



Sultan urges world to take cognizance of worsening HR situation in IIOJK

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmoob Chaudhry Saturday urged the international community to take immediate cognizance of the worsening situation of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). (Details on Page 5)



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took part in the BRICS Summit

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev participated via videoconference in the BRICS Plus Dialogue, which took place within the framework of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg. The President of Kazakhstan attended the forum as the current Chairman of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. At the beginning of his speech, the Head of State expressed gratitude to President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa for the invitation... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with a delegation of Harvard University students in on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Caretaker govt to focus on revenue generation: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that the interim government would focus more on rationalizing the expenditures, generations of revenue and development of human resource during its short constitutional period. Talking to a delegation of students from Howard University US, the prime minister said that in Pakistan, about nine percent population was contributing towards GDP with their taxes. How to bring the undocumented economy, people in the tax net and how to invest in the human resources would be broadly focused during the short period of the caretaker government,

he added. The prime minister said Pakistan was gifted with the natural resources and was a country of talented people. He said the government was focusing to produce the high-tech educated and skilled human resource and cited a couplet of Allama Iqbal in which he had hinted the importance of human resource through individual and collective efforts. "Pakistani diaspora in the US is a success story itself," he said, adding the Americans knew the Pakistanis who were contributing in their society. A delegation of the Harvard University, comprising 38 students from nine different nationalities, is currently on a visit

to Pakistan. Responding to a question, the prime minister said Pakistan had been the biggest victim of climate disaster which was a global issue. The climate change had become an existential threat, he added. He opined that the world viewed the US as a big power but at the same time, expected it to turn itself into a green power. Appreciating the progress achieved by the American society, he said the diversification in the US country was an example for other countries to follow, adding their society was tolerant and what the US had produced in the domains of knowledge and skills was amazing. The caretaker prime minister said the other countries ought to

learn from it for their own benefits. Replying to a query, the prime minister elaborated the role played by Pakistan during the former USSR and Afghanistan war and the subsequent events in the region. He said Pakistan had contributed hugely towards the global peace and economy. They had faced a lot of challenges in the past as the two powers of the world; the US and Russia, had been in its milieu which had implications, he added. PM Kakar, explaining a viewpoint, said that priorities by different governments in Pakistan kept on changing, but they did have visions and tried to visualize those visions. He also deliberated upon the history and creation of

Pakistan. The prime minister, to another question, said that democracy gave strength to parliament and mentioned that in Pakistan, in the last fifteen years, three successive democratic governments had completed their tenures. "Democracy is a process. We are committed to the performance and participatory process of democracy," he said. The prime minister also underscored the importance of continuation of the social order and the maintenance of rule of law. He said that Pakistan had been positively engaged with the US on different issues, adding there were also conversion and diversion between the both countries on various global issues.

President urges business community to promote brand Pakistan



Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a resounding call for trustworthiness and the advancement of 'Made in Pakistan' goods, President Arif Alvi Saturday here urged the business community to work harder for brand Pakistan. He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Made in Pakistan' movement. President Alvi stressed the vital importance of honesty and trust in all commercial endeavors, both domestically and abroad. He lauded the track record of Pakistani products that had achieved international acclaim through the addition of value to their original forms, emphasizing the potential for global promotion of 'Made in Pakistan' items. President Alvi asked business leaders and the youth of Pakistan to take an active role in rectifying societal issues and advocating for local products.

He called upon Pakistani society to prioritize 'Made in Pakistan' products over foreign alternatives as a means of promoting domestic manufacturing and reducing the nation's import bills. In a call to action, the President urged coordinated efforts to promote charity and philanthropy, advocating for a shift away from wealth accumulation. He made it clear that Islam does not endorse the accumulation of wealth as a primary pursuit. He said that the rich should help the needy people. The ceremony was attended by the distinguished figures including Rizwan Jaffar, the founder of the 'Made in Pakistan' movement and the first Youth Parliament, as well as prominent businessmen and CEO of TDAP, alongside the Secretary of TDAP, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, and other esteemed business leaders and notables.

Maryam Nawaz to release secret audio tapes during election campaign: sources

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The senior vice president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) - Maryam Nawaz - is to release secret audio tapes of prominent figures during the election campaign, ARY News reported on Saturday. Prior to the upcoming general election in the country, the PML-N leadership held a meeting in London and decided to adopt an aggressive stance against certain individuals. The meeting decided that the retaliatory actions in the election campaign would be brought forward in the form of a documentary. The party sources stated that in the election campaign, the PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif will focus on the character of Ex-CJP Saqib Nisar and others' role behind the

maneuvers against the party, and PML-N vice-president Maryam Nawaz will release confidential audios of prominent figures during the election campaign. During the meeting of PML-N leadership, it was decided that the people responsible for the economic and political turmoil would be placed on Panama JIT including Qamar Bajwa, Faiz Hameed, and Javed Iqbal. It was decided in the meeting that Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz will reveal the secret motives and conspiracies against them and would conduct a vigorous social media and electronic media campaign before their return to the country. Sources stated that the alliance or seat adjustment from any political party, is solely PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif's decision.

PM Kakar summons emergency meeting over power price, consumers' bills

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has summoned an emergency meeting on Sunday over the price of electricity and consumers' bills. The prime minister has directed the ministry of energy and the power distribution companies to present detailed briefing over the issue, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Saturday. The meeting would mull over provision of maximum relief to the masses over electricity bills. Separately, on his X handle, the prime minister posted that he summoned an emergency meeting over these issues in the PM House and would hold consultations to provide maximum relief to power consumers.

Ji announces protest across Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Jamaat Islami (JI) announced protest in markets across Karachi against the inflated power bills on Monday. As per details, the JI consultation meeting decided to hold protests in markets at the same time across Karachi. The meeting also announced that in the next step, the JI will hold a sit-in out government house and shutter down protests in Karachi markets. However, the date of shutter down and protest will be announced later after the party meeting. On Friday, people from all walks of life took to the streets in Karachi, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Peshawar, Toba Tek Singh and other areas against exorbitant power bills. Read more: PM convenes emergency



meeting after protests erupt against inflated electricity bills. In Karachi, the Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan Muslim League-Functional, Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan and city's trader community strongly criticized the government for paying no heed to the plight of the ordinary people. In Rawalpindi, a large number of people protested at Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh against the high electricity bills. In Attock, people closed the main highway, disrupting traffic between Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Protesters in KP's Peshawar also set fire to utility bills and chanted slogans against the government. The severe reaction led caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar to call an emergency meeting at the Prime Minister's House tomorrow (Sunday).

British envoy meets Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee chairman

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad on Saturday welcomed British High Commissioner Jane Marriott at the Badshahi Mosque and shed light on its historical significance and architectural beauty. Maulana Azad who is also the Khateeb and Imam of Badshahi Mosque, extended warm greetings and focused on matters of mutual interest. The recent tragic incident in Jaranwala was also discussed during the meeting. Maulana Azad highlighted the role of religious leaders and scholars of various faiths in the context of the Jaranwala incident. He emphasized the importance of safeguarding the rights of minorities and assured that Islam guarantees the protection of minority rights.



FIA grills PTI chairman in Attock jail

News Desk

ATTOCK: Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) grilled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister in Cypher case in Attock jail. As per details, PTI chief has been officially included in the FIA investigation in cypher case. The FIA team headed by Deputy

Director Ayaz grilled PTI chief in Attock jail for one hour. Earlier, a first information report (FIR) was registered against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan and vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi, for 'deliberately missing a copy of the diplomatic cypher', has come to light. The first information report

(FIR) - a copy of which is available with ARY News - was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act. It was registered on the complaint of Home Secretary. Read more: 'Missing' cypher copy: FIR registered against PTI chief, Qureshi comes to light. Former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister

Shah Mehmood Qureshi were nominated in the report, while names of former principal secretary Azam Khan and former planning minister Asad Umar were also mentioned. It is pertinent to mention here that Azam Khan, ex-principal secretary to the PTI chairman and former prime minister made startling revelations

and claimed that the former PM used US cypher for his 'political gains' and to avert a no-confidence motion against him. PTI chief, who had earlier been "missing" since last month, suddenly appeared before the scene and made startling revelations about US cypher, while recording his statement under the CrPC 164 before a magistrate.

Qureshi challenges physical remand in IHC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has challenged his physical remand in the Islamabad High Court. Former foreign minister has filed a petition against physical remand granted by a special court to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in a case pertaining to a diplomatic cipher that reportedly went missing from the PTI's ex-prime minister. Shah Mehmood Qureshi has pleaded to the court to declare the trial court's August



20, 21 and 25 decision as void. He pleaded to the high court to send him on judicial remand after declaring the physical remand decision as void. "With malicious intent and connivance of the federal government the case has been against me. I didn't receive the cipher telegram, neither shared its transcript with a person," he pleaded.

Media briefing

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister Murtaza Solangi along with Secretary Power Division Rashid Langrial briefing the media persons regarding the issue of increase in electricity bills on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Solangi, Power Division Secretary briefs media on electricity tariff

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi along with Federal Secretary of the Power Division Rashid Mahmood Langrial held a media briefing on Saturday to explain the current state of electricity tariffs. At the outset of the briefing with anchorpersons and bureau chiefs from various media outlets, the minister acknowledged the difficulties faced by the people due to the escalating electricity prices. In response, Caretaker Prime

Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had called a high-level meeting on Sunday to address concerns related to electricity pricing, he added. He said all stakeholders within the power sector would participate in the meeting. The Secretary of the Power Division informed the media that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) determined electricity tariffs using three distinct methodologies. The three-month tariff adjustment was meant for new power plants, he said, adding electricity prices were subject to fluctu-

ations based on the Consumer Price Index. Moreover, he elaborated on the necessity of tariff alterations due to the upsurge in KIBOR rates. However, fuel price adjustments also impacted electricity costs. In the fiscal year 2023, the tariff was initially set at Rs 195 per dollar, but the value of the dollar surged to Rs284.

"We initially aimed to set the price of RNLG at Rs 3,183 per MMBTU, however, the actual price ranged between Rs 3,000 and Rs 3,800," he noted. Similarly, the secretary said the price range for imported coal

fell between Rs 51,000 and Rs 61,000 per metric ton.

He further disclosed that a staggering Rs 2 trillion would be exclusively allocated to capacity payments in the upcoming year. The increase in electricity tariffs predominantly affected consumers utilizing more than 400 units, he said, adding the tariff remained unchanged for 63.5 per cent of domestic consumers. For 31.6 per cent of domestic consumers, he said electricity prices saw an uptick of up to Rs 6.5 per unit.

