



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابن شہاب نے خبر دی، انہیں عبید اللہ بن عبد اللہ بن عتبہ نے اور ان سے زین بن خالد جنتی نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم ان لوگوں کے بارے میں حکم دے رہے تھے جو غیر شادی شدہ ہوں اور زنا کیا ہو کہ سو کوڑے مارے جائیں اور سال بھر کے لیے جاؤ ظن کر دیا جائے۔
(بخاری: ص 83)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Ayatollah Khamenei's statement on Holy Quran Desecration: An Analysis

The desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden is a bitter, conspiratorial and dangerous incident. The severest punishment for the perpetrator of this crime is agreed upon by all Islamic scholars, and the Swedish government must also know that by supporting the criminal..... (Text on Page 5)



Miftah Ismail not optimistic about any relief by IMF in electricity bills

Former finance minister Miftah Ismail has claimed that without seeking permission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the incumbent government could not extend relief to masses who are feeling the heat of the inflated electricity bills. Following mass protests against the exorbitant electricity bills across the country, the former minister said the caretaker government would seek IMF approval before providing relief to consumers... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar-ul-Muzaffar 10, Monday, August 28, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 139 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Emergency Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairing an emergency meeting regarding electricity bills at the Prime Minister's House on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Caretaker PM seeks plan for reduction in inflated power bills within 48 hours

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Sunday here said solid measures should be presented to him in the next 48 hours for reduction in increased electricity bills.

He was chairing a meeting on increase in electricity bills, power theft and problems of the power sector.

He was given a detailed briefing on the increase in electricity bills of July.

He said no step would be

taken in haste to avoid harm to the country.

The prime minister said such steps would be taken which would not put additional burden on the national exchequer and would also facilitate the consumer.

It was not possible that the common man was in difficulty and the Prime minister and the bureaucracy were using free electricity from their taxes, he added.

He said relevant ministries and departments should provide details of the institutions and officers who were getting free of

cost electricity.

He said he represented the common man, adding the electricity expenditure of the Prime Minister House and Pakistan Secretariat should be reduced as much as possible.

"Even switch off the air-conditioning of my room if this is needed," he remarked.

He said detailed consultation would be held with provincial chief ministers on Monday on steps to save electricity and on the issue of increased electricity bills in July.

The power distribution companies should give a road map for stopping electricity theft, he added.

The PM said reform plans in the electricity sector and short, medium and long term plans should be presented as soon as possible.

Caretaker federal ministers Shamsad Akhtar, Gohar Ejaz, Murtaza Solangi, Advisor to Prime Minister Dr Waqar Masood, Secretary Power, Chairman NEPRA, Chairman WAPDA and other officers attended the meeting.

Amid mounting public outcry over electricity price hikes, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has convened an emergency meeting in Islamabad on Sunday.

A day earlier, protests were held in cities across the country due to exorbitant electricity bills, prompting PM Kakar to summon an emergency meeting.

"Consultations will be held in the meeting to provide maximum relief to consumers in their electricity bill," the premier said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Electricity bills: Countrywide protests gaining momentum



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The movement against inflated electricity bills nationwide is gaining momentum every day. People are hitting the streets and burning the bills in protest.

The inflated power bills triggered country-wide protests from Karachi to Khyber and protests in some parts of the country are turning violent.

In Karachi, the people protested against exorbitant bills sent by K-Electric, the city's sole power supplier. People complained that the bills they are being served are more than their salaries.

In Peshawar, a large number of people took to the streets. Citizens say they will no longer sit silent against this 'injustice'. Traders from Ganj Bazaar and

Lahore Square also set fire to power bills to record their protest.

Meanwhile, in Rawalpindi, protesters gathered at Committee Chowk and burned bills while demanding that the government abolish imposed taxes on electricity.

In Gujranwala, protesters surrounded the Gujranwala Electric Power Company office in protest against expensive electricity.

Protests were also held in other cities, including Narowal, Attock, Sargodha, and Haripur, against high power bills.

It may be noted that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for an emergency meeting at the Prime Minister's House today (Sunday) to discuss the issue of rising electricity bills.

JI leadership booked over protest against power tariff hike



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Sunday booked Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leadership for protesting against increase in electricity prices in the federal capital.

According to details, the capital police lodged a first information report (FIR) against 12 people, including the JI leadership, at Barakahu Police Station.

The FIR - registered for

protesting against increase in electricity prices - stated that the demonstrators criticised the incumbent government.

In a statement, JI spokesman, while reacting to the development, condemned the registration of FIR against the party leadership and said that the government should provide relief instead of burdening the people. The spokesperson noted that citizens across Pakistan were protesting against the increase in electricity

FIA nabs suspect involved in running hawala hundi business

News Desk

MAILSI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested a suspected man for allegedly running hawala and hundi business in Mailsi city.

The FIA spokesperson said in a statement that a suspected man was arrested during a raid in the Mailsi city of Punjab's Vehari district. The arrested man was identified as Ghulam Sarwar.

The accused was involved in running an illegal currency exchange, the spokesperson added.

Earlier in the month, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar had arrested three men for their alleged involvement in hawala and hundi business.

Police conduct raids to arrest PIA CBA leaders

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The police department has conducted raids at the residence of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) CBA leaders following their protests against privatisation and salary raises.

Police raided the residences of PIA CBA People's Unity leaders for their arrests against the protests against privatisations and for salary raises. The raids were conducted in PIA Township in which the airline's security officers were also present.

The PIA administration registered cases against the protesting PIA employees. Police and airport security officials searched the houses during the raids.

A CBA leader told the media that police officials

harassed his family members during the raid. Sources told ARY News that there is no confirmation regarding the arrest of any CBA People's Unity or Officers Association's office-bearers.

On Friday, it emerged that the administration of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) decided to take legal action against the employees protesting against the privatisation of the national flag carrier and demanding salary raise.

Sources told ARY News that the PIA administration completed its legal consultations to take action against employees protesting against the privatisation plan and demanding salary raises.

The action will be taken against the alleged violators of the Pakistan Essential

Services (Maintenance) Act, 1952, which was imposed in May, said sources, adding that the negligence in performing tasks would be considered a crime.

Under the Essential Services Act, the employees were banned from gathering crowds or staging protests or sit-ins.

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

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

MQM-P delegation to meet ECP high-up today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) delegation will meet the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) high-ups on Monday (today) amid ongoing consultations regarding the general elections, ARY News reported on Sunday.

Sources said that the MQM-P delegation led by Dr Farooq Sattar will meet the ECP high-ups at 11:00 am tomorrow. The delegation members include Javed Hanif, Izharul Hassan, Sadiq Iftikhar and Farhan Chishti.

In the upcoming meeting, discussions will be held on delimitations, election code, schedule and electoral lists. The political party will raise its concerns over the old delimitations and electoral lists besides tabling its recommendations for new delimitations.

Sources added that MQM-P will urge the ECP to revise delimitations and voter lists before organising the general elections.

Earlier in the day, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday demanded transparent elections with the fresh delimitation of constituencies in line with the census 2023.

Monitoring by-election in 21 districts of KP: Shamshad Khan

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Election Commissioner Shamshad Khan in a video message said that they were monitoring the by-elections

in 21 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) wherein a control room, and complaint cell had been established for three days of the election.

"A central control room has

been established for monitoring the election process, and redressal of complaints," Shamshad Khan added.

He said, "Officers in the central control room along with the

monitoring team are monitoring the election process."

"Senior officers from the central control room along with the monitoring team are closely monitoring the election process

for three days without interruption," Shamshad Khan disclosed.

"Apart from this, complaints regarding the election process will also be resolved immediately," he informed.

Pakistani doctor gets 18 years in US prison on terror charges

News Desk

WASHINGTON: A Pakistani physician, Muhammad Masood, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for attempting to provide material support to a terrorist organisation, Daesh.

Muhammad Masood, a 31-year-old licensed Pakistani doctor, living in the United States on a work visa, was formerly employed as a research coordinator at a medical clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

"A Rochester man was sentenced today to 216 months in prison, equivalent to 18 years, followed by five years of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization," the statement added.

al support to a foreign terrorist organization," a press release issued by the US Department of Justice stated.

"A Rochester man was sentenced today to 216 months in prison, equivalent to 18 years, followed by five years of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization," the statement added.

"Between January 2020 and March 2020, Masood used an encrypted messaging application to facilitate his travel overseas to join a terrorist organization," the statement added.



Development meeting

QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Caretaker govt's efforts to give a fillip to industrial revolution in Balochistan PM Kakar

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday said that the interim government, during its short period, would make all-out efforts to spur an industrial revolution in Balochistan.

He said that under the Special Investment Facilitation Council, efforts would be made so that Balochistan province could benefit from foreign investment.

The caretaker prime minister was addressing a delegation of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce that called on him.

The delegation comprising prominent members of the business community of the province also apprised the

prime minister of their issues, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here.

The prime minister said that Balochistan was not only the largest province of the country owing to area, but also a very suitable area for trade due to Gwadar port.

He opined that the province should have been a hub of industries due to huge mineral resources and vast agricultural land.

During the meeting, the caretaker prime minister also assured the delegation of the resolution of their issues.

Separately, a delegation led by Sahibzada Muhammad Khan also called on Caretaker PM Kakar.

The delegation felicitated the prime minister on assum-

ing his duties and expressed good wishes.

The prime minister assured them to address the lingering issues faced by the residents of the province.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Sunday stressed upon formulation of planning to ensure that higher education at the university level should become a regular base for the latest research and innovative achievements.

He said that graduated students should be equipped with the professional skill sets to meet the requirements of industries.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of vice-chancellors of

public sector universities of Balochistan that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release issued here.

The delegation apprised the prime minister of the progress over higher education and the pertaining issues.

The prime minister underscored the need to promote a culture of research and creativity as the lack of innovation was linked with the deficiency in research and higher education.

The caretaker prime minister further asked for setting up incubation centers for the students by the industrial sector in universities, so that they could get opportunities for contemporary research, adding that with these meas-

ures, trained manpower would be provided to the industries, thus paving the way for an industrial revolution.

He shared that with the continuous facility of higher education, the improvement could be brought in different sectors of life.

The youth should be provided with ample opportunities to seek higher education so that the talented young lot could play their due role in the progress of the country, he said, adding the youth and manpower were the vital assets for a better future.

The caretaker prime minister also underlined to remove all hurdles in the pursuit of higher education by bringing it to par with international standards.

