



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا ہے جس شخص سے تمہیں شک ہو کہ وہ ایمان کا حامل ہے یا نہیں اسے (1) وہ شخص جسے اللہ اور اس کے رسول ان کے سوا سے زیادہ عزیز ہوں۔ (2) وہ شخص جو کلمہ سے شخص اللہ کے لیے محبت کرے (3) وہ شخص جسے اللہ نے نئے نئے نجات دی ہو، پھر وہ وہی ہے جو اللہ نے نئے نئے نجات دی ہے جیسا آکس گر جائے کو رہا ہوتا ہے۔
(بخاری)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

IT, inclusive education open paths to progress for differently-abled persons: President

President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that information technology and artificial intelligence opened paths to progress for differently-abled persons while inclusive education could sensitize the society about their importance and struggle. (Details on Page 8)



PM, Lord Aamer Saifraz discuss ways to enhance Pak-UK ties

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here held a meeting with Member of House of Lords of British Parliament Lord Aamer Saifraz and discussed matters of mutual interest. They discussed ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, developmental planning and other fields. (Details on Page 8)

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SIFC Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired the 4th apex committee meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM directs to accelerate execution of identified projects under SIFC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the realisation of identified projects by capitalising enabling environment, already achieved through Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).
The prime minister was chair-

ing the 4th Apex Committee Meeting of SIFC—the inaugural meeting under the caretaker government—to continue positive impetus under the Council.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Army Staff, entire federal cabinet, chief ministers, provincial ministers and high-level government officials.

The meeting was given a wholesome review of SIFC initiatives,

encompassing progress in key areas and benchmarks achieved thus far in a short span of time.

Prime Minister Kakar appreciated the efficient functioning of SIFC through a collaborative “Whole of Government Approach” for achieving horizontal and vertical synergy.

The Apex Committee appreciated SIFC’s outreach strategy to achieve global traction and ongo-

ing engagements with brotherly/friendly countries including productive visits of high-level delegations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

The Apex Committee expressed confidence on SIFC initiatives and displayed its resolve and support in maintaining positive trajectory towards the revival of country’s economy.

The body also endorsed the projects, approved by the previous government, for attracting investments in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, information technology and energy.

The Army Chief reaffirmed Pakistan Army’s all-out support to the caretaker government for continuity of policies in a bid to revive country’s economy and steer Pakistan towards progress

BHC suspends warrant, dismisses FIR against PTI chief

Bureau Report

QUETTA: A division bench of the Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Monday suspended arrest warrants and dismissed FIR against the PTI chairman.

A bench of the high court comprised of Chief Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Gul Hassan Tareen suspended non-bailable warrant issued by Judicial Magistrate-I and dismissed the ‘hate speech’ FIR against former PM at Bijli Ghar police station here.

The PTI lawyers had challenged the non-bailable arrest warrant and the FIR in Balochistan High Court.

Judicial Magistrate-I had issued non-bailable arrest warrant against the former prime minister.

The FIR was lodged on the complaint of a resident of Nawa

Relief in electricity bills: Final decision likely today

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government is expected to make a final decision regarding relief in electricity bills on Tuesday (today).

Sources told that the caretaker government is likely to make the final decision on relief measures for the inflated electricity bills tomorrow.

Energy Minister Muhammad Ali met the Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar today in which they discussed the overall situation after the nationals received inflated electricity bills.

They held consultations on options to provide relief to the power consumers.

The caretaker premier summoned another session tomorrow which will be attended



by the representatives of the Ministry of Water and Power and power distribution companies.

Yesterday, Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave a 48-hour deadline for the formation of a strategy amid mounting public outcry over electricity price hikes.

In the emergency meeting convened over the increasing electricity prices, the caretaker PM was briefed on the rise in July electricity bills.

He said such measures should be taken, which will not exert burden on the national exchequer, and provides convenience to the consumers.

The caretaker PM directed that

power sector reforms and short, medium and long-term plans should be presented at the earliest. He directed the relevant ministries to provide complete details of the officers and institutions enjoying the free electricity.