Notably, a tariff of Rs 7.5 per

unit was only applied to 4.9 per cent of domestic consumers, he added. Langrial asserted that the average tariff increase for domestic consumers stood at Rs 3.82. "In July 2022, the highest recorded electricity tariff was Rs 31.02 per unit," he affirmed, also revealing that by August

2023, the price had increased to only Rs 33.89 per unit. He confirmed that the facility of free electricity units to DISCO officers would be discontinued, emphasizing that the burden was not being transferred to regular bill-paying individuals.

Caretaker CM chairs LDA governing body meeting

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi took another laudable step for the facilitation of citizens. LDA will provide documents or NOCs to the citizens at their door steps who will submit their applications. On the special direction of CM Mohsin Naqvi, LDA has launched a delivery service of documents "Dastak" at the houses of citizens. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over LDA Governing Body meeting in which approval was granted to the delivery of documents programme at the houses of applicants. The documents will be provided free of cost at the houses of elderly applicants of more than 75 years



of age. To launch the delivery service of documents to the applicants residing in other cities was reviewed during

the meeting. Approval was granted during the meeting to establish the M&R Directorate in TEPA. Approval was

granted to install billboards on the property of LDA and the report of a committee to impose afresh sewerage trunk

infrastructure charges was reviewed in the meeting. The committee being constituted to review afresh sewerage and drainage charges in the big private localities submitted its report. It was decided during the meeting that College Road will also be constructed along with the Akbar Chowk fly over. The amended PCI was granted approval during the meeting to include construction and extension of College Road in the project. Administrative affairs of the newly constructed sports complex was also reviewed in the meeting. Chief Secretary, Members of LDA Governing Body, Chairman P&D, Secretaries of Finance, Housing, Local government, Commissioner/ DG LDA and concerned officials attended the meeting.

What is India's next space mission after Chandrayaan-3?

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the heels of the success of the Chandrayaan-3 moon landing, India's space agency has set a date for its next mission - this time to study the sun.

The Aditya-L1, India's first space observatory for solar research, is getting ready for launch at the country's main spaceport in Sriharikota, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told reporters at its satellite command centre this week, as scientists and crew celebrated the moon mission's success.

"We are planning to launch in the first week of September," said ISRO chairman S. Somanath.

Named after the Hindi word for the sun, the spacecraft is India's first space-based solar probe. It aims to study solar winds, which can cause disturbance on earth and are commonly seen as "auroras".



Longer term, data from the mission could help better understand the sun's impact on earth's climate patterns. Recently, researchers said the European Space Agency/

NASA Solar Orbiter spacecraft had detected numerous relatively small jets of charged particles expelled intermittently from the corona - the sun's outer atmosphere -

which could help shed light on the origins of solar wind. Hitting a ride on India's heavy-duty launch vehicle, the PSLV, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft will travel 1.5 million km

in about four months to study the sun's atmosphere.

It will head to a kind of parking lot in space where objects tend to stay put because of balancing gravitational forces, reducing fuel consumption for the spacecraft.

Those positions are called Lagrange Points, named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange.

In 2019, the government sanctioned the equivalent of about \$46 million for the Aditya-L1 mission. ISRO has not given an official update on costs.

The Indian space agency has earned a reputation for world-beating cost competitiveness in space engineering that executives and planners expect will boost its now-privatised space industry.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission, which landed a spacecraft on the lunar south pole, had a budget of about \$75 million.

Protection, security of masses, country among govt's top priorities: PM

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday said that protection and security of the country and nation, besides maintaining secure environment for the public, were among the top priorities of the government.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review the law and order situation in the country, especially in Balochistan province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Ministers Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Shahid Ashraf Tarrar, Sami Saeed, Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mardan Khan Domki and the senior civil and military officials.

During the meeting, the prime minister also stressed upon further improvement of legislative framework with regard to strengthening of the state response on securi-



ty matters.

He also reiterated that people would be provided with the financial and economic opportunities at the federal and provincial levels, adding for the effective utilization of resources, the formulation of latest and innovative strategy was indispensable.

The prime minister also lauded role of the provincial government and the law enforcement agencies for maintaining law and order situation in the province.

PML-N govt responsible for inflated power bills, says Omar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan stated that the PML-N government was responsible for the inflated and unbearable electricity bills, making Pakistan dependent on expensive imported energy, as the capacity payments due to take and pay contracts have touched Rs 2000 billion this year.

In his strong-worded reaction over the inflated bills, PTI Secretary General said that the PML-N was responsible for the extremely high electricity bills the people have to pay.

Omar stated that the PML-N made Pakistan dependent on expensive imported energy and today 70% of the electricity produced in Pakistan was dependent on imported fuels.

He said that the capacity payments due to take and pay contracts touched over Rs 2000 billion this year.

PTI Secretary General said that the rupee devaluation was increasing

the Fuel Price Adjustments, adding that electricity price was Rs 16/unit during PTI's government and was now approx Rs 68/unit, which was a 325% increase in 15 months.

Omar went on to say that the former fascist PML-N led PDM government had been burdening the people of Pakistan by constantly raising the price of electricity, fearing that the price of electricity would increase to approximately Rs 85/unit in the next few months.

He stated that the PML-N leaders and former PML-N MNAs and MPAs were holding press conferences and trying to disassociate themselves from the price hike. However, Omar made it clear that the people of Pakistan must remember that it was the PML-N led PDM fascist government that brought about this crippling inflation and extremely high electricity bills.

PTI Secretary General stated that the culprit of the people of Pakistan was the former fascist PML-N led PDM government.

Over 27,000 fake driving licenses unearthed in FIA investigation

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) unearthed over 27,000 fake driving licenses by a gang in three years.

As per details, the investigation stated that the network of suspects who were arrested had issued more than 27,000 fake driving licenses in three years.

The report revealed that the charges of one fake license were 4000 to 10,000 and the suspect also verified the fake licenses through a fake website. However, the FIA couldn't block the websites.

Furthermore, the gang used to receive the amount through an online app and they had a printing machine for the fake driving licenses.

Earlier, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) unearthed a network - comprising of its employees and some pilots - allegedly involved in the fake pilots' licenses scam.



According to sources, the CAA carried out raids for two accused allegedly involved in the scam after it emerged that some of the aviation employees were using their frontmen to collect money for the fake licenses.

They said that license branch employees allegedly received hundreds of thousands of rupees from each pilot for a paper and in return, another person was allowed to sit in place of the pilot.

"The CAA has acquired remand of some of the license branch officials and pilots," they said adding that the span of the investigations has been expanded. "It has also been decided to register FIRs against these elements," the sources said.

Women among six dead as van plunges into ravine in Mansehra

News Desk

MANSEHRA: At least six people died including women as a van carrying passengers plunged into a ravine in Mansehra.

As per details, the tires of the passenger van burst and it fell into the ravine as the driver lost control over the vehicle.

The passenger van was going to Mansehra from Battagram. Rescue sources said that six people including two women died and 10 others sustained injuries. The dead bodies and injured have been taken to hospital.

Earlier, in a horrific road accident, at least eight people lost their lives, and nine sustained serious injuries after a

car and a van near Babusar Top - Chilas on Friday.

The car-van collision occurred at Gati Das locality near Babusar Top in which eight tourists were killed and nine got injured. Locals and rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured people to the hospital.

Rescue officials told the media that a passenger van and a car fell into a steep ravine after collision and both vehicles caught fire. The deceased eight persons belonged to the same family and were residents of Sahiwal.

Eighteen members of the Sahiwal family were travelling to Babusar Top - Chilas where they met the fatal accident.

Govt increase electricity prices should be immediately withdrawn: Sirajul Haq

Asim Tanveer

CHICHAWATANI: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq has said that the government increase in electricity prices should be immediately withdrawn, it is cruelty and injustice, there are dozens of taxes included in the electricity bills, they should be abolished, the consumers should be charged what they want.

The caretaker government should follow the policies of the previous governments, as a result of the agreements with the international financial institutions of the previous rulers, the life of the people has become haram, Jannat Nazir Pakistan has been turned into hell, 24 crore Pakistanis are not slaves of America or IM. These chains must be broken, the people must stand

up against inflation and oppression, the path of looters must be blocked through peaceful democratic struggle.

On September 1, youth will gather in Liaquat Bagh Rawalpindi against the increase in electricity prices. India has reached the moon, the majority of us do not even have access to clean water to drink, the storm of unrest, inflation and unemployment continues, atrocities are being done on girls. The oppressive feudal lords, vaders and corrupt capitalists made wealth for themselves by staying in power, built properties abroad and made the country and the nation beggars. There is no lack of resources in the country, the problem is incompetent and corrupt rulers. NAB, courts and other accountability institutions have failed to hold accountable the corrupt ruling group, now the



nation can hold them accountable with the power of vote.

People have the best option in the form of Jamaat-e-Islami. When Jamaat-e-Islami comes to power, the first attack will be on the profit economy. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting in Chichawatani against the increase in electricity and petrol prices, inflation and unemployment. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab Central Javed Kasu-

ri and District Amir Sahiwal Tayyab Mahmood Baloch were also present on the occasion. A large number of women also participated in the meeting.

Amir Jamaat said that the previous governments of PDM, PPP and PTI are responsible for the current inflation, economic depression and unemployment. The blood of the poor was squeezed by inflation, the people no longer have the power to make sacrifices. He said that if a laborer earns 15,000 per month, his bill comes to 20,000, now he has only two options either to steal or commit suicide. It has become impossible for the people to feed their children, electricity bills are falling like a doom in every house. The price of petrol is skyrocketing, medicines and essential items are beyond the reach of the poor

Electricity, cold water & textbooks not available in Government Model School



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: In GOR Colony of Government Model Higher Secondary School in Hyderabad, there is no electricity and cold water, textbooks were not found. GOR Colony has been deprived of basic facilities even in modern times, due to which the male and female students are forced to study without electricity and drinking water in the heat of anger.

However, despite the start of the academic year, due to the lack of textbooks, students and female students protested inside the school with placards and chanted slogans of how to study Sindh without books, how to grow Sindh.

On that occasion, the students said that the academic year has started but they could not start the course due to lack of government textbooks. Maybe, we want to ask how Sindh will study without book In this regard, the principal of GOR Colony of Government Model Higher Secondary School, Badrul Nasa Dahari said that there are some basic problems of our school, which need to be solved immediately.