Pakistan, China joint air exercise 'Shaheen X' to begin tomorrow



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-China joint air training exercise Shaheen X will begin tomorrow which is being hosted by China in Jiuquan and Yinchuan.

China's Ministry of National Defense said in a statement, "Based on the annual plan and bilateral consensus, China-Pakistan Joint Air Force Training Exercise 'Shaheen (Eagle) - X' will be held in north-west China's Jiuquan and Yinchuan from late August to mid-September."

It added, "This is the tenth joint training exercise between the Chinese and Pakistani air forces, which will help further deepen practical cooperation between the two militaries and improve the level of actual combat training of their troops."

Shaheen's series of exercises aim to enhance the professional skills and operational preparedness of both the air forces in addition to developing a mutual understanding of each other's combat skills and promoting interoperability.

Khursheed Shah casts doubts over Nawaz Sharif's return

Bureau Report

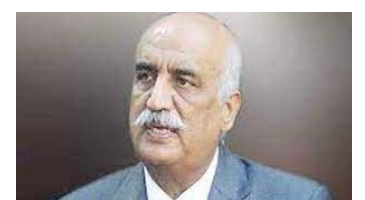
KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Khursheed Shah claimed PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif had no immediate plans to return to Pakistan.

"Nawaz Sharif is unwell and he may not come," he said days after PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif announced that the former premier would come back to his homeland in October this year.

"Shehbaz Sharif might have said that Nawaz Sharif would come in October but I would say his [Nawaz] health condition is not well," he added.

Shah said the PML-N chief's health might deteriorate again when the time of his return comes.

Earlier this week, Shehbaz Sharif said that the PML-N's supreme leader would return to Pakistan in



October. Speaking to the media, the PML-N president said that the senior leadership after intensive deliberations decided that Nawaz Sharif would be in Pakistan in October to lead the party's election campaign.

Shehbaz said that the assemblies were dissolved in accordance with the law, and now the responsibility rested with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to conduct elections in a free and fair manner. The PML-N would fully back the ECP as a political party in discharging its duties, he added.

Miftah Ismail not optimistic about any relief by IMF in electricity bills

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Miftah Ismail has claimed that without seeking permission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the incumbent government could not extend relief to masses who are feeling the heat of the inflated electricity bills.

Following mass protests against the exorbitant electricity bills across the country, the former minister said the caretaker government would seek IMF approval before providing relief to electricity consumers, who are using 200 to 300 units monthly.

On June 30, Pakistan and the IMF had reached staff-level



agreement on \$3 billion stand-by arrangement.

Speaking in a local television show, Ismail said the caretaker government could decrease tax burden on domestic consumers who are using up to 300 electricity units.

"The IMF will agree on the

bills' issue if the government talks to the fund humbly," the minister said.

Reminding his stint, Miftah said, "When I was the finance minister, Shehbaz Sharif directed me not to increase power tariff for those using up to 200 units."

He said he had talked to the IMF about the matter and subsequently, the international lender approved the request.

In Pakistan, he said the electricity rate touched record levels and situation could be eased if the government would abolish sales tax from the electricity bills. However, he said the government had to meet the tax collection target.

"If sales tax is removed from electricity bills, then where will it be collected from?"

"If the government avoids imposing ST on property, agriculture and services sector, it will shift it to the poor, which is being done, the former minister observed.

He urged the leadership

of political parties across the board to devise a strategy to collect tax from the rich, adding that taxes are not meant for just the poor.

"Contracts made in 1994 and 2002 have expired, hence, new contracts should be signed to produce cheaper electricity," the minister suggested.

He also proposed privatisation of all the power distribution companies (discos) of Pakistan.

Replying a question, the minister clarified that the incumbent government was not responsible for the inflated electricity bills. He said that the consumers were paying for the power theft and rise in circular debt.

Iftikhar Ali Malik stresses Africa's \$4 trillion market as key for Pakistan's sustainable development

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday stressed the need for fully exploiting the vast potential and investments in Africa, a \$4 trillion market, for sustainable socio-economic development of Pakistan.

Chairing a round table conference on 'Vast Potentials of Africa and Pakistan', he said recognizing Africa's potential for exponential growth in the mining sector as a result of the global energy transition, he anticipated an influx of foreign investment within the continent which holds an estimated 30 percent of the planet's mineral reserves.

He said, "Africa possesses an impressive range of minerals, particularly those vital to the energy transition,"



according to a news release issued here.

He said, "We can not afford to sideline the continent that holds the key to many of the world's most pressing challenges."

He stressed the need to explore the significant opportunities that lie in harnessing the untapped potential of partnerships with African nations.

"As Pakistan seeks to diversify its economic and diplomatic relations, Africa presents a rich landscape for collaboration and mutual growth," he

added. He said, "Africa, with its diverse economies, vast natural resources, and growing consumer markets, holds immense promise for trade, investment, and cooperation."

He said by strategically engaging with African nations, Pakistan could tap into sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure development, technology, and education.

Such partnerships would not only bolster our economic prospects but also strengthen diplomatic ties on the international stage, he added.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said, "By taking proactive steps to explore and exploit the vast potential of African partnerships, Pakistan can position itself as a progressive global player committed to mutual growth, peace, and prosperity."

He said, "Visionary leadership can lead Pakistan toward a brighter future

through strengthened ties with the African continent."

He urged the government to consider formulating a comprehensive Africa policy that outlines the key objectives and strategies for collaboration with African nations.

This policy could prioritize sectors of mutual interest, encourage trade delegations and investment forums, and facilitate cultural exchanges, he added.

Another speaker Rameen Kashif recipient of the Best CEO award said initiatives aimed at knowledge exchange, capacity building, and cultural ties between Pakistan and African countries could foster a deeper understanding and friendship between our peoples.

Education and skills development programs could be established to empower African youth, leading to sustainable development, she added.

Ansari calls for awareness campaign on 'Zainab Alert' app

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ameen Ansari the father of late Zainab here on Sunday stressed the need to launch a massive awareness campaign on "Zainab Alert" app for effective emergency response and recovery of missing children. "A widespread awareness campaign to sensitize the general public about the rights of children and attitudes and

behaviors could help create a safe and enabling environment for them to grow up," Ansari told APP.

He urged the parents, media and all stakeholders to play their due role in implementation of the "Zainab Alert Act" in true letter and spirit to combat child abuse, advising the parents to keep an eye on children activity to avoid harassment. He said the Inspectors general of police (IGPs) in their provincial capacities as well as the chief ministers and provincial home secretaries should follow up on "Zainab Alert" system at relevant regional and district levels.

Over 20 PTI workers arrested for taking out rally in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Over 20 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers have been arrested in Karachi for taking out a rally 'without getting prior permission'. Police arrested more than 20 PTI workers for organising a rally at Sharea Faisal without getting prior permission from the local authorities in Karachi.

The political party announced a public rally from Sharea Faisal to Mazar-e-Quaid to express solidarity with the incarcerated PTI chief.

Heavy contingents of the police force were deployed at the PTI Karachi headquarters and other parts of the metropolis.

However, the PTI workers managed to take out rallies in small groups in some areas using different routes. Yesterday, the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) grilled Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister in the cypher case in Attock jail.

Hydro-power potential vital for socioeconomic uplift of Kashmiris: AJK PM

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq, while referring to the region's incredible hydro-power potential, has said that taking full advantage of the existing hydro-power potential was imperative for socioeconomic uplift of the people of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

The PM said this while speaking at a high level meeting of the Energy and Water Resources Department held at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday. Stressing the need for an uninterrupted supply of electricity across the state, the PM said that along with repair and maintenance of the feeders there was an urgent need to improve the power distribution system.

The PM also sought feasibility reports regarding Khurshidabad



Power Project, Transmission Line from Minhasa to Bagh and Transmission Line from Rampura to Barora. He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a feasibility report on whether the Mang area should be linked to Rawalakot or Palindri. He said that Betaar Power Project should

be upgraded for the comfort of the people of Haveli. He said that PDO must ensure better maintenance of its projects so that citizens do not face any difficulties. Anwaar emphasized the need to adopt a better strategy regarding Jagran 1, 2, 3, 4. The Prime Minister also stressed maintenance of community development projects and local power houses in Neelum, Haveli and Jhelum Valley.

He said that the demands/needs of commercial, industrial and domestic users should be taken into account and the billing system should be made transparent so that there was no inconvenience to the public. The Prime Minister also sought decentralization of the M&D department to reduce the workload. He said that the three Chief Engineers have a heavy responsibility to bring out-of-the-box solutions to provide convenience to

the people. He said that the department should satisfy its seven and a half lakh customers through its best service. Earlier, Secretary of Energy and Water Resources AJK govt. Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab gave a detailed briefing to the Prime Minister regarding the electricity distribution system in Azad Kashmir. The meeting was attended among others by senior minister Colonel (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Government Ministers Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani, Mian Abdul Waheed, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Member Kashmir Council Raja Shuja Khurshid Rathore, Special Assistant Colonel (retd) Maroof, Additional Chief Secretary Development/Principal Secretary Fayaz Ali Abbasi, Secretary Energy and Water Resources Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab and Chief Engineer Saeed Gilani.

Punjab government will neither be blackmailed by elements promoting vulgarity

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information Amir Mir has clarified that the Punjab government will neither be blackmailed by elements promoting vulgarity in the theatres nor will succumb to any threat or pressure. Amir Mir while talking with the media persons categorically remarked that the elements promoting pornography and obscenity should desist from becoming spokespersons of genuine artists.



Amir Mir said that genuine artists are siding with the Punjab government in its crackdown against indecency and immorality. He rebuked that the elements minting money through obscene dances cannot be deemed as true representatives of the artists adding that crackdown will continue against such elements for making theatres as haven of obscene dances. Amir Mir asserted that the elements involved in attempting to mislead the people will also be dealt with an iron hand. Amir Mir stressed that strict accountability will be done of such elements challenging the writ of the government.

In reply to a question, he apprised that the Punjab government is introducing amendments in the Drama Act and dance in dramas will be banned. Besides, producers committing violation of the Drama Act will be awarded punishments along with imposition of fines. Amir Mir revealed that after the approval of the Punjab Cabinet, a new Drama Act will soon be enforced. Provincial Minister deplored that the theatre owners and producers continued obscene dances despite being given warning on account of which they have been sealed. The commercial being sealed will remain closed till the enforcement of new drama rules.

