of various sports, he also inaugurated the flag and cut the cake and on this occasion, PRO Amjad Nawaz Khan was also present with him. MTFA Vice President Fozia Rizwan thanked all the participants and players and conveyed this message that we should not avoid making any sacrifice for this country Pakistan and should not forget it was achieved after making so many sacrifices and at the end a special prayer was also made for the development and safety of Pakistan.

U. S. Consul General calls on Chairman Management Committee Zaka Ashraf

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The U. S. Consul General William K. Makaneole, accompanied by his wife, paid a courtesy visit to Pakistan Cricket Board Management Committee Chairman Mr Zaka Ashraf today at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. The meeting was held as part of farewell meetings for the U. S Consul General, whose two-year term is coming to an end.

The meeting was held in a cordial manner, where in a gesture of solidarity, the U. S. Consul General pledged the support of the United States Government for the handicapped cricket team in Pakistan.

Mr. Zaka Ashraf extended his best wishes to the U. S. Consul General for his future endeavours, and emphasised the significance of sports diplomacy in developing good relations between both countries.

In return, the U. S. Consul General expressed his wishes to Zaka Ashraf and the PCB for the upcoming events.

Aamir Khattak issued an order for full crackdown to control smog



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak has issued an order for full crackdown to control smog.

The commissioner has also formed teams across the division to take action against vehicles, furnaces and factories that emit smoke. He said that the deputy commissioners have been given the task of taking special measures to combat smog and no negligence will be tolerated. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding smog in the commissioner's office. Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khattak said that the Punjab government has a special focus to control smog

In this regard, cases should be registered against those who burn crop residues, while action should also be taken against kiln owners who do not adopt zigzag technology. The Commissioner directed that the Waste Management Company should also start a campaign against waste incinerators. Earlier, a detailed briefing was given by the divisional departments.

People Unity (CBA) countywide protest call against privatization of PIA: Jahangir Khan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The local officials of the People's Unity have given a protest call today against the privatization of the national airline PIA on the instructions of the central leadership.

Peoples Unity President Jahangir Khan, General Secretary Malik Naeem, Vice Presidents Haseeb Khan and Faisal Today Addressing to the Pres Conference in Multan. He said that All ardent workers are informed that PIA booking offices across the country will be symbolically closed today from 3 pm to 0300 to 5 pm against privatization of PIA and in favor of approval of Charter of Demand. will be closed for two hours and no office work will be done during this time. All PIA workers are requested to show their unity by fully participating in this



DC imposed Section 144 in S Waziristan Lower district

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Section 144 enforced in District South Waziristan Lower, in view of the current security situation, Section 144 has been imposed across the district.

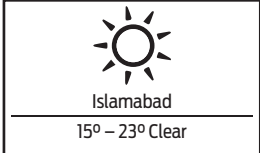
Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan has issued a statement.

In the statement issued by the office of DC SW Lower, A ban has been imposed processions, anti-state activities and other gatherings across the district, section 144 will come into effect immediately and will remain in force till August 21.

In a statement issued by the office of DC, it has been said that legal action will be taken under Section 188 of Penal Code of Pakistan for violation.

It should be noted that on such occasions Section 144 is imposed by the district administration of South Waziristan Lower where the security situation is feared to deteriorate.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:00 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 4:57 pm
Maghrib 6:53 pm
Isha 8:23 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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Dari Mooch Partners with Philips Personal Care



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a move to further expand its range of premium men's grooming products in Pakistan, the direct-to-customer (D2C) brand, Dari Mooch, has announced a partnership with Philips Personal Care.

This partnership will enable customers to conveniently purchase the highly sought-after Philips personal care products online via the Dari Mooch platform. The collaboration was formalized at the Dari Mooch head office in Lahore. The event was attended by the Dari Mooch team and Shehryar Khan, the Regional Sales Manager for Philips Personal Care in the region.

Ibrahim Shaikat, Co-founder & CEO of Dari Mooch, extended a warm welcome to the global brand and remarked, "With this partnership, Dari Mooch not only enhances its already robust portfolio of an array of men's grooming products but also adds another distinguished partner in the form of Philips." The alliance marks a significant stride in the company's continued commitment to offering the best grooming solutions to men in Pakistan.

First Lady inspects Azad Kashmir's small industries at TEVTA

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: First Lady Ms. Samina Arif Alvi visited to Small Industries Display Center. Distinguished guest inspected walnut wooden furniture, carpet weaving, gabba, shawl weaving and papier mache products in the display center and appreciated the efforts of Small Industries Department. Giving a briefing on the occasion, MD Industries Aamir Mehmood Mirza said that the aim of the program is to keep the Kashmiri culture alive and connect skilled people with employment so that they can stand on their own feet and support their families. The department is also providing loans to skilled persons on easy installments and this scheme is especially beneficial for women who are being made economically self-sufficient.

Later, the First Lady Ms. Samina Arif Alvi visited the Vocational Training Institute of AJK ToyTevta located in the capital Muzaffarabad where she inspected the garments made by women including stitching, production. Chairman TEVTA Razaq Ahmed Nadeem while giving a briefing on this occasion said that ToyoTevta was established in Azad Kashmir in 2007 and so far 130 thousand people have been trained. In Azad Kashmir, it



is among the government's priorities to take women towards economic independence so that they can earn better jobs and support their families. The First Lady also visited Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Center (MPRC) in the capital and said that comprehensive measures are needed at all levels to promote inclusion of disabled people in all sectors of society. It is important for sustainable development to ensure the participation of

persons with disabilities in social, economic and political activities. To encourage and support the participation of special people in educational, social and economic activities. During the visit, WHO representative Maryam Malik, Dr. Bushra Shams from WHO Azad Kashmir, Secretary Tevta Mohammad Younis Mir, Secretary Industries Wajahat Rashid Baig, Director MPRC Dr. Junidem Mujad were present on the occasion.

Chairman PEC chaired the meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: First Joint Session leadership forum session of Telecom & Pakistan Engineering Council held at Pakistan Engineering Council Islamabad on 17th August 2023, under the convener ship Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, Chairman PEC. The Chairman PEC welcome all the participants of the session. The participants briefly discussed the importance of Telecom Sector in Pakistan and said that the telecommunication plays a vital role in the development of a country. It provides the prime services that an economy needs for rapid growth, development and modernization. As the economy grows, demand for telecom services increases to conduct the increased number of economic transactions in the



expanded economy.

The Government of Pakistan (GoP) recognizes the growth of IT and telecommunication industry as a vital lever for the mid- to long-term progress of the country. Therefore, government is working on 'Digital Pakistan Vision' to enhance

digital economy footprint, to spur economic prosperity and public empowerment.

The participants join the session are the CEOs of Telecom Industry specially Mr. Wahaj Siraj, CEO Nayatel, Mr. Noor Muhammad Khan, Head of North Wateen, Mr. Aqeel Khursheed, Mr. Nabeel Saqib, Chief Operating Officer, Transworld, Mr. Iqbal Butt, IT Expert, Engr. Nasir Mahmood Khan, Secretary/Registrar PEC and other prominent Businessman & Experts of Telecom Sector also participated the session.

Construction of CPEC will succeed: Chinese CG

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Chinese Consul General in Karachi, H. E Yang Yundong has emphasized that no attempt to undermine China-Pakistan friendship and the construction of CPEC will succeed. China has confidence, determination, and the capability to work together with Pakistan to overcome all difficulties and challenges, and to ensure that the development of our relations remains steady and moves forward in the long run.

Chinese CG expressed these views during a meeting with a 51-member delegation from the Pakistan Chemicals and Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) at the Chinese Consulate. This was the first instance in the country's history where such a large delegation of Pakistani traders had been invited to the Chinese Consul-



ate. Nadeem Sheikh, Chairman PCDMA, Shahid Bashir, Vice Chairman, Arif Balgamwala, Chief Advisor, Chaudhary Nasser, Nasser Hyatt Maggo, Amin Balgamwala, members and Chinese Consulate officials also attended the meeting.