Children cannot get cold water due to lack of electricity. Because of which the students and teachers are facing difficulties, the principal said that another very important problem is the seating capacity in the school, because the school currently has more than 2200 children, which means that there are more than 120 in each classroom.

Up to 150 children are forced to be educated, which is a very high number. Having so many children sitting in a classroom in hot weather is not only hard on the students but also on the teachers. He said that the solution to the electricity crisis is the solar system, which is not within our means, the education department and the government can solve this problem by installing a solar system.

CTD arrested 8 alleged terrorists of banned organizations

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 8 suspected terrorists linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 74 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 74 suspected persons were interrogated and 8 alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

Among the arrested terrorists are Liaqat Khan, Muhammad Hasan, Shan Faraz, Gul Karim, Ayub Khan, Muhammad Umeer, Ameer Muawiyah and Rizwan Siddiq, he said and added that they belong to the banned organizations, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Daesh, Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Al-Qaeda. He said that the arrest of these alleged terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan and Gujranwala.

He said he said that the explosives 1200 grams, Hand grenade 2, IED bomb 1, detonators 9, protective fuse wire 29 feet, Banned books 4, one Magazine, 21 pamphlets of banned organization, 30 stickers, flags 2, one receipt book and 21647 rupees in cash were recovered from the possession of terrorists.

The spokesman said that the terrorists had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations and other religious places. The police have registered 7 cases against the arrested alleged terrorists in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan and Gujranwala, and shifted them to an unknown location, he added.

He said that 336 combing operations were also conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, 16784 persons were checked, 135 suspects were arrested, 111 FIRs were registered and 61 recoveries were made during these operations.

PDM's govt deliberately increased the prices of petroleum products: Haji Sajjad Sial



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Political and social leader Haji Sajjad Sial, while leading a protest demonstration at Chowk Shah Abbas against the increase in prices of electricity units and illegal taxes included in electricity bills.

He said that PDM's government first deliberately increased the prices of petroleum products on the people of Pakistan to get one billion dollars, and then the current government, which is the B team of PDM, also followed PDM's footsteps. Following the steps, they have dropped an electricity bomb on the people by unnecessarily increasing the electricity prices. Haji Sajjad Sial said that the free electricity units of the elite should be closed.

He further said that the Supreme Judiciary of Pakistan should order to abolish the illegal taxes in the electricity bills so that the people can get relief in the electricity bills.

He said that the people of Pakistan have been deprived of their rights for years and the rulers who came to power in the name of democracy have looted the country and nation and increased their bank balances in foreign countries. The poor people of Pakistan were tired of carrying the burden of the luxury of the rulers. Along with the increase in electricity prices, the illegal taxes included forced the people to commit suicide.

Hand grenade attack on former minister's residence in Quetta

News Desk

QUETTA: At least one injured in a Hand grenade attack on the residence of former provincial minister Asad Baloch in Quetta.

As per details, the police spokesperson said that the hand grenade was hurled in the premises of the minister's house.

However, it fell outside the boundary wall after hitting the fence, and as a result, one man got injured, police spokesperson added.

Earlier, at least three police personnel were injured in a Hand grenade attack on a police vehicle in Sachal area of Karachi.

As per details, the SSP said that a hand grenade cracker was allegedly hurled at a police vehicle in Sachal Karachi which left three police personnel injured, no loss of life has been reported so far.

In a separate incident, unidentified men hurled a hand grenade at SSP's squad in Dera Murad Jamali, Naseerabad.

According to police officials, SSP Naseerabad Hussain Lehri was coming back from a routine patrol along with his squad when the hand grenade exploded but no one was injured.

The police, CTD, and bomb disposal squad rushed to the site of the explosion and cordoned off the area.

Onions

ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in packing the Onions into sacks at Fruit and Vegetables Market in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Elections within 90 days mandatory, asserts PPP

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership expressed strong desire for the general elections to be held within a 90-day timeframe. They emphasised that extending the electoral timeline beyond this three-month period could lead to a constitutional crisis in the country.

These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman while addressing a press conference after the central executive committee meeting of the PPP. Faisal Karim Kundi, CM Murad Ali Shah, Nayyar Bukhari and other party leaders were also present on the occasion.

The meeting covered various issues including inflation, unemployment,



electricity and gas bills issues, and the flood situation, said Sherry. Sherry Rehman said that the

controversial census was done, and there was no contradiction in our words and actions before or now. Elec-

tion delay on the basis of delimitation is wrong, she added.

She said that without any doubt every member has given his opinion that there is no justification for delay of elections. She said that relief should be given to the flood-affected people in Punjab, it is also in the manifesto of the People's Party that every oppressed class has rights.

Sherry said that the caretaker government should not become a 'chairtaker' government. It is not the discretion of the caretaker government to change the constitution. She said that the membership of the party is also being started.

Another meeting of the Central Executive Committee is scheduled to take place in Lahore to discuss future plans, she added.

Thousands face flood of miseries as Sutlej continues to swell

Correspondent

VEHARI: Water released by India in the Sutlej river has inundated several villages close to Ganda Singhwala.

Reports said the water level was likely to increase further in the next 10 to 12 hours at Head Ganda Singhwala. There was also a high level of flood at Islam Headworks in the river.

The inflow of water on Islam Headworks was more than 100,000 cusecs due to which thousands of acres of crops and low-lying settlements came under floodwater.

In Minchinabad, high flood at Ratika Patan caused havoc in the area. Flood torrents inundated more than 85 settlements severing connection of the villages with other parts of the country. People were



confined to their homes.

Floodwater entered the Government Girls Elementary School of Akbar Mari Nihal, forcing the administration to suspend educational activities at the academic institution.

According to Irrigation Department, flood torrents in the Sutlej river washed away several dams in three tehsils

of Bahawalpur.

At Head Melasi Siphon, water level rose to 124,000 cusecs due to which many villages came under water.

Pakistan Army was busy in relief activities in the low-lying areas of the Bahawalpur division. Army has set up free medical camp while conducting rescue operations. The

personnel of the armed forces also distributed free ration among flood victims.

Shifting of victims to safer places in Lodhran, Burewala and Head Sulaimanki was in progress. Medical camps have also been set up to prevent epidemics during floods.

Rain pounds Lahore Heavy rain in several areas of Lahore on Friday night paralysed the routine lives of the citizens. However, rain in the city accompanied by strong wind turned the weather pleasant and brought the mercury considerably down, Dunya News reported.

The rain was reported in Lakshmi Chowk, Jail Road, airport, Gulberg, Upper Mall, Mughalpur, Tajpura, Nishtar Town, Paniwala Talab, Gulshan Ravi, Allama

Iqbal Town, Qartaba Chowk, Samanabad, Johar Town and several other localities.

The highest rainfall of 75 millimeters was recorded in Lakshmi Chowk area while Gulshan Ravi received 68 millimeters of rainfall, Qartaba Chowk 61mm, Pani Wala Talab 52mm, Tajpura 41mm, Gulberg 33mm and Nishtar Town 29 millimeters of rainfall.

The rain however caused water accumulation on various roads, disrupting traffic flow. It has also inundated low-lying areas in Lahore.

Rain also caused disruption of electricity in parts of Lahore as over 200 feeders of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) tripped, plunging various parts of the city into darkness.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:09 am
Zohr 12:10 pm
Asr 4:50 pm
Maghrib 6:42 pm
Isha 8:09 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

PM for creation of job opportunities in Balochistan

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar on Saturday underlined the need for the creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities in Balochistan through an effective strategy.

He directed for keeping a balance in the budget and expenditures through a better mechanism in the future and stressed upon proper utilization of resources.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review the development projects in Balochistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by the caretaker chief minister, ministers and the relevant authorities.

During the meeting, the prime minister observed that the province had immense potential in minerals mining which could be utilized for the development of the country's economy.

Mineral resources in the province could be fully tapped in the presence of effective communication infrastructure in those mineral-rich areas, he opined.

The chief secretary briefed the prime minister on the proposed and ongoing uplift projects in the province.



Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar also chaired a meeting to review the pace of progress on the irrigation and water supply projects of Balochistan.

During the meeting, he said despite the economic difficulties of the country, all assistance would be provided for the completion of these projects.

The meeting was briefed on ongoing projects of irrigation in Balochistan including the Kachhi Canal, Pat Feeder Canal, Awaran Dam, Gashkor Dam and Winder Dam.

The prime minister said Balochistan had huge potential for agriculture but complete advantage was not taken from it.

He said issues related to the provision of clean drinking water should be resolved on a priority basis.

He said inter-provincial concerns regarding irrigation would be removed so that the country could make progress speedily and the federation could get strong.

He directed the relevant authorities to complete the projects in the stipulated time.

The caretaker federal ministers Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Sami Saeed, Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Ali MardanDomki, and provincial ministers and officials attended the meeting.

TMO of Jahangira set an example of humanity



News Desk

NEWSHERA: The TMO of Jahangira set an example of humanity, sitting on the ground and consulting with the Street vendors and traders and ended the encroachment with mutual consent. Kudos to TMOs across the country to follow this process.

According to the details, Tehsil Municipal Administration Officer Shahana Sikandar led the operation against encroachment in the area yesterday in Akora Khattak area of Tehsil Jahangira. Meanwhile, TMO Jahangira Shahana Sikandar sat on the ground and held a consultation with the carriage drivers, shopkeepers and traders

On this occasion, TMO Jahangira Shahana Sikandar said that the beauty of the city and adherence to law are being ensured. We have started an operation against encroachments in this regard. He said that we will continue the operation till the end of encroachment, but human sympathy is also being taken into consideration and instead of harassing the poor drivers, they are being persuaded to solve the problem through dialogue. On the other hand, the local people have paid tribute to TMO's humanitarian compassion and understanding of the matter...

PHF Spotlights INGOs' Significance in National Development and Humanitarian Response



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The devastating floods of 2022 have left an enduring impact across various regions of Pakistan, necessitating extensive rehabilitation and reconstruction. The journey to reconstruct and rehabilitate flood-affected areas demands collective efforts and resilience," said Adil Sheraz, Chair of PHF's executive committee, during a press conference that highlighted the role of INGOs in national development and humanitarian response in Pakistan. Although strides have been made, the path to complete recovery of flood affected communities remains a complex endeavor, necessitating not only immediate actions but also a sustained commitment to long-term solutions," he further added.

