



Caretaker govt has no role in fixing election date: Solangi
Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the date for the upcoming general election would be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which was constitutionally responsible to conduct the polls in the country. (Report on Page 8)



Xi urges actions to translate community with shared future for mankind into reality
Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday calls for actions to translate the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind into reality. Xi's appeal was made in a speech read out by Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao at the BRICS Business Forum 2023. "Right now, changes in the world, in our times and in history are unfolding in ways like never before, bringing human society to a critical juncture," Xi warned ... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

COAS Munir visits South Waziristan, vows to 'hunt down' terrorists

Adam Khan Wazir

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Asman Manza in South Waziristan District, where six soldiers embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with terrorists. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief visited Sherwangi area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan District and was briefed on the prevailing security situation including ongoing

intelligence and counter-terrorism operations. During his visit, COAS Munir interacted with officers and troops deployed in the area and appreciated their "unflinching resolve in fighting the menace of terrorism". Speaking on the occasion, the army chief said that Shuhadas [martyrs] are the country's pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain till the return of complete peace and stability in Pakistan. COAS Munir emphasised that

terrorists, their affiliates and abettors working on the behest of hostile agenda to destabilise Pakistan will be hunted down until their surrender to the state. A day earlier, at least six Pakistan army soldiers were martyred during an exchange of fire with terrorists in the South Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly four terrorists were killed, while two terrorists sustained inju-

ries," ISPR said, "however, during an intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom." The armed forces said that they were determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of soldiers further strengthen their resolve. On August 19, two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Bara area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Khyber district.

Inquiring an injured

WAZIRISTAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir is inquiring about an injured soldier during his visit to South Waziristan on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.



We will fight extremism; surrender not an option: PM

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday categorically said that Pakistan would never surrender to radicalization, extremism and intolerance but rather would fight without falling prey to war fatigue. "Those who think we will fall prey to war fatigue should clear their misunderstanding. This war is not fought by individuals... This war is fought by nation... Surrendering is not an option. We will fight no matter what," he said during a press conference during his visit here. Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori accompanied the prime minister. Referring to the martyrdom of soldiers in South Waziristan on Tuesday, he said



that Pakistan was not a power that will return 5,000 kilometers away from here. "This is our home. We are here. We will run our home in our own way," he said. The prime minister said those trying to undermine the morale of the Pakistani nation

should clear their misunderstanding as Pakistan would never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs. He said Pakistan was not fighting this war on alms but rather spending our own taxpayers' money. He said the Pakistani soldiers

were not rendering sacrifices in return for the salaries. "Their service is not in return for salaries, rather respect and dignity is their salary. Salary is just meant to suffice their needs. The nation pays them in the form of respect," he remarked. Prime Minister Kakar said that those who were trying to create chaos in the name of religion were actually miscalculating and misreading. "This is a clear message. They can fight for a limited time, but not for long. They are miscalculating and misreading whom they are faced with. We are not afraid of suicide attackers," he said. Referring to the rescue operation of trapped eight passengers of a cable car in Battagram, the prime minister said the country's infrastructure was becoming a threat to human lives. "We were overwhelmingly over the moon as we heard the rescue of the last kid..."

President invites CEC to fix date for general election

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has invited Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja to discuss the date for general elections. President Alvi has invited the CEC in a letter for meeting today or tomorrow to decide the date of general elections. In the letter President wrote that he dissolved the National Assembly on August 09 on the advice of the prime minister. "President is bound to give the date of general elections, being held within 90 days after dissolution of the assembly under Article 48-V," the President wrote in the letter. The Chief Election Commissioner being invited for a meeting on the date for general election today or tomorrow (Thursday), President Arif Alvi wrote. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has recently announced that gener-



elections are not possible within 90 days after dissolution of the assemblies. The ECP has decided to hold the upcoming general election on the Census 2023. The ECP stated that the commission is bound to carry out the delimitation process after approval of the census results by the Council of Common Interests. "The first publication of delimitations will be on October 9 and the final will be on December 14," the ECP announced.

Trial court announced Toshakhana verdict against PTI chief in haste: CJP Bandial

City Desk

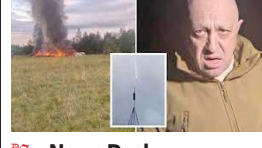
ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial remarked Wednesday the Supreme Court would wait for the Islamabad High Court's order on the PTI chairman's appeal against his conviction and sentence in the Toshakhana case before "interfering" in the matter. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman moved the Supreme Court against the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict in the Toshakhana case. The former premier filed an application in apex court against IHC ruling through his legal team. The petitioner pleaded with the court to declare the Toshakhana case against him non-maintainable. A three-member SC bench, comprising CJP Bandial, Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, took up a petition filed by the former prime minister challenging the IHC's order of remanding the Toshakhana case to Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Humayun Dilawar who



convicted the PTI chairman. At the outset of the hearing, Imran's lawyer Latif Khosa said the PTI chief had filed three petitions against IHC orders in the apex court. He recalled that Imran was elected as a member of the National Assembly from Mianwali during the 2018 elections. "The Election Act tells every members of the NA to submit details of their assets," the lawyer said, adding that six MNAs had submitted a reference to the speaker seeking the PTI chief's disqualification. Khosa said his client was not given the right to present the witnesses in the case by the trial court. ECP's lawyer Amjad Pervez said the PTI chairman has legal right to

challenge his sentence and added the witnesses, the PTI chairman wanted to present were 'irrelevant'. The trial court heard the case during which the accused skipped several hearings, Pervez said and added on August 5, the day, when the PTI chairman was convicted, no one appeared from his side. After hearing the arguments from the lawyers, the top judge observed: "Prima facie, there are shortcomings in the trial court verdict." The CJP further remarked, "We will not interfere in the Toshakhana case today... we will look at the IHC hearing tomorrow and then resume the proceedings." Later, the hearing was adjourned until tomorrow at 2pm. On August 5, a trial court in Islamabad found the PTI chief guilty of "corrupt practices" in a case pertaining to concealing details of state gifts and sentenced him to three years in prison. The verdict also means that he stood disqualified from contesting general elections for five years.

Wagner boss Prigozhin, killed in plane crash



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who had launched a failed coup against Russian president Vladimir Putin in June, has been reportedly killed in a plane crash. Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was listed as a passenger on a private jet that crashed on Wednesday evening north of Moscow with no survivors, the Russian authorities said. Russia's emergency situations ministry said in a statement that a private Embraer Legacy aircraft travelling from Moscow to St. Petersburg had crashed near the village of Kuzhenkino in the Tver Region.

Defence Minister commends PAF's commitment to national security

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Defence Minister, Lieutenant General (R) Anwar Ali Hyder, paid a visit to Air Headquarters here on Wednesday, where he had a productive meeting with Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. During the meeting, matters pertaining to the evolving geo-strategic environment and regional security situation were discussed, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said. Chief of the Air Staff provided a briefing on Pakistan Air Force's modernization plan and recent acquisitions from allied countries, aimed at ensuring an impregnable aerial defence of the country. He also provided a comprehensive briefing to the visiting dignitary on the Pakistan Air Force's operational construct, force goals and plans for the force structure with a keen focus on future warfare. The Air Chief highlighted the steps taken by the Pakistan Air Force to revamp the training of its personnel, equipping them to effectively tackle contem-



porary challenges. Emphasizing the importance of adapting to evolving security dynamics, the Air Chief also shared insights into the rigorous training programs and cutting-edge technologies being implemented within the PAF. Highlighting PAF's commitment to staying at the forefront of modern warfare, Chief of the Air Staff emphasized the importance of multispectrum operations in the domains of space, cyber and artificial intelligence. He also outlined Pakistan Air Force's strategic shift towards enhancing indigenous capabilities in these crucial areas. Expressing admiration for the professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Air Force personnel, Lieutenant General (R) Anwar Ali Hyder commended the pivotal role played by brave PAF warriors in safeguarding the sovereignty of Pakistan.

Pakistan-Saudi special forces exercise 'Battar' begins in Cherat

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Opening ceremony of First Pakistan-KSA "Joint Special Forces Exercise AL BATTAR-I" was held at Cherat. Pak-Royal Saudi Special Forces are participating in two weeks long exercise. The exercise is aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations between both the countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept and identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaboration, with a view to accrue maximum benefits from each other's experience in employment against terrorism. National anthems of both countries were played at the start of the ceremony. Senior officials from both the Armed Forces were present on the occasion. Such joint Military Exercises between armies of both brotherly countries are aimed at enhancing existing bilateral relations and benefiting from each other's experience.

CJP Bandial trying to save PTI chief, claims Nawaz

News Desk

LONDON: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday asserted that Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial was trying to save Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan. Talking to journalists in London, the PML-N supremo claimed a



former chief justice and his associates within the Supreme Court played

an active role in his arrest, disqualification, and dismantling of his government. Nawaz Sharif claimed that CJP Bandial was trying to save PTI chief Imran Khan, who is "implicated in embezzling billions of rupees". "The chief justice is well aware that this person [Imran Khan] has wreaked havoc on Pakistan's economy, ethics, and culture. He has propa-

gated violence and repeatedly violated the Constitution," the former premier said. The PML-N supremo further said that former chief justice Saqib Nisar had previously claimed that his aim was to disqualify Nawaz Sharif and throw him behind bars, adding that Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui and others have testified to these allegations.

Goup Photo

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the members of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.

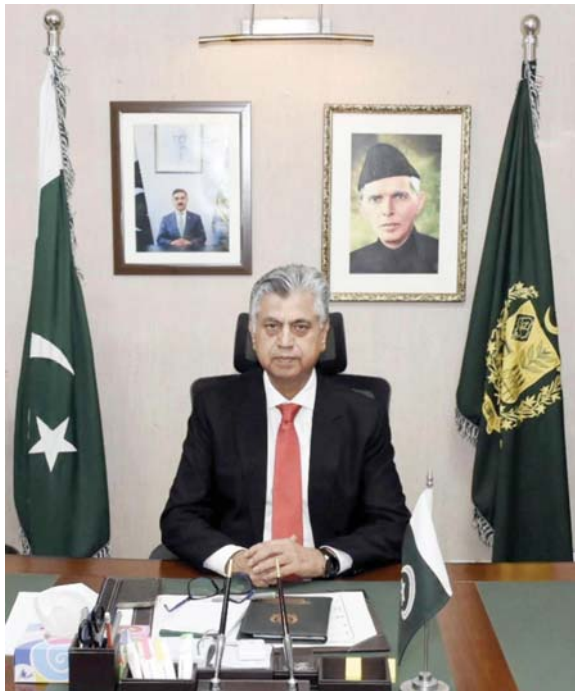


Photo: PID

Caretaker govt has no role in fixing election date: Solangi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the date for the upcoming general election would be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which was constitutionally responsible to conduct the polls in the country. The minister, in an interview with the CNN, clarified that the caretaker government had no role in fixing the election date, as it was solely within the purview of the ECP. Solangi said there might be a "slight delay" in the elections as the new census had been notified. "Once the census is notified, the Election Commission of Pakistan—a constitutional body responsible for conducting elections—needs four months to complete the delimitation exercise." Subsequently, a constitutionally mandated



54-day period was allocated for political parties to conduct election campaigns, he added.