Chinese CG said, "We hope that the business community, especially PCDMA and Pakistan Philatelic and Numismatics Forum (PPNF), will play a greater role in the future, expanding

the scope of our cooperation, promoting the success story of China-Pakistan collaboration, further enhancing people-to-people connectivity between our two countries, and creating a broader and more profound impact."

The Consul General was of the view that the development of China-Pakistan relations and CPEC will create more opportunities for the business community. Though, it faces some

challenges, such as attempts by certain forces to sow discord and smear the cooperation between the two countries, especially attacking and discrediting the CPEC. Terrorism also poses a constant threat to our cooperation. On 13th August, terrorists attacked a convoy of a Chinese added project in Gwadar; fortunately no Chinese citizens were killed or injured.

"In the first half of the year, China's import and export volume exceeded 20 trillion yuan, setting a new historical record for the same period and showing a year-on-year growth of 2.1%, and China's share in global trade remained relatively stable. The achievements we have made are inseparable from the hard work of the Chinese people and the cooperation between China and its foreign partners, among which Pakistani businessmen have made outstanding contributions.

HEC assesses Bhimbar University in detail after PM's vision



Bureau Report

BHIMBAR: Bhimbar Great news for the people of Bhimbar district, with the special efforts of the Prime Minister of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq, a high-level delegation of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Islamabad reached Bhimbar regarding the establishment of a new "University", led by Professor Dr. Zabta Khan Shanwari. The HEC delegation under the leadership of Shinwari saluted the vision and efforts of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, the HEC officials expressed their good wishes and said that in the next 10 years, Bhimbar University will be a world-class university in which students are admitted from Khyber to Karachi. During the detailed visit, the delegation reviewed the land allocated for the university, before this, on July 23, Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq and Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed had a meeting and discussed industry detail. The delegation went to Bhimbar district. A survey was completed for the establishment of University at the initial level, Jamia Mast, Post Graduate College for Boys, Post Graduate College for Women, Technical College.

The HEC delegation was also visited and prepared a report which will be sent to the higher authorities. Deputy Commissioner Bhimbar Mirza Arshad Mahmood Jaral along with SSP Raja Muhammad Akmal Khan and other district officers welcomed the HEC delegation. Dr. Khizrul Haq gave a briefing along with Deputy Registrar Muhammad Naveed and other doctors, and said that the delegation discussed all matters in the consultation meeting with Vice Chancellor Must University Brigadier (R) Prof. Dr. Javed in Mirpur, in the context of which the services of all educational experts are present. Head Dr Zabata Khan while addressing the Deputy Commissioner Mirza Arshad Mahmood Jaral said that we have come here and hope that this university will be the number one university of Pakistan after 10 years. Give, give vision, tell me phase one, phase two, phase three, a big level university will be built which will be independent. Dr. Khizrul Haq has visited the grounds and said that the Prime Minister has forgotten that I have to work on merit. Jamia will provide Must faculty. Deputy Commissioner Mirza Arshad Mahmood Jaral said that the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir has ordered us to work on all the other stages or difficulties and will remove them by himself. Dr. Amjad Hussain, Dr. Basir Chaudhry from NIST, Dr. Javed, Dr. Tanveer Naqem, and other experts said that the student living in Karachi should wish to study in Bhimbar University. They want education. The Deputy Commissioner said that the order of the Prime Minister will be fully implemented, 1600 kanal area is available, the Prime Minister is giving full support to this university in every aspect, the lack will be fulfilled. The experts said that the basic Provide the best environment with infrastructure, so that students can compete at the global level. Briefing and visits Principal Ms. Basharat Zaman, Principal PGC Boys Prof. Muhammad Shabbir, Ms. Bhambar In-charge Dr. Abed Hussain, Dr. Saim Hashmi, Prof. Naheed Akhtar, AC Rabnawaz, Axiom Mazhar Hussain, S. D. O Farooq Zubair, District Information Officer Adnan Mukhtar Tehsildar Qaiser Mahmud Shams, SHO Tariq Sallharia and other officials participated.

Majid Al Futtaim Retail Launches Retail Graduate Programme

City Desk

LAHORE: Majid Al Futtaim Retail, owner and operator of Carrefour in Pakistan, announced the launch of its transformative Retail Graduate Programme in collaboration with 12 top universities across six countries, namely Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates. With a steadfast commitment to promoting gender diversity, Majid Al Futtaim Retail aims to empower and recruit 75 nationals for its regional Carrefour operations, targeting 50% of the positions for talented female candidates. This initiative not only strengthens Majid Al Futtaim Retail's position as an investor in local talent development, but also actively contributes to and supports local communities and economies and establishes lasting relationships with educational institutions.

Majid Al Futtaim Retail's partnerships with universities in Pakistan include Lahore School of Economics (LSE) and Institute of Business Administration (IBA). Through these strategic collaborations, Majid Al Futtaim Retail establishes a collaborative and dynamic platform that attracts top talent, facilitating the development of a qualified workforce.

Commenting on the launch of the programme, Umer Habib Khan Lodhi, Country Manager, stated: "The Retail Graduate Programme represents our dedication to supporting the young generation in kick-starting their careers in the retail industry. By offering comprehensive on-the-job training and exposure to different facets of the business, we aim to fast-track the career progression of these graduates and build a strong leadership pipeline for the future of retail."

The involvement of the universities helps to organise job fairs and on-campus career events and sessions to raise awareness about the grocery retail business and its various functions, while also providing students with invaluable insights into the industry.

"At Majid Al Futtaim Retail, we believe in investing in young Pakistani talent and providing them with the tools and resources they need to thrive. Our Retail Graduate Programme is designed to foster the professional growth and development of these individuals, while also fulfilling our vision to generate positive social impact on our communities. This program serves as a testament to our dedication to Pakistan's vision of bridging the gap between academia and the professional world, while simultaneously strengthening the quality of technical and vocational education and training. It builds on our efforts towards nurturing tomorrow's retail leaders," added Umer Habib Khan Lodhi.

Will provide relief to the people: PM AJK



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while thanking the heads of the coalition parties and cabinet ministers for reposing their confidence in his leadership, has reiterated the government's commitment to providing relief to the common people.

The AJK premier said this while addressing the coalition partners' parliamentary meeting.

He said that the coalition government would spare no efforts to provide relief to the people. He said that such measures would be taken which would directly benefit the people of the state.

He said that leaders of the coalition parties and cabinet ministers' support and cooperation has been instrumental in establishing financial discipline in the state, allocating adequate funds for develop-

ment and reducing non-developmental expenses. He said that the expenses of the Prime Minister's House had been reduced to a great extent.

He expressed the optimism that the ministers would also follow suit and reduce expenditures in their respective ministries. He said that the incumbent government would take all possible measures to ensure development in backward areas of the state. In order to make

Azad Kashmir more attractive for tourists, the PM said that the expenses of the Prime Minister's House had been reduced to a great extent.

Besides improving the road infrastructure, he said that the hotel industry would be promoted in collaboration with the private sector.

He said that there was still so much more to achieve in the field of education and health.

Improvement of these two sectors, he said, was an important step towards building a welfare state.

He said that the literacy rate of Azad Kashmir was quite satisfactory but more efforts were required to improve the standard and quality of education. "We all have to work for the welfare of the people", he said, adding that all resources would be utilized for this purpose.

The meeting was attend-

ed by People's Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, PML-N President Shah Ghulam Qadir, former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Senior Minister, Finance Minister Colonel (R) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Government Ministers Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Diwan Ali Khan Chaghatai, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, Chaudhry Arshad,

Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Sardar Zia Qamar, Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Ahmad Raza Qadri, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Sardar Muhammad Hussain, Chaudhry Akhlaq Ahmed, Raja Muhammad Siddique, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Javed Butt, Sardar Javed Ayub, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Members of Assembly Ms. Taqdees Gilani, Ms. Sabiha Khanum, Ms. Begum Intiaz Naseem, Ms. Nabila Ayub and Ms. Nisara Abbasi.