Adil shared that in 2022 PHF member organizations (INGOs) implemented 400 projects throughout Pakistan, including AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan. These projects included 296 dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance, particularly in response to the 2022 floods, and 104 focused on development interventions. These initiatives, worth over \$330 million, benefited more than 21.2 million people across the country. While uploading the government support and collaboration, he stated that the partnership between government and civil society emerges as the bridge to success, uniting communities for a resilient and prosperous Pakistan. The government of Pakistan is fully committed to strengthening collaboration with all stakeholders, including INGOs, in disaster risk reduction, implementation of resilient, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (4RF) model, a strategic framework for reconstructing and rehabilitating flood-affected areas.

PHF's Country Coordinator also shared that the Chairman of the Senate has nominated three distinguished members from PHF's executive committee for the Education Parliamentary Caucus, specifically focusing on climate change and disaster risk reduction. This recognition at the government level further highlights PHF's member organizations' role in national development and humanitarian response," he added.

During the interaction with the media representatives, Syed Shahid Kazmi, PHF Country Coordinator, shared that PHF is a representative forum of 44 Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) duly registered with the Government of Pakistan. Kazmi underscored PHF's role as a forum, acting as a bridge for INGOs in their interactions with the Government, UN agencies, humanitarian stakeholders, civil society organizations, and the media. He commended the pivotal role played by national and international media when dealing with natural disasters or emergencies in the country.

Retailers, online businesses oppose curbs on e-payments

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) along with over 100 businesses and freelancers have expressed their severe concern over the increasing restrictions and taxes on payments for International Digital Services through banking channels, including Debit/Credit Cards and Commercial Remittances. In addition, the Federal Board of Revenue has raised withholding tax (WHT) by 400% from 1% to 5% for active taxpayers on international transactions on debit/credit cards. Although this tax may be adjustable at the time of annual tax return filing, it temporarily increases the cost per transaction and funding requirements for persons making payments for commercial purposes. Similarly, 16% FED on bank charges also adds to the transaction cost of such transactions.

Through a joint statement issued here today, the trade body for organized retailers said that the recent adverse actions by both the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have been enacted to restrict the outflow of foreign currency. Whereas tens of thousands of freelancers, businesses, and startups in Pakistan heavily rely on international digital services and platforms for various commercial pursuits and earn foreign exchange through Social Media Marketing, Search Engine Advertising, Domain Registration, Website Hosting, Cloud Storage, Subscriptions, and licenses of Business Software/Tools and e-Commerce Platforms amongst many others. The frequency of payments for such services ranges from multiple times a month to once per annum, depending on the type.

With respect to payments through debit/credit cards, the State Bank of Pakistan previously issued 'FE Circular No. 07 of 2022' on November 8, 2022 which restricted commercial transactions on personal cards and set an annual limit of USD 30,000 per individual. Although the business ecosystem supports the principle of restricting commercial transactions on cards issued for personal purposes, freelancers and small & medium-sized businesses currently have very limited options to make payments for international digital service providers.

AJK Minister Bazal Naqvi inaugurated the four-day furniture exhibition



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Minister Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi inaugurated the four-day furniture exhibition at the Village View marquee at Rwani as the chief guest. People from different sectors were present on the occasion

Speaking on this ceremony Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that such exhibitions are helpful in the promotion of business. He said that the government will provide full support for the promotion of business. The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq is actively working to provide the basic amenities of life to the people. He said that the interest of the people in the exhibition shows that they are keenly interested in purchasing new design furniture. He said that the government will give loans to the youth on easy terms to promote small and medium businesses, thus creating employment opportunities on the one hand and many families will benefit from it. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi opened the exhibition and congratulated the participants for organizing. Before this, when Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi arrived to inaugurate the exhibition, he was given a grand welcome. The exhibition will continue for four days.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Women hold their electricity bills, block the road at Sector G-7 during protest against the extremely over billing, as the common people are now helpless for paying such huge amount, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

CM Punjab Graces CBD Punjab's Investor Summit, Unveiling Lahore Global Village

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) with an aim to attract potential buyers PCBDDA, organized an Investor Summit for the much-awaited Lahore Global Village (LGV), which was graced by Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, as the chief guest. The authority also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has entered into a momentous partnership with the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) to bring forth the most-awaited Lahore Global Village (LGV) project. Formerly known as LDA Walk & Shop Arena. CBD Punjab is entrusted with the marketing and sales of this remarkable venture.



The event was attended by prominent officials including Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Provincial Minister Information Punjab Amir Mir, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Secretary Finance Mujahid Sherdil, Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin, COO CBD Punjab Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, and

other key figures from CBD Punjab, LDA, government dignitaries, potential investors, and members of the business community.

LGV received an overwhelming response from the business community and a major chunk of the retail outlets were booked, whereas the response from the female entrepreneurs was invigorating as they were front-in-line

during the summit. The participation of the business community is a clear indication of their trust in CBD Punjab, LDA and the Government of Punjab.

While addressing the summit Chief Minister Punjab, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi said, "Lahore Global Village exemplifies our commitment to creating spaces that integrate cultural richness with modern leisure. This project not only adds to Lahore's charm but also boosts economic growth."

Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman, emphasized, "LGV adheres to international standards, with an unwavering commitment to uncompromising quality. It marks a new era in Lahore's development."

Commissioner Lahore and Director General LDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa

'The Path to National Triumph: Awakening Ideological Consciousness for Pakistan's Prosperity'

Muhammad Kamran Danish

A nation's success is based on its discretionary power. The Power of consciousness changes with the change in the world's perspective. Pakistani people lack consciousness & swooning in the so-called sectarian war not only between Shia and Sunni but also in Balochi, Pashtun, and Punjabi. We have been caught up in internecine battles.

The purported eventual power doesn't let us know the reality. They have paralyzed our consciousness.

Corruption is one of the major challenges that Pakistan is facing in the long haul. Politicians are simply administrating their business by utilizing poor people's taxes. This is a very censorious situation for the state right now.

The prices of things are soaring. Politicians are quarrelling with each other for leadership positions. Although Pakistan did not formally embrace the theory of realism, its influence is still evident in Pakistani politics, as seen in the form of civil war. People are losing their hopes of finding justice. Freedom of speech & expression as a fundamental right has been abolished

by the absolutists for their interests. Elections are on the head.

As Supra, Instead of freaking out, we have to find the right way to contour a successful nation. Now, it's time to raise consciousness and avoid running before the red lights. Ideological nations always succeed. There is a paucity of ideology here in Pakistan.

The current situation has arisen many times before in different incarnations. People are being used as before. We have heard people saying that the party is over after this leader. Basically, the party and government have two different facets. A party always has an ideology.

Pakistan needs an ideological approach like China and Henry Kissinger.

Ideological parties form eminent inclusive political institutions in any state like South Korea. There is no need to battle with the establishment and pawns. In a nutshell, the only thing needed is that we create true consciousness. There is a famous saying by Lao Tzu that "The key to growth is the introduction of higher dimensions of consciousness into our awareness".

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President vs Election Commission: The country is the victim - II

Section 51(5) specifies that the allocation of seats in the National Assembly is determined by the population based on the last preceding census officially published.

Upon careful examination of these articles, it's evident that altering the number of seats in the provinces or the federation requires an amendment to Article 51(1) and 51(3) of the constitution. However, due to the dissolution of the national assembly, such an amendment isn't possible. This casts doubt on the legitimacy of the previous government's hasty approval of the census through the CCI.

Mr. Zafar's second objection pertains to the formation of the Council of Common Interests (CCI), as governed by Article 153 of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973. The article states, "there shall be a Council of Common Interests, to be appointed by the President. The Council shall consist of:"

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, who shall be the Chairman of the Council;

The Chief Ministers of all the Provinces;

The Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan;

The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir; and

Three members from the Federal Government to be nominated by the Prime Minister from time to time."

The Constitution explicitly outlines the membership of the Council of Common Interests (CCI), and the absence of the term "caretaker Chief Minister" in these

	General Seats	Women Seats	Total Seats
Balochistan	16	4	20
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45	10	55
Punjab	141	32	173
Sindh	61	14	75
Federal Capital	3	-	3
Total	266	60	326

provisions suggests that decisions made by the CCI with such members may lack validity and legal consequences.

Having addressed critical factors related to holding elections within the prescribed timeline, let's continue with argument with regards to options available with the President to enforce compliance of his letter issued to the Election Commission.

To enforce the implementation of Articles 48(1) and (2), read in conjunction with Article 224(1) and (2), the President is empowered to announce the date of the elections.

Article 48(1) mandates that the President must act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or the Prime Minister when exercising their functions. Article 48(5) outlines that if the President dissolves the National Assembly, he must appoint a date for a general election to the Assembly within ninety days from the date of dissolution.

Article 224 outlines the timelines for holding general elections. Article 224(1)

stipulates that a general election to the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly must occur within sixty days following the expiration of the Assembly's term, unless it was dissolved earlier. Article 224(2) states that when the National Assembly or a Provincial

Assembly is dissolved, a general election must be held within a ninety-day period after the dissolution, and the election results should be declared within fourteen days after the polls conclude.

Since the assemblies were dissolved two days before the completion of their regular tenure based on the Prime Minister's advice, the provisions of Article 48(1), (2), and Article 224(2) are applicable. In all of these provisions, the authority to announce election dates rests with the President. Without amending Articles 48(1), (2), and Article 224(2), it's not conceivable for this authority to be trans-

ferred to the Election Commission.

In democracies, when laws are passed that are against constitutional provisions, there are a few general principles that are often followed to address the situation:

Courts play a crucial role in interpreting the constitution and determining the constitutionality of laws. They can declare laws that violate the constitution as null and void. For example, in the United States, the Supreme Court case of Marbury v. Madison (1803) established the principle of judicial review.

The judiciary can strike down any law which is against the basic constitutional structure. For example the Indian Supreme Court has used this principle to strike down laws that violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

If a law contradicts the constitution, the legislative body might work to amend the constitution to bring it in line with the new law which is not possible in this case.

When laws violate constitutional principles, public outcry and activism can play a significant role in pressuring the government to reconsider or amend such laws. This might involve protests, petitions, or civil society initiatives

In the current context, options 1 and 2 appear to be more applicable. According to Article 186 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the President has the authority to refer questions of law to the Supreme Court. This article specifies that the President can seek the Supreme Court's opinion on matters of public importance.

