



Jammu and Kashmir to reject any law that will harm people's survival: PM AJK

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ch. Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would not enact any law in the state that deprives people of the rights and privileges they have been enjoying since the Dogra era. The PM AJ&K said this during a detailed meeting (Details on Page 3)



Pak-Russia relations termed crucial for global stability

Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Mr. Danila Ganich Monday termed mutual relations between Russia and Pakistan as crucial for both countries' national interests and global stability. He was addressing the opening ceremony of the Open Education Center at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) yesterday. This center aims to teach the Russian language to Pakistani students at the AIU. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Solidarity Ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday addresses a ceremony organised in solidarity with the members of the Christian community who fell victim to mob violence in tehsil Jaranwala, Faisalabad.



Photo: PID

PM Kakar reiterates govt's resolve to protect minorities

MA Rasheed

JARANWALA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday assured all the minority communities in the country that the government was committed to protect their lives and properties, and the perpetrators of heinous attacks against them would be brought to justice.

Addressing a gathering of the Christian community members, he said, "We are the followers of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and the Founder of the Nation, and it is also binding upon us under the Constitution, which encourages us to respond to such atrocities."

The prime minister said that they would never condone the persecutors of minorities, and stressed that if anyone caused harm to the minorities, the law of the country would take its course by ensuring that such like incidents should not happen in future.

The entire society and the government would not cover down before the dark forces but



would stand shoulder to shoulder with the victim communities, he said, adding that they would become voice of the voiceless with the tangible and meaningful support.

"Our actions will speak louder than our speeches," PM Kakar said.

The prime minister arrived here to express solidarity with the victim families of Christian community. Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman and Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin

Naqvi, caretaker federal ministers, senior officials and members of the Christian community were present on the occasion.

PM Kakar further said that the minorities in Pakistan were struggling for the protection of the rights of their communities across the region, adding that the people who had attacked the Christian community in the area were the enemies of humanity.

He said that they were assuring them of the government's support not out of any compulsion, but due to their conviction.

The incident that occurred in the area alluded to a pervasive issue in the society which had been experiencing extremism, radicalism and aggressive behaviour, and manifested that such behaviour did not belong to any religion, sect or group rather indicated an innate human behaviour which spread like a cancerous disease, he opined.

The prime minister regretted the unfortunate incident that occurred after the caretaker government took oath.

Referring to Islamic history, he said that under the Quaid's vision, it was their utmost responsibility, to protect the minorities. It was the duty of Muslims to protect the honour, life and properties of the Christian community, he added.

PM Kakar reiterates govt's resolve to protect minorities

The prime minister said a society could thrive under rule of law, and become stable on the basis of one principle, the sense of justice among the masses, which ensured a society and state to survive.

He also expressed his gratitude to the upcoming Chief Justice of Pakistan, the caretaker chief minister and the military leadership for their support to the victims and reiterated that there would be no compromise on the minorities' rights.

The prime minister warned that no one could predict the future, but in case, any miscreant or group that harboured evil designs against the minorities, including Sikhs, Hindus, or others, would find the authority of the government on the side of the affected segments, shielding them against any harm.

Recalling the Christian community members' contributions in the society, the prime minister also recollected his early education imparted by the Christian teachers.

The caretaker prime minister said white was not only a colour of the National Flag, but it showed the perfection of the country in which the minorities filled that beauty of harmony and unity.

President for further strengthening bilateral ties with KSA



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for further strengthening bilateral ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in diverse fields, particularly economy, investment, and culture. He said that Pakistan highly valued its relations with KSA, which were based on common faith, shared history, and people-to-people ties.

The President made these remarks while talking to Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah, Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, who along with his delegation, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the delegation, the President reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the existing economic partnership with KSA for the mutual benefit of both the brotherly countries.

He underscored the need to expand bilateral trade, adding that great opportunities existed for investment in Pakistan in different sectors such as IT, renewable energy, industri-

al and infrastructure development, and the hospitality sectors.

The President thanked the Government of KSA for making excellent arrangements for the Hajj this year. He hoped that the Government of KSA would expedite the purchase of Pakistan House inside Markaziah in Madina from the compensation amount of two Pakistan Houses demolished in Madina.

The visiting Saudi Minister said that relations between Pakistan and KSA were very strong that needed to be further enhanced for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah said KSA would continue to provide good facilities to the pilgrims for Hajj and Umrah.

The President also asked the visiting dignitary to communicate his warm regards to His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince/Prime Minister of KSA. He also thanked KSA for its continued support and financial assistance to Pakistan.

Elderly man martyred in Indian firing at LoC: ISPR

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: In yet another incident of ceasefire violation, an elderly man embraced martyrdom when Indian troops targeted the civilian population in the Nalkyal sector along the Line of Control (LoC), said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement.

According to ISPR, Indian troops initiated a ceasefire violation in Nalkyal Sector along LOC deliberately targeting civil population. "A 60 years old man identified as Ghayas who belonged to Kotli got martyred due to unprovoked Indian firing," the ISPR said. Three women who were working in the fields got terrified by the firing.

The Indian forces have continuously violated the cease-

fire agreement at the Line of Control and martyred Pakistan Army personnel and civilians during their unprovoked firing at the border.

The army media wing stated that Pakistan wants peace at LoC with its neighbor but will take steps to ensure the safety of its citizens.

Earlier, two civilians embraced martyrdom and a civilian was injured when Indian troops resorted to unprovoked firing on a group of shepherds in the Sattwal Sector across the Line of Control (LoC).

The ISPR in a statement said, "Indian Army, in a display of its usual inhumane approach towards innocent Kashmiris, opened indiscriminate fire onto a group of shepherds in Sattwal Sector."

President Alvi seeks removal of Secretary Waqar Ahmed

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A day after President Dr Arif Alvi denied signing Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan Army Act, the President's Secretariat on Monday said the services of Secretary Waqar Ahmed were "no more required".

"In view of the definite statement of yesterday, President's Secretariat has written a letter to Principal Secretary to Prime Minister that the services of Mr Waqar Ahmed, Secretary to President, are no more required and are surrendered to the Establishment Division, immediately," said a statement posted by the President of Pakistan's official account on X.

"It has also been desired that Ms Humaira Ahmed, a BPS-22 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, may be posted as Secretary to the President," the statement added.

SC to hear petition on Jaranwala incident today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Monday fixed for hearing a petition related to the tragic incident in Faisalabad district's Jaranwala Tehsil wherein a violent mob ransacked and torched churches and attacked the community's residences over blasphemy allegations.

The bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Shahid Wahid will take up the petition tomorrow (Tuesday).

The Supreme Court has also issued notices to the relevant parties on the matter.

It is pertinent to mention here that a mob attacked, vandalized multiple churches, and torched homes belonging to the Christian community in Jaranwala, Faisalabad over blasphemy allegations.

The Jaranwala police had registered terror cases against



more than 600 people on August 17 for "vandalizing multiple churches and torching homes belonging to the Christian community."

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

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. Read More: Caretaker PM visits Jaranwala, expresses solidarity with Christian families

It also invoked sections 148, 149, 153A, 186, 295, 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.

On August 18, Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Mohsin Naqvi said that two prime suspects in Jaranwala incident were arrested.

Official Secrets Act: Special court constituted for hearings

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special court has been constituted in Islamabad to hear cases under Official Secrets Act.

ATC Judge Abu Al-Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain has been appointed as the judge of the special court, who will hear the cases under the Official Secrets Act from across the country.

It has been confirmed the proceedings under the Official Secrets Act will be in-camera. It may be noted that currently, the PTI chairman and former prime minister, former federal ministers Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Asad Umar are facing cases under Official Secrets Act.

The matter took a dramatic turn on Sunday when, President Arif Alvi denied signing Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 as he "disagreed with these laws".

Official Secrets Amendment Act challenged in LHC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An application challenging the Official Secrets Amendment Act was filed today in the Lahore High Court.

The petitioner, Advocate Mohammad Muqsit Saleem, has raised concerns regarding the amendment bill, leading to the inclusion of the Federal Government and the Ministries of Law and Interior as parties to the petition.

This move comes in the wake of a statement from the President of Pakistan, asserting that he had not signed the Official Secrets Amendment Act Bill, casting doubts on its validity and procedural correctness.

Ex-PM Shehbaz demands inquiry of President Alvi's bill signing controversy



Spokesman Report

LONDON: Former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif demanded inquiry into President Arif Alvi's Army Amendment bill signing controversy.

Talking to media out Avenfield Apartments London, Shehbaz Sharif said that inquiry must be held on the President Arif Alvi's statement regarding signing the Army Amendment bill.

He said that the inquiry will reveal the actual facts.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah H.E. Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday.



Photo: PID

Caretaker PM thanks KSA leadership for facilitating Pakistani pilgrims

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday thanked the Saudi leadership for making excellent arrangements for Hujjaj from all over the world during the Hajj season, particularly for the Pakistani pilgrims.

He expressed the hope that Pakistani Hajj and Umrah

pilgrims would continue to receive special treatment from the Saudi side.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Minister of Hajj & Umrah of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al Rabiah who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Caretaker PM thanks KSA

leadership for facilitating Pakistani pilgrims. The prime minister expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations with the Kingdom and lauded the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, adding that Pakistan would always remain a trusted partner of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Minister is leading a high-level delegation

with members from the Saudi ministry of foreign affairs, interior, Saudi civil aviation authority, communication, tourism, etc.

The visit is the first by a Minister of Hajj and Umrah to Pakistan. The caretaker prime minister also thanked Saudi Arabia for its serious interest in investment opportunities in Pakistan under the Special Investment Facilita-

tion Council (SIFC).

The Saudi minister thanked the prime minister for the warm hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation.

He said Saudi Arabia would extend all possible facilitation to Pakistani pilgrims, adding that in addition to religious visits, the delegation would also try to promote Saudi tourism to Pakistan.

President emphasises use of IT to establish effective audit system

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday emphasised the need for utilizing information technology to enhance the effectiveness of the auditing system. The president, talking to Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ajmal Gondal here, said it was the need of hour to adopt better internal controls, technology, automation and auditing as per international standards.

The Auditor General of Pakistan presented to the president the annual report of the institution for fiscal year 2022-23. The president instructed the auditor general to take measures for further improvement in the audit system.