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 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.
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 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
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The Age of Ugliness

Jamal Nasir

Wildfires in Canada, violent storms in Italy, and heat waves in different parts of the world are some recent examples of the deterioration of the natural world – which is sadly uncontrollable if we don't take the proper position. The threat of climate change, with a perception (speculation) that the world would cease to exist after ten years, creates the feeling of resentment and betrayal; we distort nature and the world in it, and now we are facing the aftermaths of what we have done, but it is in the essence of man that he considers himself, an unstoppable entity. The quality of unstoppable encompasses pattern-lessness, randomness and incoherent streams that leave the rationale's episteme. The ugliness of nature is expanding. It is entering everyday life. Everyday life is becoming a set of pathologies more similar to the concept of Durkheim's anomalies. Today's society is facing a lot of unimaginable things, from changes in state apparatus to alterations in power mechanisms and from the illusion of freedom to damage to the aesthetics of man. Furthermore, the absence of 'other' – a Freudian term that indicates an individual's relationship with the macro aspects of society – is leading modern society toward burnout. The violent turn in both natural and social life is destroying the beauty for whom Byung-Chal Han – a Korean-born German philosopher – raises the slogan of 'Saving Beauty'. Han is a contemporary cultural theorist, writing in the field of modern culture and critical theory.

He is famous for his preciseness because his books barely touch the line of the third digit and poetic prose style while addressing a specific topic. Another reason for his fame is how he makes a classical idea irrelevant and then posits its modern relevance. Saving Beauty is his less-read book

in comparison to other books like Burnout and Psychopolitics because it possesses a sprinkle of philosophical elements.

The book consists of 14 short essays, each addressing the missing link in the cultural composition of modern society and radical speculation to refine the beauty of social life. The book is thin in size but contains significant exploding material. It sketches the work of classical philosophers and contemporary academics with a bit of modification in them. The major arguments draw on the work of philosophers like Kant, Hegel, Heidegger, Foucault, and Benjamin. Moreover, he cites many contemporary academics, like Baudrillard, Eva Illouz, and Badiou, to boost the argument, which is considered as his quality for some and middling for a few.

While talking about smoothness, he refers to Jeff Koons's Art and calls it a symbol of emptiness. There is no disaster, sadness, meaning, or injury in it; Rather, it shows a nihilistic sense of emptiness, no ravishment of pain, and the culmination of reflection, which has been the quality of the Art. For most critical theorists, the digital world is affecting the actual perceptions of beauty. For Han, digital beauty differs from natural beauty, nonetheless affectual properties, because nature doesn't reveal it wholly, but digital beauty is fully revealed. You can feel the natural beauty but digital beauty is full of emotions. You can zoom in on digital beauty – like a photograph – to whatever extent you want, but you need a particular time and place to illuminate your mind for natural beauty.

For Adorno, he argued, this artificiality removes the distance between the subject and nature, which has been a dilemma in aesthetic theory. Moreover, the digital world brings a compulsion of positivity when it removes the button of dislike and forces us to like whatever is in front of us,

whether a post, video or photo – which is a compulsion. Han's primary concern is the conundrum of beauty in the modern world. He comes up with an idea, borrowing from Walter Benjamin, that unveiling beauty is an attack on the essence of beauty. Walter Benjamin, in his book the work of Art in the Age of mechanical reproduction, argued that the idea of beauty correlates with the veil; whenever beauty is unveiled, it would automatically destroy the sublime subject attached to it.

The digital world of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat is the collection of information. Information is not a condition of beauty; instead, it is transparent and possesses a pornographic nature within its veneers. The problem of modern society, which makes it different from archaic one, is the pandemic of refinement. Everyone is in a hurry to solve the little problems in everyday life.

For example, a person with a headache problem would be trying to get a consultant to refine the body without caring about the natural phenomenon of pain. And this refinement pandemic constructs the pillars of 'big pharma.' This extreme sense of positivity, he argued, is eliminating the pain of others – as Susan Sontag depicts in her book with the same name – and negativity.

In the book's last section, he focuses on modern theatre and its misery. The actors, where he quoted Botho Strauß, in contemporary theatre are not portraying the acts; instead, the whole focus is on the smoothness of the body. Here they are showing emotions rather than feelings. Emotions always have actions underneath, and feelings are expressions of human sentiments. Furthermore, the focus on the body makes it unveiled and unveiled beauty is porno. He draws a conclusion from the current condition of theater that theater is the representa-

tion of porno. So, a hyper-consumer and transparent society is the representation of a pornographic society. The concluding comment suggests that the perception of consumerism has engulfed society, and there is only one way to counter which is imperfection. The existence of others, their pain, and modesty are the forgotten things in the contemporary subject. All in all, the contemporary condition of society is ugly; the consumer culture, hyper-globalization, transparent society, and absence of others are leading this Age toward ugliness. The aesthetics of modern man is a downfall, which turns the destruction of Art, cinematography, and literature.

The book is loaded with the immense complexity of philosophers and the convolution of different thoughts on the 'revival of aesthetics' in modern society. Han is famous for summing up a big idea into three or four words, so reading him sometimes leaves complications, but the prose style is intriguing because it gives the same pleasure as reading a literary text. However, he's not famous in popular culture and has yet to be read widely, but he's creating his space in the constituencies of philosophy and culture theory. The problem with Han's writing, a general perception in academia, is that he has some serious methodological flaws. While interpreting the big idea, especially when someone is describing the modern relevance of it, it needs attention. Han sometimes describes the modification well but leaves the fundamental notion in the bushes, and that's where the problem comes in as he refers that we are not living in Foucault's disciplinary society but rather in an achievement-oriented world. For this, Foucault had a methodology to draw the conclusion, which he proved through the genealogical study of prisons, but on the other hand, Han missed it in his writings.

The Writer is a research associate at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Azmat)

Traditional Medicine

The head of World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Thursday urged countries around the world to work towards unlocking the power of traditional medicine and provide evidence and action-based suggestions that can be integrated into a global strategy. Speaking at the event which is taking place in the Indian city of Gandhinagar, he underscored the "enormous" contributions of traditional medicine to human health and its understanding of the "intimate links" between health and the environment, according to a press release issued at UN headquarters in New York. Tedros stressed the importance of the gathering for "bringing together ancient wisdom and modern science for the health and well-being of people and planet".

Echoing his words, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said that traditional medicine is not opposed to modern medicine, but rather complementary. Recalling that traditional medicine was "as old as humanity itself", the WHO chief noted that many modern drugs trace their roots to ancient healing practices. He gave the example of bark from the willow tree, used by Sumerians and Egyptians as a pain reliever and an anti-inflammatory over 3,500 years ago. "Then in 1897, the chemist Felix Hoffmann synthesized aspirin and the drug has gone on to improve, and save, the lives of millions of people every day," Tedros said. He also cited a 1971 breakthrough for malaria remedies, when China's Tu Youyou read about the use of sweet wormwood to treat fevers in traditional Chinese medical literature. This led her team to isolate the compound artemisinin, which has become the "backbone" of malaria treatment.

The WHO Director-General insisted that far from being a thing of the past, traditional medicine is the object of growing demand worldwide. He highlighted its importance for mental health, healthy aging, and preventing and treating non-communicable diseases. "This is not a new area for WHO", he said, recalling that back in 2014, the organization's Member States approved the first global ten-year strategy for traditional medicine, adding that a new strategy will be developed by 2025. Through the summit – and the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine launched in the Indian city of Jamnagar last year – the UN agency has been working to "inform policies, standards and regulations for the safe, cost-effective, and equitable use" of traditional remedies, Tedros said.