Important jirga held in Waziristan to amicably resolve Bala Pathar land dispute



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: An important jirga of administrative officers and tribal elders from both districts was held to amicably resolve the Shakai Balapathar land dispute between South Waziristan Lower and Upper Waziristan, and a great progress has been made regarding the land dispute, both sides have agreed to resolve the Balapathar land dispute peacefully through negotiations.

It should be noted that the Bala Pathar land dispute between the Spirkai and Nano Khel tribes has been going on for decades, in which dozens of tribes have been killed so far. While two precious lives were lost in armed conflict between the two tribes a week ago.

However, at that time, with the efforts of the local administration, police, leaders of political parties and tribal elders, the fronts were cleared of the armed men of both tribes and after which the way for negotiations has been paved.

In this regard, an important jirga was held between Nano Khel and Spirkai tribes, in which Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi from Lower Waziristan, Assistant Commissioner Sarveka Umar Khattab from Upper Waziristan, 7 elders of Darey Mehsud tribes and 7 elders of Ahmadzai Wazir tribe were present.

On this occasion they started negotiations between the two nations, 10/10 lakh cash was deposited by both the tribes as a guarantee, so that neither side could commit illegal acts during the negotiations and it was also agreed that if there are armed people of any party in the fronts, they will immediately vacate the fronts.

While during the negotiations, there will be no armed conflict, if any party violates it, he will be fined one crore rupees.

Trials and interviews for admission completed

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Trials and interviews for admission to women's university Multan have been completed.



According to the spokesperson, the special vacancies in the Women's University, including sports, extracurricular activities, trials and interviews for the seats of Hafiza Qur'an, were conducted. The services of Director Sports Zakaria University Abida Khan were hired for the trials of the candidates. She checked the credentials of the players and evaluated the performance.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha reviewed the trials. He said that along with curricular activities, extra-curricular activities and sports are necessary for the students. Women University provides all sports facilities to its students. Teachers should ensure that eligible and genuine players can be selected on these posts.

Similarly, the selection of female students participating in extra-curricular activities should also be done on merit so that the name of Women University can shine in national level competitions.

PHSA emphasizes need to adopt modern technology in agriculture

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday urged the government to prioritize the integration of modern technology into our agricultural practices for bumper production to meet food staple needs of ever-growing population. Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Momin Ali he said the integration of advanced biotechnology techniques can lead to the development of crop varieties that are more resistant to pests, diseases, and adverse climatic conditions, said a news release issued here.



He said this not only ensures food security but also contributes to increased farmer incomes and reduced dependence on imports. He said modern technologies such as precision agriculture, remote sensing, data analytics, and biotechnology offer immense potential to enhance productivity, optimize resource utilization, and mitigate environmental impact. Utilization of modern technology is crucial for the sustainable growth and development of the agricultural industry, he added. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economy by contributing to food security, providing raw materials for industries, generating employment, and supporting rural communities.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: Members of Christians community hold the holy cross and banner reading 'Justice should be given to the Christian community victims of Jaranwala tragedy' during a protest outside National Press Club, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Protest against increased electricity bills

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Addressing the protest organized by Jamaat-e-Islami in Makhdoom Rasheed, Naib Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Tehsil Multan President Shazada Babar Maan said that the electricity bills have become beyond the people's tolerance. It has been increased that there is no relative proportion, at this time the price of the household unit has reached 63 rupees. In the house that has one fan, two bulbs and one water pump, the bill of this house has been sent for 58 thousand rupees. This is a widow. A poor woman who works in the fields has a house bill, similarly a laborer whose house does not have four walls has a house bill of 28 thousand



rupees. has been buried alive. collecting taxes from them, they collect them from the poor and workers. The reason is that 14 illegal taxes have been added to the electricity bills and so far 8 people have committed

suicide due to not being able to pay the electricity bills in our dear Pakistan. The lives of future generations should be ruined and they should be forced to commit suicide. He said that now the people

will not sit silently, the rulers will be reminded of the holiday milk, the people have come to the streets, now they will return home after arranging WAPDA forever along with the rulers. During the protest, electric-

ity bills were set on fire and slogans were raised against the rulers and WAPDA.

Shazada Babar Mann, while giving a deadline to the government, said that if electricity is not made cheaper by September 30 and illegal taxes are not removed from electricity bills, then the MEPSCO chief office in Multan will be surrounded on September 1.

A large number of youth participated in the protest under the leadership of JI Youth President Mudassar Rehman. Amir Hamza Mann, Tabir Hamza Mann, Mushtaq Gul, Sagheer Ashraf Singheda, Tanveer Ashraf Singheda, Muzamil Rehman, Isa Mann, Musa Mann, Bilal Mann, Malik Altaf Awan and hundreds of local people participated.

Allied and EFA Schools now playing a role in development of Pakistan: Dr Shahid

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Dr. Shahid Mehmood Project Director of Allied and EFA Schools said that the sapling planted by Chairman Mian Amir Mehmood and Executive Director Sohail Afzal is now playing a role in the development of the country by becoming a fruitful tree. It is an educated Pakistan. It is the only educational institution in Pakistan whose students get hundreds of positions in the ninth and tenth classes every year. Parents and students feel proud to enroll in Allied and EFA schools. It gives free education to children and if one's father dies during the education, then he is also given absolutely free education in the institution.



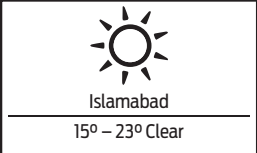
tribution of awards and prizes among the students who took the best positions in ninth and tenth classes in Multan region

yesterday. Board Hafiz Qasim CEO Education Faiz Abbas and educationist Professor Dr. Hameed Raza Siddiqui

said that the students who graduated from here are today in Pakistan and developed countries in the fields of engineers, doctors, IT and others.

The future of the students studying here is very bright and the parents' choice of this educational institution is the best. Regional Manager South Punjab Muhammad Imran Arif and Deputy Regional Manager Syed Ahmed Waqas said that we At the same time, the students are given the best training and religious education and the number of students taking more than 1050 marks every year is in hundreds in Multan region, which is increasing the good name of the institution and the number of admissions.

On this occasion, the students presented tableaux, skits and songs, and Mrs. Mehreen Gul was responsible for organizing the reception.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:10 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	4:49 pm
Maghrib	6:41 pm
Isha	8:08 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Health minister inspects federal capital's hospitals

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Sunday visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and the Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad to examine facilities being provided to the patients. During visit, he examined various departments of PIMS and Federal General Hospital including emergency section and received response from the admitted patients about the standard of medical services being delivered to them.

On the occasion, the minister said, "We will make efforts to meet the challenges in the health sector. We have to work round-the-clock for the welfare of the people of this country." "Health sector is our first priority and improving the health sector is my mission," Dr. Nadeem Jan added.

He assured that he would try his level best to resolve the problems of the people in a short period of time on priority basis. He expressed his resolve to serve the country and the nation. Public welfare projects



would have to be completed on fast track, Dr. Nadeem Jan said. "We will ensure effective measures to protect people from diseases and epidemics," he said. He asked the hospital staff to work with full dedication to come up to expectations of the people. Dr. Nadeem said, "We will endeavor to lay the foundation of revolutionary welfare projects of public interest in the health sector."

Purchasing

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in buying shoes from roadside stalls outside Sunday Weekly Bazaar at Aabpara in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

23 outlaws including 19 gamblers held by Police in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police in different parts of Attock district arrested as many as 23 outlaws among them 19 gamblers during campaign launched against anti-social elements on Sunday. Illegal weapons, bet money and pets were also seized, police sources said.

In the first incident, Rangoo police raided a gambling den in village Tajjak where gambling was being carried out over cock-fight. As many as 16 gamblers were arrested while nine cocks and bet money worth 83 thousand was also recovered on this occasion. Separately, Pindigheb raided at a snooker club where gambling was held over a match. As many as three persons were arrested while bet money worth Rs 55 was also seized by police.

Moreover, the Hazro police foiled a robbery bid by arresting three persons planning for robbery along with service road of Islamabad-Peshawar motorway (M-1) near Nartoppa village. Acting on a tip off that three suspicious persons in a car with weapons present in the area for planning for rob the motorists are present and a raiding team reached at the spot and rounded the three persons. The suspects were identified Zahid Iqbal-native of Abbottabad, Asif Jehanzaib-a native of Swabi and Shoukat Khan-a native of Haripur. Illegal weapons including a 223 bore gun, three 30 bore pistol and one 12 bore gun was also recovered from their possession.

Ahmed Faraz was an epoch-making poet and intellectual: Haleem Qureshi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahmed Faraz was an epoch-making poet and intellectual whose poetry influenced all sections of the society in every era. It is a miracle of Faraz's art and personality that we could not forget him even today. These views were expressed by eminent poet and intellectual Haleem Qureshi while presiding over the Mushaira of Kohsar Literary Forum organized in the memory of Ahmed Faraz on his fifteenth death anniversary in Awan e Quaid in association with Nazriya Pakistan Council (Trust).

He further said that Faraz always represented the downtrodden section of the society. The Special guest Dr Maqsood Jafari said that Faraz was a great poet as well as a courageous person who stood firm in front of false forces.

Dr. Nisar Turabi said that Faraz always raised his voice



for the rights of the common man through writing and speech. The guest of honor, poet Javed Ahmed, the voice of Kashmiris, said that Faraz's resistance poetry has emerged as a voice of every era today.

Muhammad Irfan Khan, patron of the forum, said that while Faraz interpreted the new generation with his romantic poetry, he enriched literature with resistance poetry.

Forum founder and president Professor Irfan Jameel said that Faraz made a beautiful history of Urdu literature with his impressive art and personality.

At the beginning of the event, representing Nazriya Pakistan Council, Director Programs Hameed Qaiser said that this beautiful platform of the Council is the vision of prominent journalist and intellectual Zahid Malik that today

we are honoring him on the fifteenth anniversary of world famous poet Ahmed Faraz.

Remembering I welcome you all on behalf of Council Chairman Mian Muhammad Javed, Executive Secretary Gohar Zahid Malik and myself. Forum Chairman Ali Ahmed Qamar gathered applause by presenting a poem written on Ahmed Faraz.

Following Poet and writers paid tribute to Faraz through their poems which include

Haleem Qureshi, Dr. Maqsood Jafri, Dr. Nisar Turabi, Javed Ahmad, Dr. Ashfaq Nasir, Dr. Farzana Farah, Ali Ahmad Qamar, Nisar Nazish, Nizam. Uddin Nazim, Wafa Chishti, Professor Syed Zahid Hussain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Ahmad Zahoor, Akram Al Wari, Nusrat Yab Nusrat, Safdar Hussain Wamiq, Mohsin Shaikh, Dr. Salahuddin Saleh, Muti Ahmed Mujtabi, Dr. Faisal Shahzad and Waqas Aziz.