He said that the improvement of the audit process would help promote good governance, transparency, and accountability. He asked the auditor general to set targets for enhancing the institution's effectiveness. He said the institution should also assist the government in the promotion of good governance. President Alvi also lauded the role of the Auditor General of Pakistan in maintaining financial discipline in the country.

Mushaal vows to highlight plight of Kashmiris at int'l fora

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Adviser to Caretaker Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Monday vowed to raise her voice for Kashmiris at all international forums. The SAPM in a statement asserted to utilize diplomatic channels at all forums to file a petition as per EU law against India for



blatant human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Imaan's life is in danger, says Shireen Mazari

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Shireen Mazari said Monday that her daughter Imaan's life is in danger. She demanded the courts to protect human rights.

While talking to the journalists outside the Judicial Complex Islamabad, Shireen Mazari said that her daughter fell unconscious after reaching the police station. She complained that Imaan was sent to the prison cell without giving any medical assistance.

She criticised that Imaan has health issues but the jail administration was neither providing appropriate meals



nor the washroom in her prison cell was useable.

Mazari said that she asked her daughter to stay strong and take care of her health as the opponents also wanted to destroy her health.

He demanded the courts to protect human rights as her daughter's life is in danger.

Aneeq urges expansion of 'Road to Makkah' project

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, on Monday, called for the extension of the 'Road to Makkah' project to multiple airports across Pakistan.

He made this appeal during a joint press conference held alongside Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah expressing that the 'Road to Makkah' initiative, which streamlines the pilgrimage process for Pakistani pilgrims, had proven highly advantageous for those embarking on the Hajj journey.

Minister Aneeq also advocated for exempting individuals aged 65 and above from mandatory biometric verification for the pilgrimage. He highlighted that this requirement had been causing inconvenience for senior citizens due to issues related to fingerprint recognition. Aneeq urges expansion of



'Road to Makkah' project, enhanced pilgrim facilities in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, he suggested exploring alternative locations for the Pakistan House in Madinah, which had been dismantled to make way for the expansion of Haram Sharif.

Speaking of the efforts by the Saudi government to provide modern amenities for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, Minister Aneeq praised the superior facilities available to

religious visitors. He emphasized Pakistan's prominent role as a top contributor to Umrah pilgrims worldwide.

Dr. Al-Rabiah highlighted the crucial discussions that took place during the visit and expressed admiration for the close bond shared between the Pakistani people and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Recognizing Saudi Arabia's commitment to offering essential services

to Pakistani pilgrims, he emphasized the significance of evaluating the quality of facilities provided during the pilgrimage. He also announced Saudi Arabia's intention to reduce Hajj expenses and extend the visa duration for Umrah pilgrims to 90 days. Additionally, he revealed plans to introduce approximately 100 new historical sites in Makkah and Madinah, enhancing the overall pilgrim experience.

APHC leaders condemn fresh arrest spree in IIOJK

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders have condemned the fresh spree of raids, crackdowns and arrest unleashed by the Indian forces in every nook and corner of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The APHC leaders including Saleem Zargar, Yasmeen Raja, Abdul Samad Inqilabi and Narendra Singh Khalsa in their separate statements, termed the house raids and arrest of youth by Indian forces' personnel as the worst form of political vengeance to punish the Kashmiris for challenging India's illegal occupation of their motherland. Indian police and troops have arrested dozens of youth during house raids across the occupied territory in the last few days, KMS reported on Saturday. They expressed serious concern over the victimization of common people by the Indian forces' personnel as well as sleuths of dreaded National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SLA) during cordon and search operations and house raids in Srinagar, Baramulla, Kupwara, Kulgam, Shopian, and other districts.

Naheed Khan and Dr Safdar Abbasi Strongly Condemns the Violence in Jaranwala

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Workers (PPPW) Co Chairwoman Mrs Naheed Khan and Senator Dr Safdar Abbasi strongly condemn the violence against the Christian community in tehsil Jaranwala, District Faisalabad where a charged crowd burnt multiple churches and attacked Christian colony and looted valuables from their house over blasphemy allegations against a Christian cleaner.

Chairman NDMA reviews damages caused by ongoing floods in Sutlej River

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Monday reviewed the situation of damages caused by the ongoing floods in Sutlej River, the situation of major Dams, and the regulation of river flows during the ongoing monsoon spell. The NDMA Chairman presided special National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC) session with key stakeholders on the current flood and monsoon situation, a news release said. The session was attended by representatives of Armed Forces, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Provincial, State, and Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authorities



(PDMA, SDMA, GBDMA), Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Commission (SUPARCO), Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters (PCIW), Rescue 1122 Punjab, Tarbela and Mangla Dam Management.

The PMD briefed about the previous days' rainfall observed in the country. They also apprised about the expect-

ed rainfall in the North Eastern parts of the country from August 23 to 25. The PDMA Punjab and Rescue 1122 Punjab briefed about the evacuation, rescue, and relief efforts conducted along the Sutlej River. The FFD reported that Sulemanki headworks would attain a very high flood level by 22 August and a peak in the flow of River Jehlum will be observed from 23 to 25 August which will affect the

Mangla dam levels. The Mangla and Tarbela Dam management briefed that the water level in dams and contingency measures are in place.

The PCIW briefed about the mechanism in place for information sharing between Pakistan and Indian dam management. The Chairman NDMA instructed relevant departments to carry out flood damage assessment and gather accurate data.

He also instructed PDMA, GBDMA, and SDMA to increase awareness among the masses about the remedial measures to be taken during the season and to monitor the changing situation vigilantly. He reiterated that the settlements and encroachments in river beds of all major rivers must be cleared by all concerned to minimize the damages.

Pak-Russia relations termed crucial for global stability

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russia to Pakistan, Mr. Danila Ganich Monday termed mutual relations between Russia and Pakistan as crucial for both countries' national interests and global stability.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of the Open Education Center at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) yesterday. This center aims to teach the Russian language to Pakistani students at the AIU. Speaking on the occasion, the ambassador said that the Open Education Center of the Russian Ministry of Education will play a significant role in strengthening Pakistan-Russia relations.

The Russian Ambassador emphasized the need to strengthen the relationship between universities and achieve common goals. Vice Chancellor AIU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood stated that Russia and Pakistan have had strong relations for 75 years which needs to be further enhanced through academic collaboration.

Deputy Minister of Education of the



Russian Federation, Denis E. Gribov, Deputy Executive Director of Russian Geographical Society, Mr. Sergey V. Korykhanov, Pakistan's Counselor to the Russian Federation, Zafar Yab Khan, President of the Ural Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Andrey A. Besedin, addressed the ceremony online and congratulated Vice Chancellor AIU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Rector USPU, Prof. Svetlana A. Miniurova on setting up the "Open Education Center" in Allama Iqbal Open University. They acknowledged the collaboration between the universities and highlighted that this platform will lead to exploring more avenues of partnership to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Firing between two tribes over land dispute in Shakai, two men die

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A bloody clash broke out between Wazir Spirakai tribes from Lower South Waziristan and Mehsud Nano Khel tribe from Upper South Waziristan over the "Bala Pathar" land dispute in Tehsil Shakai area, as a result, two people have died from both sides.

A great progress has been made regarding the "Bala Pathar" land dispute, the both Districts Assistant Commissioners says, that the negotiations have come to fruition with the efforts of tribal elders, Ullamas, Youths and Local political leaders.

After the cease-fire, the front was cleared from both sides and the front was handed over to the police.

On behalf of both districts, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi from Lower Waziristan, Assistant Commissioner Sarvekai Umar Khittab Upper Waziristan, police, Ullamas, Wazir and Mehsud tribal elders, Chairman Maulana Muhammad Saleh Wazir, Wana political alliance and youth



worked hard all day and at last ceasefire was established between the two tribes.

After the ceasefire, the tribal elders also held talks in which they decided that on Saturday, August 26, 2023, negotiations between the two tribes would be held under the shadow of the both District administrations.

During this time, both the tribes will be bound to leave the fronts, while the police of PS Shakai and PS Tiarza were

entrusted with this responsibility and the fronts were vacated from both sides and handed over to the police.

According to local sources, for the past several days, the two tribes of Spirakai and Nano Khel tribes were fighting each other at "Bala Pathar" located between Tiarza Tehsil of Upper South Waziristan and Shakai Tehsil of Lower South Waziristan.

On Monday, after a lot of hard work

by the administration and elders, the fronts were cleared.

Yesterday, there was firing an exchange of small and big weapons from both sides, but on Monday, there was an exchange of heavy fire and as a result of which one person from Wazir Spirakai tribe died while one person died from the Nano Khel Mehsud tribe.

As soon as the incident was reported, the district administration officers, police force, tribal elders, Ullamas, local political leaders along with youths reached the scene and succeeded in establishing a ceasefire on the spot, but saved the two tribe from a bloody clash.

It should be noted that the conflict between the two nations has been going on for a long time over the land of "Bala Pathar" before that there were clashes between the two nations on the same land in 2015 and again in 2017.

On the other hand, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi said that after receiving the information, he himself was present at the scene of the incident, and the negotiations were successful.

Chief Justice AJK offered Fatiha and heartfelt condolences



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan went to the house of former Director General of Information Raja Azhar Iqbal Khan's mother Majda and offered Fatiha and offered heartfelt condolences. Haji Raja Munirullah Khan, Staff Officer Supreme Court Amjad Mehmood, Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik and Raja Ali Azhar were also present.

The Chief Justice of Azad Kashmir, Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan paid his respects to former DSP Raja Abdul Qayyum at his house and offered Fatiha on his death and expressed his condolences to the bereaved.

Meanwhile the Chief Justice Supreme Court of Azad Kashmir Raja Saeed Akram Khan visited former minister Chaudhry Parvez Ashraf residence at Bhimbar and condoled the death of his mother, and recited Fatiha Khwani, prayed for the eternal peace in Jannah and the patience of the family members. The Chief Justice said that there is no substitute for the mother.