He urged countries to examine how best to incorporate traditional and complementary medicine into their health systems and "unlock [its] power through science and innovation". The WHO chief said that the Gujarat Declaration, which is expected to be adopted by the end of the summit, has the potential to enhance the "appropriate integration" of traditional medicine into states' healthcare services. WHO wrote on the social platform X that their work aimed to bring evidence and scientific validation around traditional medicine so that millions of people around the world who use it "understand whether it's safe and effective and are better protected".

Pakistan Zindabad!

After a long and arduous struggle of our forefathers, Pakistan became our homeland on 14th of August, 1947. The new-born state lost its sincere leaders, beauty and charm within the short span of time when the ghastly shadows of dictatorship, elite capture, mobocracy, terrorism and corruption engulfed it all around. The separation of East Pakistan and three wars with India were the results of the failed geopolitical strategies of the rulers. The very foundation of Pakistan was hope, but it culminated in despair.

In the beginning, only enemies, separatists and some religious clerics were against the celebration of the day; but for a couple of years, a number of mainstream political parties have been witnessed uttering anti-14th August tune. Not long ago, during the premiership of Imran Khan, the then opposition leaders and JUI-F chief publicly refused celebrating the day. Today, some of the PTI followers and nationalist parties are on the same path. Since inception, Pakistani political leaders have been misguiding their voters for their vested personal interests.

It becomes the matter of deep concern when mainstream Pakistanis go against their own homeland. Pakistanis are naturally emotional and averse to critical thinking. Pakistan has not been created by the today's rulers and generals; rather, they have certainly brought irreparable losses to it. In the enmity of current political rulers and military generals, it will be a great folly to look down upon our own motherland. Respecting one's motherland is to dignify oneself. Bad governance might have weakened the trust of Pakistanis in the judicial, political, economic and social system of the state, but hating one's birthplace is not a solution worth-adopting to the issues. Indeed, Pakistan has become home to upscaling crimes, abject poverty, prevalent brain drain, endemic child labor, omnipresent gender-based violence, rising terrorism and semi-dictatorship, but ups and downs are natural in the history of a country.

Pakistan is not the home only to the elite and rulers, but the poor and minorities have also the same share in it. It is the

responsibility of the rulers and powerful corridors to provide the public with all their due rights. However, to a large extent, the anger of the public is not without solid reasons. At least, the public should be safe, happy and free in their own homeland.

For the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized, it becomes more necessary to celebrate the day. Celebrating 14th August means adhering to democracy, siding by truth, preaching coexistence, empowering women and fighting for fundamental rights. Silence and passiveness on the day might empower non-democratic and corrupt individuals the most. Pakistan is not in danger because it is ruled by cruel and ignorant rulers, but because peaceful and educated public are silent.



Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin

Celebrating the day means exploring the dreams of Quaid e Azam MAJ in true spirit. The founder of the nation was not in the favor of dynastic politics and dictatorship.

Celebrating the day means exploring the dreams of Quaid e Azam MAJ in true spirit. The founder of the nation was not in the favor of dynastic politics and dictatorship. He had firm belief in the freedom of speech and religious harmony. Politicizing state institutions, militarizing politics and radicalizing society were not the teachings of Quaid e Azam MAJ. Enforced-disappearances, extra-judicial killings, assassinating journalists and persecuting politicians have no room in any democratic state. The main purpose of celebrating the independence day is to thank God for the facilities available to us, and do everything possible to get the rights that we have been deprived of. Celebrating the day is not only the name of playing music and enjoying picnics, but it requires self-accountability and paying rich tribute to the martyrs of the nation.

Pakistan has given a lot to us, and now it is high time to serve it. We belong to Pakistan and it belongs to us. One may disagree with the rulers of the state, but punishing the state, its flag and founding fathers for the shortcomings of the rulers and generals is not wisdom altogether. Rulers and governments come and go, but the state is eternal and everlasting. We should celebrate 14 August with full zeal and zest. Pakistan Zindabad!

Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin teaches at Govt Degree College Pishin.

'State-owned enterprises' crucial role in GDP growth

Niamat ullah Harifal

Railways, recognized as pivotal institutions within any country, make substantial contributions to its economic growth and overall development. Pakistan's railway system, rooted in the colonial era, initially operated as a profitable venture, efficiently transporting commodities like coal and minerals. Pakistan's government established its infrastructure on the already established infrastructure. It was quite profitable and strong institution at that era. However, a noticeable decline set in around the 1980s, rapidly eroding passenger confidence. Despite the government's efforts to bolster trust by importing new coaches, the persistence of accidents remains the central cause for concern.

Over the past half-decade alone, Pakistan's railways have experienced more than ten major accidents, tragically claiming the lives of over 300 individuals. A recent, particularly devastating incident occurred on August 6, 2023, involving the Hazara Express train near Nawabshah, which resulted in a loss of more than 30 lives. Notably, a collision between two trains accounted for 65 casualties, and a gas explosion led to the tragic deaths of over 70 people. Such incidents, compounded by lack-luster investigations and insufficient safety protocols, have left grieving families in their wake and the entire system compromised.

Despite various transitions in government and the establishment of investigative committees, the core issue endures. Prior inquiries have highlighted concerns such as outdated tracks, signal malfunctions, and overburdened trains. Regrettably, different administrations often initiate ambitious rail projects only to have them abandoned by their successors. A case in point is the "Pakistan Railways Vision 2026," unveiled by

the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz government in 2014 under the stewardship of Khawaja Saad Rafiq. This visionary initiative aimed to revamp locomotives, enhance infrastructure, and introduce high-speed train services. However, subsequent governments, including the Pakistan Tahreek Insaf regime led by Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad, struggled to maintain these initiatives effectively.

Notably, the PDM-led government has allocated an estimated Rs 26,648 million for ongoing railway projects, with a portion earmarked for high-capacity Borge-Freight-Wagon and passenger wagon procurement, as affirmed by the Ministry of Railways. The railway predicament is multi-faceted, encompassing challenges such as subpar governance, corruption, and a shortage of skilled human resources. The lack of attention to maintaining railway infrastructure has resulted in a decline in track coverage, leaving only 55% of the original network intact. Natural disasters, including recent floods in Baluchistan and Sindh, have further exacerbated the situation by inflicting extensive damage to railway lines.

Within the workforce, corruption and nepotism in employee selection have sown seeds of inefficiency, leading to reduced employment and ticket revenues due to unchecked travel. Moreover, ethical concerns have tarnished the public's perception, eroding confidence in the system. The absence of accountability among railway employees, often under the patronage of influential figures, has perpetuated stagnation in addressing these pressing challenges. Therefore, resuscitating Pakistan's railways demands comprehensive reforms across various fronts to reestablish its pivotal role in propelling the nation's progress.

The Writer is Student of School of Sociology in Quaid I Azam university Islamabad. He can be reached at 17niamatullah@gmail.com

German-Pakistani book launch to celebrate German artist Ute Elpers' work

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A book launch was hosted by Mr. Pervaiz Akhtar, President of the German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry with support from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to celebrate the publication of a book on the drawings by the German artist Ute Elpers, entitled "Landmarks of Pakistan" on 17th August 2023 at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad.

The Chief Guest at the event was H. E. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Guest of Honour was Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany, who initiated and pioneered the compilation of the book.

Ute Elpers (1935-2019) was a highly gifted artist trained as a porcelain and ceramic painter who worked as a technical drafter in road and bridge construction. She also learned the art of using special ink pens.

In 2003 Ute became member of the Humanity Care Foundation based in Muenster, Germany. She was encouraged by Col (R) FolkerFlasse, Presi-

dent of Humanity Care Foundation, a charitable organization registered in Germany and Pakistan, to support its humanitarian work in Pakistan.

In 2005 Ute started pen and ink drawings of historic buildings, monuments, mausoleums, shrines and landscapes. She portrayed through her pen and ink drawings the rich and diverse architectural and cultural heritage of Pakistan.