IPS, RIIO to form think tanks' network on Indian Ocean Region

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Research Institute for Indian Ocean Economics (RIIO) signed a bilateral MoU in Kunming, China to create a multilateral cooperative network of think tanks of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The initiative was launched during the 8th RIIO international conference on 'Common Development of China and Indian Ocean Region' held with the theme of 'Challenges and Prospects of Blue Economy Cooperation in the Indian Ocean: from the Perspective of Security and Development', which was hosted by RIIO-YUFE, said a press release on Sunday. Apart from IPS, the event was attended by top officials of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (SIS), India, Centre for Economic and Social Development



(CESD), Myanmar; Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, and Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka.

The participating institutions have also signed a letter of intent to become part of the network after necessary formalities. This network will work for the policy analysis and review of Indian Ocean's strategic issues, undertaking joint activities, promoting common develop-

ment between China and Indian Ocean region through research and discussion, and publishing research papers, articles, books, white papers, and reports as an outcome, all in a bid to strengthen various areas of cooperation such as investment environment in Indian Ocean economies, the foreign policy and economic relations of Indian Ocean economies, and any other such issues having bilateral or

multilateral implications for each country.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman stated that the economies, livelihoods and cultural identities of the states and people around IOR are vitally linked to it. For continuous, coordinated and proactive growth of the blue economies, greater focus on maritime specific policies, research and education, knowledge and information sharing, establishing mechanisms and networks, integrated planning on regional scales as well as within the countries, and robust governance involving industry, community and other stakeholders including the governments themselves, is required. He stressed that developing a healthy competitive environment is inevitable to take benefit of the new opportunities appearing not only in the established sectors but in the emerging sectors as well.

Pakistan's Youth: A Demographic Dividend for a Healthier Tomorrow

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: With a growing youth population, the nation stands on the brink of both challenge and opportunity. Currently, over 64% of Pakistan's population is under 30, a demographic trend set to continue until at least 2050. This youth bulge can be harnessed as a driving force for positive change, particularly in the realm of family planning and healthier population management.

Pakistan's National Human Development Report 2017 offers revealing insights into the current state of our youth. It highlights that only 6% of young individuals have more than 12 years of education, and 29 out of every 100 are illiterate. In terms of employment, 39 out of 100 youth have jobs, with a significant gender disparity. Only 4% are actively searching for work, while 57 out of 100 are neither working nor seeking employment. The report also underscores the lack of connectivity and social engagement space, with limited access to the internet, cell phones, libraries, and sports facilities.

Moreover, around 9.45 million children are not enrolled in primary schools despite Pakistan's constitutional commitment to free education for all. At the current pace, complete enrollment won't be achieved until 2076. However, to meet the global education goal by 2030, the annual net enrolment rate must quadruple from the current rate of 0.92% to 3.8%.

To effectively utilize this youth demographic as a demographic dividend, urgent action is required. Each year, almost 4 million young people enter the working-age population. However, without interventions, the current labor force participation and unemployment rates cannot accommodate this influx. To address this, about 1.3 million jobs need to be created annually over the next five years to improve labor force participation rates and reduce unemployment.

The Delivering Accelerated Family Planning in Pakistan (DAFPAK) program, led by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), recognizes the potential of Pakistan's youth bulge. The KhairKhwah platform, under the DAFPAK program, is a commendable effort to empower young individuals with information about reproductive health and family planning. Yet, to fully realize the demographic dividend, a holistic approach is imperative.

Experience modern int'l style living standards in the heart of Sargodha



News Desk

SARGODHA: Shalimar Group of Companies, a prominent name in the real estate sector of Sargodha, brought together the world's best architects and urban planners Meinhardt Group Singapore for their project Shalimar Smart City - The First-Ever Smart City in their locality. This project introducing the latest concept in living standards marks a significant milestone as Golf Avenue becomes the first-of-its-kind venture in the region, offering modern living and luxurious amenities to the bustling city of Sargodha.

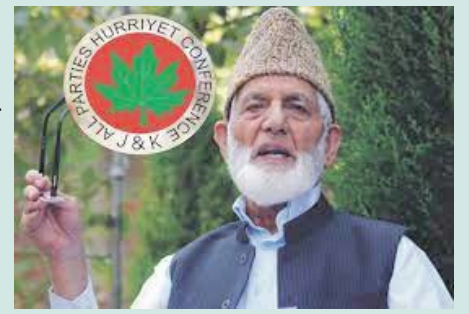
Addressing the media and guests at the gathering, Mr. Malik Khizar Hayat Awan, Chairman of Shalimar Group Of Companies Sargodha Pakistan, shared the visionary perspective behind Shalimar Smart City: "Shalimar Smart City, a hub of Smart features pioneering in Punjab, is a substantial residential project established on international housing standards. The Golf Avenue is not just a real estate marvel but a vision for elevating the city's lifestyle standards with a commitment to green spaces, state-of-the-art facilities, and a sense of unity among the residents."

The Director of Marketing Mr. Farooq Hayat Awan shared his excitement and shed light on the meticulous planning and unwavering dedication invested in bringing Golf Avenue to life. He shared details about the meticulous planning and dedication that have gone into making Golf Avenue a reality.

APHC urges people to assemble at Gilani's graveyard on Friday

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has again appealed to the people of Kashmir to march towards Hyderpora in Srinagar on September 01 (Friday) to pay their tributes to the icon of Kashmir resistance movement, Syed Ali Gilani, on his 2nd martyrdom anniversary in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



According to Kashmir media service, Syed Ali Gilani embraced martyrdom in the custody of Indian police on September 01, 2021, at his Hyderpora residence in Srinagar where he was kept under continued house arrest for over a decade. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Spokesman in a statement in Srinagar has urged the people to visit the graveyard of Kashmir's iconic liberation leader Syed Ali Gilani at Hyderpora in Srinagar on Friday for his pious sacrifice and stand for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The statement urged the people of Kashmir that it was high time to remember the heroes who lived and died for the freedom of Kashmir.

The posters, pasted by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, JK Justice and Peace Initiative, Nawjawan-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Jammu Kashmir Justice League Forum, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Movement, Resistance Youth Forum Jammu Kashmir and other organizations on walls, pillars and electric poles in different areas of Srinagar, have also urged Imams, Khateebes, Ulema and people of mosques to hold special prayers for Syed Ali Gilani and other Kashmiri martyrs. It is worth mentioning here that Indian forces' personnel had shamelessly snatched away the body of Syed Ali Gilani and buried it at Hyderpora graveyard in the dark of night against his will. Syed Ali Gilani, according to his family, wanted to be buried at Martyrs Graveyard at Eidgah in Srinagar.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
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 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Reviving Balochistan: The imperative for change & progress - I

Balochistan is often highlighted for its abundant mineral, oil, and gas resources, but it's crucial to recognize the plight of its people, who endure challenging living conditions. Throughout Pakistan's history, leaders have promised to utilize Balochistan's wealth for its people's betterment, but this intent has often resulted in the misappropriation of provincial resources, leaving its residents in difficult circumstances. Can we anticipate a shift in this pattern, or will the cycle persist, with blame directed at tribal leaders for the province's ongoing poverty?

I have distinct memories from my time as a news producer. I had the privilege of accompanying Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti as a news producer in PTV during his visits to various regions in the provinces. Notably, his unwavering determination played a pivotal role in the inauguration of a metal road between Sui and Dera Bugti around 1988. Additionally, his persistent and compelling demands led to the construction of certain segments of the RCD highway connecting Quetta and Karachi. However, construction efforts abruptly ceased following his removal as Chief Minister. This serves as a poignant example of the intricate interplay between regional leadership, development initiatives, and shifts in political dynamics.

I have vivid recollections of a particular public rally in Sui where an interesting paradox unfolded. Despite the common narrative of blaming Nawabs and Sardars for obstructing road and

highway construction, it is worth noting that it was often during their tenures in power that Balochistan's road network was established.

One distinct memory involves Sardar Sanaulah Zehri addressing a public gathering, a moment I covered in my capacity as a news producer. He passionately expressed his hope that, within our lifetime, we would witness well-constructed roads in Balochistan. He humorously lamented that even his expensive vehicles wore out quickly due to the poor road conditions. Notably, another Sardar countered accusations by stating that while these leaders were seen as obstacles to school openings and the establishment of cantonment areas and FC Qila, the successful enforcement of these establishments begged the question of why schools couldn't receive the same attention. This paradox underscores the complex dynamics shaping development narratives in the region.

Having Quetta as my birthplace and having shared companionship with Baluch, Pathan, and Hazara friends, my six-year tenure as a news producer allowed me to extensively traverse every nook and cranny of Balochistan. During this time, I found a consistent theme emerging in various public gatherings, involving Governors, Chief Ministers, and Federal Ministers. Four distinct demands consistently resonated: the plea for water,

roads, and schools, with a collective sentiment that beyond these necessities, the community would harness their own efforts to cultivate prosperity. I observed that Baloch, Pashtun, and Brahvi societies exhibit qualities of utmost purity, simplicity, industriousness, resilience, hospitality, and an intrinsic humane and benevolent nature.

Their generosity knows no bounds; when approached for assistance, they readily offer whatever they possess, be it from their homes or pockets, without hesitation. In times of trouble, their response isn't a question of whether to help but a swift action to provide relief, expecting no recompense. Seeking refuge from them brings security without conditions. Even in the face of personal hunger, they willingly share the little they have to ensure

you're nourished. However, there exist certain boundaries they rightfully uphold. Reflecting on our actions toward these innocent, virtuous, and compassionate individuals reveals a sobering truth about the state of affairs.

In 1990, Dr. Mahbub ul Haq introduced a groundbreaking shift in development thinking with the publication of the inaugural Human Development Report. It introduced the Human Development Index (HDI), which moved beyond conventional economic measures to evaluate a nation's progress

by the well-being of its citizens. The HDI measures various dimensions of human development, encompassing factors like health, education, and living standards. Each year, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), directed by the United Nations General Assembly, compiles an HDI ranking of countries based on these human development criteria.