SMEA to develop credit risk assessment model for manufacturing SMEs: CEO

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has launched an initiative to develop a separate credit risk assessment system for easy disbursement of loans to the manufacturing SMEs in Pakistan. Mr. Farhan Aziz Khawaja, CEO SMEDA, in a press statement issued here today, informed that the initiative had been started through a PSDP funded project of SMEDA; "the Research, Regulatory Insight & Advocacy Assistance for SMEs" (RRI&A) under the federal Ministry of Industries & Production (MoIP).

CEO SMEDA said, SMEs in Pakistan face significant hurdles in obtaining finance. Challenges encompass limited data transparency, complex paperwork, cumbersome bank protocols, SMEs' creditability and readiness, high interest rates, and insufficient collateral, he added and informed that the core aim of SMEDA initiative is to establish a reliable Credit Risk Assessment Model that can enable financial institutions in accurately appraising the creditworthiness of Manufacturing SMEs by pinpointing predictive cues and information channels to enhance current credit risk evaluation processes and tools. He hoped that emerging model will help establish a comprehensive framework guiding well-judged lending choices made by financial institutions. The initiative will provide a complete system for scrutinizing established credit risk assessment models, such as Credit Scoring and Credit Rating Models, to gauge the suitability of credits for Manufacturing SMEs. In this regard global best practices would also be reviewed to provide the financial institutions with a robust toolset for evaluating Manufacturing SMEs' credit risks and feeling comfortable to issue required loans, CEO SMEDA added.

Chaudhry Faisal Ishaq meets former PM Mian Nawaz Sharif

News Desk

LONDON: Important political and party issues were discussed with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in his London office

Nawaz Sharif appreciated the party and political services of Chaudhry Faisal Ishaq of Santapura President Youth Wing of Pakistan Muslim League N uk

Chaudhry Faisal Ishaq met with Mian Nawaz Sharif. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif discussed various political and party matters in his London office. On this occasion, Mian Nawaz Sharif said that the youth of our They are the hope of the future of the country, inshallah they will fulfill the dream of real development in the country. They have full faith in the abilities of the youth. They are the guarantee of a bright future.



Nishat Girls Wing organates 'IT workshop' in Hyderabad



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Nishat Girls Wing, a social organization working for the education, training and career counseling of girls in Sindh organized an "IT workshop" at the Sindh level, in which members from various districts of Sindh including Karachi and Hyderabad and Officials participated, while many female students also participated on video link. On this occasion, IT and freelancing expert Ali Solangi taught the students about artificial intelligences, data safety and freelancing and said that the world is changing day by day, we also have to change, new ways of earning are coming, are, youths are in dire need of learning about freelancing, for this we have also planned to conduct a 6 month course, we must adopt new technologies, He further said that those youths who are willing to do freelancing can earn good money from various websites by learning in their respective fields, we will help them fully. In the workshop, the central president of Nishat Girls Wing Reena Correjo, central general secretary Amna Memon, Kashif Junejo, Karachi district president Ayesha Mehmood, general secretary Sahar Rafiq, Koonj Dahri, Sabita Talpur, Naseem Talpur, Khushi Keeriyoo, Iqra Junejo, Mehr-Ul-Nisa Lakho, Faiza Junejo, Faiza Talpur, Muskan, Andalab Junejo, Maheen Talpur and others also participated in large numbers.

Orphans need to get rid of Deprivations with proper support: Naseer 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 Naseer Yousef Vohra in a media conference.

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 Naseer Yousaf Vohra, while the guest of honor was a prominent writer Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak, former FCCI President Rana Sikandar Azam, Vice President of Press Club Ali Ashfaq Hashmi.

Solidarity

MULTAN: Pakistani Muslim girls lit candles for peace and solidarity with Christians community. On 16 August Mob in Jaranwala burnt Churches and Christians' homes during violence in Jaranwala.



Spokesman Photo By Asim Tanveer

Killer of famous cricketer Usman arrested by Tank police

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: On Monday, with the tireless efforts of the Tank police, the killer of the famous cricketer Usman was arrested along with the instrumental murder, SP Investigation Tank said in a press conference along with other police officers that the brutal killer had mercilessly killed the victim by throwing a stone on his head, for which the special team investigated on modern lines and brought the killer to justice.

The relatives of the deceased thanked the Tank police officers by Garland.

According to the report, SP Investigation Tank Haji Nasir Khan, DSP Headquarters



Abdul Rasheed Khan, DSP Rural Chan Shah and Asghar Wazir SHO Police Station Gomal, arrested the killer of the famous cricketer Usman in Murghi Colony.

On this occasion, while addressing the press conference, the officers said that on

August 8, 2023, the brother of the deceased Muhammad Usman, Bakhtu Allah, son of Muhammad Sher tribe Mehsud resident Ahmed Wam, who is a permanent resident of Upper South Waziristan, and while recently residing in Murghi Colony area of Tank district,

the accused Noor Zamin son of Bait Ullah tribe Mehsud is a resident of Sapella Toi South Waziristan Upper.

Recently, a resident of Murghi Colony claimed to have killed his brother Usman, on which a formal case was registered in Gomal police station.

The SP Investigation Tank said that as soon as the incident was reported, in the light of the clear instructions of the Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Abdul Ghafoor Afridi, DPO Tank Waqar Ahmad headed by the SP Investigation Tank, DSP Headquarters Abdul Rashid Khan, DSP Rural Chan Shah and SHO Police Station Gomal, A special team

consisting of Asghar Wazir was formed and assigned the task of arresting the accused as soon as possible and recovering the murder instrument.

SP said that the special team of Tank police under my leadership, using all the professional skills and available resources, by working day and night, SHO Gomal raided the above accused on 23-08-19. Arrested as per the rules, the accused also confessed to his crime during interrogation and on his marking, a large blood-stained stone was also recovered.

The victim's mobile phone and national identity card were also recovered from the accused in the form of pieces and further investigation is underway.

Mashreq announces incorporation in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the MENA region, is proud to announce the successful incorporation in Pakistan. This marks a significant milestone in Mashreq's strategic expansion and underlines its commitment in driving digitization and financial inclusion in high growth markets.

To mark this significant occasion, a high-level Mashreq delegation including senior members of the executive committee visited Pakistan to strengthen ties and consider collaboration to recognize this momentous milestone along with our independent board members Syed Naseer Hassan and Rashid Khan.

Fernando Morillo, Group Head of Retail Banking at Mashreq, said, "Our foray into Pakistan is a pivotal moment for Mashreq, marking a new



chapter in our strategic expansion. We eagerly anticipate the opportunities to collaborate with local stakeholders and contribute towards a robust digital ecosystem that will transform the country's financial landscape. We are

committed to playing a vital role in the country's digitization efforts and financial development, particularly in the sectors of SME, payments, and inclusion. The bank's tech-ready infrastructure, coupled with its digital DNA, will

be leveraged to empower customers in the market, meet their evolving needs, deliver seamless banking experiences and support the country's vision of a financially inclusive, digitally led economy."

Currently, Mashreq has a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Pakistan to deliver a portfolio of innovative products. Leveraging its successful incorporation in Pakistan, Mashreq is confident that its entry into the country will lay the foundation for a fruitful partnership that will benefit consumers, businesses, and the economy alike.

Mashreq is committed to fostering the growth of the country by harnessing local talent and expertise. Through cultivating a digital ecosystem supported by robust infrastructure and institutional frameworks, Mashreq aims to propel Pakistan towards a future of digital innovation and financial inclusivity.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:04 am
Zohr 12:11 pm
Asr 4:54 pm
Maghrib 6:48 pm
Isha 8:17 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
DHO 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09

Letter to Editor

Dairy items sale of inflated prices

Zain-ul-Abidin Abid

MULTAN: Through your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the Multan authorities towards the issue of adulterated dairy items and the sale of products at inflated prices.

Respected Sir,
At present, apart from rampant adulteration in milk and yogurt, these products are being sold at prices higher than the official rates in Multan. Price control authorities seem to be absent in any capacity. Despite complaints, the Price Control Magistrates are refraining from regulating the traders, leading to extreme disappointment among the public.

It is recommended that prices and quality be checked daily based on the foundations of Malik Shops. Businesses that claim they are unable to sell milk at government rates should be closed so that the public can purchase milk directly from dairy farmers milk suppliers.

In addition to maintaining hygiene standards at milk shops, an online checking system for standards and quantity should be implemented.

Sir, here I present a test case is proposed for the authorities. In New Shah Shams Colony, Block B, Mini Market, Thabeem Malik Shop owner Abdul Sattar Thabeem is selling milk at an exorbitant price of Rs. 160 per liter. This milk isn't even pure, impacting the lives and health of urban dwellers. An appeal is made to take action against such individuals who are playing with the lives and health of citizens.

Jammu and Kashmir to reject any law that will harm people's survival: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ch. Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would not enact any law in the state that deprives people of the rights and privileges they have been enjoying since the Dogra era.

The PM AJ&K said this during a detailed meeting with government Ministers including Mian Abdul Waheed, Sardar Javed Ayub and Chaudhry Muhammad Rasheed here today.

Referring to the issuance of the Forest Ordinance, the PM said that the ordinance issued recently was basically meant to put an end to deforestation and cutting of green trees, which hugely contribute to climate change. So far as survival of the people living in upper areas is concerned, the PM said that the government was cognizant and fully aware of the requirements of the people living in the cold



weather places including Neelum Valley, Jhelum Valley and Haveli.

"There will be no compromise on the survival of the human lives", the PM said, adding that the government would never allow the people of these areas to suffer under any law that was detrimental to their survival.

In order to end the anxiety among the masses caused by the issuance of the forest ordinance, the Prime Minister issued immediate instructions to the Secretary

Forest asking him to ensure supply of fire-wood and building-wood to the people on priority basis.

The PM said that disciplinary action should be taken against the government officials who misinterpreted the Forest Ordinance.

During the meeting, the ministers gave a detailed briefing to the Prime Minister over the forest ordinance and problems being faced by the people of Neelum, Jhelum and other places.

Chief Secretary AJK called on President Azad Jammu and Kashmir



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Chief Secretary Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir Muhammad Dawood Bareech called on President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry here today.

On this occasion, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual interest.

Speaking on the occasion, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry stressed the need for timely completion of ongoing development projects in Azad Kashmir.

He said that all energies should be utilized for the welfare of the people.