It was decided during the meeting that detailed consultation on the issue of excess in bills of July and implementation of energy-saving measures will be discussed with the provincial chief ministers tomorrow.

People across Pakistan are protesting against the inflated electricity bills to assert pressure on the government for relief.

The protesting masses have been demanding that the government should end the provision of free electricity to the notables and provide them relief as the bills they have been receiving are more than their salaries.

IHC orders inquiry regarding lift malfunction

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Registrar Office of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered an inquiry into malfunctioning of the lift and sought a report within two days from the Director General of Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD). The Registrar Office also issued directives to the PWD for the inspection of all lifts of the IHC building and decided to appoint lift operators as well. The office, in its directive, said that the lift of the judges’ block got stuck at second floor of the building on August 25, at 12:00 p.m. The lift was carrying lawyers including Latif Khosa Advocate and some newsmen. It said that the technical staff had failed to repair the lift despite several attempts. However, the officials of Capital Development

Relief to masses in electricity bill, caretaker govt’s priority: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said the complete focus of the government was on providing relief to the masses in electricity bills. “We are focusing on how to provide relief to the masses instead of delving into discussion that who is responsible for expensive electricity,” the minister said while talking to a private TV channel. He said the caretaker government took the oath on August 17, and the consumers received inflated bills of the month of July. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had taken notice of inflated electricity bills, Solangi said, adding, “We are responsible caretaker government and cannot ignore the issue.”

He said tomorrow the issue would be taken up by the Federal Cabinet which would explore the ways to pass on relief to the public without violating the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. The minister resolved that the cabinet would decide in favour of passing on the relief to the masses. He said the prime minister held a meeting with the relevant stakehold-



ers today too. The media should inform the masses about the reasons behind increase in electricity bills, he said while responding to a query. “Political temperature is already high in the country,” he said, stressing that there was no need to resort to debate that who was responsible for the bills. To another query, he said the caretaker government wanted to hold peaceful and fair elections in collaboration with all political parties as per the schedule of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The assistance to the electoral watchdog would be provided by the government, he added. The ECP would decide about the tenure of the caretaker government, he said, adding the entire schedule of the delimitation exercise was uploaded on the watchdog’s website.

In light of the decisions of the Council of Common Interests, he said, the ECP issued its schedule under Article 51 of the Constitution. He said there was need to understand difference between peaceful and violent protests.

Countrywide protests continue against inflated electricity bills



Bureau Report

KARACHI: People across Pakistan are protesting against the inflated electricity bills to assert pressure on the government for relief.

The protesting masses have been demanding that the government should end the provision of free electricity to the notables and provide them relief as the bills they have been receiving are more than their salaries.

Protest demonstrations were held in several parts of Karachi. Masses carrying banners and placards along with their children criticized the government for making their lives miserable.

People staged protest demonstrations in Karachi’s area of

Ayesha Manzil, Korangi, Five Star Chowrangi, Yaseenabad, Labour Square and others. The enraged people set their electricity bills on fire.

Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) have announced protest demonstrations against the inflated electricity bills.

It may be noted that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Sunday chaired an emergency meeting at the Prime Minister’s House and discussed the issue of rising power bills.

In the emergency meeting convened over the increasing electricity prices, the caretaker PM was briefed on the rise in July power bills.

ECP assures JI, MQM-P of completing delimitation ‘as soon as possible’

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) assured Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and Muthahidda Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) of completing delimitation process ‘as soon as possible’.

As per details, the ECP official statement said that the consultation process of the Election Commission with different political parties is underway.

Delegations of MQM-Pakistan and Jamaat-e-Islami separately participated in the consultative meetings held in Islamabad today

with Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja in the chair.

The MQM-P delegation was led by Dr Farooq Sattar, while Ameer-ul-Azameen represented the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The MQM-Pakistan supported ECP’s decision of undertaking fresh delimitation of constituencies. It

said next general election should be held after ensuring delimitation of constituencies as per results of the latest census.

However, the Jamaat-e-Islami delegation also demanded the commission to announce election schedule along with the delimitation of constituencies.

The Election Commission assured the delegations to complete the delimitation process as soon as possible and elections will be held immediately after that. It said that the commission will ensure completion of delimitation of constituencies and updating of electoral rolls simultaneously.