During the period of 2021-2022, Pakistan's standing on the Human Development Index (HDI) was 161st among 192 countries. This ranking positioned it lower in comparison to other South Asian nations. Notably, Bhutan secured the 127th position, Bangladesh the 129th, India the 132nd, and Nepal the 143rd, placing them in the medium human development category. Remarkably, despite facing challenges, Sri Lanka made significant progress, elevating its position by nine points to reach 73rd place on the index, thereby entering the high human development category.

Pakistan stands at the 161st position on the Human Development Index (HDI), yet the focus narrows on Balochistan's distinct trajectory. Initially, the province boasted the second-highest per capita income, trailing only Sindh, as the century turned. However, today's landscape paints a contrasting picture. Balochistan, despite being Pakistan's largest province in terms of landmass, now holds the lowest population share and scores poorly on human development indicators.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

'Interfaith Harmony Conference'

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is holding an 'Interfaith Harmony Conference' on Wednesday, August 30, to bring together religious leaders and representatives from various faith communities to discuss pressing issues related to attacks on religious sites, desecration of holy scriptures, and the safety of minorities. Presiding over by Minister Aneeq Ahmed, the conference would promote unity and cooperation among different religious groups besides providing a platform for open dialogue and collaboration on topics crucial to fostering interfaith harmony.

The attendees would include representatives from both Muslim and Christian communities, demonstrating their shared commitment to peaceful coexistence. Meanwhile, in a meeting with the executive members of International Interfaith Harmony Council, President Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi highlighted the recent attack on the Christian community in Jaranwala and characterized it as a deliberate attempt by external forces to tarnish Pakistan's reputation on the global stage.

He asserted that initial investigations pointed towards the involvement of elements from India, alleging a strategic move to divert international attention from the plight of minorities in India.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council further detailed a larger scheme involving planned incidents in Sargodha and Sialkot, alluding to Pakistan's successful prevention of these attempts by its law enforcement agencies. He emphasized the solidarity between Pakistan's Muslim and Christian communities, noting their shared commitment to thwarting divisive agendas.

Applauding the Danish government's recent legislation against the desecration of the Holy Quran, Ashrafi underscored the Christian community's respect for the holy scripture. He highlighted the Quran's role in providing insights into the lives of Prophet Jesus and Hazrat Maryam, further promoting mutual understanding between the two faiths.

He asserted that Pakistan belonged to both Muslims and Christians alike urging the public to refrain from seeking collective retribution for individual wrongdoings, thereby promoting a sense of tolerance and coexistence.

The conference also witnessed the presence of notable figures such as Ammanual Khokhar, representing Pakistan Churches, Tahir Naveed Chaudhry, Maulana Nawaz Khalid, Mufti Nasrullah, Maulana Ubaidullah Gurmani, Allama Tahirul Hassan, Mufti Abdul Rahim, Waqar Usmani, Maulana Aqeel Zubair, Maulana Abdul Rauf Dogar, Maulana Tanveer Ahmed Chohan and several other prominent religious leaders.



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

PDM, IMF tie-up, power tariff hike, people on roads

Electricity consumers across the country are feeling frustrated due to increasing electricity bills and rising inflation. Recent increases in electricity prices have led to public dissatisfaction, anger, and protests. The recent surge in electricity bills is a result of the country's largest fuel price adjustments and various taxes imposed by the government. Therefore, the sight of thousands of people protesting against rising bills on the streets is not surprising.

The recent hikes in electricity bills have added financial burden on the lower and middle-income classes. The government, which has been in power for over 15 months, has exacerbated the ongoing problem of inflation through unjust and illegal actions, neglecting the concerns of the Pakistani population.

According to recent reports, Power Distribution Companies have requested the National Power Regulator for permission to levy an additional fuel cost adjustment fee for the electricity used in the past months. Under both of these headings, consumers will bear a joint tax burden of 200 billion rupees. These charges will start appearing on consumers' bills in the coming months if approved. However, this is not the end of it. Due to a continuous decline in the value of the rupee, there is a possibility of a consistent increase in the cost of electricity production in the upcoming months. This will necessitate the

inclusion of various "adjustments" in consumers' electricity bills, further burdening the lower and middle-income groups.

The PDM government, which came to power promising to eliminate the system of injustice in Pakistan, has taken necessary measures to fulfill IMF conditions and ensure uninterrupted electricity supply in the country, including implementing capacity charges. However, many have questioned the logic and fairness of this policy, especially as the country continues to face persistent load shedding and power outages. Large electricity bills have created immense difficulties for millions of

Pakistanis who are already struggling with inflation, unemployment, poverty, and corruption.

Recent reports from social media and newspapers indicate that many people have refused to pay their bills and are demanding their cancellation. Workers of Trade unions in Multan have even threatened to start a movement against non-payment, in order to resist any attempts to disconnect their electricity connections. The unfortunate news is that electricity prices in the country will remain high. Despite a decrease in international fuel prices, electricity rates in Pakistan are projected to increase. The needs of the general public and their essentials are

often at the bottom of the priority list. The government needs to take solid and positive actions in this regard.

According to a notification, caretaker Prime Minister Kakarr has demanded a report on the provision of free units to WAPDA employees. Ending the provision of free units to employees will not benefit the common citizens who are electricity consumers. Until and unless electricity rates are not brought down to the level of last and half year, this move will not be effective. Losses incurred due to theft and wastage of electricity during transmission should not be passed onto consumers' bills. These losses should be covered from the salaries of the employees of the distribution companies. The excessive use of air conditioners should be curbed. During the one-and-a-half-year period, electricity prices in the country have risen by up to fifty percent, causing great distress to the public. In fact, a rise of fifteen rupees and forty-one paise has occurred. Commercial consumers are subjected to increased taxes of more than a hundred percent, while the rate of taxes on domestic consumers has risen above fifty percent. These taxes should be abolished. It should be noted that the sudden large increases in electricity prices have placed an additional burden on the public. The heavy electricity bills have pushed many into the abyss of poverty and despair. Many poor citizens have been forced to commit suicide. All these are the effects of the failed economic policies of the tyrannical rulers.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Unraveling Pakistan's Political Turmoil

Muhammad Kamran Danish

Pakistan has a long history of political turmoil and instability, making it a politically fragile state. Democracy and legislation pose significant challenges that Pakistan has been grappling with over the years. The country has seen the adoption of three different constitutions and numerous amendments, particularly in the last one from 1973. This raises the question of why so many amendments have been necessary for our current constitution. Is our constitution not robust enough to be implemented without constant revisions, or have political parties been using it to serve their interests?

Looking at the current situation, Arif Alvi's statement regarding the signatures and passage of the Official Amendment Bill 2023 and the Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 is startling. He alleges that someone exceeded their authority by passing these bills without his consent, and he did not sign them into law. This statement raises several important questions.

Firstly, who is responsible for these unauthorized signatures? Were both bills passed legally, or was the proper procedure outlined in Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan (1973) misused? Arif Alvi has claimed that his staff is to blame for this unlawful

act, as they went against his will and directives.

In response to these developments, a special court has been established after the passage of these bills. The question now arises about the impact of the rulings that this special court will issue. To find the answers to these questions, Advocate Zulfiqar Bhutta filed a petition in the Supreme Court. In the plea, the applicant stated that the bills did not pass in accordance with the legislative procedure. However, even if the Supreme Court resolves this issue, it might prove to be ineffective, given the intelligence of those who orchestrated this situation.

Setting aside other aspects related to the intent behind these bills, we must focus on their validity. Basically, the signing of bills is an executive function executed by the president of a state as given in Article 99(1) of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. According to Article 99(2) of the same Constitution, no one can object to the validity of orders, signs & recommendations either executed by the President or not in any court of law. This effectively provides legal cover to bills passed through unauthorized signatures.

In a Nutshell, the Constitution is designed to govern the state, but recent events have brought its effectiveness and integrity into question, emphasizing the need for a closer examination of the legislative process and executive authority in Pakistan.

The Writer is student at law college 9th semester, University of Sargodha

Ayatollah Khamenei's statement on Holy Quran Desecration: An Analysis



Ali Akbar Ziai

The desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden is a bitter, conspiratorial and dangerous incident. The severest punishment for the perpetrator of this crime is agreed upon by all Islamic scholars, and the Swedish government must also know that by supporting the criminal, it has taken a warlike stance against the Islamic world and has attracted hatred and enmity from Muslim nations and many of their governments.

Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in a message, called the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden a bitter, conspiratorial and dangerous incident and emphasized: "The severest punishment for the perpetrator of this crime is agreed upon by all Islamic scholars, the Swedish government must hand over the criminal to the judicial authorities of Islamic countries."

The text of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's message is as follows:

In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Merciful

The desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden is a bitter, conspiratorial and dangerous incident. The severest punishment for the perpetrator of this crime is agreed upon by all Islamic scholars, and the Swedish government must also know that by supporting the criminal, it has taken a warlike stance against the Islamic world and has attracted hatred and enmity from Muslim nations and many of their governments.

That government must hand over the criminal to the judicial authorities of Islamic countries. The hidden (Behind-the-scenes) conspirators should also know that the sanctity and grandeur of the Holy Quran will increase day by day, and its guiding lights will shine brighter than ever. The likes of this conspiracy and its conspiracist are too insignificant to prevent this increasing radiance. And Allah prevails in His affairs.

*Sayyed Ali Khamenei
The 22nd of July, 2023*

There are always sacred values in human life that thinkers and governments protect those values with laws, and for the violation of those laws, punishments appropriate to the type of crime have been predicted and implemented. Preserving the dignity of human and religious values has been of special importance since the beginning of the formation of social systems in primitive tribes and traditional and modern social systems. Political and social systems throughout history have helped a lot by protecting the values of the society to preserve the spiritual peace and social security and to defend the structures approved by the society and religious traditions.

The history of establishing laws against the desecration of religious sanctities goes back to the breaking of taboos in primitive human societies when religious leaders have dealt with criminals according to the type of religious deconstruction, because in different periods, some customs, places, and objects are considered as sacred and respectable things of the society. They know that the desecration of them has become the cause of social differences, public riots and violence.

The elites of the society, in order to protect the intellectual and social security, take legal action against preparator of such desecration. All divine religions and even non-Abrahamic religions have established laws regarding desecration of religious sanctuaries to protect the religion against the structural breakers.