ACCA's Highest Achiever: Zeeshan ul Hassan's Triumph in Performance Management

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: ACCA has announced the results for students who took their exams in June 2023. A total of 105,016 students from across the globe participated in the June session of ACCA exams, resulting in the completion of 123,828 exams.

Zeeshan ul Hassan, hailing from Lahore, Pakistan, has earned the prestigious distinction of achieving the highest score worldwide in ACCA's Performance Management (PM) paper, making him the prize winner. Among the 105,016 candidates who sat for June session, Zeeshan ul Hassan emerged as the top performer.

Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, commented: 'Zeeshan ul Hassan's unwavering determination and ambition stand as a beacon of inspiration for the talented youth in our nation. His remarkable achievement is a testament to the potential of Pakistanis to excel on the global stage, provided they are granted the right opportunities and platforms. Despite the myriad challenges confronting our country, the key to a prosperous future lies in endorsing and commemorating the accomplishments of young individuals like Zeeshan ul Hassan. We should motivate them to chase their passions and aspirations, unhindered by obstacles.'

Zeeshan ul Hassan attributes his success to relentless hard work and unwavering perseverance. He expresses gratitude for the unwavering support he received from his parents and educators at Tabani's School of Accountancy (TSA).

With his consistent examination performances, Zeeshan ul Hassan has set a high standard for himself and is resolute in maintaining this pinnacle of excellence. He is resolutely focused on replicating his triumph in his remaining examinations and is committed to constructing a thriving career, thereby garnering acclaim for both his family and his homeland.



Searching of Customers

ISLAMABAD: A street vendor is searching customers to sell traditional handmade stuff and earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

NUST honors its recipients of Pakistan Civil Awards 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) paid glowing tributes to its distinguished faculty and staff upon conferment of the prestigious Civil Awards 2023 by the President Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H. E. Dr Arif Alvi. The Investiture Ceremony will take place on Pakistan Day, 23rd March, 2024. Meanwhile, Registrar NUST Engr Brig Muhammad Ashfaq Maitla has been conferred Sitara-e-Imtiaz (M), in recognition of his meritorious services during his illustrious career.

Dr Faisal Shafait from NUST School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

(SEECS) and Dr Umar Shahbaz from NUST College of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering (CoEME) have been conferred the coveted Pride of Performance, while Dr M Usman Akram from CoEME, Dr Salman Raza Naqvi from NUST School of Chemical & Materials Engineering (SCME), Dr Haider Abbas from NUST Military College of Signals (MCS) and Ms Arooba Gillani from NUST Placement Office (NPO) have been conferred Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. The awards have been bestowed in recognition of their exceptional contributions to higher education, research and public service.

On behalf of NUST, Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari,

Rector NUST, extended heartfelt felicitations to the excellent faculty and staff members, and expressed deep gratitude for their outstanding services to NUST and the nation at large.

Describing the award recipients as role models for present and future generations of scholars, scientists and change makers, he underscored that NUST's esteemed reputation is largely built upon the continuous efforts of its committed human resources, whom he termed the university's greatest asset.

Dr Umar Shahbaz (Pride of Performance) is currently serving as a Professor at NUST CoEME. He is also the Director of National Centre of Robotics & Automation. His major achievements include

accreditation of Mechatronics Engineering as one of the first programmes under the Washington Accord (WA).

Dr Faisal Shafait (Pride of Performance) is working as a Professor & Associate Dean of Faculty of Computing at NUST SEECS. He is a world-renowned scientist in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

Dr Salman Raza Naqvi (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) is on the faculty of NUST School of Chemical & Materials Engineering (SCME). He is a truly accomplished academician and leading scientist with 178 (SCI) impact factor papers with total citation of 4307 and H-index of 37 as per Scopus database and WoS-JCR in the country.

Prisoner 804: Imran Khan's struggle amid Pakistan's turmoil

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, a figure who once represented hope and change in Pakistani politics, faced a dramatic shift in fortune as he became prisoner 804. In his time as PM, Imran Khan's government implemented various policies aimed at uplifting the nation and addressing economic issues. But, time and situations were radically shifted to a series of lawless incidents that ultimately culminated in his imprisonment.

Following the Toshakhana case verdict, PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan remains imprisoned in Attock Jail. He was initially placed in a cramped cell, then Khan was moved to another area of the facility and now receives 'C Class' amenities due to a shortage of better provisions for high-profile inmates. He is identified as "Prisoner No. 804."

Imran Khan's legal counsel had previously reported his confinement in a bug-infested chamber with an exposed restroom in Attock bridewell. According to attorney Naeem Panjtoha, the holding area was plagued by insects and flies.

The Islamabad High Court has questioned who authorized Khan's transfer to Attock instead of Adiala, as directed by the sessions tribunal. It demanded that he be provided with a copy of the Holy Quran and a prayer mat.

On August 5, 70-year-old former cricket star Imran Khan was arrested in Lahore, receiving a three-year sentence for illegally trading state-owned gifts. He faced allegations of misusing his

position as Prime Minister between 2018 and 2022 to purchase and sell state-held gifts.

PTI has expressed concern over Khan's deplorable detention conditions.

The phrase "Prisoner No. 804" has gained traction online, trending on social media platforms. Undeterred by his predicament, the PTI leader declared his willingness to endure imprisonment for "a thousand years" if necessary, given his ongoing struggle.

In my opinion, it is essential to carefully examine the evidence in Imran Khan's case and ensure a fair trial. By maintaining transparency and due process, public trust in the judicial system can be preserved. The court must

thoroughly investigate every aspect of the case and deliver a verdict based on merit, free from external influence.

Imran Khan's imprisonment has sparked political unrest in Pakistan; however, upholding the rule of law is critical for democracy. Fair legal proceedings must be conducted, allowing all parties to present their arguments and evidence.

The outcome will significantly affect Pakistan's political landscape. All stakeholders must respect the legal process and support an unbiased conclusion. Democracy flourishes when justice prevails, and the rights of accused individuals are upheld, regardless of their political affiliations.

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writer in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect Daily The Spokesman point of view



Analysis

Ovais Khan

ATP raises concerns about negative impact of night bundle internet offers on youth

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP), under the leadership of Founder and Chairman Muhammad Faiq Shah, has taken a proactive step to address a critical issue affecting Pakistan's younger generation. ATP has written a formal letter to Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, Chairman of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), expressing concerns about the negative impact of night bundle internet offers on the youth.

In the letter addressed to Chairman Hafeez Ur Rehman, Muhammad Faiq Shah, the Founder and Chairman of ATP, highlighted the alarming trend where affordable night bundle internet packages have led many young individuals to stay awake throughout the night, engaging in non-productive online activities. This disruptive pattern has adverse consequences on their sleep schedules, physical health, and academic performance.

Muhammad Faiq Shah emphasized the importance of prioritizing the well-being and future prospects of Pakistan's youth. While acknowledging the significance of internet access as a fundamental right, he also stressed the necessity to consider the unintended consequences of these cheap internet packages. The Chairman of ATP urged Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman to direct all mobile operators to discontinue the provision of night bundle offers and cost-effective internet packages that contribute to this detrimental trend.

ATP, as an organization dedicated to identifying key issues facing Pakistan, creating awareness, and reaching out to relevant authorities to address problems in their respective domains, believes that a bright future for the nation's younger generation is imperative. The letter to the Chairman of PTA is part of ATP's mission to collaborate with government bodies to ensure responsible and productive use of technology among the youth.

Muhammad Faiq Shah expressed gratitude for Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman's efforts in promoting responsible technology use and urged the PTA to take decisive action to address this pressing concern. He is hopeful that through a concerted effort, the detrimental effects of night bundle internet offers can be mitigated, ensuring a more promising future for Pakistan's youth.

Community of young marketers successfully hosts long-awaited 'Zindagi Tamasha' Movie Night

LAHORE: A group of young marketers pulled off a free movie night for Zindagi Tamasha gathering film enthusiasts within their communities! The movie was set to release in 2020 but due to the controversy that sparked based on the content of the film, it never made it to the cinemas. It is now out on YouTube and Vimeo for Sarmad Khoosat fans.

What happened: Cinematic Brilliance Unveiled at Kickstart Coworking! Shahama Sajid, a marketer and an entrepreneur by profession came together with Kickstart Co-working to screen Zindagi Tamasha, the latest masterpiece by Sitara-Imtiaz laureate Sarmad Khoosat.

Amidst the buzz and controversy, the movie by Khoosat Films struck a chord, igniting thought-provoking conversations that echoed long after the credits rolled.

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Cop sent to mental Asylum

Today, a friend from the Special Branch drew attention towards a news story that has been continuously circulating on social media for the past two days. A police constable is openly using foul language towards his superiors; this situation came to light when a You Tuber intervened. On this the inspector general of police (IGP) and capital city police officer (CCPO) has been shifted to the Punjab Institute of Mental Health (asylum) for psychological treatment. A mobile phone video viral on social media shows the constable abusing both senior police officers when a YouTuber stopped his motorcycle he was riding without a helmet and a registration number plate. The incident was reported in the Islampura area some days back. The constable was later identified as Shahid Zohaib, posted at the Islampura Police Station.

The footage shows the constable turning violent, attacking the YouTuber and his team member when they stopped him for questioning for riding the motorcycle without a registration number plate. In response to the query, the constable repeatedly abused him and then used foul language against the IGP and the CCPO when he (YouTuber) demanded the senior police officers to take notice during live coverage of the incident. A traffic police warden who was standing nearby distanced himself when he noticed the constable getting out of control. After the incident went viral, the police high-ups traced the constable and shifted him to the Punjab Institute of Mental Health for treatment. On the incident, the IGP issued a video message, saying the constable was suffering from mental health issues and

he was among several police employees who were facing job-related stress and anxiety. The IGP said his department had already initiated screening of 200,000 personnel of Punjab Police against 10 chronic diseases, including hepatitis C, TB, AIDs and others. He added that the department had also started psychological profiling of the police employees but many of them were avoiding providing particular details related to the mental issues they were facing. 'We are not taking disciplinary or departmental action against the police constable in-question but providing him treatment to bring him back to normal life,' the IGP declared.

The other side of this incident holds significant importance for the administration and law enforcement agencies. Is it permissible for a journalist or a You Tuber to halt moving traffic or an individual? Does a board police employee have the right to halt a You Tuber and angrily interview them? There is no provision in the law that permits forcibly stopping pedestrian and extracting information from them.