To be continued

BRICS summit

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for the reform of the UN Security Council and sought revision of the Bretton Woods system – a global financial architecture created by the US-led Western countries after the end of World War II.

"Today's structures reflect yesterday's world," the UN chief told the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Thursday, as he attended the event for the first time ever.

"They were largely created in the aftermath of World War II when many African countries were still ruled by colonial powers and were not even at the table," Guterres said.

"This is particularly true of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions," he said, referring to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"For multilateral institutions to remain truly universal, they must reform to reflect today's power and economic realities. In the absence of such reform – fragmentation is inevitable," he said.

"We cannot afford a world with a divided global economy and financial system; with diverging strategies on technology including artificial intelligence; and with conflicting security frameworks."

"The IMF estimates that such a fracture could cost 7% of global GDP – a cost that would be disproportionately born by low-income countries, mainly in Africa," the top UN official said.

"I have come to Johannesburg with a simple message: in a fracturing world overwhelmed by crises, there is simply no alternative to cooperation. We must urgently restore trust and reinvigorate multilateralism for the 21st century. This requires the courage to compromise for the common good."

"That's what our world needs: unity for action and unity for justice; we are confronting existential challenges," he said, drawing attention to worsening impacts of climate change and rising poverty, hunger and inequalities.

The BRICS group of world economies made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa which joined in 2010, represents more than 40 percent of the world's population, and all five states are also members of the wider G20 bloc.



Qamar Bashir

Analysis

To leave no one behind and where does Pakistan - II

Cumbersome administrative processes and delayed decision-making hinder the swift execution of development initiatives. This bureaucratic quagmire not only hampers the timely implementation of projects but also discourages potential investors and donors, stunting economic growth and hindering progress towards goals such as decent work and economic growth, as well as industry, innovation, and infrastructure. There is no effective accountability system for bureaucracy. These peoples protect each other in corruption and dishonesty business. In the delivery of public services, these officers become obstacles to progress. A secretary for "service delivery" has appointed in Multan, this officer is not benefiting the public in any way.

Politics and Politicians are barriers in development. A Roadblock to Progress Frequent shifts in political leadership and power struggles have created an environment of instability and policy inconsistency. Political agendas often take precedence over national development priorities, diverting attention and resources away from SDG-related endeavors. The lack of bipartisan consensus and long-term policy planning hampers efforts to address challenges like climate change, clean water access, and responsible consumption and production.

In the upcoming discussion, preferred those people have been invited, and casual discussions have taken place. The underlying reasons for development are not being brought under discussion. In these circumstances, how can Pakistan benefit from the fruit of the 2030 agenda? To reap the benefits of the 2030 agenda, Pakistan must undertake a comprehensive and strategic approach. Firstly, a robust commitment to combating corruption and promoting transparent governance is essential. By establishing strong accountability mechanisms and ensuring efficient resource allocation, Pakistan can ensure that the funds allocated for development initiatives are utilized optimally and without leakage.

Secondly, addressing the deficiencies in the bureaucracy is paramount. Streamlining administrative processes, promoting merit-based appointments, and investing in training programs can enhance the efficiency of public service delivery. This, in turn, would contribute to the successful implementation of SDGs

related to quality education, health, and basic infrastructure. Furthermore, fostering political stability and a long-term policy outlook is vital. The education of our public representatives is formal. Most are illiterate or have education based on fake degrees and documents.

Their limited and self-serving mindset is a hindrance in Pakistan's progress. Politicians should be organized for a program in their own language for education and respect for law. Political parties should prioritize national development over short-term gains, ensuring that policies remain consistent and aligned with the SDGs. A collaborative approach between political factions can lead to a more stable environment conducive to sustainable development. In addition, public awareness and engagement are instrumental. By involving communities in the planning and execution of development projects, Pakistan can create a sense of ownership and commitment to the SDGs. This can be achieved through initiatives that promote civic participation, education, and awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of sustainable practices.

Currently 98 percent of Pakistani people and 75 percent of politicians do not know about Agenda 2030. This agenda should be propagated in order to achieve its positive result. It is necessary to get out of the cool rooms and take a look at the people's thinking and problems. Unfortunately, even the owners of the Pakistani NGOs have lack the necessary influence to promote the Agenda 2030 campaign correctly. Lastly, leveraging international partnerships and resources can significantly contribute to achieving the SDGs. Collaborating with global organizations, sharing best practices, and seeking foreign investments can provide the necessary boost to critical sectors such as clean energy, infrastructure development, and technology advancement. In short, Pakistan's ability to benefit from the fruits of the 2030 agenda hinges on a multi-faceted strategy encompassing transparent governance, bureaucratic reform, political stability, public engagement, and international collaboration. By addressing these aspects cohesively, Pakistan can pave the way for sustainable development and improved quality of life for its citizens.

Concluded



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Analysis



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

An apocalyptic future awaits us

Jalaluddin Kakar

I hate to be the bearer of bad news all the time. But circumstances don't permit otherwise.

As not a single day passes in my life with the good news drummed into my ears. In effect, retrospect has witnessed that the future of Pakistan is on its deathbed.

Let's have a bird's eye view of the retrospect and let's back up a bit to look upon the history. The state's possession of an atom bomb serves no purpose in eradicating or eliminating poverty, inflation, and illiteracy. It may well sound like an exaggeration to verbalize that poverty in Pakistan has been recorded by the World Bank at 39.3% using the lower middle-income poverty rate of US\$3.2 per day. It paints the picture that most of the population is at a crossroads. Similar thoughts come to mind when I shed light on inflation, as the Consumer Price Index in Pakistan increased to 235 index points in July 2023. The maximum level was 145 index points. Doubly striking is that the prices of essential food items have already gone through the roof and are far beyond the reach of the poor. The current literacy rate of Pakistan is 62.3%, which means that an estimated 60 million people are illiterate in the country. Just speculate for a while that a country with 60 million illiterate citizens could possibly envision thriving. Therefore, these figures demonstrates that the future is bleak and things will probably get worse unless the problem is properly managed.

More striking is that all political parties are a graveyard of dead ideas. Rather than having a proactive vision for the future of the nation, all political parties are lambasting each other and dragging each other's feet for their narrow interests. Going by the current situation, Political leaders have directed much of their energy to power tussles and efforts to subdue opponents rather than evolving and presenting any policy plans. Simply put, every coming leader is a caricature of the previous one, not only by words but also by actions. But what complicates the matter is that these political rivalries and skirmishes have always created a political vacuum, which dashes all the Democratic hopes and paves the way for the establishment to sense the opportunity and

then eventually indirectly spearhead the whole nation on a democratic narrative. It would not be an understatement to verbalize that every coming leader must toe the line determined by establishment, and serve as its mouthpiece for a brief period of time before meeting his apocalyptic fate, just as Imran Khan did despite his best efforts but his magic wand has not worked.

The most consequential challenge is, of course, the economy, which remains precariously poised. Without a sustainable economic recovery, the rest will be in vain. The stand-by agreement with the IMF has been projected as a major step towards economic stability.

But it is only a temporary reprieve and, in any case, should be anchored in a comprehensive home-grown economic plan of structural reforms that can revive economic growth. Having a record 23 IMF programs is a reflection of poor, not good, economic management. Of course, financial bailouts are necessary to stay solvent, but they cannot become the be-all and end-all of economic strategy. For the ruling elite of Pakistan, which is composed of the military as well as civilians in different forms and measures, there is always the IMF. It is not the IMF that is responsible for the hardship and acute suffering brought upon by the conditionalities that this institution enforces on the country, but those who fail to govern in the name of those who elect or select them. The IMF does not take over the economy like an invading occupying force; the elite simply surrenders to the demands of the IMF, having brought the economy to the brink. The IMF becomes the medium or instrument through which the rescue-the-elite mission is played out. The elite always welcome the IMF. To cap it all, Pakistan suffers from institutional failure. As it is touted, Pakistan is not a poor country; it is poorly managed. So we have to bear the consequences for decades to come of this poor management.

Succinctly, the most crucial is that every individual in the state has to tighten his belt for the approaching hardships. Reassessing our political strategies and implementing structural economic reforms are the only ways to get out of this mess and quagmire.

The writer is a student of public administration at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took part in the BRICS Summit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev participated via videoconference in the BRICS Plus Dialogue, which took place within the framework of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg. The President of Kazakhstan attended the forum as the current Chairman of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

At the beginning of his speech, the Head of State expressed gratitude to President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa for the invitation and noted that the present summit can bolster the role of the BRICS and help to tackle a range of urgent global challenges.

As the leader of Kazakhstan stressed, this important event is taking place against the backdrop of mounting tensions in the international arena, marked by extensive political pressure, confrontation, and widespread use of sanctions. In this context, he shared his vision of the prospects for interregional cooperation.

"The SCO's increasing role is widely acknowledged today. It unites rapidly developing economies with enormous

human resources, natural assets, and technological potential. Kazakhstan, as one of founding members of the Organization, is determined to leverage its chairmanship to transform the SCO into a more effective organization able to meet the challenges we face. For more than two decades, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has accumulated valuable experience in advancing multilateralism and cooperation at the regional level", said Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Given the interests and priorities shared by the BRICS and SCO, the President proposed to combine efforts in the following key areas.

"We should seek a suitable formula for peace, stability and security based on the UN Charter. To this end, at the SCO summit this year,

I proposed the Initiative on World Unity for Just Peace and Harmony. This initiative aims at making progress on global security and stability as well as establishing a more rational political and economic international order", the Head of State noted.

In his view, the BRICS and BRICS Plus partners could cooperate in



promoting the initiative.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed to unite the SCO, BRICS and BRICS Plus countries' record in the critical digital domain, e-commerce, cybersecurity, as well as to increase information exchange. He invited the BRICS Plus nations to participate in the SCO Digital Forum scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan in 2024.

The President also called on the part-

ners to join us in economic trade, transport and investment projects along the North-South and East-West corridors.

"The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, which complements crucial Belt-and-Road initiative, offers valuable trade cooperation prospects. This synergy will boost inter-regional trade and unlock the full transit and transportation potential of our respective regions", said Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Separately, the Head of State dwelled on the problem of climate change in the world.

"We all admit that climate change has far-reaching negative effects on the global scale. Over the past few years, the Global South and Central Asia have seen an acceleration of severe droughts and other natural disasters. In this context, Kazakhstan has proposed to declare 2024 as the Year of Ecology in the SCO and spearhead efforts in addressing this pressing issue. The SCO Action Plan for the Year of Ecology is a timely initiative that I hope will resonate with the BRICS family", the President stressed.