As regard the Tuesday's chairlift incident, the Information Minister commended the joint effort of the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force for successfully rescuing all individuals who were stranded on the chairlift in the remote and rugged valley of Hindkush and Korakram mountain ranges in Battagram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The operation was carried out with meticulous coordination, ensuring the safety of the trapped passengers, he said while sharing insights on the rescue operation.

Highlighting the challenges in dissemination of information due to the remote nature of the area, he said the district administration, on receiving the news, approached the provincial and regional

administrations that subsequently alerted the federal authorities.

Solangi detailed the comprehensive rescue mission, which involved deploying helicopters from the Pakistan Army and Air Force, along with a Commanding Officer from the SSG and his troops who led the efforts on the ground. He said an extensive inspection of all chairlifts and cable cars in the region had already been initiated by the provincial authorities. The Hazara region had 70 cable cars, including 11 in the specific region where the incident took place. The minister said the remote area, affected by both climate change and seismic activity, had witnessed natural disasters, including a significant earthquake in 2005 and severe flooding in 2010 that destroyed infrastructure of the area.

Caretaker PM launches countrywide monsoon plantation drive

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Wednesday launched the countrywide monsoon plantation drive.

Addressing the launching ceremony of monsoon plantation drive, the caretaker PM urged all the political parties and intelligentsia to take climate change as a national cause and make it part of every discourse.

"The climate change advoca-

cy should be taken as a national cause. I request all the political parties, intelligentsia and civil society to make the climate change part of every discourse," the prime minister said.

PM Kakar further said Pakistan faced the consequences in the form of floods last year despite just one percent of its contribution towards the mismanagement of climate change.

He said it was high time the country contributed to mitigating the ills done to climate change and urged the global

community to play its part by providing the required support in resources and attention.

He said unfortunately Islamic beliefs had been confined to just worship which otherwise was just one aspect. Islam also preached human rights as well as the protection of natural habitats, he added.

Calling the abuse of natural habitat a denial of blessing and a crime, he viewed that intervention and rearrangement of climate change disturbed nature's soul which resulted in natural calamities like floods



and tsunamis. "The natural disasters are the expression of nature's discomfort," he remarked.

PMD forecast rain for various parts of country

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thundershower in Pothohar region, Islamabad, upper Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

Heavy falls may also occur at isolated places in the Pothohar region, Islamabad, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and upper Punjab during the period.

Hot and humid weather is expected in other parts of the country.

As per the synoptic situation, monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are penetrating in upper parts of the country. A westerly wave has started affecting the upper and central parts.

Condemnatory protest demonstrations 'greet' Narendra Modi at BRICS summit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The protest demonstrations condemning the unabated oppression of Kashmiri people and persecution of minorities by the Hindutva forces were held in South African cities as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived there to attend the BRICS summit. The protesters held banners inscribed with the slogans like "Free Kashmir", "Release Yasin Malik" and "Modi the Butcher of Gujarat". Condemnatory protest demonstrations "greet" Narendra Modi at BRICS summit. On Tuesday, another protest rally was held in Johannesburg to protest against Modi.



The participants carried Kashmir flags and anti-Modi placards. The event was covered by the international media outlets, which also recorded interviews of the protesters. Condemnatory protest demonstrations "greet" Narendra Modi at BRICS summit. A large number of human rights activists also held a protest demonstration near the Indian Consulate in Durban. They carried placards with slogans "India Implement UN Resolutions on Kashmir", "India stop killing of minorities", "From Kashmir to Palestine, Occupation is Crime" and "Modi the killer of humanity".

President for exploring new horizons with export compatible products

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed upon the business and industrialist communities to explore new avenues in the global market by introducing innovative value addition goods to supplement country's exports, besides enhancing their outreach in the world. The president was addressing 2nd Achievement Recognition Ceremony of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) which was arranged at the Aiwan e Sadr to award the best performing businessmen and women.

President for exploring new horizons with export compatible products The president opined that there was no doubt that the government

was facilitating the businessmen and traders, but it was the prime onus on traders that they should navigate through all hurdles and carve a path for the growth of their export business.

He said that due to environmental changes, the world was looking for organic foods and in this arena, the country's exporters could find advantageous leeway, besides, the designing jewellery was another category in which the women could showcase their goods to the world.

The president while appreciating the inclusion of women in the industry and business sectors, underlined the need for encouraging and supporting the females to join these sectors by creating a conducive environment.

Chinese embassy hosts elaborate dinner in honour of religious scholars



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Embassy hosted a lavish dinner in honour of esteemed religious scholars, showcasing a bridge of cultural and religious understanding between the two nations the other day. Sharing his views, Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz informed that during the reception, the delegation was welcomed warmly by the Chinese hosts, showcasing China's commitment to cultural exchange and diplomatic engagement. He said the purpose of the visit was to promote religious dialogue and understanding between China and Pakistan.

The attendees engaged in discussions on various topics, including interfaith harmony, cultural exchange, and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, he added. Dr. Qibla said the diverse group of religious leaders and scholars expressed their gratitude for the hospitality extended to them and conveyed their eagerness to enhance bilateral relations through dialogue and cooperation. The delegation was comprised of eminent personalities including Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Israr Madani, Maulana Fazl Ali Haqqani, Tahmeed Jan Azhari, Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Tahiri, Asif Luqman Qazi, Maulana Rashid ul Haq, Ismail, and Mehboob Ahmad Ghazi.

Omar strongly condemns abduction of Senator Aon Buppi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan strongly condemned the abduction of Senator Aon Abbass Buppi Regional President PTI South Punjab from Lahore, saying that Pakistan sunk into total lawlessness.

PTI Secretary General said that that Senator Aon Abbass Buppi was abducted from Lahore and was taken to an unknown location.

Omar Ayub urged that Caretaker Prime Minister Kakar should ensure the immediate recovery of his Senate colleague.

"Pakistan has sunk into total lawlessness. Senators and Parliamentarians being abducted," he added. PTI Secretary General stated that no investor in their right mind would



come to invest in an environment of lawlessness.

Omar Ayub stressed the need that only one solution to the prevailing uncertain situation was to hold elections within the constitutionally mandated timeframe of 90 days.

"Respect the Constitution and respect the will of the people," he urged.

Kashgar-Islamabad TIR route unveiled to augment China-Pakistan trade

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: In a move to enhance China-Pakistan cross-border trade, an international road transport (TIR) route opened between China's inland city of Kashgar and Islamabad as the first shipment convoy of five trucks bearing the TIR sign departed from Kashgar to Islamabad at an inaugural ceremony on Tuesday (August 22).

This convoy is notable for being the inaugural TIR trade transport between China and Pakistan, highlighting a fresh mode of cross-border transport for Xinjiang and potentially setting a precedent for future trade routes within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), CEN reported on Wednesday. Established in 1949, the international customs transit system TIR is characterised by streamlined, safe and economi-

cal procedures. Cargo remains sealed for the entirety of the transit, reducing potential delays at border crossings and minimizing the risk of cargo interference.

Additionally, the TIR's unified international guarantee can potentially reduce additional customs expenses during cross-border transportation.

The Kashgar-Islamabad TIR route is a collaborative endeavour involving Kashgar Customs, the Kashgar Municipal People's Government, and spearheaded by CEVA Logistics with support from the Shenzhen Cross-Border E-commerce Association. Kashgar is the first inland Chinese city to adopt TIR inland transport services following China's ratification of the United Nations "TIR Convention" in 2016.

Darbar Hazrat Ghaus Bahauddin Zakaria's annual 784 urs celebrations have started



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Darbar Hazrat Ghaus Bahauddin Zakaria's annual 784 Urs celebrations have started. In which thousands of pilgrims from all over the country including Sindh participated. Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi, the daughter of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the patron of Hazrat Ghaus Bahauddin Zakaria, and his uncle Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi, along with other family members, bathed the shrine

and offered prayers. Later, the first session of the National Zakaria Conference was held under the chairmanship of Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi under the cover of the Dargah, in which Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi specially participated.

Prominent scholars speaking on this occasion said that the shrines of saints are the centers of God's mercy. The times and circumstances demand that the teachings of the saints should be followed so that the country can be brought out of the crisis. From the

first session of the National Zakaria Conference, distinguished scholars Allama Muhammad Farooq Khan Saeedi, Khawaja Rawal Moin Koreija, Mufti Ghulam Mustafa Rizvi, Pir Syed Ramzan Shah Faizi, Allama Syed Ahmed Saeed Kazmi, Mufti Muhammad Usman Pasruri and Allama Muhammad Dr. Siddique Khan Qadri. Address while Hameed Nawaz Asim, Waheed Nawaz, Hamid Nawaz, Muneer Hussain Hashmi, Malik Imran Yusuf presented Hadiya Naat. Makhdoomzada Sajjad Hussain

Qureshi at National Zakaria Conference

Brigadier (R) Maqsood Qureshi, Pir Syed Ali Hussain Shah, Pir Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Haji Javed Akhtar Ansari, Ghulam Mehli, Pir Irshad Hussain Qureshi, Malik Zahoor Ahmad Mahe, Makhdoom Ghaus. Alam Shah Geelani, Nasir Raza Qureshi, Muhammad Raza Qureshi, Syed Ali Akbar Shah, Syed Asif Qureshi, Roshan Chirag Qureshi and others participated. Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi gave the closing prayer

Constable martyred & civilian injured by unknown miscreant firing in Tank

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Constable Riaz Gul, son of Hazrat Khan resident Umar Ada who was posted on security duty of Meezan Bank, located in the limits of Police Station City in Tank district, was shot by an unknown miscreant and after the incident, he rode a motorcycle along with his accomplice, they managed to escape, as a result of which Constable Riaz Gul died on the spot while a civilian named Zia Uddin son of Noor Ullah resident Village Sharbati was injured.



As soon as the incident was reported, District Police Officer Tank Waqar Ahmed immediately reached the spot along with Tank police officers and heavy personnel and after closely examining the crime scene, he issued orders to trace and arrest the unknown miscreants anyway.

The funeral prayer of martyred Constable Riaz Gul was performed at DPO Office Tank with full official honours.

In which District Police Officer Tank Waqar Ahmed, security forces officers, SP Investigation Tank Haji Nasir Khan, DEO FC Sarmast Khan, Assistant Commissioner Amin Ullah Khan, Tank and South Waziristan police officers, youths and social personalities including the media, a large number of representatives participated.

The officers present on the occasion and the Tank police team saluted the deceased and laid floral wreaths, after the funeral prayer, the deceased was sent to his native village Umar Ada, where after the funeral prayer, his dead body will be buried with official honors.