After the collapse of communism and the failure of the western liberalism and the emergence of political Islam and the identity of the world's Muslims with the

emergence of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the awakening of Muslims in the Islamic countries under the rule of the West, the conspiracy against Islamic teachings and Islamophobia in the world was formed by imperialistic powers and global Zionism and this enmity with religious values was promoted in various ways in the western societies, including the desecration of the Holy Quran in western countries, especially through Qur'an burning in Sweden and Denmark. Desecration of the Holy Quran under the false pretext of freedom of expression is a concrete example of violating the sanctity of all religions. They are considered criminal and all divine religions are against this desecration of religious sanctuaries.

In this article, we will express the strategies to deal with this desecration at the global level based on Ayatollah Khamenei's statement.

The Leader of the revolution did not consider a single person guilty of desecrating the Holy Quran but he considered it to be a conspiracy against Islam, which was planned by the global imperialistic powers and the enemies of Islam. He said the following about desecration and its relationship with global imperialistic powers:

"Criticizing is different from desecration and insult. This point is very important, everyone should pay attention. This kind of act, this kind of desecration is the act of the Americans who have disgraced themselves in the world."

The Leader, in another speech, said that the global imperialistic powers are against the teachings of the Holy Quran about calling Muslims to unity and solidarity, and so it becomes clear that the desecration was not done by one person but it is rooted in the hatred of global imperialistic powers towards Quranic teachings.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that:

"Quran has advised us to be united. The Quran has threatened us that if you lose your unity and solidarity, your reputation, identity and power will be destroyed. Today, unfortunately, these disturbances are observed in the Islamic world. Today, the conspiracy against the Islamic world is a very serious conspiracy. If organized conspiracies are working against Islam with more intensity in this era, it is the awakening of the Islamic Ummah that has terrified the enemies. Global imperialistic powers, greedy people in Islamic countries, and interventionists among Islamic states are afraid of the unity of the Islamic nations."

He also said that establishment of an Islamic state in Iran and raising the flag of Tawhid (monotheism) in this country—this sensitive center and important region—awakened the Islamic Ummah. It gave them hope for their own destiny and power and gave them self-confidence. This awakening and self-confidence have forced the enemy to make complicated conspiracies; These conspiracies are in front of us today. They are against all the Islamic world; They are opposed to the presence of Islam; They are against Islamic teachings. The president of America openly spoke about the crusade. America and Zionism—always poison the atmosphere with their propaganda, in order to create differences between Islamic countries and Islamic states.

From the point of view of the Leader of the Islamic revolution, one of the main conspiracies of the enemy against Islam and desecrating the Holy Quran is the Judaization of Holy Quds. He says about this:

"Their big crime is that they want to Judaize (al-Quds). They make Holy Quds, the Qibla of the Muslims, the beloved Palestine, as the center of their oppression and conspiracy as Judaization. This is our main issue."

Mentioning the conspiracy of the political and cultural institutions of the western world, he condemned the western pretext of freedom of speech and called it completely false and misleading. In his statement condemning the insult to the Prophet, in Charlie Hebdo's publication, He also said that anti-Islamic policies of the Zionists and arrogant governments are responsible for such hostile actions.

He emphasized in this state-



Imam Ayatollah Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ment that this movement in this period of time can also divert the minds of the nations and governments of West Asia from the evil plans that America and the Zionist regime have for this region.

The Islamic awakening and the demands of Muslims in the world are against the interests of global imperialistic powers and the economic cartels of the West, and the Holy Quran is the most important source for informing the Muslims and the vulnerable in this world. It is the Holy Quran that is known as a source of inspiration at the individual and social levels among Muslims.

Right-wing extremist groups in western countries in recent years, especially in Sweden and Denmark, have been organized to attract their extremist audience with the help of Zionists and arrogant media agents in pursuit of Islamophobia. And they have humiliated Muslims. And in this direction, the most important source of inspiration in Islam, i.e. the Quran, is targeted.

There was a time when Umayyad dynasty looked at the

This is Islam, Islamic belief and faith of the people. Nations are like this. It is possible that some of the leaders have unbelieving hearts and only consider their own interests; But nations are not like this."

In 1993, Salman Rushdie met US president Bill Clinton in the White House. The leader of the revolution in a meeting with the guests of the Islamic Conference said that:

"Dear Muslim brothers from all over the world! Today, enemies have risen against Islam, not against Sunnis or Shi'ism or some sect or some community.

They are enemies of Islam and they are enemies of the Qur'an. You saw that the US president met with the apostate, infidel Salman Rashdi. The meeting of the two unbelievers is not important; The political meaning of this act is important. What does the American government want to say with this move? I think it is not difficult to understand the message of this act. This is the concept of what is observed today in all regions of

C: This action can be dangerous for the unity of the Islamic Ummah, because the laziness of the Muslims in confrontation with Western attacks on religious sanctuaries paves the way for the implementation of the evil plans of global and Zionist imperialistic powers so that they can control the material and spiritual resources of the Islamic countries.

D: This structured action in desecration of the Holy Quran can arouse the public anger of Muslims to such an extent that it is impossible to control them by Muslim thinkers and impose serious threats and inflict irreparable damages to world peace and security.

It is obvious that the consequences of such unwise act, which is supported by extremist western parties and security organizations affiliated with imperialistic powers and western media, are the responsibility of the perpetrators and main designers of this sinister plan.

The worst punishment for desecration of the Qur'an is

The Secretary General of the World Union of Muslim Scholars, Qaradaghi, said in a statement:

"Burning the holy Quran is a racist act and does not represent freedom, and this barbaric act of an individual is officially supported and it should not be tolerated."

This offensive action has been condemned by the official authorities of Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya, Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria, Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and also Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Islamic World Union, World Muslim Scholars Union, Palestinian Scholars League, Arab Parliament, Al-Azhar Scholars of Egypt, Muslim Brotherhood, Lebanon's Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

The duty of the Swedish government is to hand over the perpetrator of the crime to the judicial system of Islamic countries.

When a crime is committed with the support of the officials of Sweden and Denmark in public and in front of the mass media, the nature of the crime is not personal or against the right of a small group of people, but the addressee of that crime is all believers.

The Swedish government should not expect that the Muslims of the world and those who believe in Abrahamic religions must be indifferent to this type of desecration of the Holy Quran and should not take action to prevent similar actions and punish the perpetrators of the crime, especially the fact that the criminal laws of European countries are such that the occurrence of a major crime such as desecration of the sanctities of divine religions do not prevent and punish criminals.

It is in such conditions that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution wants the Swedish government to hand over the perpetrators of this crime to the judicial bodies of the Islamic countries.

The international police and international courts, such as the Hague, were formed to protect the rights of citizens at the international level, but in the meantime, the rights of Muslim nations and religious values in Islamic society does not have the least place in the international legal system, and the establishment of international Islamic courts such as the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Investigating the crimes related to the Islamic world and defending the rights of Muslims and religious values is a necessity.

It does not seem that the reform of the judicial laws of the European Union will be able to ensure the benefits of religious values in the Islamic world, and at least history has shown that the judicial system of western countries, based on common sense and civil laws, cannot prevent crimes related to religion and religious values.

The incident that has already happened in Sweden and Denmark shows that the criminals and the perpetrators are promoting such type of crimes with the protection and support of the legal system in those countries so the formation of the International Islamic Court with the presence of Islamic jurists and legislators can be done to some extent outside the borders and at the international level.

Desecration of the Holy Qur'an will make its light of guidance brighter.

The desecration of the Holy Quran has happened to turn off the light of guidance, and behind this criminal movement are polytheists and atheists who belong to the global imperialistic powers and Zionism.

And the statement of the Ayatollah Khamenei that the light of guidance will be brighter with this desecration is the content of verse 8 from Surah Saf where the Almighty God says:

"They want to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His light, although the disbelievers dislike it "and this is one of the God's miracles for the protection of religious values, which is also reflected in other verses of the Qur'an.

The last phrase of Ayatollah Khamenei's statement is a phrase from verse 21 of Surah Yusuf, where God says:

"And Allah is predominant over His affair."

Ayatollah Khamenei interprets this verse as "God is dominant over his own affairs, that is, He is in control of his own affairs and without doubt, He fulfills his will, but most people do not know that Almighty God fulfills His will."

Ayatollah Khamenei wants to say that God will protect the religion and the Holy Quran with His absolute will and power, although most people do not understand this truth, and this is the good news that God has given to Muslims that, "Don't be disappointed by the plots of the global imperialistic powers and Zionism in extinguishing the lights of divine guidance and rely on the Holy Essence of God to deal with these conspiracies."

The verse 21 of Surah Yusuf has been repeated in other statements of the Ayatollah Khamenei which means that the tricks of the enemy will be nullified by the efforts of the Muslim youths, and the supreme will to form the ideal society will be achieved according to verse 21 of Surah Yusuf.

This exact verse was mentioned in Ayatollah Khamenei's statement after a French publication insulted the holy prophet (PBUH).

The verse 21 of Surah Yusuf is mentioned in the statements of the Ayatollah Khamenei in 1993 regarding the return of Al-Aqsa Mosque to the embrace of Islam and the failure of America and Zionism in front of the truth and God's tradition regarding Palestine.

And the last supplication is praise be to the Lord of the worlds.



Holy Quran as a tool to create division between Imam Ali's forces in the Battle of Siffin, now the Zionist lobbies and western's anti-Islamic parties are desecrating the Quran. By desecrating of the Holy Qur'an, Western countries intend to humiliate Muslims and weaken the position of Islam. They plan the "Middle East Root" and "Abraham's Pact" for Zionism's rule in the Islamic countries and the Muslims of the world and to create division among the Muslims. Ayatollah Khamenei in a meeting revealed this plan.

The attachment of the world's Muslims to the Holy Quran and religious teachings and the confrontation of imperialistic powers with these values is reflected in the words of Hazrat Ayatollah Khamenei:

"People's hearts are in the grip of the power of Islam and the Qur'an. You have seen what the Muslim nations everywhere—Europe and Asia—did in response to the insult of that Satanic speaker who used to send Satanic Verses to the hearts of criminals. It was not specific to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This concept is manifested both in gathering and mobilizing all forces for the revival of the usurping Zionist state and its establishment and formalization, and also in the silence regarding the oppression of some Muslims in the world."

Desecration of the Holy Quran is dangerous. The danger in desecration of the Holy Quran in this statement of Ayatollah Khamenei can be explained and interpreted in several ways:

A: This unwise action of the enemies of the Holy Quran can be the basis for a broad plan of imperialistic powers against Islam and the Muslims of the world, so that they can implement their plans for de-Islamization and atheism by desecrating of the Holy Quran among future generations of Muslims.