The police constable used profanities, which cannot be justified in any way. The person who used foul language ended up in a mental health facility. If he was indeed mentally disturbed, then after treatment, he might return to a normal life. If the officers sent a healthy police constable to the mental health facility to cool down the situation and protect their dignity, the negative consequences of such an action will become evident.

Currently, the PTA has the power to monitor content and check back-end enforcement of relevant laws online at websites, whereas the FIA enforces cybercrime laws. The proposed E-Safety authority, however, will monitor the front-end of all websites, take notice of violations and even impose penalties. The new authority will also have the power to grant licenses to websites, including web channels, and will even regulate existing news and media website.

There is no doubt that numerous YouTube channels with millions of viewers exist in this regard. However, the owners of these channels or individuals associated with them cannot be termed as journalists. These channels are essentially businesses, whereas journalism represents a mission. The information presented on most YouTube channels is based on falsehoods and fabricated events, which the public consumes as they spend their time. In this way Journalism cannot be sustained solely through concise social media content. A journalist uses social media, but social media activist is not a journalist. Although social media has had a negative impact on journalism, it has also brought about some positive improvements for journalists. Because journalists have unrestricted access to research and can discover connections that might not have been made otherwise, the constant buzz of information on social media makes it a breeding ground for news. Twitter is a highly successful way of spreading 'Breaking News' stories, with over 6,000 tweets sent every second.

Currently, a significant number of unregistered YouTube channels exist in our beloved country. Individuals associated with these channels often have lack journalistic training and writing skills. They use handheld devices to create content that aims to influence the public and government employees. However, this practice does not align with true journalism. To counteract this wave of misconduct, the administrative bodies and government should collaborate.

By promptly approving the Safety Authority Bill and establishing the authority, rules should be formulated for the registration of YouTube channels. This step would enable the inclusion of such individuals under the legal framework.

Here I suggest that the Inspector General of Punjab Police and the Chief Secretary of Punjab issue an immediate directive. This directive should empower strict legal actions against anyone attempting to forcefully interview, gather information, conduct vehicle searches, or check license and registration number plates of ordinary citizens or government employees without prior authorization.

The relevant Deputy Commissioners should ensure that no journalist can interview any officer without prior notification or permission. Individuals affiliated with unapproved YouTube channels should not be included in the list of journalists, nor should they be granted journalist privileges. Implementing these proposals will yield positive and appropriate outcomes. The freedom to manufacture 'Fake News' on various social media platforms without facing legal consequences makes the news we read untrustworthy. All social media news should be treated with a grain of salt.



Analysis
Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Over 3,000 projects completed under BRI in past 10 years

Chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Luo Zhaohui has said that more than 3,000 projects have been completed under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the past 10 years. Over 180 countries and international organizations have supported the Initiative to date, he told media at the launching of the Urdu edition of a book comprised of stories about China's foreign assistance. The book, entitled "Rose Stories Along the Belt and Road", contains around 66 stories about the assistance China has provided to countries that have joined the Belt and Road Initiative, including Pakistan, and was first published in Chinese and English in September of last year. Luo Zhaohui said the book demonstrates the friendship between the Chinese people and people of other countries.

China does not attach any political strings to its foreign assistance, nor does it seek anything in return from the assistance, Luo said at the launching ceremony, adding that the assistance has been widely supported by countries which have received it. Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque, who attended the launching ceremony of the book's Urdu edition, said the book is "a practical implementation of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind." The edition in Urdu, the official language of Pakistan, will help the people of Pakistan understand China's development philosophy and how it has helped people around the world and in Pakistan improve their lives, Haque said. Ambassador Haque acknowledged China's foreign aid assistance to his country and said that he looks forward to new opportunities for Pakistan and other countries under the framework.

He also noted China's long-term assistance to his country. The vaccines China donated to Pakistan to help the latter's response to COVID-19 have saved lives of millions of Pakistanis, he said. Ambassador Haque also mentioned that during his tenure as China's ambassador to Pakistan during 2006-2010, Chairman Luo gave strong support to important projects, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which laid an important foundation for bilateral cooperation. The flagship project of the BRI has brought great changes to Pakistan, which is reflected in the fields of economy, urban construction and energy. "In the future, we hope to carry out broader cooperation with China in the fields of economic development, education, health, climate change and so on," he added.

A Pakistani entrepreneur, Ali Khar who is currently promoting cooperation in artificial intelligence in China and also the Urdu translator of the book, also attended the event. Speaking of the original intention of translating this book, he said that because many people in Pakistan speak Urdu, although China has actually promoted many aid projects in Pakistan, many stories are actually not known to ordinary people. Therefore, we can at least do some translation and recommendation work to promote the development of bilateral relations, especially to enhance the connection between the people of the two countries.

He hoped to learn from the successful experience and models of China's development and promote more cooperation through digital technology under the cooperation framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



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

Heinous Role of RAW behind Jaranwala Incident - II

After Gul's interrogation, the CTD was finally able to arrest Sami ul Haq, who Mehmood claimed was the main handler of the RAW-sponsored terror activities in Pakistan. "Subsequently, we got Haq's red warrants issued through Interpol. After that, purely on an intelligence and investigation basis, we were informed this person was entering Pakistan and we arrested him along with his brother-in-law." The police official further revealed that Haq's brother-in-law, identified as Uzair Akbar, assisted him in terror activities. "We also found out about Naveed Akhtar, who did the surveillance and selected the target. Naveed was a labourer in the Middle East and was in jail because he could not pay his fine. A RAW agent approached him and told him that he would pay his fine, but then, Naveed would have to engage in terror activities against Pakistan," Mehmood said in the press conference. He added that as soon as Naveed was arrested, several terror activities were thwarted. "When we arrested Sami ul Haq, Naveed was unaware of his arrest. Sami ul Haq told us that he was about to meet Naveed on May 10. We were then able to apprehend Naveed as well." As the investigation continued, Mehmood said, more RAW agents were uncovered. "We also found out that close to a million dollars of terror financing was done through India to spread terrorism in Pakistan through different channels," he revealed, adding that all the arrested persons have been sentenced to death three times by the court. Mehmood also said that the CTD had clear evidence "which is undeniable about India and RAW's involvement." "We are now capable of taking the matter to United Nations," he added. Meanwhile, Sanaullah said that the Foreign Office would, henceforth, raise this matter before the world. "India will be exposed because there is clear evidence that

it is directly involved." He pointed out the Johar Town blast case was "complete" in which culprits were caught and substantial evidence was found. "Thus, we have decided to put it before the international community as it will have its own weight and impact." The minister of that time added that the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) had support from the RAW for terrorist activities in Pakistan.

Then recently, an angry mob vandalised a number of churches and destroyed several houses of Christians in the Jaranwala tehsil of Faisalabad over allegations of blasphemy. The Salvation Army Church, United Presbyterian Church, Allied Foundation Church and Sheerowala Church situated in the Isa Nagri area etc were damaged during the incidents, a pastor told the local media. Responding to the incidents the Prime Minister of Pakistan said that the minorities would stay protected in this country and any attempt to harm them from a section of marginalized group of people would be responded strictly by the state and the society. "The miscreants might be from us but we must have to divorce them and keep distant from them. Pakistan was created on noble principles and the country was the product of noble idea," he added.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir addressed the participants of yearly ISPR Internship Program being attended by over 370 students from various universities across Pakistan. 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.

Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Dr. Qibla Ayaz has termed the Jaranwala incident as extremely tragic and against the teachings of Islam. Talking to News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan, he said Islam guarantees full freedom to followers of all faiths and the same principle has been embodied in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Senior judge of the Supreme Court Justice Qazi Faez Isa has reinforced the significance of "the white in the national flag", saying that it "symbolises the safeguarding of minority rights." The constitution of Pakistan guarantees complete religious freedom for minorities, ensuring the protection of their lives, property, and places of worship, Justice Isa said. The statement comes after he visited Jaranwala in the Faisalabad district on Saturday to personally assess the aftermath of the recent attack on churches. He said he was "deeply shocked and saddened" by the incident and that the victims should be compensated. Justice Isa, who is set to become the Chief Justice of Pakistan next month, engaged with local authorities and community members to understand the situation on the ground. During his visit, he reportedly received briefings from both the police and the civil administration at the Danish School in Jaranwala, gaining insights into the circumstances surrounding the attacks. The senior judge also took the time to meet with members

of the displaced minority community who were affected by the incident. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the victims and expressed his deep sadness over the unfortunate events. Justice Isa further inspected the targeted church and the affected settlement, both of which were subjected to the violence of a mob. Justice Isa also issued a note regarding Jaranwala incident in which he quoted Quranic verses and Hadiths clearly mentioning for Muslims to take care the lives and properties of the minorities. Meanwhile, Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday asserted that the provincial government was making all-out efforts to restore the churches and Christians' homes vandalised in the Jaranwala tragedy. People from all over the country are condemning the incident and showing solidarity with the victims.

Readers, in recent media reports it is quite evident that RAW was also behind these incidents in Jaranwala. According to investigations, solid evidences have been collected which shows that it was a RAW planned act and was aimed to destabilize Pakistan and start riots among Muslims and Christians. According to reports and solid evidences, the elements sponsored and facilitated by RAW wrote blasphemy words and thrown near Christian places. These elements involved local Muslim community in it and vandalized churches and Christians properties. Further investigation is ongoing with the arrested culprits. All evidences clearly points towards India and RAW. This is very shameful act from India and RAW. Strict action should be taken on all levels to punish the culprits and local elements who play in the hands of our enemies. World and United Nations should also notice these clear evidences and should force India to stop continuing heinous activities in Pakistan.

Concluded

PM address, rekindling hope - II

He emphasized that Pakistan maintains a steadfast commitment to its principled position, which dictates that any negotiations with India would not occur until India reverses its illegal and unilateral actions, namely the abrogation of articles 35A and 370 from its constitution.

The selection of a Caretaker Prime Minister hailing from my cherished province marks a positive stride within Pakistan's politics and society. With this auspicious beginning, I am optimistic that the Prime Minister will soon fulfill the pledges he made on his first day, offering much-needed relief and solace to the embattled nation and its citizens.