The book "Landmarks of Pakistan" is dedicated to the memory of Ute Elpers, an artist with a humanistic spirit who helped those affected by natural disasters in Pakistan. Ute donated proceeds from the sale of her artwork to the Humanity Care Foundation to help people's suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake and floods that hit Pakistan in 2005 and 2010.

Ute gifted 21 of her beautiful filigree ink drawings of landmarks of Pakistan to the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). Her drawings are a testament of her love for Pakistan. Her endearment towards Pakistan is reflected in a poem she wrote in 2013 titled "My Pakistan".

To showcase Ute Elpers' beautiful



artwork Shahid Kamal, former Ambassador to Germany, FolkerFlasse and Professor Farrah Mahmood researched and compiled her drawings on landmarks of Pakistan in the form of a coffee table book. The book is a bilingual edition in both English and German.

Speaking at the occasion Ambassador of Germany H. E. Alfred Grannas admired the efforts of those involved in the successful compilation and printing of the coffee table book on the drawings of Ute Elpers. He was pleased to see the exhibition of Ute Elpers beautiful

drawings displayed at Pakistan National Council of Arts.

Former Ambassador to Germany Mr. Shahid Kamal recalled how the idea of the book was conceived and his inspiration for publishing the book. He paid tribute to Col. FolkerFlasse, who passed away in February 2023, for his enormous contribution in mobilizing humanitarian assistance for the needy people in Pakistan in his capacity as President of Humanity Care Foundation. He praised artist Ute Elpers, who passed away in 2019, for showcasing

landmarks of Pakistan through her beautiful drawings and for her deep attachment to Pakistan. He thanked Professor Farrah Mahmood for her valuable contribution in the preparation, Mr. Pervaiz Akhtar, President of German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and members of the German-Pakistan business community for the gracious sponsorship for the publication of the book and Topical Printers for their excellent work in printing of the book.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Pervaiz

Akhtar, President of German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) thanked members of the German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and business entities with links to Germany for their gracious support in sponsoring the publication of the book. He said Ute Elpers' work helped to raise funds for Humanity Care Foundation in Germany, an organization committed to humanitarian efforts in Pakistan, to help people affected by natural disasters.

Talking about Ute's artwork, Professor Farrah Mahmood (Artist) said the intricate drawings directly using pen and ink technique are amazing. Ute never visited Pakistan in person but used photos, post cards, calendars, and brochures as models to make pen and ink drawings. She captured the beautiful details of UchShareef, Harrapa civilization, old mosque and Islamiya College building.

The event was attended by a wide cross section of the people including Heads of Diplomatic Missions, government officials, academics, business community, artists, and the media.

Meeting

MOSCOW: Talal Al-Otaibi, Saudi Arabia's assistant minister of defense, met with a senior Iranian defense official on the sidelines of the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security



WFP Pakistan and Government of Balochistan partner to combat food insecurity

News Desk

QUETTA: WFP Pakistan strengthened its partnership with the Government of Balochistan to roll out programmes in line with its 2023-2027 five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The agreement was signed by WFP Pakistan's Country Director and Representative Chris Kaye, and Hafiz Abdul Basit, Additional Chief Secretary of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan, during a ceremony held in Quetta.

As part of the agreement, WFP will work with the provincial Government of Balochistan to translate plans into actions aligned with Government priorities. Further, WFP will harness its expertise to provide technical assistance to relevant departments while actively mobilizing



resources as required.

According to Chris Kaye, WFP Pakistan has adopted a clear direction under its new CSP. "We are already engaging with relevant ministries and provincial departments across the country in a system-

atic manner, leveraging our extensive academic knowledge and profound field experience in specific areas such as nutrition. This approach has led to the implementation of the largest stunting prevention programme across the entire

country, in collaboration with the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, federal Benazir Income Support Programme directorate, and provincial health departments," he explained. "WFP is a very strategic

partner of the Government of Balochistan and has contributed significantly to contributions to this province. Without WFP's support we might be in trouble reaching out to vulnerable and needy communities at such a large scale," Hafiz Abdul Basit said.

This agreement comes after the Economic Affairs Division approved WFP's CSP for the next five years, a significant milestone towards addressing food insecurity and promoting sustainable development in Pakistan.

In line with the approved CSP, WFP is signing agreements with all provincial governments to officially launch the interventions outlined in the plan for the next five years. This collaboration is a pivotal component of WFP's broader strategy to address challenges pertaining to food insecurity in Pakistan.

Our Role as an Independent Nation

Freedom is the basic right of every Nation in the world. Many countries in Asia and Africa gained freedom from Great Britain. But here, our topic is the role of a nation. First, we have to recall the basic purpose of our freedom. What we want to do as an independent nation Being Muslims, our main aim is to worship Allah Almighty according to the teachings of Islam. The second thing is to protect our own culture and the values of our forefathers. Third to gain economic freedom. Four to respect others.

Five understand the Ideology behind Pakistan. These five steps are compulsory for every citizen of Pakistan. We have to adopt good practices

in our country. If we follow rules and regulations properly, We will get better as a nation. We have tried to follow lines in hospitals, NADRA offices, and railway stations. But we have no courage to wait for our own number. We broke the law with just 200 to 500 rupees at any institution. As a nation, we are promoting this habit. On the other hand, we blamed it on our system. This system was made by us as a nation. When we have decided to accept the law as authority and respect the law of the country. We will make progress in all fields of life. We

have many roles as an independent nation. But unfortunately, we are empty flasks, which make little noise. We are not practicing as an independent nation. We are practicing as a hypocritical nation. It's time to do something better for our country as an independent nation. How many of us take care of cleanliness when visiting tourist sites in Northern areas? We are not worried about cleanliness, even in our streets and markets. We have a responsibility to help our neighbors, but we cannot do it. We are responsible for following terrific rules,

but we cannot follow them. Our problem is that we are not a self-made nation. We are a parasitic nation. We mostly depend on others. Being an agricultural country, we suffer for wheat. Whole economic system based on IMF policies. We never think about where we stand as a nation. Every person always complains about their rights. We are an apologetic nation. Nobody in our country practices the role of a true citizen. Our politicians repeatedly blame the system from time to time. But never attempt to change this system. At last, I have felt shame for my country. I cannot serve you as an independent nation. May Allah protect this nation and country, amen.



Raja Najm Ul Hassan

Cadet College is playing a vital role for education in Mohmand region



Adam Khan Wazir

MOHMAND: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is rapidly setting the pace of education and development, in the area which was once affected by terrorism, educational institutions have been established due to the efforts of Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps North. Like other important institutions in the field of education, Cadet College Mamad Gat located in District Mohmand is a unique institution of its kind. 97 cadets have graduated from the cadet college established in 2020 and are studying in reputed colleges and universities of Pakistan. Apart from this, former students here have also got commission in the Pakistan Army. The current strength of cadets in the Cadet College Mamad Gat is 500, in which students from all over Pakistan and especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are studying. For the promotion of education in the merged districts, 50 seats have been allocated in each entry for tribal children by Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps North. While 10 special seats have been allocated for the children of martyrs. After the establishment of cadet college in the area, a large number of tribal people are determined to enroll their children. The local people are thankful and grateful to the Pakistan Army for providing high quality education facilities, who have made sacrifices to establish peace, law and order in the area and gifted the best cadet college to make the future of the children of the province bright.

Emirates and Air Canada Expand Codeshare Partnership to Flights to and from Montréal



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Emirates announces that its codeshare partnership with Air Canada has extended to include flights to and from Montréal, following the launch of services to Québec's largest city in July. Emirates customers will now be able to plan travel between 11 of the most popular domestic points beyond Montréal and destinations on Emirates' expansive network, utilising the services of both airlines conveniently on a single ticket.