Pilot Project of Bio-Floc Fish Culture Technology Being Completed in Bahawalpur

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Rtd) Saqib Zafar has termed the pilot project of bio-floc fish culture technology as a revolutionary step in the fisheries sector and has said that this technology will prove to be a cornerstone for the development of the fish farming sector. He expressed these views while inspecting pilot project of bio-floc fish culture technology being completed in Bahawalpur at a cost of rupees 18.23 million. Officials of Fisheries Department were also present on this occasion. He said, in view of its importance, this project was also called Blue Revolution. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab said by adopting this technology, water will be saved and pollution will be eliminated and the set goals for sustainable development will also be achieved in the form of green energy. He said that after the completion of the pilot project, this technology will be promoted in the fisheries sector, which will reduce the costs of fish farmers. The Deputy Director Fisheries while briefing Additional Chief Secretary, said

in traditional fish farms, the water becomes dirty due to fish waste and part of the feed given to the fish, so the water spoiled by fish waste and digested food has to be replaced. He said, through biofloc fish culture technology, eco-friendly chemicals are added to the water of the fish farm, which produce bacteria that eat fish waste and wasted food and finally these bacteria themselves become food for the fish. He said by adopting this technology, the water of the fish farm does not have to be changed. It was informed in the briefing that this project will be completed in the current financial year.

Cantonment Board Multan operation against encroachment and illegal constructions started

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Cantonment Board Multan's operation clean-up of illegal encroachments and demolition of illegal constructions has started, indiscriminate action will be taken against encroachments and illegal constructions in the cantonment and will not care about any pressure, Maria Jabin CEO.

Cantonment Board Multan has started strict action against hundreds of illegal encroachments, occupation of government land and constructions without the approval of maps at the expense of various influential people and members in the cantonment area.

And illegal constructions have been demolished in many places. In this regard, Executive Officer Maria Jabeen says that for the past six months, various notices have been issued to the people responsible for illegal encroachments and illegal constructions, and they have repeatedly asked them to regularize their affairs. It has been said about but these people did not give any answer and did not miss the tussle, so after issuing the final notice, strict action has been started against them, this operation will continue for seven days.

Amir Khattak reviews progress on mega health projects in Multan



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Mega health projects in the city of saints are on the way towards completion. Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak paid a surprise visit to Cardiology Hospital Extension Block to review the development work. He said that two floors of OPD have been made fully functional in cardiology extension block. Work is going on rapidly on the project worth 3 billion rupees. OPD with 33 rooms on 2 floors has been made fully functional while 208 beds wards. The two floors will be completed by September 15. The deadline has been given to make the hospital fully functional in September this year. While doctors, paramedical staff hostels, basement will be completed by the end of this year.

A 4-storied inn is being constructed at a cost of 20 crores in cardiology hospital. The PCI of the 250-bed inn has been approved by the Punjab government. Commissioner Aamir Khattak checked the availability of medicines to the patients in the Cardiology Hospital and inquired about the facilities available in the hospital. Later, Commissioner Aamir Khattak visited the Civil Hospital and He reviewed the construction work. He said that the existing building of the civil hospital is being handed over to the children's hospital, and the emergency of the children's hospital will be transferred to the building of the civil hospital.

HSSC Part 01 result

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi presenting bouquet to the students, who takes highest marks in the HSSC Part 01 Annual Examination at FBISE office in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Drainage in Landhi Town 1 UC-15 Causes Destruction: Local Residents Affected

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The drainage system in Landhi Town 1, UC-15, has suffered an overflow, resulting in significant damage to the Inam Memorial Football Ground. The local community has been adversely affected by this situation. Due to the overflowing drainage, the recreational activities at the Inam Memorial Football Ground have been disrupted in Landhi UC-15.

The local residents are experiencing the negative consequences of this drainage issue. The drainage system near the Inam Memorial Football



Ground, located in Landhi UC-15, could not be cleaned due to insufficient funding, which has led to the overflow and subsequent destruction. The residents of the area are

facing inconvenience due to this unfortunate situation. The influx of mosquitoes has caused a rise in cases of diseases such as dengue, malaria, and other among the residents of Landhi

UC-15. The surge of mosquitoes has created an alarming public health concern in the locality.

The Union Council 15 has raised concerns about the lack of proper sanitation efforts around the Inam Memorial Football Ground. This negligence has caused the drainage system to overflow, leading to further damage.

The football ground, established in 1968, was intended for sports activities, including various football matches. However, due to the drainage issue, the ground now faces substantial damage. The administrative authorities' apparent lack of

action has resulted in the deterioration of the football ground, affecting the sports activities that were once held there.

The influx of drainage water into the football ground and the increased severity of sewerage issues have compounded the situation. Local residents expressed their frustration with the fact that despite Union Council Chairman's request to the District Commissioner for funds to address the drainage issue, the necessary resources have not been allocated. As a result, the area's problems have escalated, particularly impacting the well-being of the residents in Landhi UC-15.

CBD Punjab's Tax Workshop Illuminates Financial Literacy

News Desk

LAHORE: In a bid to foster financial literacy and raise awareness about tax implications among its employees. The Finance Directorate of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as the Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), organized a Tax Workshop at CBD Punjab Complex. The workshop was aimed to provide insight into tax laws and amendments done in Finance

Act 2023.

The workshop addressed a wide spectrum of tax-related subjects, including income tax implications on salaries, commissions, property transactions, rentals, sales, goods, services. General sales tax (GST) and Punjab Sales Tax (PST). The workshop was a proactive effort to empower participants with knowledge of taxation laws aiding them in making informed financial decisions.

Executive Director Finance CBD Punjab, Syed Habbab



Subhani, while expressing his thoughts said, "Financial awareness is essential for sustainable economic growth. Our workshop serves as a plat-

form to empower individuals with knowledge about tax regulations, enabling them to navigate the financial landscape more effectively."

To ensure the delivery of accurate and up-to-date information, CBD Punjab invited distinguished tax experts to lead the workshop. Notable speakers included Talal Zahic (RSM Avais Hyder Liaquat Nauman Chartered Accountants). The session was attended by enthusiastic staff members of CBD Punjab, fostering an atmosphere of collaborative learning and knowledge exchange. The workshop concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony among participants.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:06 am
Zohr 12:11 pm
Asr 4:52 pm
Maghrib 6:46 pm
Isha 8:14 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
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MH 561116
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Rawal Town 5773343

Successful conclusion of Nusuk Roadshow in Pakistan

News Desk

KARACHI: The Pilgrim Experience Program, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and Nusuk successfully concluded a roadshow in Pakistan to showcase Nusuk (nusuk.sa), the official digital platform, unifying planning, booking, and experiencing the Umrah journey for Pakistanis and pilgrims worldwide.

Led by Saudi officials including Dr. Tawfiq Al Rabiah, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah and the Chairman of the Pilgrim Experience Program, Fahd Hamidaddin, the Managing Director of Nusuk and Alhasan Aldababagh, the APAC President of Nusuk, the roadshow achieved remarkable success. It emphasized Saudi's commitment to strengthening collaboration, enhancing the Umrah experience and deepening the historic cultural ties between the two nations.

During the visit, the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah and his team engaged in high-level meetings with prominent Pakistani dignitaries, including the President of Pakistan, the Pakistan Cabinet, the Chief of Army Staff and the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan called on the Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan, Mohiuddin Ahmad Wani called on the Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah, to engage in an extensive discourse on the captivating allure of Gilgit-Baltistan and the strategic measures essential for the augmentation of tourism within the region. The Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan presented a comprehensive overview of Gilgit-Baltistan's tourism landscape to Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah. Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rahman Rana was also present on the occasion.

Minister of State Wasi Shah expressed his commendation for the proactive initiatives undertaken by the Gilgit-Baltistan administration for promotion of tourism, highlighting Gilgit-Baltistan as an epitome of tranquility suitable for tourism. Additionally, he proposed the prospect of inviting international players to take part in activities such as ice hockey in Gilgit-Baltistan, thereby fostering a favorable perception of Pakistan.



Furthermore, Minister of State Wasi Shah affirmed his intent to personally visit Gilgit-Baltistan in the near future, where he plans to offer condolences to the bereaved family of a 27-year-old porter from Skardu who had passed away in a tragic incident at K2.

Fuel prices out of reach

ISLAMABAD: A view of the passengers going through the Metro Bus due to the high prices of fuel people are using such affordable mediums, instead of personal cars and transport in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Political commitment, robust advocacy and holistic investment essential for Adolescent Health

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Political commitment, increase in holistic investment in adolescent health and data-driven robust advocacy critical for health and resourceful wellbeing of future generations were deemed imperative at a pivotal roundtable discussion on "Advocacy on Adolescent Health". The event was jointly organized by World Health Organization Pakistan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute and Planning Commission of Pakistan. Chief SDGs of Planning

Commission of Pakistan, Ali Kemal remarked that poor adolescent health in Pakistan reflect that the group was indeed being left behind which is a stark contradiction to the core principle of SDGs of "leaving no one behind". He urged sensitizing public and policy makers and adopting a holistic approach to address the intersectional nature of the issue.

Dr Khalid Siddeeq, Regional Advisor Child and Adolescent Health, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) highlighted that in 2019 Pakistan's reported adolescent

mortality rate for ages 10-19 was 97 and ranked 3rd highest in EMRO countries. Child marriage remains high, with 66 million women now aged between 20-24 years, getting married before 18. In Pakistan 18 out of 1000 women are reportedly marriage before 18.

Ellen Thom, Team Lead Healthier Population Cluster at WHO Country Office, Pakistan highlighted that pneumonia and diarrhea diseases are 2nd and 4th leading causes of 3000 daily adolescent deaths around the globe, emphasizing need to sensitize states to

increase investment in adolescent health as priority area.

Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI urged for meaningful engagement with adolescents in which LHWs, religious leaders and local civil society can play a vital role. He urged for mobilizing finances for adolescent health services including counseling and care. Implementing responsive laws and policies, compiling granular data, and improving monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are potential strategies to elevate adolescent health indicators, he added.

Jammu and Kashmir to become Pakistan: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

BAGH: Former Prime Minister and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan while addressing the 76th Nila Butt Day ceremony



said that Kashmir will become Pakistan, there is no alternative to Pakistan, all parties are respectable but Azadi Movement. Kashmir Martyrs, the way of talking about Kashmir's accession to Pakistan is the privilege of the Muslim Conference only, when it came to power, everyone spoke against the army, but the Muslim Conference never allowed its relationship with the Pakistan Army and the State of Pakistan to weaken. Sabotage is not done, nor can we afford ideological sabotage. The government of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan should solve the problems of electricity and flour. Pakistan cannot be abused because of the crisis of flour and electricity. Pakistan is our destination. People like Mr. Atta Muhammad. He had written Pakistan Zindabad with the blood of his daughters. We will never let this relationship weaken. The resolution of annexation to Pakistan was passed on the land of Poonch. Here, people have shed their skins for Pakistan and sent a message that Pakistan is our destination. August 5, 2019 After the situation, the Muslim Conference can give a call to break the cease-fire line at any time. An all-party conference will be called from the other parties to go to Srinagar.

All the funds for the Neela Butt ceremony were given by the youth, I am thankful to them.