The inaugural interaction of the Caretaker Prime Minister with the general public, broadcasted live, could be likened to a compassionate doctor applying a soothing bandage to the nation's grieving wounds.

His address was replete with promises and the prescription of appropriate remedies for the various challenges that the nation is grappling with.

Undoubtedly, this address must have reignited the hope for a brighter future among the people of Pakistan and for the nation as a whole. In conclusion, the Caretaker Prime Minister's inaugural Cabinet meeting set an inspiring precedent for Pakistan's trajectory. His eloquence, clarity of thought, and unwavering commitment to unity and progress showcased a leader who envisions a prosperous future for all citizens, irrespective of their background. This address marked a pivotal moment in the nation's journey, emphasizing the power of collaboration, inclusivity, and a shared vision for a better Pakistan

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



Analysis
Qamar Bashir



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

BRICS fosters growth for partners, says Zimbabwean minister

Xinhua

HARARE: BRICS has become attractive to developing nations and is fostering development based on fairness and transparency in global trade practices, a senior Zimbabwean official told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Developing countries are facing myriad challenges that are directly linked to the uneven relations caused by the current international mechanisms and organizations as certain countries have dominated the international order financially and militarily to their advantage, said Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Monica Mutsvangwa.

Africa has been suffering external political interference for decades, as is currently seen in the West African region, with ominous signs of regional destabilization, Mutsvangwa said.

Neo-colonialism is "a real menace" as it stifles investment and ensures resources are channeled to the "superpowers" through illicit financial flows, causing current account deficits for



developing countries, she said.

She noted that most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were familiar with the debilitating effects of Western-dominated global lenders' programs, and they "cannot access credit from these international institutions without predatory conditions being imposed on us," Mutsvangwa said.

She added the developing world had already begun to see alternative development and infrastructure financing without stringent terms through BRICS.

"This has enabled many developing nations to secure essential installations of power generation, food production and security. We have seen South-South cooperation deepening,

opening up alternative trade routes and intra-regional trade that encourages the development of productive capacities of member countries, and those allied to the BRICS," she said.

Mutsvangwa noted that technology transfer had accelerated through these cooperative agreements around BRICS, along with capacity building that had seen developing countries evolve from primary industries to secondary and even tertiary industry production.

"This has meant that not only the volume of trade, but the rate of return on investments, has gone up markedly in these countries," she said.

"We are now equal partners with China and hence we are getting a fair return for our wares. China has been developing capacities for production, ensuring that technology is brought to our countries in order for us to stand on our own," she said.

"There is a lot of assistance that we have received (from China) that will ensure that we are put firmly on the path to sustainable development," Mutsvangwa said.

Fahd Haroon meets Chairman Bilawal to discuss national matters

News Desk

KARACHI: Today in Karachi, Fahd Haroon, former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister and Minister of State, held a productive meeting with Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The discussions centered around key political issues and matters of national significance.



Fahd Haroon commended Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's exemplary performance during his tenure as Foreign Minister, particularly highlighting his adept handling of challenging global situations. Fahd further emphasized, "Chairman Bilawal's resolute representation of Pakistan on the international stage during turbulent times reflects his dedication to our nation's interests."

Expressing his party's unwavering commitment to public service and the democratic process, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed his readiness for elections at any time. He expressed confidence that the public's trust in his party's service-oriented approach would lead to their election as representatives of the nation.

The meeting also encompassed a range of topics pertinent to the country's political landscape and the dynamic shifts within the media landscape.

Fahd Haroon shared his insights and reflections on the meeting's significance, commending Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visionary leadership and lauding the impactful developmental initiatives undertaken under his guidance.

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, Pakistan joins the international community in honouring the lives lost and the survivors of terrorist attacks.

On this day, our thoughts are with the survivors and the families of the victims. We honour the memory of our heroes who sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism.

As a nation that has braved the brunt of terrorism, Pakistan deeply understands the pain and suffering of the victims of terrorism around the world.

For the last two decades, Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism planned, supported and sponsored from across our borders. During this period, it suffered more than 80,000 casualties and incurred over US\$ 150 billion in losses to the economy. These challenges did not deter us. Pakistan remained resolute in its resolve to combat terrorism. With national commitment, matchless resilience and unparalleled sacrifices of the people, Pakistan has managed to turn the situation and score victories against terrorism.

As we remember and pay tribute to victims worldwide, we must also remember the victims of state terrorism including in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Since the 1990s Indian troops have martyred over 100,000 Kashmiris, widowed over 22,000 women, orphaned 108,000 children and raped over 11,000 women in IIOJK. The international community must stand with victims of state terrorism in IIOJK as well.

AEO Pakistan holds study abroad expo in 10 major cities of Pakistan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: This August once again AEO Pakistan is organizing Pakistan's biggest study abroad education fair being organized across 10 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Bahawalpur and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling about how to apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK. Representatives of more than 20 universities/institutes are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counselling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo.



The first exhibition of the series was successfully held today in Lahore at PC Hotel. Where Aisam ul Haq Qureshi, Pakistan Tennis Superstar and Brand Ambassador AEO Pakistan also made a special appearance. Hundreds of students along with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement to enroll for admissions at top ranked Australian and other leading International Universities. Students were also excited to meet Aisam ul Haq in person. The participants appreciated AEO's effort in provision of a perfect platform offering free counselling sessions with official representatives of international universities to explore the options of enrolling for a degree of their choice.

Message on the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Freedom of religion and belief is an inalienable human right. Faith and belief should never attract violence.

Yet, around the world, people and communities, particularly minorities, face intolerance, discrimination and threats – to their places of worship, their livelihoods and even their lives. Hatred stirred on and off line is often the cause.

On this International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, we remember all those who have suffered. And we renew our resolve to stamp out the hate speech that fuels these terrible acts



of intolerance. Initiatives like my Call to Action for Human Rights and the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech provide a blueprint to do so.

I urge all governments to prevent and address acts of violence based on religion and belief. I call on everyone, particularly political, community and religious leaders, to speak out against hate and incitement to violence. And I encourage governments, technology companies and other stakeholders to support the United Nations' work in developing a voluntary Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms, ahead of next year's Summit of the Future, to tackle hate speech online.

Together, let's honour the victims of violence by striving to build a more inclusive, respectful, and peaceful world – one where diversity is celebrated.

Xinhua issues research reports in South Africa on Xi Jinping's economic thought, CPC's 'Second Integration' theory

Xinhua

JOHANNESBURG: New China Research (NCR), the think tank of China's Xinhua News Agency, released in Johannesburg of South Africa on Saturday the English and French versions of two research reports on Xi Jinping's economic thought and the Communist Party of China's (CPC) "Second Integration" theory.

The two reports, which are entitled "Toward Modernity: The Value of Xi Jinping's Economic Thought" and "The 'Second Integration' that Transforms China – Theoretical Innovation and Practice in Building the Modern Civilization of the Chinese Nation," were released by the NCR at the 6th BRICS Media Forum, which began Saturday in Johannesburg.

A seminar was also held to mark the release of the two research reports.

Xi Jinping's economic thought and Xi's major statements on the "Second Integration" are important parts of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. They encapsulate the thoughts resulting from the CPC's tireless



exploration of humanity's socioeconomic development and modernization, and its promotion of the adaptation of Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times.

Fu Hua, president of Xinhua News Agency and

executive chairman of the BRICS Media Forum, said in his keynote speech that the two reports are Xinhua's innovative achievements in the study of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Xi Story: A champion of closer people-to-people ties among BRICS countries

Xinhua

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, and pay a state visit to South Africa from Aug. 21 to 24.

Ahead of his trip, Xi replied to a letter from the faculty and students of the Confucius Institute at Durban University of Technology in South Africa, encouraging them to learn the Chinese language well and contribute to carrying forward the China-South Africa friendship and promoting friendly cooperation between the two countries.

In his letter, Xi said that he witnessed the establishment of the Confucius Institute 10 years ago and was pleased to see that, through the joint efforts of both sides, the educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries have yielded fruitful results. The interaction shows the great

importance that Xi attaches to promoting cultural and people-to-people exchanges among BRICS countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

In his speech at the plenary session of the BRICS Xiamen Summit in 2017, Xi devoted one section to expounding on how he views the cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Citing an ancient Chinese saying, "amity between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations," Xi said enhancing the exchanges among peoples of BRICS countries and seeing the spirit of partnership embraced by all the people in these countries is a worthy cause that deserves enduring commitment.

"A job well done in this regard will keep BRICS cooperation vibrant," he stressed.

Over the years, Xi has personally supported the efforts to boost cultural and people-to-people

exchanges among BRICS countries.

Xi has shared stories in this regard in speeches delivered during trips to the other four BRICS countries. He lauded Carlos Tavares, a Brazilian expert on China, for enabling more people to understand China through his books, articles and speeches. In a speech delivered during a trip to India, Xi also cited verses by Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore that had inspired him.

Among Xi's numerous interactions with people from these countries was a congratulatory message he sent in 2017 to celebrate the inaugural semester of Shenzhen MSU-BIT University, the first joint Sino-Russian university. He encouraged education officials and teachers from both countries to contribute to Sino-Russian educational cooperation and bilateral friendship. Thanks to China's active

participation and vigorous promotion, BRICS cooperation has transitioned from a framework driven by the "two wheels" of politics and economy to the "triple pillars" of political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

In recent years, cultural and people-to-people exchanges have notably gained momentum, and the activities of such exchanges are taking place regularly and have been institutionalized.

There has been a wide range of activities, from the BRICS media forums, film festivals, and cultural festivals, to women's innovation contests, and technical and vocational education programs. This rich variety demonstrates that BRICS countries are committed to creating a broad landscape for cross-regional and cross-cultural exchanges.