B: This criminal act can be a part of the arrogant plan to promote liberalism of the West and popularize values based on the modern atheism, the most important obstacle of which is the Holy Quran and Islam as a political and value-based school of thought against global imperialistic powers.

agreed upon by all Islamic scholars.

All the scholars of Islam from the Shias, Sunnis including Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali denominations consider desecration of the Holy Qur'an to be punishable. If a Muslim does this on purpose, he is subject to the sentence of apostasy and if a non-Muslim does this criminal act, then he/she is recognized as warring with God and the Messenger of God, and the verdict of warring is implemented.

As mentioned in the statement of the Leader of the Revolution, all Islamic scholars have strongly condemned this shameful act. We are referring to a number of them.

Hissein Ibrahim Taha, the head of the Islamic Cooperation Organization, said in a meeting in Jeddah in order to investigate the dimensions of the desecration of the Holy Quran:

"A clear letter should be sent that the actions like desecration of the Holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad, is not just an act in the direction of normal Islamophobia."

Power sector is pushing country towards anarchy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Sunday that people across the country are protesting and committing suicides



as a result of excessive electricity costs, which are pushing the country into chaos. The country is plunging into lawlessness and chaos as elites have turned an affluent country into a living nightmare for its citizens, he said.

After the political and economic collapse, the power bills have become a nightmare for the masses; their household budgets have been destroyed, and their lives have become miserable, he added.

In a statement issued here today, Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that fights are taking place in the streets and in houses, violence has become the norm, and divorces are taking place due to the inflated electricity bills.

People have been forced to take out loans, sell jewellery and other essential items to pay the bills, and compromise on food, health, and education.

In various parts of the country, announcements are being made from mosques asking people not to pay electricity bills; traders are not allowing WAPDA officials to enter the markets; strikes, roadblocks, and attacks on WAPDA officials have become routine in many places, which is a perfect recipe for a civil war, he observed.

He said that the security of the power officials, offices, and grid stations is facing severe threats, and if the situation is not controlled, a civil war may also break out across the country.

Dr Mughal said that while the cost of electricity is killing people, it is also destroying businesses. The country's elite and WAPDA officers have become white-collar criminals who only care about their own interests and have no interest in resolving the problems of the people.

Elites are still getting free electricity and benefits worth billions of rupees, and their looting has turned a prosperous country into a hell for the people.

Inflated bills: Trade, industry warn of more protests if power tariff hike not withdrawn

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The trade and industry has warned the government of more protests and demonstrations against the inflated and excessive electricity bills if hike in power tariff is not withdrawn, pointing out the main reason of soaring energy cost is the power purchase agreements signed with the power producers.

The FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the rising interest rates, the uncertain rupee value, soaring fuel prices, higher gas and power tariffs, and unabated food inflation were extremely serious issues that needed to be addressed by the government on a priority basis. He said that since the arrival of the caretaker government dollar has gone out of control. The new finance minister should call of the real stakeholders to finalize policies, suggesting the institutions which are getting free electricity and petrol should be ended.

FPCCI former president stressed that the government should change the basic tariff of IPPs in rupee instead of US dollars as this change would save billions of rupees of the national exchequer and provide electricity at affordable cost to the trade and industry, making our export competitive in the international market. Similarly, the profits of the IPPs should also be paid in local currency instead of US dollars, he said.

ICCI demands abolition of all taxes on electricity bills to save traders from troubles

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that due to the massive hike in electricity bills, the traders are in great trouble and people have been forced to come to the streets, so he demanded that the government should abolish all taxes on electricity bills to provide some relief to the traders and the general public. He said that currently there are many taxes on the electricity bill, including sales tax, electricity duty, fuel price adjustment, F. C. surcharge and TV fee, and these taxes account for over 30 percent in the total bill. He said that the price of electricity has increased by over 90 percent in the last five years, while the rising inflation has reduced the purchasing power of the people and business activities are also suffering due to these factors. He stressed that the government should take urgent notice of this situation and remove all taxes imposed on electricity bills as a short-term measure. He emphasized that the government should bring urgent reforms in the energy sector to save people from further troubles. He expressed these views while addressing a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, F-10 Markaz, Islamabad that visited ICCI led by its President Ahmed Khan.

President of Traders Welfare Association, F-10 Markaz Ahmad Khan and Secretary



General Muhammad Naeem Iqbal said that the exorbitant increase in electricity bills has made it difficult for traders to pay the rents of the shops. They said that if the price of electricity is not reduced, many traders would be forced to close their businesses. They said that carpeting of roads, repair of footpaths, replacement of old sewage lines with new ones and other development works are needed in F-10 Markaz and added that the way Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari is working with CDA to resolve issues of traders, hopefully the development works in F-10 Markaz will also be started soon. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI, said that the rising inflation has not only broken

the back of the people, but businesses are also suffering badly. The increase in the prices of electricity, gas, water and oil is adding fuel to the fire. He said that electricity is becoming more expensive due to payments to IPPs in dollars. Additionally, the government has imposed various taxes on the electricity bills, which is unjustified. He urged that the government, in consultation with the business community, should devise a strategy to reduce the energy prices to a reasonable level in order to save the public and the traders from further problems.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Pakistan, said that F-10 Markaz is an important business

center of Islamabad, so CDA should try to develop it on modern lines. He said that the President ICCI, Ahsan Bakhtawari, is working day and night to serve the traders and many problems of the traders related to CDA are being solved by his efforts, while the rest will also be solved soon.

Ajmal Baloch, President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajaran, said that the business leaders of the entire country are consulting to deal with the issue of electricity bills and if the government does not solve this problem soon, a nationwide protest movement may be launched. He said that the government has collected over PKR 230 billion from consumers in the form of sales tax and withholding tax on electricity bills in 2021-22, which is totally unjustified. He said that relief should be given to the public and the traders by immediately ending the free electricity supply to all government officers and WAPDA employees and by abolishing taxes.

Former President ICCI Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi, Chairman Traders Welfare Association F-10 Markaz Tahir Abbasi, Co-Chairman Amanullah Cheema, Patron-in-Chief Mian Maqbool, Senior Vice President Tariq Mughal, Khalid Chaudhry, Maqsood Tabish, Zaheer Abbas, Chaudhry Rizwan and others also spoke on the occasion and demanded that the government should withdraw hike in electricity prices to save the businesses from further destruction.

Discounted price

ISLAMABAD: People are busy in buying vegetables in Sunday Weekly Bazaar at Aabpara in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Business community asks govt to withdraw rising taxes on digital transactions globally

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business community, including retailers and online businesses, has expressed its 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 Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) 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.

Cafe Forex to offer short term course on Online Trading to students



Commerce Report

LAHOE: The Ceo Blink Capital Management (BCM) and Cafe Forex Hassan Maqsood conduct the part as a Judge in final round of World Startup Championship. The subject was Busines Start up, 2023 and this sagment was kept for those students who are free from Colleges and Universities and working their own projects and want to launch their business in future this program was kept during the session of The See Pakistan, 2023 which was kicked of on Saturday, 26th August at Expo Center, Lahore.

Hassan Maqsood have almost covered 50 plus Universities/Colleges and Institutes with in Pakistan sofar and he has travelled many foreign universities and colleges as well. Hassan Maqsood has also giving the training the large number of students in nationally and

internationally about new technological changes in financial and trading markets. Hassan Maqsood has also great honour to the own alma mater the most prestigious institution GC University, Lahore and has added a short term course of Online Trading alongwith the regular courses offered at the University.

He has also honour that he has appointed as Judge for the Entrepreneurship World Cup, 2022 and in 40 business ideas application from Pakistan he filtered our 6 best business innovative ideas and sent to the final round and its big honour for him that Pakistan has been selected in top 5 ideas of the Championship.

Addressing Pakistan's Trade Deficit

Unravelling factors influencing export competitiveness

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a recent address to a group of journalists, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. DurreNayab, Pro Vice Chancellor, shed light on the pressing issue of Pakistan's widening trade deficit, emphasizing the critical role of export competitiveness in the country's economic landscape.

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque began by acknowledging the paramount nature of the challenge at hand, stating, "Lowering exports has emerged as a significant contributor to Pakistan's persistent trade deficit, posing a multifaceted challenge that has plagued the country since the early 2000s. During the last two decades, the contribution of exports to our GDP has declined from 16% to 10%."

Drawing attention to the international context, Dr. DurreNayab highlighted, "Pakistan's share in global trade has dwindled from 0.15% in 2005 to a mere 0.12% in 2021. This decline in export competitiveness places us at a disadvantage, especially when compared to economies like Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam, which have managed

to expand their export capacities."

This finding was made by PIDE researchers and economists in their recent brief titled "What Are the Factors Making Pakistan's Exports Stagnant? Insight from Literature Review."

The academic duo underlined key factors that have led to stagnancy in Pakistan's exports, including low productivity of firms, lack of value addition and innovation, complex incentive mechanisms, limited export destinations, and inadequate investment in research and development. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque added, "To address the ongoing economic crisis and pave the way for a more resilient future, it is imperative that we strategize rigorously to identify potential markets that align with our exportable products."

In a comprehensive literature review, it was revealed that Pakistan's export competitiveness has been waning, particularly when compared to peer countries like Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, and Malaysia. "We have witnessed a decline in our export share on the global stage, a trend

that is most concerning when measured against our regional counterparts," said Dr. DurreNayab.

The contrasting trajectories of economies like Bangladesh and Vietnam were discussed in the context of export growth. "Bangladesh, once among the poorest nations, has managed to outpace growth predictions with a robust export-driven economy," explained Dr. Nadeem ul Haque. "In contrast, our exports have remained stagnant at around 30 billion dollars, posing a significant challenge to our economic outlook."

Dr. DurreNayab pointed to historical examples of countries like South Korea, which transformed from an agrarian economy to a tech-driven powerhouse. "Learning from these success stories, we understand that enhancing export competitiveness, improving productivity, and fostering innovation are central to breaking the cycle of stagnation."

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque concluded, "To overcome the challenges posed by our current economic crisis, we must collaborate across sectors - government, export-



ers, and economists - to identify potential markets and align them with our export capabilities. A swift response is crucial in building a thriving economic environment."

The scholars emphasized the need for a

comprehensive firm-level survey to identify barriers to productivity and export competitiveness. By addressing these issues collectively, Pakistan can chart a course toward economic recovery and resilience.