The speech also covered the topic of food security, which holds significant importance on the global agenda.

As the President emphasized, three of the world's four major food producers are BRICS members, and the BRICS countries' total agricultural GDP accounts for more than half of the global total, which has created the need to enforce adequate measures to reduce food imbalances in our countries.

them from any sanctions and restrictions", proposed the Head of State.

The President of Kazakhstan reaffirmed his intention to strengthen multifaceted cooperation with the BRICS countries and the African Union. As Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized, Kazakhstan wishes to contribute to fostering the potential of BRICS as its participating state.

"I strongly believe that we need to accelerate a collective approach towards global security, sustainable development, and inclusiveness", the Head of State said.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev congratulated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the historic landing of an Indian spacecraft near the Moon's South Pole.

The South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Brazilian President Lula da Silva, the Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chinese President Xi Jinping, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the Indonesian President-ASEAN Chairperson Joko Widodo and other leaders addressed the meeting.

China, Pakistan strengthen cooperation on cultural protection

Xinhua

CHONGQING: Two leading cultural heritage institutions in China and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at boosting cooperation on cultural protection, with a particular focus on ancient cave temples.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Establishing Friendly Relation and Cooperation was inked this week by China's Academy of Dazhu Rock Carvings and Pakistan's Directorate of Archaeology and Museums of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The signing took place at the International Forum on Cave Temple Conservation, held in Dazhu District, southwest China's Chongqing.

Dazhu is home to Dazhu Rock Carvings, a renowned UNESCO World Heritage site. Paki-



stan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is a region rich in cultural heritage, with over 20 museums and more

than 20,000 archaeological sites. According to the memorandum, the two sides will

make out plans for cooperation, build an international cooperation platform for cave temple conservation, and hold

international academic seminars in the future.

Jiang Siwei, head of the Academy of Dazhu Rock Carvings, said that the two sides will work together to exchange experience, share technologies, and join hands to promote the development of cultural heritage conservation.

Abdul Samad, director of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said that he was glad to witness the signing of the memorandum of understanding, which is expected to provide an exchange platform for outstanding archaeologists from both sides.

Samad said that Pakistan and China have in-depth cooperation on politics, economics and energy, and this new step will further enhance the cooperation and exchanges on the cultural heritage conservation.

Sultan urges world to take cognizance of worsening HR situation in IIOJK

Bureau Report



ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry Saturday urged the international community to take immediate cognizance of the worsening situation of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Talking to Chairperson of "Be the Merciful", Samira Farrukh here, he said the international community must play its due moral and much needed diplomatic role to stop India's brutality against Kashmiris, particularly Kashmiri women, who have been worst victims of Indian state terrorism.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood said the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir are going through a difficult situation. He said due to the massive troops' concentration in the region, the Kashmiri women have suffered enormously. He maintained that the Kashmiris living all over the world should become the voice of the women of occupied Kashmir and expose the violation of human rights perpetrated by India before the world community.

"Women and children in IIOJK are being targeted with pellet guns by the Indian occupation forces," he said, adding that rape is used as a weapon of war against Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces. He said, despite the relentless suppression, the women of occupied Kashmir have significantly contributed to the ongoing freedom movement while fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiri freedom fighters. =

Saudi Arabia to teach two Chinese classes weekly in secondary schools

Spokesman Report

BELJING: The education authorities in Saudi Arabia have reportedly instructed all public and private secondary schools to teach two Chinese language classes each week.

Experts said that it will have "significant implications" in providing students with opportunities to learn Chinese and experience diverse culture. It also shows the two countries' increasing communication and cooperation in the field of education. The fourth period of every Sunday and Monday shall be assigned for teaching Chinese, the Saudi Gazette reported.

This is "positive" news for Chinese language education developing in Saudi Arabia, as the schools have welcomed more than 7 million students in the new semester, Chen Ming, a professor who teaches Chinese at King Saud University, told the Global Times. More than 7 million students across Saudi Arabia returned to schools and univer-



sities on August 20, the first day of the new academic year, according to media reports.

The teaching plan has "significant implications" and is also another "major initiative" since Saudi Arabia agreed to include the Chinese language in the curriculum for Saudi schools and universities in 2019, Li Bowen, Chinese

language teacher at the King Abdulaziz University and deputy director of the Chinese Proficiency Test Center in Riyadh, told the Global Times. In 2019, the two countries agreed to include the Chinese language in the curriculum at all stages of education in schools and universities in Saudi Arabia, a move to enhance the students' cultural diversity.

Kreeri residents protest against anti-people policies of IIOJK authorities

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: People in Baramulla district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir held a protest demonstration against the anti-people policies of the authorities.

The residents of Bangdara in Kreeri area of the district took to the streets to protest against the Water and Power Department for its failure to provide adequate drinking water to the community, KMS reported.

The protestors, who were carrying empty pots, demanded accountability for the department for its inability to ensure a reliable drinking water supply. They blocked a road to voice their grievances. They said their area has been grappling with a dire shortage of clean drinking water for several months but the responsible department has remained unresponsive to their plight.

'Heist at the museum': Britain says aims to recover 2,000 stolen 'colonial' artefacts

Approximately 2,000 treasures, including gold jewellery and diamonds, had been stolen over a lengthy period of time from the British Museum, but recovery attempts had already begun, as per the museum's head George Osborne.

The museum, one of London's most popular attractions whose treasures include the Rosetta Stone, an ancient Egyptian relic inscribed with hieroglyphs and other texts, said last week a member of staff had been dismissed after items dating from the 15th century BC to the 19th century AD had been taken from a storeroom.

Museum director Hartwig Fischer said on Friday he would step down after admitting to failings in its investigation into the theft of items from its collection.

Osborne, a former British finance minister, told BBC radio that not all of the museum's collection was properly catalogued or registered, a situation not unique among large institutions whose collections had been amassed over hundreds of years.

A "forensic" inquiry was being conducted to find out what had been stolen, Osborne said. "We think it's around 2,000 items," he said. "But I have to say that's a very provisional figure and we're still actively looking."

"We've already started to recover some of the stolen items," he added, without giving any details of what had been recovered or how.

Osborne said he did not believe there had been any deliberate cover-up after the museum previously rejected a warning in 2021 that the thefts were happening.

But there could have been some "potential group think" at the top of the institution that could not believe an insider was stealing, he said.

Danish Government's Proposal of a Bill to outlaw burning of the Holy Quran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the reported decision by the Denmark Government to propose a bill, which would outlaw the burning of the Holy Quran and other divine books. This, we believe, is a step in the right direction.

Pakistan has always maintained that desecration and burning of holy scriptures constitute a serious act of religious hatred, which must not be permitted under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest. As stipulated by international human rights law and called for by the UN Human Rights Council, such provocative acts must be prevented and prohibited



through legal means. The recurrent incidents of the Holy Quran's desecration during the last few months have hurt the sentiments of over 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide. Such abhorrent acts intend to create friction

among communities and harm inter-faith harmony and mutual respect. It is the responsibility of national governments to take all measures necessary to prevent these acts of religious hatred, xenophobia and Islamophob-

bia. We hope the step taken by Denmark today would culminate in effective legislation to curb the desecration of the Holy Quran and other divine books. We also hope that other countries will emulate and undertake similar steps to outlaw such hateful acts.

In his interaction with the Danish Foreign Minister, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, while appreciating the Danish Government's proposed legislation, expressed the hope that the bill, when passed, would create inter-faith harmony and bring an end to an environment of hatred amongst people of different religious faiths.

Pakistani service firms set to showcase expertise in CIFTIS in China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: In a move that underscores Pakistan's growing presence on the global economic stage, a delegation of top Pakistani service firms is gearing up to participate in the highly anticipated China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor at Pakistan Embassy in Beijing. Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net that a delegation comprising some of Pakistan's leading service companies will showcase the nation's prowess in various sectors, including information technology, telecommunications, finance, and more.



This represents a strategic endeavour by Pakistan to strengthen economic ties with China and explore opportunities for collaboration and investment. "There are seven top firms participating in CIFTIS, Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, Nation-

al Logistic Corporation (NLC) And Fb Enterprises would set up their booths to attract Chinese investors at CIFTIS, scheduled to be held in Beijing from September 2 to 6", he stated.

He further said that Two software giants specializing in asset finance and leasing solutions, NETSOL and ISBEI Technologies will demonstrate its expertise

in the financial technology domain. In contrast, NBP would exhibit its banking and financial services, highlighting Pakistan's robust financial sector and its commitment to digital banking solutions. Qadir said that The Pakistani delegation's participation in CIFTIS signifies a landmark moment in the nation's journey towards becoming a prominent player in the global services trade arena. As the event unfolds, all eyes are on these pioneering companies as they take centre stage and contribute to Pakistan's ongoing economic transformation, he hopes that CIFTIS will be a bridge between China and Pakistan to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

Hashoo Hotels welcomes Asif Raza as Vice President, Development

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Hotels is delighted to announce the appointment of Asif Raza as the Vice President, Development, Hospitality Division. With a remarkable track record in the hospitality industry, Asif joins our team with a wealth of experience, having worked with Hyatt Hotels and Resorts for the last 23 years across the globe. His extensive background in representing both ownership and brand operation will add value to the existing and future projects as we continue to sketch the hospitality landscape in Pakistan.

Asif brings an impressive blend of leadership, expertise, and global perspective to his new role. He served in several key markets progressively including Switzerland, United States, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa. His last venture as Country Head for Hyatt South Africa, included Hyatt Regency Cape Town, Hyatt House Sandton, Hyatt House Rosebank, and Park Hyatt Johannesburg, which symbolizes his dedication, innovation, and passion for serving best of hospitality.

As Vice President, Development, Hospitality Division, Asif will play a pivotal role in driving the expansion of Hashoo Hotels and enhancing its portfolio of world-class hotels and resorts. With his passion for innovation and strategic thinking, he is poised to significantly contribute to the company's growth trajectory while ensuring that key stakeholders such as developers, engineers, architects, designers, and more are aligned to company ethos for providing best of hospitality at Hashoo Hotels.

Hashoo Hotels, a division of Hashoo Group, is the leading hospitality brand in Pakistan with a rich legacy of providing exceptional experiences to guests. With a portfolio of luxurious hotels and resorts, Hashoo Hotels is dedicated to delivering the highest hospitality, comfort, and service standards.