Education Ministry committed to take up exams issue with Cambridge International

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhvi on Monday reiterated his commitment to take up the issues being faced by the students related to Cambridge International exams. He said that his ministry would write a letter to Cambridge International to look into the problems of the students regard-

ing exams.

He was speaking during a meeting with the students and parents held here to discuss their issues related to the Cambridge Examination. Madad Ali Sindhvi stated that the ministry’s earlier decision, which asked schools to retake exams, will be implemented.

He said that disciplinary action will be taken against all educational institutions that do not implement the decision.

Special Meeting

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with the special athletes of Special Olympics Pakistan on Monday.



Photo: PID

IT, inclusive education open paths to progress for differently-abled persons: President

Bureau Report

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Monday said that information technology and artificial intelligence opened paths to progress for differently-abled persons while inclusive education could sensitize the society about their importance and struggle. The president expressed these views in a meeting with the delegation of Special Olympics Pakistan here

at the Sindh Governor House. First Lady Begum Samina Alvi was also present on the occasion. President Alvi said the future was not only bright only for the people with normal abilities, but had also become friendly and helpful for the differently-abled people due to the evolving society of artificial intelligence and information technology.

Access to knowledge and information had broadened to

all with emerging technologies, particularly mobile phones with Internet facility, he added. The president said that the spirit of inclusive education was that the children with disabilities could also receive education along with normal children, however, the need for special schools arose only in case of special abilities. He said the "society becomes sensitized through inclusive education, so much so that the normal children realize the hard work

and importance of the children with disabilities".

The president advised the special athletes to exhibit the same spirit in earning their livelihood with which they play sports. Begum Samina Arif Alvi, on the occasion, said that the children with disabilities were equally important to the society if they were given some necessary skills and special education. Both the president and the first lady met the special athletes and congratulated them on their participation and winning of awards in the World Summer Games Berlin 2023. Special Olympics Pakistan Chairperson Ronak Lakhani thanked the president and the first lady for encouraging the special athletes. Total 176 countries had participated in the World Summer Games Berlin 2023. Pakistani special athletes participated in 11 sports events and won 83 medals, including 11 gold, 32 silver and 40 bronze.

IHC's inordinate delay in issuing verdict in Thoshakhana case concerning: PTI

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee expressed great concerns over the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) inordinate delay in issuing the verdict in PTI Chairman Imran Khan's plea seeking suspension of sentence in Thoshakhana case, announcing that PTI would take part in the protests erupted across the country against the back-breaking inflation and bloated power bills.

PTI Core Committee, in its important meeting on Monday, voiced apprehension regarding the IHC's unnecessary delay in announcing the decision of suspending PTI Chairman's

sentence in the Thoshakhana case.

The participants raised question that who wanted to keep the former prime minister under illegal arrest without any legal justification, adding that the nation was well-aware of the fact that the state had no legal justification to keep him in jail.

PTI Core Committee said that the hidden revenge agenda and flaws were fully exposed in the black verdict given through a controversial trial in the Thoshakhana case.

The meeting stated that the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) attempts to target the incarcerated PTI Chairman by delaying the matter was also obvious to the nation.

They regretted that the

Supreme Court (SC) allowed the electoral watchdog to waste court time and deprive the illegally imprisoned former prime minister of his entitled and constitutional rights.

During the meeting, they strongly condemned the extension of the remand of Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi for another two days and the continued violation of the constitutional and legal rights of PTI President Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

They also demanded that immediate recovery and release of abducted Senator Aon Abbas Buppi and detained Hassaan Niazi along with all citizens who were illegally abducted and imprisoned in false and fabricated cases.

The participants said that the immediate release of senior leaders and brave women activists imprisoned in jails for political victimization to crush PTI was essential for the restoration of the constitution, law, rights and democratic and human values.

PTI core committee vowed that the PTI would continue its all legitimate political and legal measures to ensure instant release of all leaders and workers including PTI Chairman, adding that they would not budge an inch from their principled position of upholding the supremacy of the constitution and law, the restoration and promotion of democracy, the protection of the economic and political rights of the people and

the movement for real freedom, independence and sovereignty of Pakistan.