The expanded network of Canadian points included in the codeshare partnership between Emirates and Air Canada now extends to 11 destinations via Montréal, with an additional 69 points accessible from the gateway, on an interline basis.

Tickets are available via emirates.com and preferred travel agencies.

The codeshare partnership between Emirates and Air Canada enables customers to enjoy flexibility and choice with smooth connections via Canada's two largest cities to points such as Halifax, Edmonton, Ottawa and Calgary—perfect for leisure and business travellers or those visiting family or friends. From Toronto, Emirates' customers can travel to 19 points whilst enjoying codeshare benefits, and an extra 100, made possible through an interline arrangement.

Customers travelling from Canadian cities can easily connect to Emirates' services in Montréal or Toronto to travel to exciting destinations across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, via the airline's hub in Dubai.

On its flights to and from Toronto, Emirates offers daily services to Dubai, onboard its popular flagship A380 aircraft. The world's largest international airline also operates seven weekly flights between Montréal and Dubai, utilising its other widebody aircraft—the Boeing 777—enabling passengers to plan their travel itineraries to global destinations, with seamless connectivity.

Travellers with itineraries on Emirates' flights can plan their entire trip on a single-ticket and take advantage of hassle-free flight benefits including the airline's baggage allowance, in addition to convenient bag check-through to the final destination.*

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 48,325.84 | 48,146.43 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 48,397.37 | 47,893.71 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,835,928,636 | +179.41 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.37% | 17 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,310.21 | -46.67 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.63% | 17 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 34,767.23 | +1.49 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.0043% | 17 Aug, 1:04 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 31,626.00 | -140.82 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.44% | 17 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

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 | 326.5 | 329.75 |
| 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 |
| New Zealand \$ | 173.22 | 175.22 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.61 | 27.91 |
| Omani Riyal | 752.76 | 760.76 |
| Qatari Riyal | 79.62 | 80.32 |
| Saudi Riyal | 80.2 | 81 |
| 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 | 83.2 | 84 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 382.3 | 385.8 |
| US Dollar | 302 | 304 |

Denmark can help Pakistan in many sectors of its economy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark said that his country can help Pakistan in many sectors of its economy including renewable energy, climate change, agriculture and water management as Denmark has world's leading solutions in these areas. He said that Pakistan is a huge market and he is striving to promote more Danish exports and investment to Pakistan. He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry at his residence that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG and Ameer Hamza Executive Member ICCI were in the delegation. Commercial Incharge of Denmark Embassy Aslam Pervaiz and Commercial Advisor Dania Basit were also present on the occasion.

The Danish Envoy said that trade drives nations forward and further increase in bilateral trade between Denmark and Pakistan would be very beneficial for both countries. He said that close cooperation of Denmark in the green



field would help Pakistan to become a climate change resilient country. He also discussed many other areas that offer good potential for bilateral cooperation between Denmark and Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial

outcomes. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Denmark is

less than US\$ 1 billion, which is much less than the actual potential of both countries. He said that developing close business linkages between the private sectors of both countries should be the way forward to explore new areas of bilateral cooperation. He said that to achieve this goal, both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations. He said that many Danish companies are already doing business in Pakistan in pharmaceuticals, logistics, construction and technology sectors and more should come to Pakistan to explore joint ventures and investment in areas of interest.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that the impact of climate change is causing unusually heavy rains and flash floods in Pakistan due to which our economy suffers huge losses as the catastrophic floods in Pakistan in 2022 inflicted more than US\$ 30 billion damages and economic losses. He said that Denmark should cooperate with Pakistan in tackling these enormous challenges. He said that Denmark should explore joint ventures in Pakistan in solar and wind energy.

PTCL Group partners with PHA to plant trees at Murree Expressway

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication company, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) in collaboration with the Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA), Rawalpindi, carried out a tree plantation campaign at Khajut on Murree Expressway to help promote environmental protection and the country's resilience against climate change. Senior management, employees, staff and interns actively participated.

Murree is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country that receives massive footfall each year. The afforestation drive will ensure the sustainability of the local environment and natural resources that usually come under pressure due to greater human and vehicular influx. Apart from carbon reduction, the new forest cover will also add to the region's natural splendor.

Speaking at the plantation drive, Nauman Fakhar, Chief Retail Sales Officer, Ufone 4G said, "Environmental protection and resilience against climate change are critically important for Pakistan, which is amongst the top ten countries adversely impacted by climate change. As responsible corporate citizens, it is our duty to help create a world that is safely habitable for our coming generations. We are making



progress on our zero emissions commitment and hope to emerge as a green organization in the near future."

Also sharing his thoughts, Sheikh Tariq Mehmood, Director PHA Rawalpindi said, "It is heartening to witness PTCL Group stepping up to support efforts for a cleaner and greener Pakistan. PHA has been working tirelessly for the beautification of our cities and towns and maintenance of parks, besides widespread afforestation initiatives to help our people breathe clean air and lead happy healthy lives."

During the drive, PTCL Group and PHA

planted indigenous plants having greater survival rates. The drive was conducted under PTCL & Ufone 4G's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program that chalks out an elaborate roadmap for the organization to give back to society.

PTCL and Ufone 4G have successfully conducted dozens of social responsibility programs across the length and breadth of the country to enable and empower underprivileged communities and to plug yawning gaps in the provision of social welfare. The Group continues to make a difference where it matters the most.

NKATI Celebrates Pakistan's 75th Independence Day



City Desk

KARACHI: Under the auspices of the North Karachi Association of Trade & Industry (NKATI), an event was organized in celebration of Pakistan's Independence Day. Sector Commanders, Brigadier Kabir and Brigadier Altaf Hussain of the Pakistan Armed Forces can never be forgotten. It is because of their sacrifices that we sleep peacefully today.

NKATI expressed good wishes for the beloved homeland, stating that the passion for patriotism among the Pakistani nation is unwavering. "We are one nation, one voice, and especially the countless sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces can never be forgotten. It is because of their sacrifices that we sleep peacefully today."

He further added that the national flag is a symbol of sacrifices and the nation's fervor, and this camera project inauguration reflects the commitment to growth and prosperity. He extended heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to making this project possible and to all those who are part of this celebration especially the Sector Commander.

On this occasion, Faisal Moiz Khan, President

Partners

KARACHI: Foodpanda partners with the All-Pakistan Memon Federation (APMF) to foster community development and enhance opportunities for the local workforce. This collaboration aims to leverage the collective strengths of both organisations and create a positive impact on the lives of individuals belonging to the Memon community.



Photo: Online

PSW extends its Digital Trade Network adding more government departments

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) has successfully integrated its digital services with four government departments as part of the initiative's Phase-II rollout. The integration of PSW's digital services with the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), the Marine Fisheries Department (MFD), the Ministry of Narcotics Control (MNC), and partially with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) enables these departments to ensure the swift issuance of certificates, licenses, and permissions to cross-border traders electronically, providing a more comprehensive and inclusive platform for trade facilitation. PSW has also successfully integrated with the Sindh Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control department for collec-

tion of provincial cess and other services related to cross border trade.

Integration of the PSW system with MNC and MFD enables the online processing and issuance of Import Permits and Export Certificates, resulting in significant time and cost savings, while PSW's DRAP mechanism accelerates the registration and approval process for entities falling under its purview. Similarly, MMD can now electronically issue seaworthiness certificates for importing used ships and boats through the online submission of applications.

Commenting on the milestone, the CEO of PSW, Syed Aftab Haider, said, "PSW is working to provide a state-of-the-art digital experience to regulators and cross-border traders in fulfilling cross border trade related compliance requirements, enabling a wider range of entities to benefit from

our services while promoting transparency and driving overall economic growth. We have been successfully achieving the performance benchmarks agreed with the government which could not have been possible without the support and commitment of other government agencies and partner organizations working with us".