On the suggestion of Usman Ali Khan, it has been decided to attend the shrines of all the martyrs. Grateful to the opponents who opposed Neela Butt Day and people came out in thousands in response, Government of Azad Kashmir Division and Administration of Zilla Bagh from Pakistan and Azad Kashmir Electronic Media Youth MSF Workers Muslim Conference and Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Nila Butt Day celebration.

President Muslim League-N Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir said that the love and compassion of Mujahid I will always live in our hearts. The first showed the Kashmiris their destination, the time is not far when the whole of Kashmir will become independent and become a part of Pakistan. There is no opposition. Mian Nawaz Sharif came to Nila Butt and declared a nuclear country.

Former president of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Mirza Shafiq Jaral, while speaking, said that I salute those who hold the flag of the Muslim Conference with perseverance, the mission given to us by Mujahid I on 23 August 1947, the Kashmiri nation is still carrying forward with this mission.

The chief organizer of the Muslim Conference Raja Saqib Majeed said that in very difficult circumstances, I congratulate each and every person who stood with the flag of the Muslim Conference and the idea of joining Pakistan. Khan showed us the way to our future, if Mujahid I had not waged an armed struggle against the Dogras, today the Dogras would have ruled here and we all would have been their slaves. If you can go and talk, you feel the blessing of freedom.

Islamabad Career College reports excellent Intermediate Board result

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The result of Islamabad Career College Intermediate Federal Board was excellent. Dua Bibi got 1036 marks while Iqra Saleem got 1032, Sobail Afridi got 1017, Noorania Imani got 1015 and Maheen Ansar got 1000 marks. While in Intermediate First Year Faza Fatima got 467 marks while Zainab Niaz 447, Zubaidah Jahan 443, Ali Ashfaq 440, Naveed Ali 439, Afaq Aslam 427, Sana Iqbal 426, and Zanira topped the list with 423 marks. Chairman Career Group of Institutions Javed Intizar, DG prof. Muhammad Aamir, DD Salim Al-Azzam, Principal ICC Kayani Road Bhara Kahu Muhammad Adnan Abbasi congratulated the position holders students, parents, teachers and management of the college. Javed Intizar said that Islamabad Career College has maintained the tradition of getting top positions in Federal Board. Career College is the guarantor of the future of students. Professor Mohammad Amir said that the education system is being innovated according to SOS and SLOs. This will bring them to the first three positions of the Federal Board next year. Which will give the best overall results in the Career College Federal Board. Principal Muhammad Adnan Abbasi said that our results are not hidden from anyone. First and second year pre-medical, pre-eng

AIOU commences final examinations from Sept 1

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is conducting examinations of open courses, certificate courses, Matriculation, F. A, and I. Com programs offered in the spring 2023 semester from September 1, 2023, to October 5, 2023, throughout the country. The date sheet is available on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). Roll number slips are being uploaded to students' CMS portal and will be dispatched to the students at their addresses as well.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood has instructed the examinations department to ensure transparency and provide all facilities to the students during the conduct of examinations. Examination centers are being established across the country in nearby and easily approachable vicinities of the students for their convenience. Special teams will make surprise visits to the exam centers to eradicate the element of cheating and will check the identities of students.

Save the Children International committed towards sustainable climate resilient solutions in Sindh

Bureau Report

KARACHI: As part of response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation under Floods Response 2022, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International (SCI) Inger Ashing is meeting with senior officials of Sindh government to seek insights and foster collaborations for carrying out the advanced phase of Floods Response 2022 and contributing towards disaster resilient Sindh, during her visit to the flood affected districts of Sindh.

The delegation comprising Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International (SCI) Inger Ashing, Country Director Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Khuram Gondal, Senior Management Team of Pakistan Country Office, and members

from Asia Pacific region and international team visited PDMA Sindh, Department of Environment and Climate Change, and Sindh Peoples Housing for the Flood Affected (SPHF).

In their mission towards floods resilient province, Save the Children International and The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish collaborative mechanisms to respond to future emergencies / disasters in the province, and coordinate for sustainable climate-resilient planning, programming, and investments. The main objective of this MoU is to make Sindh Province disaster resilient and community well equipped to mitigate the effects of disasters and take timely actions.

Director General PDMA Syed

Salman Shah appreciated the role of SCI during floods 2022 and thanked CEO SCI for taking keen interest in flood response in Pakistan and working towards making Pakistan climate resilient.

CEO SCI, Inger Ashing after assessing the magnitude of devastation caused by the floods 2022, said that only joint efforts can help manage disasters of such scale and prepare for the future. "I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts of Government of Sindh in initiating these multi-sectoral integrated programs to deal with the adversities of floods 2022."

She expressed keen interest in working with government machineries to make complete reconstruction and rehabilitation possible in the most effective manner. She further added that "I would like to highlight

that Climate Change is the cross cutting theme of Save The Children International and we are committed to safeguarding the well being of communities especially children and protect them from effects of climate change."

Country Director Save the Children in Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Khuram Gondal, briefed government officials on efforts made to ensure physical and mental well being of communities especially children in the flood hit districts and expressed his commitment to work together with PDMA Sindh to make Sindh province disaster resilient.

CEO SCI, Inger Ashing also met with officials of Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Sindh. Agha Wasif Abbas, Secretary Environment and Climate



Change, Government of Sindh said that scale of devastation post floods 2022 served to catalyze the public sector development paradigm towards sustainable climate-resilient planning, programming, and investments. Department of Environment

and Climate Change being swift in their disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts has launched Sindh's Strategic Policy for Floods Response 2022. Director General Climate Change & Coastal Development, Government of Sindh, Akhlaque

A. Qureshi shared that this strategic policy is a 'live document' that aims to guide Sindh's Flood Response, from a medium- to long-term perspective, to foster climate-resilient policies and strategies.

On their Visit to SPHF, Secretary Implementation, Govt of Sindh, and CEO SPHF, Khalid Mehmood Sheikh shared with Save the Children that besides continuous efforts of SPHF, there are still many areas which need attention especially initiatives for Persons with Disabilities including children, women inclusion, and WASH for which SPHF is willing to collaborate with Save the Children International. The representatives of both organizations decided to work closely for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood affected areas of Sindh.

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Economy measures - Earning by Saving

There is no denying the fact that there are some genuine economic difficulties faced by our beloved country, Pakistan. But it is also a fact that ours is a great nation with 22 crores of population equipped with atomic capabilities. Even a petty sacrifice by every citizen could produce a big contribution which could ensure stability. Nothing is insurmountable. Serious thinking and all round effective frugality measures could certainly bring down the state expenditure and enhance exports. The measures so far taken are neither systematic nor persistent. Some efforts made in this respect seem just a leap in the dark and most often altered.

This article simply aims at dealing with one aspect of our economy which we need to review the matter of undue and extra ordinary concessions a perks granted by some large organisations like WAPDA, PIA, RAILWAY and coastal guards etc. Some of them are financially sinking ships although they had monopoly in their domain and now those are surviving on annual subsidies and bail out packages borne by the state. The facilities were granted as an incentive for better performance but are causing havoc to our economy demanding financial aid.

The said organizations have granted concessions and perks over and above the salary and allowances allowed to civil servants. These privileges need to

be reviewed in the situation of glaring losses of PIA, Railways, Steel Mills and similar other autonomous bodies. If we take extensive and exhaustive examination of the perks and privileges the financial consequences are alarming.

The department of the Railways has an old practice of issuing on permanent basis to its employees free travel passes in their trains. PIA grants, in addition to bonus, internal and external free family trips to their employees. The department of coastal guards also allows purchase of confiscated items on depreciated price to its staff. Even income tax department is also believed to grant bonus on the recovery of tax to their staff as an incentive.

Analysis of department of WAPDA would reveal the gravity of financial losses caused to them by undue concessions to its employees. WAPDA has 48 thousand officers and one lac and five thousand other employees. All of them are allowed free of cost electricity which consume 39 crores and 10 lac free electric units which cost five billion and 25 crores of rupees per annum. Although the inefficiency of WAPDA employees is evident from line losses, non-payment of electricity bills and kunda system very common in all provinces. Even the government has to engage police force to

effect recovery from defaulters. Normally a lineman is posted in his own domestic area where he also manages non-payments of bills from his negotiators and sometimes their amount is shifted to customers who are regular in payments of bills. So the facility of free electricity units, merits to be withdrawn or at least stipulated with performance.

Similar is the position of PIA. It is burdened with over-staffing and the privileges of free internal and external trips of their staff despite continuous annual losses and demand of huge amount of subsidies. The ex-Minister of PIA caused irreparable loss to the PIA by his unwise and unscrupulous statements and thereby damaged the only asset of goodwill of PIA within the country and abroad. So many our outstanding pilots serving in foreign airlines and Air Force suffered heavily and they were removed from service for no fault on their part on the sole plea that the Pakistani Minister PIA had dubbed them as unqualified and fraudulent.

It would be appropriate, therefore to refer the matter of unusual perks and privileges allowed by aforementioned organisations to the pay and pension commission of the Federal Government to exercise vigilance on payment

of unusual salaries.

In some departments purchase of expensive vehicles for their officers has also increased the financial liabilities. 800 Assistant Commissioners were provided new vehicles costing 6 billion rupees, in addition to fuel expenses. In the prevailing circumstances such expenses should be curtailed.

Another aspect to be modified for the sake of frugality effort is the concept of protocol. The government could reduce the colossal expenditures incurred on protocol and body guard system which engages bulk to police force and resultantly the person and property of the public at large is jeopardised and compromised. That is why street crimes are rampant in the country. The number of flags may be reviewed as each national flag needs 24 hourly police guard.

Now the timings of the government and business markets are being dictated by princely employees of the Government and wealthy elite class owner of the big plazas and markets. Lawful force should be used against the rich who are indifferent to the painful financial situation of the country and not against the poor population when they become violent due to mismanagement of fiscal policies. Economy measures should be adopted in all fields of our society.

The writer of the article is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.



Analysis

Ch Muhammad Latif

OIC condemns Indian atrocities in IIOJK

A congregation of representatives of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states in Jeddah on Wednesday condemned persistent atrocities of occupation forces in the Indian illegal occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The economy of State of IIOJK is being deliberately targeted, inflicting suffering on the people as a means of punishment. For their unwavering demand for the Plebiscite right as recognized by the UN resolutions.