They have not only accelerated



the advancement of the BRICS cooperation mechanism but also presented a "BRICS model" for fostering inclusiveness and mutual learning among different civilizations.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
47,447.95	48,218.49
Day's High	Day's Low:
48,234.25	47,432.71
Index Value	Change
8,813,173,373	-770.54
Percentage	Time
-1.6%	21 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,257.82	-4.61
Percentage	Time
-0.063%	21 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,388.24	-112.42
Percentage	Time
-0.33%	21 Aug, 12:59 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,565.64	+114.88
Percentage	Time
+0.37	21 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	784.55	792.55
Canadian Dollar	224.8	227
China Yuan	39.83	40.23
Danish Krone	42.5	42.9
Euro	328.5	331.75
Hong Kong Dollar	37.67	38.02
Indian Rupee	3.48	3.59
Japanese Yen	2.02	2.1
Kuwaiti Dinar	958.62	967.62
Malaysian Ringgit	63.71	64.31
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	80.7	81.5
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	335.71	338.21
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	83	83.8
UK Pound Sterling	385.5	388.5
US Dollar	305	308

Currency depreciation, widening CAD are troublesome, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the power sector is sinking the faltering economy.

The current electricity tariff is killing agriculture, production, and exports while bankrupting the people, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that if the electricity tariff is not reduced immediately, the economy will go down at an unprecedented pace.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the electricity sector has become a big problem for the people and

the business community.

Reforms and reduced production costs have become necessary for the electricity industry. He said, adding that the price of gas and fuel is continuously increasing while the interest rate is also at a record level, due to which local exporters are not able to compete in the international market and rival countries are replacing them.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that until the price of electricity, gas, and interest rates are reduced, there is no possibility of increasing production and exports.

The business leader said that the exchange rate is going out of control due to which inflation is increasing again, and the fiscal deficit and current account deficit are also snowballing due to which the value of the currency is depreciating rapidly.



Remittances are also coming down significantly and have decreased by seven percent in July, due to which the deficit is increasing, he added.

He said that now people are hoarding dollars again as it is widely believed that the local currency will depreciate further, and in these circumstances, economic stability will prove to be a challenge for the current caretaker government.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the current account deficit reached eight hundred million dollars in the month of July after being in surplus for four months, which is difficult to control because the government has promised IMF to lift the ban on imports. As a result, after a 30 percent increase in imports in July, they have reached five billion dollars.

ICCI inks MoU with NICAT to promote innovators and entrepreneurs

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish collaboration in order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship programs for youth. The MoU was signed during a visit of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI along with a delegation to NICAT. Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Convener, ICCI MoU Committee and Imran Jattala, Project Director NICAT signed the MoU in a ceremony held at NICAT.

As per MoU, NICAT will support ICCI for incubation and entrepreneurship programs and will collaborate with ICCI for engagement of Pakistan's youth in innovation and entrepreneurship programs in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NICAT will display the ICCI logo on its promotional materials and websites as appropriate and subject to joint approval. Similarly, ICCI will work with NICAT in the incubation & entrepreneurship programs and startup challenges. ICCI will display the NICAT logo on its promotional materials and websites as appropriate and subject to joint approval.

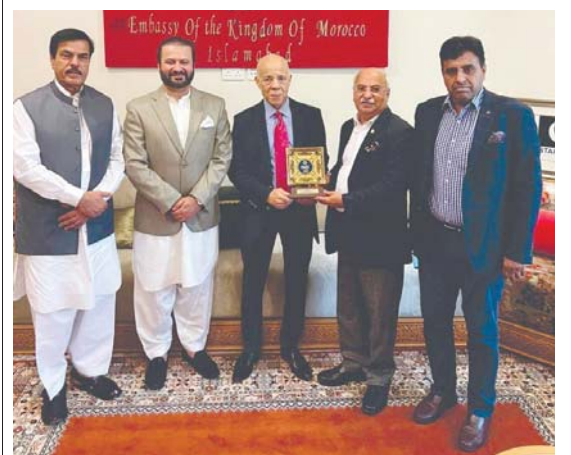
Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Cham-



ber of Commerce & Industry He said that Pakistan needs innovators and entrepreneurs to drive the economy and hoped that the MoU between ICCI and NICAT would be helpful in realizing such goals. He said that the market size of the global aerospace and defense industry is US\$697 billion, with commercial aerospace at \$298 billion. Therefore, Pakistan has great potential to capture better share in this huge market by developing a pool of aerospace innovators and entrepreneurs. He

lauded the efforts of NICAT for empowering Pakistani talent.

Ayub Ghauri, President, National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technologies highlighted the contribution of his institution for economic transformation by bringing together investors, innovators, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and talented youth of Pakistan. He hoped that NICAT's collaboration with ICCI would produce beneficial outcomes for the economy.



M. Khurshid Barlas, Chairman, Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, met with Ambassador of Morocco H.E. Muhammad Karamon, along with PAEI delegation Fahad Barlas Convener Exhibition, EC Members Amin-ur-Rehman and Shamriz Iqbal.

Efforts of DC Peshawar are commendable: Ghulam Bilal Javed



Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: A delegation of the Core Committee of the Traders Alliance Federation met with DC Peshawar Shah Fahad, a detailed discussion was held on the problems faced by the traders community of Peshawar, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar said that he is working on Price control, Extortion calls & cleaning of restaurants, In the meeting

former Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and President of Markezi Tanzem Malik Mehr Elahi, Former Vice chairman Cantt Board Major Arshad, Chief Traders Alliance Ghulam Bilal Javed, Babai Tajran Ameen Hussain Babar, Vice Chairman Sarhad Chamber Car Dealers Standing Committee Haji Ehsan., Ex-Member cantt Board Ghulam Hussain Chand and Shehzad Sahib participated.

Agreement

ISLAMABAD: Director General of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan Mr. Khaqan Murtaza and President of General Authority on Civil Aviation (GACA) of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H. E. Abdul Aziz Al Duailej signing Air Services Agreement (ASA) between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Monday.



Etihad Garden Hosts Spectacular 'Grand Fireworks and Family Gala'

Commerce Report

LAHORE: Etihad Garden Phase II, Rahim Yar Khan, the premier residential community, proudly presented an awe-inspiring event, the "Grand Fireworks and Family Gala," to mark the celebration of Pakistan's Independence Day. The event, held at Phase 2 of Etihad Garden, showcased an evening of joy, togetherness, and patriotism.

The event, which took place on 13th of August, illuminated the night sky with a breathtaking display of fireworks that left attendees mesmerized. Families and individuals from across the city gathered to partake in the festivities, creating a vibrant atmosphere of unity and national pride.

Attendees were treated to a delightful array of activities, including a food court offering a diverse range of culinary delights, a dedicated kids' area to keep the younger guests entertained, and a public event with free entry, ensuring that the celebrations were accessible to all members of the community.

The Managing Director, Chaudhry Muhammad Munir along with Group Directors, Chaudhry Faisal Munir, Chaudhry Sohail Munir and Chaudhry Raheel Munir, extended their heartfelt wishes for a joyous Independence Day celebration and congratulated management upon making the event a success.



Mr. Adnan Khalil, Project Head Sales at Etihad Garden Rahim Yar Khan, remarked, "As we celebrate the spirit of independence, Etihad

Garden takes immense pride in providing a platform for families to come together and enjoy a wonderful evening filled with excitement and

entertainment. Our 'Grand Fireworks and Family Gala' is a testament to the unity and harmony that defines our community."

PIA officers association's office sealed after protest

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) administration has sealed the office of the airline's Senior Officers Association (SSA) for holding protests with other employee associations against the privatisation and bifurcation decisions..

The PIA Senior Staff Association (SSA) office has been sealed by the national airline's administration for a series of protests against privatisation, bifurcation and for salary raise.

The SSA office was sealed over the directives of the airline's GM Welfare IR & Sports Shoab Ahmad Dahri, according to the copy of an email obtained by ARY News.

PIA SSA Secretary General Safdar Anjum said in a statement that the administration took an illegal step by sealing the association's office. He termed the admin's move as a bid to destroy peaceful environment.

He vowed that the protests will be continued till the demands are met.

Prior to the development, the PIA employees staged a protest against the proposed privatisation of the airline. The protestors demanded the higher authorities approve their charter of demand.

They also demanded to raise salaries of the employees. The PIA employees also observed a strike for demanding a salary raise.

On Thursday, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) ticket booking offices had been closed for two hours as a token strike by the employees to protest against privatisation.

The PIA CBA Lahore Secretary General Rana Kashif had given the call for the strike. He announced that the PIA booking offices across the country will remain closed for two hours from 3 pm to 5 pm against the privatisation of the national entity.

The ticket issuance process had remained closed between 3 pm to 5 pm.

It may be noted that the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) last Monday had given its nod to the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The decision was made during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP), with then Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar in the chair.

Afghanistan series beneficial for major events, says Babar Azam

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam termed the ODI series against Afghanistan 'beneficial' for the preparations for the Asia Cup as well as ICC Men's World Cup in India later this year.

The final phase of Pakistan's preparations for the mighty cricket season begins tomorrow as Babar Azam's team plays Afghanistan at Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium in the first of the three One-Day Internationals. Pakistan enter the series at the back of some brilliant results – they swept Sri Lanka in the two-Test series just last month and defeated New Zealand 4-1 at home in One-Day Internationals in April-May.

With the Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023 beginning just four days after the third and final match in Colombo and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup immediately following up, these three matches against Afghanistan come with an opportunity for Pakistan to fine-tune their combinations.

"It is great to be together as one unit again as we enjoy each other's company a lot," Babar Azam told PCB Digital on the eve of the first ODI against Afghanistan. "We have a few new faces in the side and I wish them good luck for the challenges ahead. Most of the boys have been playing cricket in different leagues, but when you don the Pakistan star, it is a different feeling altogether. We enter this series with good momentum following our Test series win here and we are eager to build on it. As a captain, I am very excited for the cricket ahead."

Pakistan have recently enjoyed outstanding results in ODIs. Since the start of 2022, Pakistan's win/loss ratio



of 3.250 – with 13 wins in 17 matches – has been the best across all teams. In May, they, for the first time in history, topped the ICC rankings for ODI sides. They have another go at surmounting the table if they maintain an impeccable record against Afghanistan.

The dressing room is buzzing with confidence with each player raring to grab opportunity whenever it arrives. Though the end goal is to be the best side in the World Cup, the team, Babar Azam said, is taking one challenge at a time.