As part of the rollout process, PSW is also conducting information and training sessions to proactively support stakeholders in the optimal use of the system. User adoption of the PSW system is close to 69,000, with coverage in terms of locations, services, OGAs, and new modules continuing to expand steadily.

PSW's digitalization services also allow traders to execute financial transactions to relevant departments through online payment options available on the platform.

Khushhali Microfinance Bank Celebrates 23 Years of Empowering Lives



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited (KMBL), Pakistan's first microfinance institution, commemorated its remarkable 23-year journey at their Head Office in Islamabad.

Established in August 2000, KMBL has consistently upheld its mission of financial inclusion and empowerment. Over the past two decades, KMBL has been at the forefront of revolutionizing financial accessibility for low-income individuals, households, and entrepreneurs across Pakistan. By championing the concept of microfinance, KMBL has provided vital financial services that were previously out of reach for many. This commitment to social impact has not only transformed countless lives but also earned KMBL the distinction of being named Pakistan's best microfinance bank for four consecutive years.

Reflecting on this milestone, KMBL's CEO and President, Mr. Ameer Karachiwalla, remarked, "Our journey that began in 2000 to become a household name today has been marked by continuous growth and unwavering dedication. This achievement would not have been possible without our exceptional staff. As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering financial inclusion, supporting self-employed individuals, and home-based workers, and empowering them to achieve their aspirations."

Microfinance plays a pivotal role in uplifting communities, especially in a country like Pakistan. KMBL's 23-year journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of financial inclusion. With a legacy built on innovation, impact, and inclusivity, KMBL is poised to continue its mission for years to come, enriching lives and contributing to Pakistan's socioeconomic progress through the years to come.

Soneri Bank posts impressive results for the Half Year ended 30 June 2023

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Soneri Bank Limited, in their 199th meeting held in Karachi on 16th August 2023, approved the Bank's condensed interim financial statements for the half year ended 30 June 2023.

The Bank's Profit before Tax (PBT) grew impressively to a historic high of Rs. 5,207 million for the half year ended 30 June 2023 as against Rs. 1,864 million earned for the period ended 30 June 2022, while Profit after Tax (PAT) for the current period surged to Rs. 2,527 million as against Rs. 545 million for the comparative period last year. In terms of PAT and earnings per share (EPS), this translates to an impressive growth of 363.93 percent year on year, with the Bank's EPS reported at Rs. 2.2918 per share for the period ended 30 June 2023, as compared to Re. 0.4940 earned for the comparative period last year.

The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew substantially by 94.71 percent to Rs. 10,124 million for the current period, as against Rs. 5,200 million reported for the same period last year, at the back of significantly improved spreads and prudent asset and liability management. Non markup income (NMI) for the period also registered a healthy growth of 51.68 percent, with NMI reported at Rs. 2,888 million as against Rs. 1,904 million for the comparative prior period.

Non-markup expenses were reported at Rs. 7,057 million for the current period as against Rs. 5,733 million reported for the comparative prior period. Growth in expenses was kept restricted at 23.11 percent as compared to the prior period; which resulted from strict compliance of cost rationalization measures amidst unprecedented inflation levels. Moving ahead, the Bank shall continue its focus on monitoring key cost control initiatives.

SNBL's Deposits registered an impressive increase of 15.75 percent when compared to the year-end 2022, growing to Rs. 474,143 million at 30 June 2023, outpacing average industry growth levels. CASA mix improved to 79.43 percent at 30 June 2023 as against 79.19 percent at 31 December 2022.

Serena Hotels organized an evening dedicated to seasoned mountaineers of Pakistan

Spokesman Report / PPA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under its Adventure Diplomacy initiative has always been active in supporting mountaineers and other high-altitude sports in Pakistan. Serena Hotels sponsored Samina Baig, the acclaimed young female mountaineer from Pakistan for her early summits when there was little to no support available to the mountaineering community. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, mentioned Samina was the start of our sponsorship of the Adventure Diplomacy Initiative and since then, we at Serena Hotels have been actively promoting different high altitude adventure sports, through different activities. Samina went on to summit the world's top 7, starting from Mount Everest to K2, she was awarded the Pride of Performance in 2015 along with her brother Mirza Ali Baig.

Sirbaz Khan, another renowned high-altitude mountaineer who has summited 12 of fourteen of the eight-thousanders is another adventure sportsman who denotes his earlier achievements to Serena Hotels due to its patronage. He is among the very few who did so without the use of supplementary oxygen, which is an extraor-



inary feat.

The evening was dedicated to celebrating all the skilled mountaineers of

Pakistan such as Sirbaz Khan, Sajid Sadpara, Samina Baig, Nazir Sabir, Ashraf Aman, Mirza Ali Baig, Abdul

Joshi, Abdul Jabbar Bhatti, to name a few. Nazir Sabir and Ashraf Aman, veteran mountaineers shared their



inspirational stories to motivate the aspiring mountaineers in attendance.

The attendees observed one minute of silence in honour of the precious lives lost in the pursuit of dreams for 'Ali Akbar Sakhi' who lost his life during his expedition to K2, the legendary 'Muhammad Ali Sadpara' and the recent loss of 'Muhammad Hassan'.

The Nepalese Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. Tapas Adhikari, also graced the occasion with his presence and exchanged insights with the guests as

8 of the of the Fourteen eight-thousanders are in Nepal. Also in attendance was the Canadian First Secretary for Political and Public Affairs at the High Commission of Canada, and an adventure sports enthusiast Ms. Amanda DeSadeleer. This event was meant to showcase the immense talent of Pakistan and present those whose dreams are accomplishing the impossible with the chance to meet others who can help, inspire them to keep climbing and aiming high.

Six international cricketers to attend PCB Level-2 Cricket Coach course: PCB Official

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Aimen Anwar, Imran Butt, Javeria Khan, Javeria Rauf, Mansoor Amjad and Sajid Khan among 30 participants attending the six-day course at the NCA

Six Pakistan internationals (men and women) cricketers are among the 30 participants who have registered for the six-day Level 2 Cricket Coach course. The course will be held at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore from 18 to 23 August.

Pakistan international players include Aimen Anwar (8 ODIs, 37 T20Is), Imran Butt (6 Tests), Javeria Khan (116 ODIs, 112 T20Is), Javeria Rauf (4 ODIs, 13 T20Is), Mansoor Amjad (1 ODI, 1 T20I) and Sajid Khan (7 Tests).

The Level 2 course participants will be taught on advance coaching skills which include how to deduct errors and rectifying it through video analysis. This also includes work on communications skills, mental and physical strength, nutrition, plan-

ning and creating plans to help players graduate to the next level.

The course will be conducted by NCA coaches Shahid Aslam, Rahat Abbas Asadi, Imran Abbas, Rao Iftikhar Anjum, Mauhtashim Rashid, Umar Rashid, Saqib Faqir and Yasir Malik.

At the conclusion of the course, the participants will be given three months to complete their assignments. The successful participants will be awarded Level 2 coaching certificates.

Participants (in alpha-

betical order): Adnan Raees, Ahmed Ali, Aiman Anwar, Altaf Ahmad, Arun Lal, Atiq-ur-Rehman, Ayaz Hussain Jamali, Haroon Ahmad, Haziq Habib, Imran Ali, Imran Butt, Jahangir Mirza, Jahanzaib Khan, Javeria Khan, Javeria Rauf, Khaqan Aarsal, Mansoor Amjad, Mansoor Khan, Mohammad Zahid, Muhammad Saleem, Mujahid Hamid, Rahim Baz Khan, Saeed Bin Nasir, Sajid Khan, Shahid Ali, Shahid Saddique, Shoaib Zikria, Snober Gul, Zafar Ali Katper and Zaka-ur-Rasheed

Southee takes five as New Zealand edge spirited UAE

A Sports

DUBAI: Tim Southee led New Zealand from the front with an economical five-wicket haul which voided the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from pulling off a stunning victory.