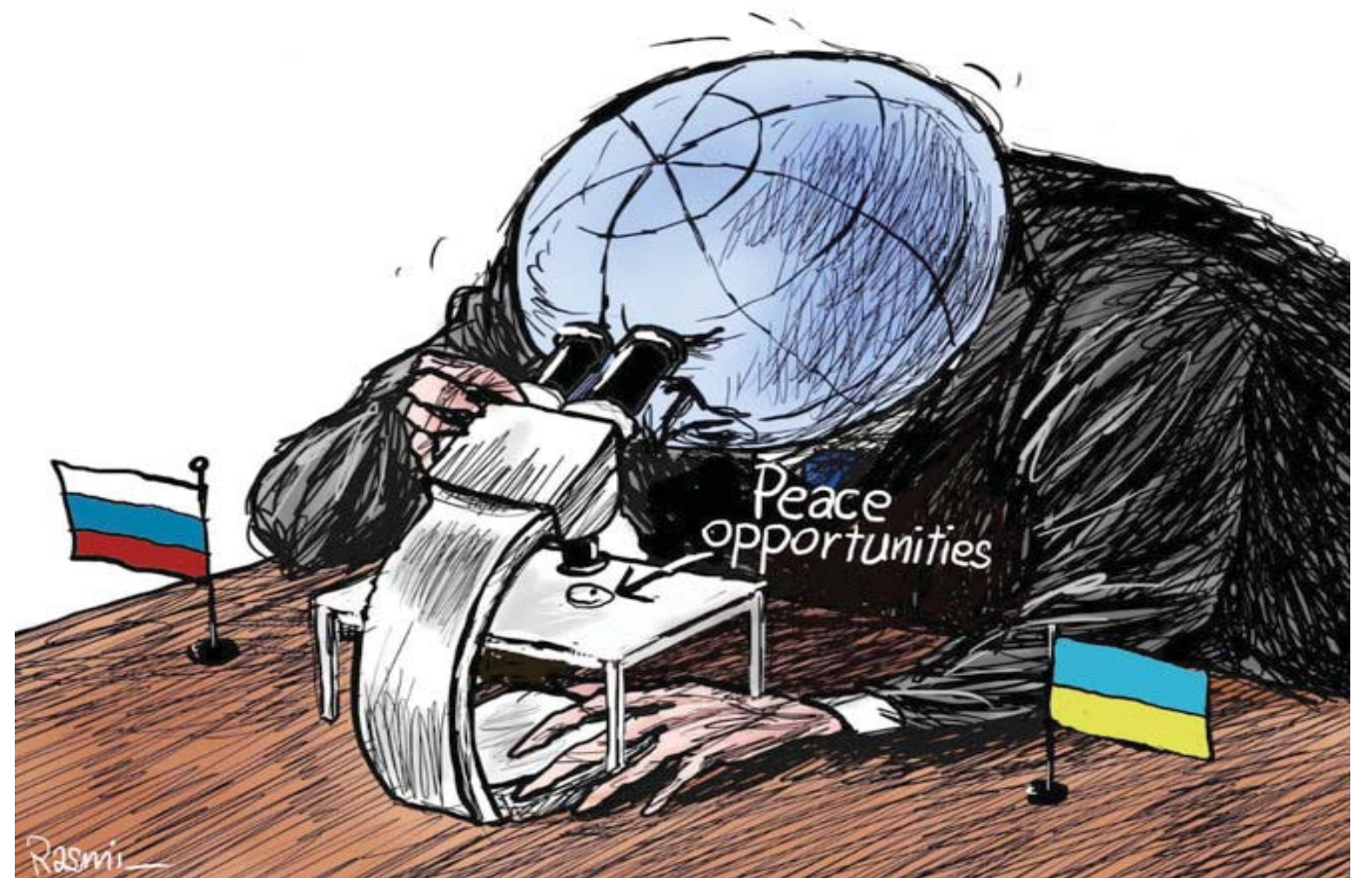
“However, amid these challenges, it is essential to acknowledge that Kashmiris have never accepted the Indian illegal occupation. Our struggle for the right to self-determination continues with undying spirit and determination. “Since 27th October 1947 when then Indian regime landed their paramilitary forces against the wishes and will of people of IIOJK and from the beginning of this Freedom Movement from 1989 till this date, our resilient people have borne the brunt of immense suffering.

More than 500 thousand Kashmiris have been killed on 6th November 1947 and in other Uncountable Genocides among them 11 thousand lost their lives while in custody of India forces.

Hundreds and thousands civilians have been arrested; in which near about 166 thousand individuals has been detained time to time. “The destruction of more than 150,000 structures has left a trail of devastation. Properties worth billions of rupees have been seized and are being Confiscated on false Charges deepening our economic woes. We cannot overlook the heart-wrenching statistics of 23,000 fully widowed and Half widow women, 107,901 orphaned children, and 11,256 women who have been subjected to the most unspeakable horrors of gang-rape and molestation.

“Since August 5th, 2019, the situation remains grave and havoc 990 lives have been targeted to death and 2,354 individuals have suffered critical injuries due to third degree torture and fake encounters. Thousands Children blinded, More than 15 thousand youths including 13 year old teenagers has been arrested on fake charges, Hundreds young boys have been sent to concentration Centres, while 1,104 structures have been dynamited and demolished in last 4 years. “The whole pro-freedom Kashmiri leadership including Shabir Ahmed Shah, Yasin Malik, Mirwize Dr Umer farooq, my elder brother Muhammad Akbar Bhat, even our proud Asiya Andrabi and others have been put behind the bars on false and fake charges. “Oor towering political leaders including Syed Ali Geelani, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrayi and Altaf Ahmad Shah have been assassinated in house detentions and in their notorious Jails.

“We are not demanding for any new thing, we are just demanding for the implementation of agreed upon United Nations resolutions which guarantee right to self-determination to the people of State of J&K. “We are not demanding for any un-necessary action we just want your support for demilitarization of world’s highest military zone on earth which is known as paradise on earth but unfortunately turned into hell because of huge deployment of Indian forces.” He urged the OIC to implement its resolutions such impose economic sanctions if India does not allow a delegation of OIC to visit IIOJK, create a relief fund for Kashmir and send fact finding missions to IIOJK.



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

Afghanistan needs to do more - I

The diplomatic relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan is a multi-dimensional tapestry, interwoven with historical, cultural, geopolitical, and economic threads. The two neighboring countries share a border spanning over 2,600 kilometers, which not only underscores their geographical proximity but also highlights the significance of their interactions. Over the years, Pakistan-Afghanistan relations have navigated through various ups and downs, driven by regional dynamics, internal conflicts, and the quest for stability in a volatile region.

The historical connection between Pakistan and Afghanistan dates back centuries, characterized by shared traditions, languages, and cultural exchanges. Both countries have been part of ancient empires and trade routes, shaping a common heritage. However, historical associations have at times been marred by border disputes and disagreements, which have had lasting implications on the modern relationship. Geopolitically, Pakistan and Afghanistan find themselves in a delicate equilibrium between regional powers and global interests. The strategic location of Afghanistan has often made it a battleground for competing influences, exacerbating tensions between the two countries. During the Cold War, Pakistan and Afghanistan found themselves on opposing sides, with Pakistan aligning with the United States and Afghanistan leaning towards the Soviet Union. These dynamics evolved with the end of the Cold War but still influence their relations today. Security concerns have been a significant factor in shaping Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. The porous border between the two countries has allowed for the movement of militants, exacerbating instability in the region. Afghanistan's support for certain militant groups have strained ties and contributed to a lack of trust between the two nations. In recent years, both countries have taken steps to address these concerns and enhance cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. The issue of Afghan refugees seeking asylum in Pakistan has been another critical aspect of the relationship. Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees over the years, creating both humanitarian challenges and socio-economic impacts. While the refugee influx has strained resources, it has also underscored the interconnectedness of the two societies and the need for

collaborative solutions. Economic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan hold great potential for fostering cooperation and stability. Trade routes connecting the two countries have historical significance, and both nations stand to benefit from enhanced economic integration. The Chaman and Torkham border crossings, as well as the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, represent opportunities to bolster economic relations and reduce dependency on volatile routes. Diplomatic efforts have been crucial in shaping Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. International actors, including the United States, China, and regional organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), have played roles in mediating and facilitating dialogue between the two countries. Bilateral talks, confidence-building measures, and cooperative agreements have aimed to address underlying issues and promote a stable regional environment. The future of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations remains complex and multifaceted. As Afghanistan navigates its post-conflict phase, both countries have an opportunity to redefine their relationship based on mutual respect, cooperation, and shared interests. The Afghan peace process, regional stability, and economic development should be central to their endeavors. Trust-building measures, enhanced intelligence-sharing, and joint efforts in countering terrorism can pave the way for a more stable and prosperous region.

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an extremist militant organization notorious for its violent and deadly activities, continues to cast a shadow of fear and insecurity over Pakistan. In recent times, the TTP has orchestrated a series of attacks that have targeted civilians, security forces, and public spaces, underscoring the urgency of confronting this menace. As Pakistan confronts the ongoing threat of terrorism, understanding the nature of TTP's recent attacks is crucial to formulating effective strategies to counter its destabilizing activities. Recent months have witnessed a disturbing surge in TTP-linked attacks across various regions of Pakistan. These attacks have targeted a wide range of locations, including marketplaces, religious sites, educational institutions, and security installations.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar

Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar is the 8th Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, lack of information about him. I don't know why there is more love for Balochistan, maybe because Balochi live in a tribal style like our area Talagang, and they bring sheep and goats, many of their things match our regional culture. In this context, prominent columnist Malik Fida ur Rehman shared his column according to which “He has close relations with Mr. Kakar and he had cooperated a lot in the publication of his book. Moreover, he is a very patriotic Pakistani and a fair friend. He cannot be bought against Pakistan and he is an undisputed figure.” More information about Caretaker Prime Minister from another source that he started his career as a school teacher where his salary was fixed only Rs.1700/- He is very hardworking person and believes in work. It is being told that he is the second self-made prime minister after Malik Meraj Khalid. I do not know this, but when Malik Meraj Khalid passed away, he did not even have a personal house in his name, his widow used to live in a rented house. When he was the prime minister, he was traveling in his private car in Lahore, the traffic got jammed, so he got out of the car and started traveling on foot. Numerous such examples are related to his modesty and humility.

Many good things are being heard about Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, the inhabitants of Balochistan are considered to have good traditions. In this regard, I used the book “Ajnabi apny des mein” of Syed Shoukat Ali Shah, a former bureaucrat and writer. His first posting as Assistant Commissioner was in Balochistan, he writes: “Baloch are pure-hearted, chaste, unconcerned with dangers, impoverished and proud to the point of self-righteousness. It is in the heart, it is the same on the tongue, if there is a dust in the heart, then there is a weapon in the hand. There, the thought of the chief will be the thought of the tribe. If you knock on the door Knock of his heart once with an open hand, it will open all the doors of heart and mind. Once take their happiness as your happiness, make their pain your pain, then see how they turn madly towards you. Every few tribes have the same role but the characters are different, the destination is the same but the paths are different, the aim

is common but the positions are different. Just as in a family there is an elder brother, younger brother and other relations who are often prone to mischief. Similarly, the mutual grudges of the tribes keep suppressing each other. If there is a threat from outside, they look united and if the issue is tribal supremacy, then enemies for each other. Some of them are ignorant of numerical numbers, some seem to be proud of their ancestors, some have made their motto to clash with the administration, and some have considered obstinacy as their dignity. In his time, Attaullah Khan Mengal was the chief of Balochistan. There are two types of Sardars in Balochistan, one who inherits the chieftainship and the other one who is awarded it as a reward. The first mentioned become chiefs according to the customs of the tribe and may acquire the position of chief on the basis of other administrative expedients. These are accidental productions. Internally the chief is the black and white master of his clan and every word from his tongue becomes the fate of the clan, externally his loyalties are tied to the Khan of Kalat. There are many tribes in Kalat division but the most famous and influential ones are Mengal, Zark Zai, Shahwani, Lehri, Bungle Zai, Raeesani and Muhammad Shahi. Each tribe has its own temperament which is reflected in the habits and manners of its chiefs. According to the data, the largest tribe is Zarkzai.