The participants were of the view that when the PTI elected government was toppled through conspiracy, the people were satisfied as the economy was growing at the rate of 6%.

However, they said that the culprits imposed as a result of the regime change conspiracy reversed all the PTI government's hard gains and became the source of the worst inflation and economic destruction in the country.

PTI Core Committee recalled that PTI Chairman informed the nation about the details of the destruction continuously during PDM's 16-month-long rule.

PPP adamant 'general elections in 90 days'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has refused to budge from its stance that next general elections should be held within the stipulated time given under Article 224 of the Constitution and by-election.

Sources told that PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has constituted a seven-member team to meet officials of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) tomorrow.

The delegation will meet ECP officials tomorrow and demand to hold next general elections within the stipulated time given under Article 224 of the Constitution - 90 days.

The seven-member delegation comprises of Nayyar Hussain Bukhari, Naveed Qamar, Faisal Karim Kundi, Taj Haider, Murad Ali Shah, Sherry Rehman and Farooq Naek.

Last week, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee (CEC) decided to advocate the organisation of the general elections in 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired the session of the

First Lady for Creating Awareness on Socio-Economic, Health Issues

Bureau Report

KARACHI: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi has called for creating awareness on health and socio-economic issues, particularly the high mortality rate due to breast cancer, the often-neglected issue of mental health and well-being, and the rights of persons with disabilities. She urged teachers, students, media, varsities, and health professionals to disseminate the message of awareness to the grassroots levels and play their role in creating an equitable and inclusive society. She expressed these views while speaking at an interactive dialogue on Breast Cancer, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Mental Health issues, organized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at Hamdard University. The Chancellor Hamdard University Ms Sadia Rashid also present on the occasion and she thanks to Begum Samina Alvi for her support for it important issue. Ms Sadia Rashid said that the topic of mental health and stress was often neglected in Pakistan and there was a stigma attached to this important aspect of health. She said that people in Pakistan neglect their mental health and do not seek professional advice, adding that there was also a shortage of mental health professionals



KARACHI: Begum Samina Arif Alvi is being presented with a memento to Ms Sadia Rashid Chancellor Hamdard University during the interactive dialogue Session on Breast Cancer Awareness, Mental Health and Inclusion of Differently Abled Persons.

in Pakistan.

The interactive dialogue was attended by experts in the fields of Oncology, Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences as well as the faculty members and students of Hamdard University. Technical Advisor from WHO, Head of WHO- Sindh, Vice Chancellor Hamdard University, Leading Consultant Medical Oncologist, and Head of Department (HoD) of Psychiatry Dow University also attended the event.

Addressing the occasion, the First Lady said that Pakistan had a high mortality rate in the South Asian region due to breast cancer, adding that numerous lives could be saved by diagnosing the disease at an early stage. She urged

women to adopt the habit of 5-minute self-examination every month to detect breast cancer at early stages and to seek medical help if they notice any lump or unusual change in their bodies. She stated that she had been raising awareness about breast cancer since 2018 and due to the efforts of her team and support from the media, more women with breast cancer were being diagnosed in early stages. She said that breast cancer was curable, provided it was diagnosed early, and urged women to adopt a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

She informed that Overseas Pakistanis were willing to offer their professional help and expertise to improve mental health

services in Pakistan, besides offering online training and counselling services. She said that people should not feel reluctant to seek professional help in case of stress, depression or other mental health issues. Highlighting the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Begum Samina Alvi called for bringing behavioural change in society towards them, providing them with education and skills, and including them in mainstream socio-economic activities. She called upon the business community to give jobs to PWDs as per their skills and abilities, besides fulfilling the job quota in the government and private sector as per relevant laws of the country. She said that steps should be taken to remove the barriers towards the financial and social inclusion of PWDs to make them productive and equal members of society. Technical Advisor to the World Health Organisation, Ms Maryam Malik, briefed the participants about Begum Samina Alvi's journey of advocacy for Breast Cancer Awareness, Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Mental Health, which was started five years ago. During the interactive session, participants highlighted various problems being faced by PWDs and the need to create an inclusive society. The participants also appreciated the First Lady for creating awareness on a national level about important social and health issues.