"We are focused in our preparations as we have big events in the Asia Cup and the World Cup coming up," said Babar Azam, under whose captaincy Pakistan have won 17 out of 26 ODIs. "But, at the same time, we want to take one series at the time... It is always beneficial for a team to get such a series ahead of major events. That we are playing in Asian conditions will definitely provide us an edge and help us get in the

rhythm. The Afghanistan team is on the rise and they have some good bowlers. The fans will get to see some exciting cricket."

Pakistan included all-rounder Faheem Ashraf, uncapped batter Tayyab Tahir and middle-order batter Saud Shakeel in the squad for the Afghanistan series. The three players have been rewarded for their impressive performances recently and their presence further boosts an already solid squad.

"We have had some good additions in the squad," the number one ranked ODI batter said. "Faheem has been in and out of the side but he has performed well recently. We have included him because of his all-round abilities and believe that his presence will strengthen the side.

"Tayyab Tahir had a good [Emerging Teams] Asia Cup and he performed well here in Sri Lanka and everyone saw how Saud Shakeel played Tests here. I am especially impressed by how Saud has trans-

formed into a modern-day batter in such a quick time. This is a great sign for Pakistan cricket that he groomed himself according to the demands of the team, and whenever anyone does that, I get very happy."

Though Pakistan have never been defeated by Afghanistan in the format, this series promises to test them as the latter enter this series with a 2-1 win over Bangladesh in Bangladesh. But the players, Babar Azam revealed, are taking this challenge as an opportunity to deliver match-winning performances.

"Every player has a hunger [to perform] in this team. Every player wants to give match-winning performances. Recently we have had different player of the match award winners, which is a good sign for any team. When you perform in big tournaments, it boosts your morale as a team and as individuals and this team has performed well in the recent past.

"The presence of Salman Ali Agha and Iftikhar Ahmed has bolstered our middle-order. We already have a settled top-order. Our spin department has strengthened. Thankfully, we have one of the best pace-bowling attacks in Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah, and their performances underscore how good they are. Bowlers win you big tournaments and I have faith in them to win us big tournaments."

So ahead of what promises to be one of the most exciting periods for this Pakistan side, what is Babar's message to his players? "My message has always been to believe in yourself and make sure that you give your hundred percent in the field."

The second and third ODIs will be played on 24 and 26 August in Hambantota and Colombo.

Zaka Ashraf meets Pakistan team ahead of Afghanistan series

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Chairman PCB Management Committee, Zaka Ashraf, had a meeting with the Pakistan men's cricket team before their first One-Day International against Afghanistan in Hambantota.

On this occasion, the Chairman Management Committee PCB addressed the team, stating, "I have great hope that with your efforts and hard work, Pakistan will win the Asia Cup. After securing victory, I am sure you will carry this momentum and confidence in the World Cup, bringing the World Cup trophy back home."

"This team under our great captain [Babar Azam] is performing really well. He has a talented team, and they are all performing in their respective roles. We



have world-class batters and bowlers on the side. We have a good combina-

tion and I don't find any reason why we should not win this trophy."

Zaka Ashraf also stated that former cricketers from Pakistan and around the world were backing Pakistan as favourites for the Asia Cup because of their current form. He further told the players, "All of you are capable enough to beat your opponents. We have won the World Cup before and secured the Asia Cup twice. There is no reason to believe we cannot do it again. Show your best performance on the field. Best wishes are with you."

Pakistan will play a three-match ODI series against Afghanistan with the first match set to be played on 22 August. The series will conclude on 26 August before the team travels back to Pakistan to take play the opening match of the Asia Cup against Nepal on August 30.

Pakistan Women's team kicks off preparation for South Africa series

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan women's team started their preparations for the T20I and ODI series against the South Africa women's team, with the training camp organized at the National Bank Cricket Arena in Karachi.

Former test cricketer and women's team's batting coach Taufiq Umar is supervising the camp, and helping the players train at their best to prepare for the upcoming series.

A scenario-based match was organized between the players, giving the batsmen and bowlers different targets to prepare for different situations during the match.

Pakistan's under-13 and under-16 men's cricketers also participated in the camp and trained along with the women's team.

The training camp will conclude on August 27, while the South African team will arrive in Pakistan on the same day.

The three T20I series will be played on September 1, 3 and 5 at the Nation-



al Bank Cricket Arena, Karachi. Meanwhile, the ODI series will commence on September 8.

South Africa squad for ODIs and T20Is: Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Mieke de Ridder, Lara Goodall,

Sinalo Jafta, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Delmi Tucker, Laura Wolvaardt.

Pakistan T20I squad:

Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Muneeba Ali, Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah and Umm-e-Hani

Reserves – Anoosha Nasir, Omaidha Sohail and Waheeda Akhtar

Pakistan ODI squad:

Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Omaidha Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk), Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Reserves – Najiha Alvi, Natalia Parvaiz and Tuba Hassan

Player support personnel: Nahida Khan (manager), Mauhtashim Rashid (interim head coach), Kamran Hussain (bowling coach), Taufiq Umar (batting coach), Muhammad Asfand Yar (strength and conditioning coach), Zubair Ahmed (analyst), Rifat Asghar Gill (physiotherapist) and Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager).

Pedri, Torres' late goals help Barcelona edge Cadiz in La Liga

A Sports

LAHORE: Pedri and Ferran Torres scored late goals to help defending champions Barcelona register their first victory in the 2023-24 La Liga season, as they edged Cadiz 2-0 on Sunday.

After a controversial drawn game against Getafe in their season-opener, Barcelona stepped into Montjuic -Barcelona's new home as Camp Nou undergoes renovation-, looking for their first win in the ongoing season of La Liga, without their star winger Raphinha and

coach Xavi.

Barcelona dominated the game from the first whistle and had a chance in the 28th minute when 16-year-old Lamine Yamal's attempt was denied by a brilliant save by the Cadiz goalkeeper. The first half ended in a stalemate.

Barcelona made several attempts in the second half but to no avail, until Pedri finally gave the home side a much-needed lead at the 81-minute mark. Ferran Torres then replaced Lamine Yamal in the 85th minute and scored in the extra time to close the match

minute as Yangel Herrera scored off a header to give the advantage to the home side. The first half closed at 1-0, however, Girona riding high on the momentum gained in the first half, came stronger in the second half.



at 2-0. In another La Liga fixture, Girona defeated Getafe 3-0 to jump to the third position in the points table with a superior goal difference.

Girona started the game strongly with a goal in the 12th

minute as Yangel Herrera scored off a header to give the advantage to the home side.

The first half closed at 1-0, however, Girona riding high on the momentum gained in the first half, came stronger in the second half.

Gymnastic Competition held



LAHORE: 8th All Lahore Farrukh Malik and Irfan Ameer Memorial Gymnastic Competition was held at Children Complex, Lahore. This Competition was held under the supervision of Lahore District Gymnastics Association and International Association of Physical education and sports and the organized by superart gymnastics club and physical training center. The Chief Organizer and Associate Secretary LEGS Hakeem Hanif Ali said that we received wonderful response from this event. He said that under-10, under-14 boys and girls took part in the competition and 18 clubs took part in the competition. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Pervaiz Ahmad Secretary PGF, Shaheen Butt, Nazir Muhammad, Khalid Rethro, M. Shafique Ahmad, and Waqas Ali Khan they distributed the prizes among the Gymnastics winner and Runner up boys and girls.

Pakistan Karate Federation organized National Karate Courses

Sports Desk



LAHORE: Pakistan Karate Federation's organized the National Karate Accredited Coaches Courses which has come to an end with ceremony. Our practical session in the course was very successful. Said that Mr. Atta Hussain Butt who gave an informative lecture on breathing exercises and he said our main speaker, Dr. Asad Abbas Shah, on Anti-Adopic Sports and Gave a detailed

briefing on the injury.

PCB saddened with the passing of former test cricketer Col (Rtd) Naushad Ali

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board through its Chairman, members of Management Committee, Board executives and employees, has expressed its grief and sorrow over the passing of former Test cricketer Col Rtd Naushad Ali today. He was 79.

Mr Col Rtd Naushad Ali, wicketkeeper-batter, featured in six Test matches – all against New Zealand in 1965. He had served the PCB as the manager of the Pakistan Men's team and had also served as a match referee.

In a message, PCB Management Committee Chairman Mr Zaka Ashraf said: "On behalf of the PCB, I want to express my deepest condolences on the sad demise of Mr Col Rtd Naushad Ali.

We share the grief of his friends and family and extend our deepest sympathies.



Sindh Baseball Association felicitates Junaid Ali Shah as Caretaker Sports Minister

Sports Desk

HYDERABAD: The President Sindh Baseball Association President Engr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Vice President Aisha Irum, Secretary Parwaz Ahmad Sheikh, treasurer Nadeem Zaheer, Head Coach Aamir Saleem others have felicitated Chairman Sindh Olympic Association Syed Junaid Ali Shah on becoming Caretaker Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture.

According to a press release issued on Monday, they expressed best compliments on behalf of the Sindh Baseball Association and all divisions and hoped that the caretaker Minister would patronize baseball, the most popular sport of Pakistan besides other sports.

They said that Syed Junaid Ali Shah has always tried to promote sports.

He has taken oath as Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture in the Caretaker Cabinet thus completing the hat trick of becoming Caretaker Minister in the Sindh Government.

He has served in the Sindh Cabinet as Health Minister and Sports Minister in the past as well.

India's squad for Asia Cup 2023 unveiled

A Sports

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday, announced the squad for the upcoming ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023, commencing on August 30.

The 17-member Indian contingent saw the return of middle-order batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer making their returns to the ODI side after being declared fit to play the Asia Cup.

Jaspit Bumrah has also returned to the ODI team after making his T20I return in the ongoing T20I series against Ireland. Bumrah last played an ODI game in July last year against England, before being ruled out with a back injury, which kept him out of action for almost a year.

Young batting prodigy Tilak Varma also received his maiden ODI call-up, after impressive performances in the T20I series against West Indies.

India will kick off their Asia Cup with the much-anticipated clash against Pakistan on September 2 in Kandy.

The arch-rivals Pakistan and India will come face to face again on September 10 in Colombo if both manage to qualify for the Super 4s.

India's Squad

Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

Travelling reserve: Sanju Samson

This year's Asia Cup will commence with host Pakistan taking on Nepal in the curtain raiser on August 30 in Multan.