The current Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar belongs to the Kakar tribe, a Pashtun tribe that lives in Afghanistan and Balochistan. Balochistan is fortunate because a great port like Gawadar is located in this province. Gawadar has attracted worldwide attention. In the current caretaker set-up, where the Prime Minister is drawn from Balochistan, he is a lucky person that no political party has objected to him, so he is acceptable to all parties. Let's agree that this time the Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani, nominated Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faiz Essa also belongs to Balochistan while the Chairman Senate replacing the President of Pakistan will be the President. Where all these important positions of the state of Pakistan will help to end the deprivations of Balochistan and the feeling of inferiority of the Baloch brothers, then Balochistan can climb the ladder of development and become a unique place in the world.



Analysis

Shahid Awan

Xi urges actions to translate community with shared future for mankind into reality

Xinhua

JOHANNESBURG: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday calls for actions to translate the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind into reality.

Xi's appeal was made in a speech read out by Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao at the BRICS Business Forum 2023.

"Right now, changes in the world, in our times and in history are unfolding in ways like never before, bringing human society to a critical juncture," Xi warned in the speech titled Enhance Solidarity and Cooperation to Overcome Risks and Challenges and Jointly Build a Better World.

"Should we pursue cooperation and integration, or just succumb to division and confrontation? Should we work together to maintain peace and stability, or just sleepwalk into the abyss of a new Cold War? Should we embrace prosperity, openness and inclusiveness, or allow hegemonic and bullying acts to throw us into depression? Should we deepen mutual trust through exchanges and mutual learning, or allow hubris and prejudice to blind conscience?" Xi asked. "The course of history will be shaped by the choices we make."

Our world today has become a community with a shared future in which we all share a huge stake of survival, Xi said, noting that what people in various countries long for is "definitely not a new Cold War or a small exclusive bloc; what they want is an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys enduring peace, universal security and common pros-

perity."

Such is the logic of historical advance and the trend of our times, Xi stressed, urging all countries to uphold the correct views of the world, of history and of our overall interests.

"We need to promote development and prosperity for all," Xi said, adding that with perseverance, hard work and huge sacrifices, many emerging markets and developing countries succeeded in gaining independence, and "everything we do is to deliver better lives to our people."

"Every country has the right to development, and the people in every country have the freedom to pursue a happy life," Xi said, noting that China will work with all other countries to speed up cooperation under the Global Development Initiative, meet common challenges together and make life better for people across the world.

"We need to achieve universal security," Xi said, adding that only a commitment to a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security can lead to universal security.

China stands ready to jointly pursue the Global Security Initiative with all others, have dialogue and oppose confrontation, forge partnership but not alliance, and pursue win-win outcome and oppose zero-sum game, and work together to build a community of security, Xi added.

"We need to stay committed to exchanges among civilizations and mutual learning," Xi said, stressing that human civilization is colorful by nature, and deliberately creating division with the assertion of "democracy versus authoritarianism" and "liberal-



ism versus autocracy" can only split the world and lead to clash of civilizations.

China, Xi said, welcomes all other countries to get involved in cooperation under the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the common values of humanity, encourage different civilizations to bring out their best and flourish together, and renew human civilization.

The collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries represented by BRICS is fundamentally changing the global landscape, Xi stressed, noting that whatever resis-

tance there may be, BRICS, a positive and stable force for good, will continue to grow.

"We will forge stronger BRICS strategic partnership, expand the 'BRICS Plus' model, actively advance membership expansion, deepen solidarity and cooperation with other emerging markets and developing countries, promote global multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations, and help make the international order more just and equitable," Xi said.

Over 20 countries are knocking on

the door of BRICS and China hopes to see more joining the BRICS cooperation mechanism, according to Xi.

Noting that China stays committed to an independent foreign policy of peace and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, Xi said as a developing country and a member of the Global South, China breathes the same breath with other developing countries and pursues a shared future with them, and has resolutely upheld the common interests of developing countries and worked to increase the representation and voice

of emerging markets and developing countries in global affairs.

"Hegemonism is not in China's DNA; nor does China have any motivation to engage in major-power competition. China stands firmly on the right side of history, and believes that a just cause should be pursued for the common good," he added.

Xi pointed out that at present, Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, are advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization.

China enjoys several distinct advantages: a socialist market economy in systemic terms, a supersonic market in terms of demand, a full-fledged industrial system in terms of supply, and abundant, high-caliber labor force and entrepreneurs in terms of human resources, the Chinese president said, emphasizing that the Chinese economy has strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality, and the fundamentals sustaining China's long-term growth will remain unchanged.

China will remain an important opportunity for the world's development, Xi noted, saying China will remain firm in advancing high-standard opening-up, foster a world-class, market-oriented business environment governed by a sound legal framework, and build a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas.

As it endeavors to achieve modernization for its more than 1.4 billion people, China will surely contribute even more to the global economy and provide even more opportunities for the global business community, Xi said.

Cultural exchange activities on BRICS cooperation held in South Africa

Xinhua

JOHANNESBURG: A series of cultural and people-to-people exchange activities on BRICS cooperation were recently held in South Africa, with participants expressing the expectation that BRICS members can jointly contribute wisdom and strength to promoting a human community with a shared future through the implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative.

The BRICS is an acronym for five emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa assumed the BRICS presidency on Jan. 1, 2023, and the 15th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held on Aug. 22-24 in Johannesburg, the largest city in the country.

The BRICS Seminar on Governance and Cultural Exchange Forum 2023 was held in Johannesburg Saturday. Under the theme of "Implementing the Global Civilization Initiative, Joining Hands on the March Toward Modernization," the forum attracted more than 100 participants from all five



BRICS countries.

Noting that global challenges are emerging one after another, experts and scholars present at the forum said there is an urgent need to strengthen global solidarity and cooperation and to reform and improve the global governance system.

The BRICS Summit is expected to promote the building of a high-quality partner-

ship among member states, and pool more strength to advance South-South cooperation and build a human community with a shared future, said the participants.

Highlighting the importance of the Global Civilization Initiative, they said all the countries should uphold the vision of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclu-

siveness among civilizations, and enhance international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, so as to advance humanity's modernization process toward a brighter future.

The Sixth BRICS Media Forum, co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and the China Energy Investment Corporation as well as organizations

from South Africa, was held in Johannesburg at the weekend. About 200 representatives from around 100 media outlets, think tanks and international organizations from about 30 countries participated and held discussions under the theme of "BRICS and Africa: Strengthening Media Dialogue for a Shared and Unbiased Future."

Since its establishment in 2015, the BRICS Media Forum has become an important platform to enhance the voice of BRICS countries, said the participants.

The diverse cultures of the BRICS nations enrich the global conversations, said the representatives, adding that the BRICS media have demonstrated that the media should be committed to promoting world development, jointly advancing the building of a more just and equitable international order.

Other cultural and people-to-people exchange activities, including the South Africa-China film festival and the launching ceremony of the BRICS TV "TV China Theater," were also held in South Africa from Thursday to Saturday.

Called on



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Charge d' Affaires, Pang Chunxue, called on Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jilil Abbas Jilani today. They reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

First of 12 dialogues on sustainable development held in Bahawalpur

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today the first of a series of 12 dialogues on sustainable development was held in Bahawalpur, Punjab, by the United Nations and the district administration.

In total, more than 1,000 local leaders living in 12 major cities across six provinces and territories will discuss the development challenges which they face, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues will be held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan in the coming weeks.

"These dialogues will help United Nations agencies better understand which development issues local leaders see as their priorities outside of the federal and provincial capitals," said Julien Hameis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. "We are actively listening to their concerns and to their ideas for bringing about effective progress in their communities. They are telling us how they would like to work with us on accelerating progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty. We will share their ideas with the Government as we focus on returning to sustainable development."

In Bahawalpur, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: access to basic social services with a focus on education and water, sanitation and hygiene; youth employment and skilling; and how to progress towards inclusive, accountable and efficient governance.

Pakistani celebrates Independence Day in Columbus, US

Correspondent

KHARIAN: The Pakistani community celebrated the Independence Day of Pakistan with enthusiasm in the city of Columbus, Ohio, America. Jandanwala, Chaudhry Nesram Hajiwala, Chaudhry Nesram Barsa, Chaudhry Abdullah Barsa, Chaudhry Tanveer Kalachoor, Malik Saeed, Chaudhry Bashir Karadiwala, Haji Afzal Murali, Chaudhry Faisal Ilyas Murala, Chaudhry Zeshan Shoaib, Chaudhry Hasnain Jandanwala, Chaudhry Saif Jandanwala, Chaudhry Nasrullah Cheema, Amjad Baig, Arshad Ali and others were included. On this occasion, the Pakistani community tied the flag of Pakistan in America, sang national songs, congratulated each other on the Independence Day and prayed for the stability of Pakistan.



Peshawar High Court, UNDP to assess district legal aid in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Spokesman Report

SWAT: Peshawar High Court, Balochistan High Court, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan partnered to organize a two-day consultation workshop with the support of the European Union (EU) funded 'Deliver Justice Project.' The workshop brought together stakeholders from the justice sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to discuss challenges and opportunities faced by District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs) operating in these provinces.

DLECs were established in 2011 by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) to provide legal aid or assistance to deserving litigants. The District and Sessions Judge (Zilla Qazi) presides over DLECs and is entrusted with the following duties:

- Receiving applications for legal aid
- Appointing panels of lawyers to provide legal aid at



the district level Referring legal aid cases to DLEC panel lawyers

Allocating funds for free legal representation

Monitoring the quality of legal aid services

Originally designed to enhance access to justice and legal aid in Pakistan, the optimal utilization of DLECs as a legal aid solution is challenged by access issues impacted by poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, cultural and gender barriers, remote locations, and inadequate compensation for lawyers. Based on the recommendations from the baseline study conducted by

UNDP Pakistan's Rule of Law Programme between August 2021 and March 2022, as part of the EU-funded 'Deliver Justice Project', an evaluation of citizens' access to justice and legal aid in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan highlighted a crucial requirement for enhancing the service

delivery of DLECs. This enhancement aims to establish more sustainable and easily accessible legal aid services in Pakistan with a focus on marginalized groups, such as women, transgender individuals, and children.

Mr Malik Shoaib Sultan, Deputy Registrar, High Court of Balochistan, and Mr Arshid Jan, Deputy Programme Manager, Rule of Law Programme, UNDP Pakistan were the keynote speakers at the workshop. In his address, Mr Malik Shoaib Sultan, Deputy Registrar, High Court of Balochistan underlined, "Equal access to justice for all cannot be achieved without strengthening the role of DLECs in making legal aid more accessible to the citizens in Pakistan."