UK energy bills to fall after Ofgem lowers price cap

News Desk

Millions of British households will have cheaper energy bills from October after British energy markets regulator Ofgem cut its price cap again to reflect a further fall in wholesale power and gas prices.

Ofgem on Friday lowered its price cap on household energy bills by about 7% from Oct. 1 to 1,923 pounds (\$2,418.56) a year for a typical dual-fuel household.

The drop will save households an average of 151 pounds compared with the previous quarter, Ofgem said.

The drop also represents the lowest level since October 2021 and reflects further falls in wholesale energy prices as the market stabilises and suppliers return to a healthier financial position after four years of losses, it added.

Wholesale power and gas prices hit record highs in Britain and Europe last year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine cut gas supplies.

Although wholesale gas and power prices have fallen by about 85% and 80% respectively since record highs in the first quarter of last year, there is still price volatility and the price cap remains well above the average before the energy crisis took hold.

"It is welcome news that the price cap continues to fall. However, we know people are struggling with the wider cost of living challenges and I can't offer any certainty that things will ease this winter," said Ofgem Chief Executive Jonathan Brearley.

About 29 million customers are on standard rate tariffs protected by the price cap, which was introduced in 2019 to protect consumers.

"As we head into the colder winter months, uncertainty remains around the outlook and many will be hoping for a mild winter. Current estimates are that prices could increase again in January and will remain at these higher levels for the foreseeable future," said Simon Virley, vice chair and head of energy and natural resources at KPMG.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters that the government was working to bring down inflation to further ease the cost of living burden on households.

British inflation has been slow to fall since it hit a 41-year high of 11.1% last year, and at 6.8% in July was the highest of any major economy.

Ofgem sets the cap using a formula that includes suppliers' network costs and environmental and social levies, with wholesale energy prices the largest factor. It reviews the cap every quarter to reflect movements in the wholesale market.

It said that while the cap has helped to protect households from the full extent of surges in wholesale prices over the last two years, it is a "blunt tool" and it is important to look at alternative mechanisms to assess whether they would work better in the current volatile price environment.

Ultimately, however, any decision about whether reform of the price cap is needed is up to the government, Ofgem officials told reporters.

The regulator also said it has introduced measures to reduce costs for customers on pre-payment meters and hopes to have a code of conduct in place by winter for energy supplier behaviour.

British HC to make trade push on first visit to Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Newly appointed British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, will visit Karachi ahead of the expected arrival of the Royal Navy's HMS Lancaster.

During her visit, she will be meeting with business, political and community leaders, with a focus on boosting UK-Pakistan trade links. Bilateral trade is currently worth over £4 billion, nearly doubling in 3 years.

The British High Commissioner will also visit HMS Lancaster, which is in Karachi on a routine bilateral Royal Navy-Pakistan Navy training exercise. These exercises are part of a range of 'Defence Diplomacy' activities, part of the UK's commitment to maintaining its well-established defence relationship with Pakistan.

British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said "Karachi is one of the best places in Pakistan to discuss business, the country's beating heart and home to some of the country's most pioneering industries. I am looking forward to hearing from UK and Pakistani businesses on how we can support each other's ambitious trade goals."

"In a demonstration of the breadth of the UK-Pakistan relationship, I am also looking forward to welcoming HMS Lancaster for a bilateral exercise."

Earlier this year, Pakistan welcomed the British Army's Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE, to strengthen senior



Officers attend the UK's military academies to improve mutual understanding.

relationships. Every year British Army Officers attend Quetta Staff College, whilst Pakistani

Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in their work of installing over head pedestrian bridge at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Scottish Minister Support Trade Linkages with Pakistan & FPCCI: Suleman Chawla

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Muhammad Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised that Ms. Christina McKelvie, Scotland's Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, has expressed Scottish Government's commitment to promote bilateral trade; B2B linkages; investments & joint ventures and cultural exchanges with Pakistan.

Mr. Chawla highlighted that a high-profile delegation of FPCCI's Pak - UK Business Council (PUKBC) is visiting Scotland in coordination with Scottish Chamber of Commerce (SCC) - which has planned various meetings and visits for the FPCCI delegation.

Ms. Christina McKelvie stressed that Scotland will be facilitating business communities of both the countries to enhance the volume of bilateral trade through full-fledged support to SCC & FPCCI.

Dr. Liz Cameron, Chief Executive of Scotland's Chamber of Commerce, expressed her satisfaction that the Scottish Government has extended their support to Pakistani businessmen to achieve the objectives of MOU between the two coun-



terpart chambers.

Mr. Imran Khalid Naseer emphasized that Pakistan is a developing market with an enormous 64 percent young population; the country has successfully revived IMF program.

FPCCI's PUKBC also facilitated Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) with their visit of SCC and create necessary linkages with the Scotland's busi-

ness community - and, enable their Pakistani counterparts to enhance country's exports to Scotland.

Dr. Jeanette Forbes, SCC's Ambassador for Pakistan; Mr. Shafiq Shahzad, Trade & Investment Minister at Pakistan High Commission in UK and Mr. Muhammad Akhtar, Trade and Investment Attaché for Scotland & North of England, also graced the event.

ICCI calls for revisiting PPAs with IPPs to save businesses from closure

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the root cause of the surging circular debt and rising power tariffs is the power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed with the IPPs to pay them in US dollar and called upon the government to revisit PPAs with IPPs to pay them in PKR. He said that IPPs are earning huge profits in dollars, but the businesses are badly suffering due to exorbitant power tariffs and rising cost of doing business. He stressed that the government should change the basic tariff of IPPs in PKR instead

of US dollars as this change would save billions of rupees of the national exchequer and provide electricity at affordable cost to the businesses making our export competitive in the international market. Similarly, the profits to the IPPs should also be paid in PKR instead of US dollars. He expressed these views during a media talk at ICCI.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that around 47 IPPs are working in Pakistan's power sector and they have already earned huge profits as compared to their capital investment. As per Power Policy 1994, 16 IPPs had invested around Rs.60 billion and earned over Rs.400 billion, which shows their huge prof-

its in Pakistan.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that the government has made massive hikes in the prices of electricity, gas and POL products to meet the IMF conditions, but these anti-business measures have endangered the survival of businesses. He stressed that the government should withdraw the massive hike in power tariffs and prices of POL products to save the businesses from further closure.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that due to significant depreciation of rupee, import of industrial raw materials has become very expensive which is pushing up



the production cost. He stressed that the government should take urgent measures to stabilize the value of rupee in order to save the industry from further troubles. He said that instead of hiking the power tariffs,

the government should focus on controlling the transmission & distribution losses and power theft besides improving the performance of power companies to save the consumers from further burden.

Xiaomi creating OS to challenge Huawei's HarmonyOS and Google

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese designer and manufacturer of consumer electronics - Xiaomi - to expand its product lineup around software, announced to create its own Operating System (OS).

According to the latest reports, the Chinese tech giant - Xiaomi is developing its own operating system that is compatible with AOSP (Android Open Source Project).

The new operating system by Xiaomi could be used on a variety of devices, including tablets, smartphones, and wearables.

Notably, this new operating system will be fully compatible with the Android Open Source Project. This suggests that the operating

system could be expanded beyond smartphones and may even be adapted for electronic vehicles and other products.

It is pertinent to mention here that Xiaomi isn't the sole Chinese smartphone company making its own operating system

It is pertinent to mention here that, before Xiaomi, Huawei was the first Chinese phone company making its own operating system.

Observers suggest Xiaomi will initially introduce its system in China, with Huawei emerging as its primary rival.

Developing an independent system holds significant implications for Xiaomi, reducing its reliance on Google. However, a substantial challenge looms on their path.

Russia hopes to raise fish, seafood exports to China after Japan ban

News Desk

MOSCOW/TOKYO: Russia hopes to increase its marine product exports to China in the wake of China's ban on Japanese seafood imports after the release of treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea.

Russia is one of the biggest marine product suppliers to China, with 894 Russian companies allowed to export seafood, Rosselkhoznadzor, the Russian food safety watchdog, said in July.

In a statement late on Friday, Rosselkhoznadzor said it was seeking to increase the number of exporters.

"The Chinese market in general is promising for Russian fish products. We hope to increase the number of certified Russian companies and ships, the volume of

products and its range," the Rosselkhoznadzor statement said.

To aid that effort, Rosselkhoznadzor plans to continue dialogue with China on seafood safety issues and finish negotiations with China on regulations for Russian marine products supply to the country, the statement said.

China has already banned some food imports from Japan but Thursday's total ban was prompted by concerns about the "risk of radioactive contamination" after it started releasing the treated water.

China was the destination for over a half of Russian aquatic products exports between January and August, the statement said without providing figures, dominated by pollock, herring, flounder, sardine, cod and crab.

World Junior Squash Champion Hamza Khan meets Naval Chief

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: World Junior Squash Champion Muhammad Hamza Khan met the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Hamza recently won the World Junior (U-19) Squash Championship held at Melbourne, Australia. It is after 36 years when any Pakistani squash player has secured such a remarkable triumph and brought a moment of pride for the entire country.

During the meeting, Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated the young champion for winning the title and bringing laurels for the country. Naval Chief appreciated the efforts of Hamza and encouraged him to participate in future Squash events with full dedication and commitment. In recognition of his meritorious achievement, Naval Chief awarded the Champion with a cash prize of Rs. 0.5 Million and Life Time gratis Membership of Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex at Karachi.



Hamza Khan expressed his gratitude to Chief of the Naval Staff and Pakistan Navy for unwavering contributions

towards the promotion of Squash in the country. He added that regular organizing of CNS Open National and International Squash Championships is a testament of PN's commitment towards the sports.

PCB announces ticket prices for Pakistan v South Africa Women Series

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: VIP enclosures tickets available at PKR 100 Tickets for third T20I and third ODI available at PARIS 150

Online purchase of tickets will start on Sunday at 1200 PST; fans can book tickets by visiting www.bookme.pk

Physical tickets will also be available and fans can buy from box office at the stadium on match days

The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced ticket prices for the white-ball series between Pakistan and South Africa women's cricket teams to be played at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi from 1 to 14 September.

Three T20Is will be played on 1, 3 and 4 September, with the first ball set to be bowled at 7:30pm PST. The three ODIs, which are part of ICC Women's Championship 2022-25, will take place on 8, 11 and 14 September. The ODIs will start at 3:30pm PST.