Pakistani mountaineer Naila Kiani sets her sights on Cho Oyu peak ascending

By Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani fastest and only female mountaineer Naila Kiani after conquering all 8000-meter peaks within Pakistan, is now setting her sights on Cho Oyu ascending this September.

Naila Kiani said that Cho Oyu is the world's 6th tallest mountain standing at an impressive 8188 meters above sea level. Next month, "I will be traveling to China and Nepal to take on my next targets," she stated with conviction.

She underlined that Cho Oyu is 8188 meters above sea level, Manaslu is 8163 meters above sea level and Shishapangma is 8027 meters above sea level.

Addressing a tragic incident that occurred during the K-2 summit this year, Naila expressed that porter Muhammad Hassan might still be alive if climbers hadn't been solely focused on achieving summit records.



She said that human life is more important than the records and climbers should have halted the hike to save a precious life. Regarding the role of the Alpine Club, Naila noted its limitations saying that

Pakistan urgently needs to enhance the rescue operation department for assisting mountaineers in difficult territories.

Such developments would not only boost tourism but also promote sports in the region, she said.

Sharing her ambitions Naila expressed her determination to achieve high-altitude peaks without relying on supplementary oxygen. "It's easier for mountaineers from northern regions, as their lungs are adapted to low oxygen levels compared to those living in lower altitudes," she explained.

Reflecting on her past experiences, Naila recalled her toughest climb - Gasherbrum-1 where unforgiving weather conditions made the ascent particularly challenging. Navigating narrow sections without a safety rope at 8000 meters was never an easy task, she added.

She attributed her achievements to the unwavering backing of her family and the Bilqees and Abdul-ur-Razzaq (BARQ) Foundation.

Pakistan and Nepal cricket team's arrived in Multan

By Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The cricket teams of Pakistan and Nepal reached Multan to participate in the opening match of the Asia Cup. Before the arrival of the two teams, the roads from all sides of Nawan Shahr Chowk, including the road with the residential hotel, were closed for traffic and pedestrian traffic for at least a second. Foolproof security arrangements were made to bring the Pak-Nepal teams from the airport to the hotel. Pakistan cricket team reached Multan by special plane from Colombo while Nepal cricket team reached Multan airport directly from Karachi. On arrival at the hotel, flowers and drinks were presented to the international cricketers and officials of both the teams.

Both teams rested in the hotel after arriving in Multan. According to PCB sources, today 28th August will also be a rest day and on 29th August both teams will practice at Multan



Cricket Stadium from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The captains of Pakistan and Nepal cricket teams will also address the press conference at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Pakistan and Nepal Cricket Team's will participate

in the opening match on 30 August of the Day and Night Asia Cup between the Pakistan and Nepal.

On the other hand, preparations for the opening match of the Asia Cup on August 30 have

reached a peak for the cricket fans on the part of the district administration.

In this regard, the district administration also carried out a thorough clean-up operation on the stadium and routes

yesterday. The Waste Management Company has started a special cleaning operation throughout the city including the stadium. The debris from the teams' routes was removed by the heavy machinery of the Waste Management Company. Garbage and garbage were cleaned while washing of all enclosures for cricket fans was also completed. City Police Officer Mansoor Ul Said Four Layers Security High Alert During Pakistan and Nepal Cricket Team's Paly and Stay in Multan

Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq visited the cricket stadium yesterday and checked the arrangements. Assistant Commissioner City Simal Mushtaq said that on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, a crackdown has also been taken against encroachments and security red alert should be kept throughout the district. While an alternative route for traffic has also been prepared

KP team wins bronze medals in National Youth Air Rifle Contests

By Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa marked their way by winning the bronze medals in the National Youth and Junior Air Rifle and Pistol Championship held at Army Military Unite, Jhelum on Sunday.

This was stated by international shooter Salman Khan while talking to APP on phone. He disclosed that it was just a day-long practice. He said the talent is there but due to lack of opportunities, the talented players could not reach the national and international teams from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Salman Khan said that the following shooters have secured a team bronze medal representing KP Shooting and Rifle Association in the National Youth and Junior Air Rifle and Pistol Championship held at AMU Jhelum. He said, athletes generally need to practice shooting in



order to develop their skills and become proficient in their sport.

While natural talent can certainly be a factor in an athlete's ability to shoot accurately, it is not usually sufficient on its own to ensure success at a high level, Salman Khan, who himself is an international shooter, said. Practice is essential for developing the muscle

memory, coordination, and mental focus required to shoot accurately, he said.

Athletes often spend countless hours in the gym or on the practice field, honing their shooting skills through drills, repetition, and game simulations, he added. In addition to practice, athletes may also rely on coaching, video analysis,

and other forms of feedback to refine their shooting technique and improve their performance, he informed.

They may also study the strategies and techniques of successful shooters in their sport, in order to gain a better understanding of what it takes to succeed, Salman said. "Of course, natural talent can certainly give an athlete an advantage in developing their shooting skills, as it can make it easier to learn and adapt to new techniques.

However, even the most naturally talented athletes still need to put in the work and practice diligently in order to reach their full potential," he said. Furthermore, shooting technique can vary depending on the sport and position an athlete plays, he remarked.

For example, shooting a basketball from the three-point line requires a different

technique than shooting a free throw, and shooting a soccer ball accurately from long range requires a different technique than shooting a penalty kick.

Thus, athletes must not only practice shooting in general, but also tailor their practice to the specific requirements of their sport and position. Additionally, the mental aspect of shooting cannot be overlooked. Shooting requires focus, concentration, and confidence, all of which can be developed through practice and mental training.

Athletes may use visualization techniques, positive self-talk, and other mental strategies to improve their shooting performance, Salman Khan said. It's worth noting that while practice is important for developing shooting skills, some athletes may have a natural affinity or talent for shooting that allows them to progress more quickly or perform at a higher level.

Babar Azam heaps praise on Pakistan team's hardwork, discipline



By Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam believed that his team's ascension to the No.1 spot in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings was a result of their hard work and discipline. A 3-0 series sweep over Afghanistan helped Pakistan to the pole position in Men's ODI Team Rankings. They are now marginally ahead of Australia, with 2725 points and 118 rating points.

They had won the first ODI by 142 runs at the back of a brilliant bowling display. The second game was a nail-biting thriller, with the Men in Green eking out a one-wicket win in the last over of the game. In the third game, they batted well on a tough wicket to set a commanding total, before regular strikes from their bowlers ensured a 59-run win. Babar was chuffed at having achieved the No.1 spot in the ODI team rankings. He described it as a complete team effort. "Whenever you achieve the No.1 spot, it gives you a lot of joy," Babar said after the final ODI, as quoted by ICC. "This is the result of the entire team's effort. We've been here before, but unfortunately we lost that position after losing a game. But we're back here by the grace of God. This is due to our hard work and performances." While discussing the recently concluded series, the Pakistan skipper expressed his belief that the momentum gained from it would provide them an advantage in the upcoming Asia Cup.

"We are excited, and this series win will help us. This wasn't an easy series, even if some might assume otherwise. Afghanistan are a tough side, their spinners are one of the best (in the world). The momentum we've achieved in this series will give us a lot of confidence. We are excited about the Asia Cup and are looking forward to Multan." Pakistan will open their Asia Cup campaign against Nepal in Multan on 30 August.

Taimoor Khan knocks India's Singh



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani boxer and Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight Champion Taimoor Khan knocked India's Jaskaran Singh in a bout in Dubai.

Taimoor downed Singh in the first round in 30 seconds at the bout which was part of the World Boxing Association's (WBA) Colour World Cup World Tour.

I successfully defended my Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight title and beat India's undefeated heavyweight boxer Jaskaran Singh on a technical knockout within 30 seconds, he said in a statement issued here.

It may be mentioned that Taimoor Khan retained his Asian Boxing Federation Heavyweight Championship title after defeating his Thai counterpart, Aekkapob Auraiwan, in a highly-anticipated bout in Bangkok earlier this year.

Taimoor was so far an undefeated Pakistani heavyweight boxer in 10 fights.

Hockey Women Jr WC 2023 in November

By Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 10th edition of the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup 2023 would run from November 29 to December 10 at the National Stadium Sports Park in Santiago, Chile.

The 16 teams in the hunt for the gold medal know their pools and the opponents that stand between them and the ultimate glory. The officials were set and ready to ensure a smooth-running and fairly contested tournament, said a press release.

All 16 teams that have qualified for the event were placed into their respective pools earlier this year, on June 22, at the official launch ceremony of the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup Chile 2023.

This would be the third FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup to be played in the city, which has previously played host to the event in 2005 and 2016.

The World Cup would begin on November 29 with 12 teams in action on the opening day! Pool B action, with Korea taking on Zimbabwe, will get the event underway.

High octane clashes between Netherlands and Australia, India and Canada, Argentina and Spain, Germany and Belgium would follow, before hosts Chile play the final match of the opening day against South Africa.

Late Rodri winner fires Man City to top of table

By Sports Desk

SHEFFIELD: Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League table with a 2-1 win at Sheffield United on Sunday after Rodri scored an 88th-minute winner to secure their third victory of the season.

With the scores level at 1-1 and the clock winding down, the ball came to Phil Foden in the United box and although the English midfielder had no control over it, Rodri stepped in to power a half-volley into the top corner.

City manager Pep Guardiola was not on the touchline at Bramall Lane having undergone back surgery.

But with assistant manager Juanma Lillo deputising for Guardiola, they got the job done despite seven minutes being added on as the home side searched for an equaliser.

Champions City are the only team to have a perfect start to the season as they moved on to nine points, two ahead of West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal.

"Generally I thought we played really well today. It was a lot closer to what we wanted than the score line suggested," Lillo said.

City striker Erling Haaland missed a first-half penalty given for handball as his spot-kick hit the post. But the Norwegian made amends just after the hour-mark when he opened the scoring with a close-range header from a cross by Jack Grealish.

"The penalty could have changed everything had that gone in. We saw the team were very stable and constantly looking towards goal,"

Lillo added. "From the second half we really raised the rhythm, we were able to win the ball back a lot quicker. We were able to use those new spaces that were created from winning the ball back quicker... We could've scored more before the first went in."

But United equalised in the 85th minute when the hosts capitalised on a defensive error from Kyle Walker's botched backheel clearance and Jayden Bogle fired an angled shot through the crowd and beat City keeper Ederson. Just as United looked to have



gained their first point on their return to the top flight, Paul Heck-

ingbottom's side were left heartbroken when Rodri fired home the

winner, a goal created by Walker against his former club.