Mr Arshid Jan, Deputy Programme Manager, Rule of Law Programme, UNDP Pakistan, affirmed, "A necessary prerequisite for the rule of law is everyone having access to justice regardless of their gender, age, and socio-economic status."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
47,418.63	47,417.90	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
47,588.23	47,007.65	
Index Value	Change	
7,704,288,884	+0.73	
Percentage	Time	
0%	23 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,320.53	+49.77	
Percentage	Time	
+0.68%	23 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,461.04	+172.21	
Percentage	Time	
+0.50%	23 Aug, 2:21 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
32,010.26	+153.55	
Percentage	Time	
+0.48%	23 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	792.97	800.97
Canadian Dollar	230	232.3
China Yuan	41.01	41.41
Danish Krone	43.36	43.76
Euro	338	341.3
Hong Kong Dollar	37.85	38.2
Indian Rupee	3.57	3.68
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.27
Kuwaiti Dinar	967.24	976.24
Malaysian Ringgit	63.83	64.43
New Zealand \$	177.29	179.29
Norwegians Krone	28.04	28.34
Omani Riyal	774.65	782.65
Qatari Riyal	81.91	82.61
Saudi Riyal	83.2	84
Singapore Dollar	221	223
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	338.8	341.3
Thai Bhat	8.19	8.34
U.A.E Dirham	85.2	86
UK Pound Sterling	397.1	401
US Dollar	313	316

IT and solar sectors have potential to pull the economy out of ICU

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the IT and solar industries can play a fundamental role in raising the country's economy from its death bed.

IT exports can be increased to 25 billion dollars, for which the problems of this sector have to be solved, it has to be developed, and the tax burden has to be reduced, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that apart from this, the taxes raised on the internet have to be withdrawn because the internet is closely linked to the internet.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan and India gained independence together, Pakistanis are more qualified than Indians,

and better results can be achieved by training them.

Presently, India's IT exports are 194 billion dollars, while Pakistan's IT exports are about two billion dollars. The size of our economy is 375 billion dollars, which is shrinking rapidly, while the size of India's economy has increased to more than 3750 billion dollars, which is growing at a rate of 6.7%, he informed.

The business leader said that dozens of countries are trading with India in its currency, while people in Pakistan are not ready to trust their own currency, due to which the dollarization of the economy is increasing.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that if we compare the area and population of India, our IT exports should be at least \$25 billion. If the right policies are adopted, we will not have to constantly beg the IMF and friendly countries for a few billion dollars.

He furthered that we have always ignored the requirements of the modern age, due to



which IT, solar power, wind power, and many other sectors could not develop with time, and everyone tries his luck in the property business or buys a plot.

The property sector is getting more atten-

tion and resources than it deserves; therefore, the prices have jumped a lot, and now it has become impossible for the common man to own a house, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that India is quietly setting new records in the solar sector. Currently, 70,000 megawatts of electricity are being generated from solar resources in India, which is 15% of its total production, while the production of solar energy in Pakistan is only 1.16%.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in 2001, India's exports were sixty billion dollars, which have now reached 770 billion dollars, while our exports are below 30 billion dollars.

Our rulers are following the policy of increasing exports by raising slogans instead of better and more practical policies, the result of which is in front of everyone.

Even in schools where computer education is necessary, emphasis is placed on reading books instead of practical, he said.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Federal care taker health minister presenting souvenir shield to Chief executive officer UK Health security Agency.



PPL funds E-Skills IT training for deserving students at Akhuwat



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), a leading Corporate Social Responsibility programme, remains committed to investing in capacity building of country's youth, particularly the deserving. This initiative by Akhuwat is aligned with the company's focus of provision of Vocation Skills to underprivileged and empowering them for sustainable livelihood generation.

The 6-month residential programme will cater to 25 students who will be selected for training from PPL's production area communities. Earlier, PPL donated Rs. 6 million for a science laboratory at Akhuwat College in Kasur to facilitate hands-on science-based teaching and learning and for free-of-cost quality education to deserving youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Abbasy highlighted that PPL, through its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, remains committed to investing in capacity building of country's youth, particularly the deserving. This initiative by Akhuwat is aligned with the company's focus of provision of Vocation Skills to underprivileged and empowering them for sustainable livelihood generation.

Founded in 2001, Akhuwat is a non-profit organization that focuses on supporting the deserving through interest-free micro finance, free-of-cost quality education and healthcare and other socioeconomic measures.

MD and CEO PPL Mr. Imran Abbasy presented the donation cheque of Rs. 10 million to Chief Operating Officer, Akhuwat, Mr. Rehan Hussain at PPL Head Office on August 23.

ICCI urges CDA to develop G-11 Markaz as a Model Market

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) urged the CDA to develop the G-11 Markaz as a model market that would facilitate the traders in promoting trade activities. He said that the Chamber is working with CDA for the better development of the markets and the issues of various markets have also been forwarded to the Chairman CDA in writing for redress. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with the Traders Welfare Association, G-11 Markaz in resolving key issues of its members. He expressed these views while congratulating the newly elected office bearers of the Market Association of G-11 Markaz during a visit to their market along with a delegation of ICCI. Naem Akhtar Awan President, Farrukh Khan, Secretary General, Chaudhry Aftab Group Leader, Raja Amin Chairman of Traders Welfare Association, G-11 Markaz, Islamabad and others were present on the occasion.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that the Office Bearers of Market Associations are playing an important role in solving the problems of the traders. They even sacrifice their business and family responsibilities to serve the cause of traders, which is commendable. He said that in order to recognize the valuable services



of the Office Bearers Market Associations, ICCI had organized an award ceremony for them in which the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf was the chief guest. He said that ICCI will continue to take steps to recognize the role of Office Bearers of Markets in the future also.

Naem Akhtar Awan, President and Farrukh Khan, Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association G-11 Markaz, Islamabad said that due to the inattention of CDA and MCI, their market is deprived of the basic facilities and traders are facing many problems. They stressed for a parking facility, carpeting of roads, repair of footpaths, installation of a filtration plant

and construction of public toilets in the G-11 Markaz to facilitate the traders.

Ch. Aftab Gujjar, Group Leader welcomed the ICCI delegation to their market. He said that ICCI is a big brother for them and they would work with the Chamber to address issues of traders. He said that Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Bakhtawari have rendered great services for the business community and they would work with them to make Islamabad a business-friendly city.

Raja Muhammad Imtiaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rahman Khan, Rao Faisal, Zafar Gujjar, Nasir Chaudhry, Chaudhry Irfan, Zarif Khan, Zia Chaudhry, Waseem Chaudhry and others were in the ICCI delegation.

JS Bank reports robust growth in H1 2023, profit after tax grows by 254%

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: JS Bank, one of the fastest-growing banks in Pakistan unveiled its financial performance for the first half of 2023. The report underscores a trajectory of growth across multiple financial indicators.

During the first half of the year, the Bank recorded a significant increase of 231% in profit before tax and 254% in profit after tax, compared to the same period last year. The increased profitability is primarily a result of improvement in the deposit mix. Non-Remunerative Deposits increased by 17% YoY resulting in the share of Non-Remunerative in Total Deposits increasing to 36% from 30% in the same period last year.

The Bank's commitment to technological advancement and customer experience continued to drive digital adoption, with a 35% surge in mobile application usage, resulting in a remarkable 191% increase in transaction volume. Furthermore, JS Bank's digital wing witnessed a remarkable 79% growth in the utilization of JS BOT, a personal WhatsApp banking assistant, with over 1.1 million hits for key digital services.

In addition, the Bank's fintech offering, Zindigi, catered to an ever-increasing user base of 3.6 million active customers with a 57% increase in transaction

volume in the first half of the year. The growth comes as a result of continuous innovative offerings including digital payments and loans, stocks and mutual funds, and a premium debit card proposition.

From the product standpoint, more than 7000 credit card customers were acquired so far this year, which was aided by the introduction of instant cash-back in four categories; fuel, grocery, utilities, and education. This caused an exponential impact on the card proposition and increased the spending by 61%, resulting in a growth of 18% in ENR (end-net receivables) as compared to that of last year.

Basir Shamsie, President and CEO, JS Bank, commented, "The success from the first half of the year is a testament to our customers' trust and the unwavering commitment and dedication of our teams. We remain committed to setting high standards as we pursue our vision of leadership in Pakistan's financial services landscape."

Committed to its role as a catalyst toward Pakistan's prosperity, JS Bank remains focused on its mission to innovate and expand. By offering a blend of conventional and cutting-edge digital financial solutions, the Bank is well-positioned to continue its positive impact in the coming years.

foodpanda and Heal Aid Foundation join forces to support hardworking delivery riders

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: foodpanda, Pakistan's leading delivery platform, has teamed up with Heal Aid Foundation to extend support and appreciation to its dedicated delivery riders. As part of this collaboration, Heal Aid Foundation has generously donated 50 White Cards to a select group of foodpanda delivery riders who meet specific eligibility criteria.

Heal Aid Foundation's remarkable project, the White Card-Financial Assistance for the Lower Middle Class, is aimed at providing discreet and dignified support to individuals in need. Through this initiative, eligible recipients receive a gift card or a cash-topped-up card with a specific amount, empowering them to meet their basic needs without compromis-



ing their dignity. This approach offers a convenient and portable means of assistance, distinguishing it from traditional methods such as distributing ration bags or direct cash handouts.

Syed M. Ahmed, Director General Heal Aid Foundation expressed his dedication to the cause, stating, "At Heal Aid Foundation, our mission is to provide discreet assistance to the educated middle class, preserving their dignity while supporting their basic needs. The White Card initiative empowers individuals to shop with confidence and ensures the confidentiality of their assistance." CEO foodpanda, Muntaqa Peracha also shared his gratitude, commenting, "We are immensely grateful to join hands with Heal Aid Foundation and appreciate their generous contribution to our hardworking delivery riders. These riders play a crucial role in our daily operations, and this collaboration reflects our commitment to recognizing and supporting their efforts."

Pakistan to face Australia, New Zealand in warm-up fixtures of World Cup

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan will face Australia, and New Zealand in warm-up fixtures of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India next month, as ICC announced the official warm-up fixtures for the mega-event.

The 10 teams will each play two official 50-over contests during the week leading up to the start of the World Cup on October 5, with matches to be held in three different cities across India.

The matches will be held in Guwahati, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram between Friday 29 September and Tuesday 3 October and will provide teams with the perfect opportunity to acclimatise to the conditions they are expected to face during the World Cup.

On the opening day of warm-up fixtures Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in Guwahati, South Africa will tackle Afghanistan in Thiruvananthapuram and New Zealand will face Pakistan in Hyderabad.



Hosts India will battle it out against reigning champions England the following day in Guwahati, while five-time winners Australia will be looking for some valuable practice when they play the Netherlands in Thiruvananthapuram on the same day.