Chasing 156, the home side fell just 19 runs short and were bundled out for 136 despite Aryansh Sharma's brisk half-century.

The UAE were in command midway through the pursuit as they were 84/3 with Sharma and Ansh Tandon at the crease. However, the wickets kept tumbling at an alarming rate and they were consequently bowled out in the final over.

Sharma waged a lone battle for the hosts with a 43-ball 60, laced up with nine boundaries and a six.

Besides him, the next best run-getters for the UAE were Ali Naseer (16) while Asif Khan and Vriitya Arvind scored 13 each.

Kerr, Perera guide Dambulla Aura to LPL final as Galle Titans falter

A Sports



A Sports

COLOMBO: Kusal Perera's half-century and Hayden Kerr's three-for powered Dambulla Aura to the final of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) as they edged Galle Titans in the Qualifier 1 by seven wickets on Thursday.

Dambulla Aura after winning the toss, struck early with the ball as Binura Fernando sent Banuka Rajapaksa back to the pavilion on the second ball of the innings without any score on the board. Litton Das also followed Rajapaksa to the pavilion after adding eight runs to the total score of 25.

Lasith Croospulle, on the other end, led the charge for Galle Titans as he formed a solid partnership of 51 runs off 38 deliveries with Shakib Al Hasan before the latter perished, courtesy of Dhananjaya de Silva.

Shakib scored a cautious 19 off 17 laced with three boundaries. Croospulle kept the Titans in the game, as he reached his fifty in 33 balls while losing partners on the other end.

He ultimately ran out in the last over after playing a sensible 80-run knock in 61 balls with the help of seven boundaries. The whole team was bundled out at the score of 146 on the final ball of the innings. Besides Croospulle and Shakib, only two other batters managed to reach double figures for Galle Titans.

Hayden Kerr led the bowling attack for Dambulla Aura with impressive figures of 3-18, while Noor Ahmed contributed with two wickets for 27 runs. Hasan Ali, Fernando, and de Silva managed to pick one wicket each.

Dambulla Aura in pursuit of Galle Titan's 146 to secure their spot in the LPL 2023 final, raced to 29 runs in three overs before opener Avishka Fernando was dismissed by Shakib Al Hasan. Fernando scored a quick-fire 24 off 14 featuring three sixes and one boundary.

The dismissal slowed down the scoring rate for Dambulla Aura as Kusal Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama stitched a cautious partnership of 31 off 29. However, Seekkuge Prasanna removed Samarawickrama to reduce Dambulla Aura to 64-2.

Kusal Perera came down to the middle with Dambulla Aura needing 83 runs off 69 deliveries.

He started off slowly but shifted gears in the latter part of the innings, while Kusal Mendis anchored through the innings as they knitted a 69-run stand from 56 balls before Tabraiz Shamsi removed Mendis.

Pakistan team reaches Sri Lanka for Afghanistan series

Spots Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Men's Cricket Team on Thursday, landed in Colombo to take on Afghanistan in the three-match ODI series, starting from August 22. The team will travel to Hambantota by road later in the day.

Nine Pakistani players reached Colombo from Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore this afternoon, including Abdullah Shafique, Taysab Tahir, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, W Wasim Jnr, Faheem Ashraf, M Rizwan, Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi.

Meanwhile, vice-captain Shadab Khan will fly from Karachi to join the team in Sri Lanka, whereas his fellow leg spinner Usama Mir, who was participating in The Hundred will join the team from the United Kingdom (UK).

The players who are participating in the ongoing edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL), including captain Babar



Azam will join the team in Hambantota today.

Pakistan team director Mickey Arthur will also join the squad in Sri Lanka on August 23, as told by head coach Grant Bradburn yesterday.

"We are looking forward to him [Mickey Arthur] joining us on August 23rd [in Sri

Lanka], he will be with us through to the match against India in Kandy," Bradburn told while talking to the media on the sidelines of the national team's training camp.

Pakistan team is scheduled to play a three-match ODI series against Afghanistan in Sri Lanka on August 22, 24 and 26. The first two ODI will take place in

Hambantota, while the third game will be played in Colombo. The upcoming series is the first bilateral ODI series between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Before that, they played only four ODIs and Pakistan remained unbeaten in all.

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

Pakistan's Squad for the Afghanistan Series:

Openers: Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq

Middle order: Babar Azam (captain), Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Taysab Tahir and Saud Shakeel

Wicketkeepers: Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Haris

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

Pace all-rounder: Faheem Ashraf

Pacers: Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi

Ruthless England beat Australia to set up Women's World Cup final with Spain

Sports Desk

Lauren Hemp and Alessia Russo did the damage late on as England shattered Australia's dreams Wednesday with a clinical 3-1 win in Sydney to set up a Women's World Cup final against Spain.

The Lionesses had stumbled at the same stage twice before but the European champions made no mistake this time to silence most of the 75,000 crowd and roar into the Women's World Cup final for the first time.

They deservedly took the lead nine minutes before the break with Manchester United's Ella Toone unleashing a rocket just inside the box with the outside of her boot.

A fit-again Sam Kerr, starting for the first time this tournament, hit back for the home side just after the hour with a world-class goal that set the game on fire.

The skipper picked up the ball, went on a weaving run through England's half and let fly from 30 yards into the top corner.

It sparked ecstatic scenes but the crowd were silenced just eight minutes later when Hemp muscled her way into the box and stabbed into the corner, before Russo put the icing on the cake with four minutes left of normal time.

"We played a hard game but again we found a way to win," said England coach Sarina Wiegman, who also took her native Netherlands to the 2019 final, before losing 2-0 to the United States.

"We have been talking about ruthlessness and this team has ruthlessness, whether it is up front or in defence.

"I never take anything for granted, but it's like I'm living in a fairytale or something," she added.

England now face a final on

Sunday, also at Stadium Australia, against a dangerous Spanish side that beat Sweden 2-1 in the last four.

"Every game in this tournament has been of the highest level so we have to be ready," said Russo.

"But we've been dreaming since we were little girls. We're excited, we'll recover and be ready."

England had been in this position before, in 2015 and 2019, losing 2-1 on both occasions, with a third-place finish their best World Cup before now.

But Wiegman led them to the European title last year on home soil and captain Millie Bright said before the semi-final they were now better-placed to handle big-pressure games.

They demonstrated their resilience at a pumping and partisan Stadium Australia, successfully blanking out the boos and jeers

to silence an expectant home nation.

Despite losing Australia have enjoyed their best Women's World Cup ever, with a third-placed playoff against Sweden on Saturday still to play.

"I feel for so many tonight, the players left it all out there," said Australia coach Tony Gustavsson. "But it was one of those nights. England were clinical."

"Our defending in the first half was solid, but we were not brave enough on the ball. In the second half we started playing the type of game we can play."

With influential striker Kerr fit again, Gustavsson moved Emily van Egmond to the bench in one of two changes with defender Clare Polkinghorne in for an ill Alanna Kennedy.

England stuck to the same XI that beat Colombia 2-1 with striker Lauren James serving the second of a two-match ban — she



will be eligible to play on Sunday.

Kerr was in the thick of the early action and England ruthlessly looked to close her down with some heavy challenges, one of them earning Alex Greenwood a yellow card.

But as England grew in confidence they began controlling the midfield battle.

Goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold rescued Australia when

she deflected Georgia Stanway's strike with her legs.

The breakthrough came in the 36th minute with Toone, in the side for James, arrowing her shot into the top right corner after Hemp pulled the ball back from the touchline.

With 45 minutes to save their tournament, Australia frantically pressed forward and it paid dividends when Kerr's wonder strike

drew them level.

But England were unmoved and when Ellie Carpenter misjudged a long ball into the box, Hemp hustled her way through to score from close range.

Kerr then missed a golden chance to draw level again, and a minute later Russo found herself alone in the box and finished calmly with her right foot to seal a deserved win for England.