PM, Lord Aamer Safraz discuss ways to enhance Pak-UK ties



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday here held a meeting with Member of House of Lords of British Parliament Lord Aamer Safraz and discussed matters of mutual interest.

They discussed ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, developmental planning and other fields.

The prime minister appreciated the services of Pakistanis living in Britain, particularly their contribution to the British political system.

He said the Pakistanis residing in Britain were playing an important role in further improving ties of Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK).

Lord Aamer Safraz congratulated the prime minister for assuming the office and assured full cooperation from the British political leadership and the Pakistanis living in Britain.

Interim Federal Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bhugti called on NA Speaker



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bhugti called on National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf in Islamabad today. During the meeting, the matters pertaining to hold general elections peacefully was deliberated upon in detail. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf also extended felicitation to Sarfraz Ahmed Bhugti for his selection as

Federal Minister.

The Speaker also expressed his confidence that interim government would take all possible initiatives to ensure general elections to be held peacefully.

Interim Federal Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bhugti appreciated Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf for his concern for general elections. He also said, "Election Commission of Pakistan is assured for full cooperation for holding general elections."

Cylinders or cans shall not be allowed to come on the motorway: DIG Motorways North

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zonal Commander directed all sector commanders to ensure ban imposed on the vehicles carrying hazardous materials (petrol, diesel, acids, gases etc).

This ban has been imposed keeping in view Pindi Bhatian incident. Strict action by field officer and monitoring shall be ensured by sector commanders and Beat commanders.

Further all field formations shall check, enforce, and return such vehicles from entry points and main plazas.

DIG said If such vehicles are found plying on motorways shall be directed to detour from the very next interchange.

WHO extends travel restrictions on Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Emphasising persistent risk of a polio outbreak in Pakistan, the World Health Organisation (WHO) extended travel restrictions on the country for another three months.

The decision was taken during a session of International Health Regulations' (2005) Emergency Committee - responsible for assessing global polio

virus spread - convened by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The committee expressed concerns over Pakistan's efforts to reach a large number of children through its polio eradication campaign. It also highlighted the gaps in Pakistan and Afghanistan's efforts to eliminate polio.

It emphasised that recent favorable environmental samples from Peshawar and Karachi underscore the persistent risk of a polio outbreak in Pakistan.

Termination of Units of Power Sector will Make a Difference of 6 Paisa: Tariq Raza Kalro

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Termination of units of power sector will make a difference of 6 paisa. General Secretary of All Pakistan (NTDC) Engineers Association Apnea, Engineer Tariq Raza Kalro has said in a press statement that the units of power sector employees and officers will be terminated. Power sector employees and officers are being defamed through an organized conspiracy. Apart from WAPDA employees, the employees and officers of all institutions in Pakistan are taking benefits.

Only we are being defamed whenever electricity is expensive, people are systematically put behind the free units of WAPDA employees and given the impression that these units are the root of all the corruption. If these are eliminated, electricity will become cheaper at once and all problems will be solved.

Here is some information for the general public
Every organization gives some part



of its product to its employees. Like free travel to railway and PIA employees, Free phone etc. to PTCL users.

Firms that do not make a product give allowances to their employees.

The units employees receive are not unlimited. Rather, they are limited by the scale after which they have to pay the bill just like the general public.

The units received by power sector employees are paid by their companies to the government and their amount is made a part of the income of regular employees and income tax is also deducted from the salaries.

Now coming to the point that if these units are abolished, what will be the benefit to the public.

So the answer is that there will be no benefit. The reasons are as follows.

If the units are over, the employees will have to be given the same allowance as in other departments. So what's left??

As soon as this facility of the given units ends, there is a fear that theft of electricity will become common among the employees. This will cause more damage.

(Remember that at that time severe punishments are given for stealing electricity or aiding in it, so no employee takes risk on his job).

If the free units of all employees are abolished, the price of electricity per unit will decrease by only 6 paisa. (That too if the government immediately gives relief to the people).