All games will commence at 2:00 pm IST and teams will be allowed to field all members of their 15-player squads during the matches.

World Cup warm-up fixtures:
Friday 29 September

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka, Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati
South Africa v Afghanistan, Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram
New Zealand v Pakistan, Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad
Saturday 30 September
India v England, Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati
Australia v Netherlands, Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram
Monday 2 October
England v Bangladesh, Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati
New Zealand v South Africa, Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram
Tuesday 3 October
Afghanistan v Sri Lanka, Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Guwahati
India v Netherlands, Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram
Pakistan v Australia, Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad

A great loss to the Sepaktakraw community

Sports Desk

BANGKOK: It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Maj Gen Charouk Arirachakaran, the President of the International Sepaktakraw Federation (ISTAF) and Honorary President of the Asian

Sepaktakraw Federation (ASTAF). A visionary leader, an ardent advocate for the sport, and a driving force behind its global growth, President Charouk's untimely demise leaves a void that will be deeply felt across the Sepaktakraw world.

Maj Gen Charouk Arirachakaran was not just a President; he was a trailblazer who played an instrumental role in shaping the development and progress of Sepaktakraw on the international stage. His leadership was marked by unwavering dedication, an astute understanding of the sport, and an

unmatched commitment to its ideals.

President Charouk's journey in Sepaktakraw began during the sport's nascent days, when he actively participated in its formation and establishment as a global entity. His contributions spanned decades, during which he worked tirelessly to foster unity and collaboration among nations, athletes, and stakeholders.

His vision extended beyond the boundaries of the sport itself, as evidenced by his role as the Vice President-Executive Board of the Olympic Council of Asia.

Through this role, he championed the integration of Sepaktakraw into the broader Olympic movement, recognizing its cultural significance and competitive excellence.

Under President Charouk's guidance, the International Sepaktakraw Federation achieved unprec-



edented milestones, including increased global recognition, expanded participation, and enhanced standards of excellence. His visionary initiatives, coupled with his personal passion for the sport, have left an indelible mark on Sepaktakraw's history.

As we mourn the loss of a great leader, we also acknowledge the countless lives President Charouk touched through his mentorship, guidance, and camaraderie. His legacy will contin-

ue to inspire future generations of

Sepaktakraw enthusiasts, athletes, and administrators.

International Sepaktakraw Federation Secretary General Dato Abdul Halim Bin Kader BBM, Noushad Ahmed Khan Secretary General Pakistan Sepaktakraw Federation, Ahmed Ali Rajput Associate Secretary General Pakistan Olympic Association, Dr. Muhammad Arif Hafeez, Shabbir Ahmed, Sardar Muhammad Khan and others officials of Pakistan Sepaktakraw Federation expresses its deepest condolences to President Charouk's family, Takraw Association of Thailand (TAT), and all those who were fortunate to know and work with him. In honor of his memory, we are committed to carrying forward his vision and dedication, ensuring that his legacy remains an enduring force within the Sepaktakraw community.

PFF names 23-member squad for SAFF U-16 championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) on Wednesday, announced a 23-member squad for the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 to be held in Bhutan next month. The Green Shirts will kick off their campaign against home side Bhutan on September 1 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu. While, in their second game, they will face Maldives at the same venue on September 3.

Pakistan Squad for SAFF Under-16 Championship

Defenders: Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Hasnain Saleem, Najem Khan, Sameer Ahmed, Obaidullah Khan, Majid Ali, Syed Mohammad Abis Raza, and Umar Javed.

Midfielders: Abdul Samad, Mohammad Faraz, Farhad, Haroon Rashid, Hikmatullah, Khabib Khan, M. Shahab Ahmed and Muhammad Khan.

Forwards: Abdul Ghani, Hasnain Wali Raza, Subhan Karim and Syed Kabir Ali Shah
Goalkeepers: Adil Ali Khan, Balach Khan and Ghulam Abbas.

The 2023 SAFF U-16 Championship is the 8th edition of the tournament and will be played from September 1 to September 10 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Cricket fans of the city of (Saint) Multan are fully ready to host the Asia Cricket Tournament



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the cricket fans of the city of Auliya are fully ready to host the Asia Cricket Tournament. The district administration has started a series of ideal arrangements for the cricket fans on the stadium and routes. The Deputy Commissioner said that peaceful. A security red alert will be kept for holding a cricket match in the environment. He expressed these views yesterday while presiding over the meeting of the district departments held at the Deputy Commissioner Office. CPO Multan Mansoorul Haque Rana and Additional Deputy Commissioner General. Abida Farid also participated in the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that in view of the large number of fans participating in the cricket match, a special shuttle bus service will be run.

While a fool-proof parking system will be implemented outside the stadium. The Deputy Commissioner directed all the district departments to play their full role for the successful organization of the cricket match. On this occasion, CPO Mansoorul Haque Rana said that The police force is fully prepared to deal with any unpleasant situation. For the successful organization of the international cricket match, the police force will maintain the atmosphere of peace and order with full capabilities. A special briefing was also given in this regard.

Very much alive': Heath Streak debunks death rumours



A Sports

LAHORE: Hours after announcing Zimbabwe cricketer Heath Streak's death on X (formerly Twitter), his former teammate Henry Olunga said in a second post that the legend is alive.

Olunga said in his new post that "rumours of Streak's death were greatly exaggerated" and that he had heard from him.

In the conversation, Heath Streak affirmed that he is "alive and well" and politely asked Henry to remove the earlier update regarding his supposed demise.

Earlier taking to X, Oleaga wrote: "Sad news coming through that Heath Streak has crossed to the other side. RIP Zimbabwean cricket legend."

"The greatest all-rounder we produced. It was a pleasure playing with you."

The all-rounder is the all-time leading test wicket-taker for his country. He took 216 wickets and scored 1,990 runs in 65 tests between 1993-2005. He also played in 189 one-day internationals, scoring 2,943 runs and taking 239 wickets.

Heath Streak has also served as the head coach of Zimbabwe, as well as the bowling coach of Bangladesh and two-time Indian Premier League (IPL) winners Kolkata Knight Riders.

In 2021 he was given an eight-year ban from the sport after admitting breaches of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption code. He took "full responsibility" for his actions but said he was never involved in any attempts to fix matches.

Streak, who was diagnosed with colon and liver cancer, saw his condition deteriorate in May, prompting his family to hospitalise him immediately.

Haris Rauf advances in ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has moved up to occupy a career-best 36th position in the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings after ripping through Afghanistan's batting lineup in their opening fixture of a three-match series being played in Sri Lanka.

Rauf's haul of five for 18 in Hambantota that helped dismiss Afghanistan for just 59 in 19.2 overs in reply to Pakistan's total of 201, has lifted him seven places and past his previous best 42nd position attained in May this year, said the information made available here on Wednesday by the ICC.

Afghanistan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rehman, who has enjoyed a career-best ranking of second in the past, has advanced three places to third position after returning figures of three for 33.

Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq, who top-scored in the match with 61 runs, has gained one slot to reach third position in the batting rankings while Mohammad Rizwan has progressed three places to 58th position.

In this week's T20I rankings update, that takes into account performances in the three-match United Arab Emirates versus New Zealand series and the first two matches of the series between Ireland and India, New Zealand batter Mark Chapman has advanced eight places to 24th position after aggregating 129 runs.

Vriitya Anand of the UAE has gained five places to reach 56th position among batters while left-arm spinner Aayan Afzal Khan is up 62 places to 116th in the bowling rankings.

India captain Jaspreet Bumrah and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi have prospered after bagging two wickets each in the two matches. Bumrah has moved from 91st to 84th position while Bishnoi has gone up from 82nd to 65th.

Ireland batter Andrew Balbirnie is up four places to 61st position after scoring 72 in the second match against India while Curtis Campher is up 10 places to 70th.

Pakistan blunt Australia to reach World Blind Games final

Sports Desk

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan blind cricket team on Wednesday, booked their spot in the final of the ongoing International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Blind Games with a resounding six-wicket victory over Australia.

Opting to bat first, Australia's batting lineup failed completely and could only accumulate 107 runs before being bundled out in the final over.

Australia's opening pair of M Cameron and M McCarthy scripted a decent start for their side with a brilliant 53-run stand.

The pair, however, found it hard to score freely against a



disciplined Pakistan bowling attack before the Australian captain faltered.

Muhammad Salman provided a much-needed breakthrough to the Pakistan blind

cricket team by casting McCarthy, who could score 19 off 27 deliveries.

His dismissal opened the floodgates and Australia soon ran into a collapse.

Cameron, however, stood his ground firm and kept the scoreboard ticking singlehandedly while losing partners at the other end.

He waged a lone battle for Australia with a cautious 41 from 47 balls.

Besides the openers, none of the Australian batters could make it to the double figures.

Matiullah, Israr Hassan and Fakhar Abbas bagged two wickets each for Pakistan blind cricket team while Muhammad Salman and Muhammad Asif struck out a batter apiece.

Chasing a modest 108, Pakistan comfortably recorded their third consecutive victory in the tournament for the loss of just three wickets and 33 balls to

spare.

Mohsin Khan spearheaded Pakistan run chase with a 35-ball 37, hitting a boundary while Matiullah scored an unbeaten 23.

Besides them, Moain Aslam (15) and Zafar Iqbal (12) made notable contributions.

Their third consecutive victory powered the Pakistan blind cricket team to book their spot in the final.

The Green Shirts, however, next face England in their last group match on Thursday.

Notably, Pakistan kick-started their World Blind Games campaign with an 18-run victory over arch-rivals India before handing a seven-wicket thrashing to Bangladesh on Tuesday.

Al Nassr come from behind to snatch Asian Champions League spot

News Desk

LAHORE: Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr qualified for the Asian Champions League group stage after they secured an injury-time victory against Shabab Al Ahli in Riyadh on Tuesday.

The Saudi Pro League side came from behind to triumph 4-2 in the play-off at Mrsool Park, with Brazilian Anderson Talisca scoring twice and Croatia international Marcelo Brozovic rounding off the win.

Al Nassr had been two minutes from exiting the tournament.

The result means Al Nassr, runners-up domestically last season, move into the group phase, which begins next month.

Cristiano Ronaldo, a five-time UEFA Champions League winner, was making his debut in Asian football's top club competition after signing for the Riyadh club last December.

Al Nassr opened the scoring in 11 minutes when Taslicia headed home a Brozovic corner. However, Yahya Al Ghassani levelled for UAE champions Shabab Al Ahli seven minutes later, the winger slotting the ball into the Nassr net after the Dubai side countered.

Cristiano Ronaldo, 38, left the pitch at half-time clearly frustrated and could be seen arguing with the referee. The Portuguese star, the Nassr captain, believed he should have had two penalties in the first half.



Then, one minute after half-time, Al Ghassani raced clear of the Al Nassr defence to flick the ball over Nawaf Al Aqidi and put Shabab Al Ahli in front.

However, Al Nassr equalised with two minutes of normal time remaining, when full-back Sultan Al Ghannam's header was diverted into his own goal by Walid