Tickets will be available online on Sunday, 27 August at 1200 PST at <https://pcb.bookme.pk/>. Additionally, physical tickets will be made available to fans on match days at the stadium's box office

To encourage fans to come to the ground, affordable prices have been fixed for the matches. Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammad and Javed Miandad, all VIP enclosures will be open for spectators.

PAKISTAN VS SOUTH AFRICA WOMEN 2023			
NATIONAL BANK STADIUM, KARACHI			
T20I			
Enclosures	Friday, Sep 1, 2023	Sunday, Sep 3, 2023	Monday, Sep 4, 2023
HANIF MOHAMMAD ENCLOSURE	100	100	150
JAVED MIANDAD ENCLOSURE	100	100	150
FAZAL MAHMOOD ENCLOSURE	100	100	150
ODI			
Enclosures	Friday, Sep 8, 2023	Monday, Sep 11, 2023	Thursday, Sep 14, 2023
HANIF MOHAMMAD ENCLOSURE	100	100	150
JAVED MIANDAD ENCLOSURE	100	100	150
FAZAL MAHMOOD ENCLOSURE	100	100	150

Ticket prices for the first and second T20I across all three enclosures have been fixed at PKR 100. For the third T20I, tickets will be available for PKR 150.

Likewise, the same prices have been fixed for the ODIs. Tickets for the first and second ODI will be available for PKR 100, while tickets for the final match of the

series on 14 September, will be available for PKR 150.

Fans wishing to watch their cricketing stars can buy a maximum of four tickets on one CNIC card.

Usman Waheed, Director - Commercial: "We are all set to host South Africa women's team on their first-ever tour to Pakistan. We want fans to be a part of this remarkable journey, which is why we have made the tickets available at an affordable rate.

This is more than a match; it's a celebration of camaraderie and the love for cricket. I urge young boys and girls to come along with their family members and relish the display of skills from both sides."

Tania Mallick, Head of Women Cricket: "It gives me immense pleasure that within a span of 16 months, we are all set to host the third international women's side in Pakistan. With South Africa women's team ready to take on Pakistan from 1 September, I urge fans to buy tickets and join us at the historic National Bank Stadium in Karachi. This promises to be a phenomenal six days of international cricket.

This series is not just about the matches; it's about celebrating the dedication, hard work, and remarkable talent of our players. They are eager to display their skills in front of their home fans."

PAK vs AFG: Pakistan reach ODI Rankings summit with Afghanistan sweep

A Sports

COLOMBO: A collective bowling effort after Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan's half-centuries, led Pakistan to the top of the ODI Rankings with a clean sweep victory in the PAK vs AFG ODI series.

Set to chase 269 in the third PAK vs AFG ODI, Afghanistan could only raise 209 despite Mujeeb Ur Rahman's brisk half-century.

The hosts got off to a dismal start to the pursuit as they lost their in-form batters Rahmanullah Gurbaz (5) and Ibrahim Zadran (0) in the 10th over with just 30 runs on the board.

Following back-to-back dismissals, Afghanistan's new opener Riaz Hassan was then joined by captain Hashmatullah Shahidi and the pair raised 30 runs for the third-wicket stand.

The pair batted cautiously before Shadab Khan sparked a collapse in Afghanistan's batting lineup by removing both batters in the same over.

Riaz scored a cautious 34 off 66 deliveries while Shahidi scored a 31-ball 13.

Afghanistan then lost three more wickets in quick succession and slipped



to 97/7 in 32.1 overs with both Mohammad Nabi (3) and Rashid Khan (16) back into the dugout.

Coming out to bat at number nine, Mujeeb Ur Rahman glimmered a ray of hope for the depleted Afghanistan side as he launched a counterattack on the Pakistan bowlers with belligerent hitting.

He put on an astonishing 57-run partnership with Shahidullah to keep Afghanistan in the hunt.

Mujeeb dominated his eighth-wicket stand with Shahidullah by scoring the majority of the runs while the latter batted cautiously before eventually falling victim to Shadab Khan in the 40th over.

Shahidullah struck two boundaries on his way to a 65-ball 37.

Meanwhile, Mujeeb continued dominating Pakistan bowlers with clean hitting and soon put on another vital partnership for Afghanistan as he added 45 runs for the ninth-wicket stand with Fareed Ahmad before finally perishing in the 46th over.

He top-scored for Afghanistan with a quickfire 37-ball 64 which featured five boundaries and as many sixes.

Pakistan ace pacer Shaheen then wrapped a dominant 59-run victory for Pakistan as he castled Fareed (17) in the penultimate over.

Shadab Khan led the bowling attack for Pakistan with 3/42 while Shaheen, Faheem and Nawaz bagged two each.

Opting to bat first in the third PAK vs AFG ODI of the three-match series, led by Pakistan 2-0, the green shirts accumulated 268/8 at the back of anchoring half-centuries by Babar and Rizwan. Pakistan's opening pair of Fakhar

Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq failed to provide a solid start to their side as they could raise 36 runs before returning Gulbadin Naib dismissed the former in the ninth over.

He could score 27 off 33 deliveries, laced up with five boundaries.

Naib then struck again in the 13th over to get rid of in-form Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq, who scored a scratchy 13 off 30 deliveries, hitting only one boundary.

With the side reeling at 52/2 in 12.5 overs, Babar Azam was joined by Mohammad Rizwan at the crease and the duo knitted an anchoring partnership for the third wicket.

Babar and Rizwan added 110 runs amid their cautious stand with both scoring half-centuries before Rashid Khan provided a much-needed breakthrough to Afghanistan, dismissing the Pakistan captain.

He smashed four boundaries and a six on his way to an 86-ball 60.

Babar's dismissal opened the floodgates for Pakistan as they lost four wickets in quick succession, including their mainstay Mohammad Rizwan, and slipped to 189/6 in 41 overs.

Rizwan remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a 79-ball 67 which featured six boundaries and a six.

Following the slump, Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Ali Agha stitched a vital 61-run partnership for the seventh wicket and added crucial runs at a brisk rate in the death overs before Nawaz fell in the penultimate over.

He scored a brisk 25-ball 30, hitting two boundaries and a six.

Meanwhile, Agha carried his bat all the way through with a 31-ball 38, which included four boundaries and a six.

Fareed Ahmad and Gulbadin Naib bagged two wickets each for Afghanistan in the third PAK vs AFG ODI while Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan made one scalp each.

Saud Shakeel added in Pakistan's squad for Asia Cup



Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Pakistan have made an addition to their squad for the Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023. Left-handed batter Saud Shakeel has been added to the 17-member squad. Tayyab Tahir, the right-handed batter, will remain with the squad as a travelling reserve.

The Babar Azam's side will arrive in Multan on Sunday, 27 August, and will rest the next day. The team management has provided relaxation to the players who participated in the Lankan Premier League. Babar, Imam-ul-Haq and Naseem Shah will travel to Lahore on Sunday and join the side on Monday evening.

The players will train on Tuesday, 29 August, at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 1630 till 1930. Before the start of the session, the Pakistan captain will hold pre-series media conference.

Pakistan play Nepal in Multan on 30 August in the tournament opener.

Karachi Grammar School won boy's and girl's Independence Day Athletics titles



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Independence Day Inter-School Athletics Championship organized by Sindh Athletic Association held at NCC, PSB Karachi Centre.

135 Schools and Colleges and more than 2000 athletes took part in U-10, U-14, U-17 and U-19 boys and girls categories.

Karachi Grammar School won both boys' and girls' Athletics titles.

KGS secured the first position in boys with (322 points) 17 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals while in the girl's category KGS (280 points) won 15 gold, 4 silver and 9 bronze medals. CAS school stood runner-up in both categories.

Chief Guest Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab distributed certificates, medals and trophies among the winning athletes.

Zaka Ashraf congratulates Pakistan Men's team on achieving No. 1 ODI ranking

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the PCB Management Committee, has extended his heartiest congratulations to the Pakistan men's cricket team on their remarkable achievement of securing the No. 1 ranking in the ICC ODI Team Rankings. This outstanding feat comes on the heels of a sensational 3-0 series victory against Afghanistan, showcasing Pakistan's exceptional skill, determination, and unwavering commitment to the sport.

Zaka Ashraf said on Saturday night: "This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and unity exhibited by our talented players and their unwavering focus on excellence. It is a proud moment for all of us as Pakistan cricket team reclaim the top spot in the ODI rankings.

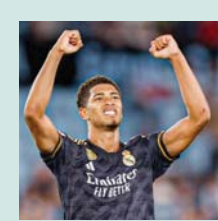
"I also want to congratulate and laud the efforts of the entire squad, coaching staff, and support personnel for their collective commitment to raising the flag of Pakistan high in the world of cricket.

"The passion and enthusiasm of our fans have been instrumental in motivating our players to push their limits and achieve extraordinary feats. Achieving the top spot is a great example of our team reciprocating the love shown by the fans all across the world.

"We have Asia Cup and World Cup coming in the future, so we are determined to maintain this position and continue to excel across all formats of the game. Our journey has just begun, and I am confident that with the collective efforts of our players, management, and fans, Pakistan cricket will continue to scale new heights and bring more glory to our beloved nation."

Bellingham strikes late as Real Madrid edge Celta Vigo

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VIGO: Former La Liga champions Real Madrid continued their impressive start to the ongoing season as they triumphed 1-0 over Celta Vigo, courtesy of Jude Bellingham's late winner.

Bellingham arrived from Borussia Dortmund in the summer following a huge transfer deal and has already surpassed Madrid's hopes by settling in quickly.

The English midfielder, having scored in the two previous La Liga fixtures for Real Madrid, made it three in a row, after heading Joselu's cross into the nets in the 81st minute to help Los Blancos prevail.

Celta Vigo did well to keep Real Madrid at bay for longer stretches, but in the end, failed to keep a clean sheet as Jude Bellingham sneaked past their defence and scored the winner in the dying moments.

Real Madrid had a perfect opportunity to pull ahead earlier, but Rodrigo's penalty was saved by Celta keeper Ivan Villar.

Despite scripting a perfect start to their La Liga 2023/23 campaign — winning three consecutive opening matches and sitting at the top of the standings — problems emerged for Carlo Ancelotti's side as their key striker Vinicius Jr was taken off the field due to an injury. Vinicius went on a dash down the left side of the field and appeared to tweak the back of his left leg just 13 minutes into the game.