Means the unit which is costing you 60 rupees including taxes will cost 59 rupees 94 paisa.

This is just an attempt to divert public attention from the real things and nothing else.

The units given to the power sector employees are not completely free, but they are part of the pay package. WAPDA pays the bill of electricity units of its employees to the concerned electricity office.

Similar incentives are available in other institutions like fee waiver/concession for children of teachers in schools and colleges

Gas free for needle gas people, Air tickets and other facilities are free for PIA holders

Ticket free for Railwaymen, Call Free to PTCL users, MNA, and MPA free of all privileges.

Plots, houses and other allowances to military officers in DHA, Judges and Bureaucrats get gas, electricity, petrol, domestic servants under the sub-pay package. All Pakistan (NTDC) Engineers Association has unanimously decided that if the concessions of all departments are terminated first, then the power sector is also present to terminate the unit.

Pakistan Ulema Council says India wants sectarian and religious riots in Pakistan

Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: Anti-Pakistan forces want to create sectarian and religious riots in Pakistan, but such conspiracies shall be eradicated at any cost. These views were expressed by Central Deputy General Secretary of Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahirul Hassan while talking to Ulemas and Mashaikhs in Jordanwala, Faisalabad.

On this occasion this was elaborated by Maulana Ubaidullah Gormani, Maulana Habibur Rahman Abid, Abid Alhaj, Maulana Rafiq Jami, Maulana Izhar-ul-Haq, Maulana Amin-ul-Haq Ashrafi, Mian Irshad Mujahid, Sheikh Hadith Maulana Abdul Shakoor Dehlavi, Maulana Saqib Ali, Maulana Yasin Ranjha and others were also present. They said that India wants religious and sectarian riots in Pakistan so that the world can avoid atrocities on minorities in India so that, Let the attention be diverted in this inhuman way.

He expressed that's why all Pakistanis join and support to eradicate these conspiracies logically & must fail & end in smoke such phenomena from the society. He said that There are enemy forces & we all have to defeat it with mutual unity. So anyone who insults Christian or Muslim's sacred things should be punished immediately. We welcome the PM & Army Chief's statements.

He said that Islam teaches a complete code of life and complete peace and security and our last Prophet (PBUH) has set eternal examples of humanity by following which we can live a successful life. Apostasy from Islam and morality creates differences between human beings and we have to consider together to create peace for all & Sunday.

North Waziristan DHO checks hospital after reports of absent staff

Zainullah Khan

MIRAN SHAH: DHO North Waziristan visits many health centers including Razmak Hospital. Absence will not be tolerated under any circumstances, nor will the difficulties of patients be tolerated. Dr. Miraj Wazir.

According to the details, District Health Officer Meraj Wazir visited the hospital of Tehsil Razmak near North Waziristan as soon as he was appointed in North Waziristan. Dr. Meraj Wazir, upon reaching the hospital, first checked the attendance and then checked the various wards of the hospital including Emer Jansi. And visiting the operation theatres, DHO Meraj Minister issued instructions to the doctors. It is the duty of the doctors and other staff of the hospital to reach their duty on time in the morning. Dr. Meraj also said that all the needs of the hospital should be met. Dr. Meraj Wazir further said that the hardships of the patients of Razmak Division will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Dr. Meraj said that all the hospitals of North Waziristan will be raided day or night to ensure the presence of hospital staff for the public. Dr. Meraj warned the absent staff attached to the health department to attend to their duties as soon as possible and if they do not attend, strict legal action will be taken against them, including dismissal.

Abdul Wahab appointed as focal person of Hyderabad High Court Bar Association

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Renowned columnist and advocate Sindh High Court Abdul Wahab Munshi has been appointed as focal person by Hyderabad High Court Bar Association. In a notification issued by the General Secretary of the High Court Bar Association, Mian Taj Mohammad kerio and Vice President Asif Shaikh, it has been informed that Abdul Wahab Munshi will play an important role in all government and non-government organizations including the Bar and the media and the rights and welfare of the Bar Association. When contacted in this regard, Advocate Abdul Wahab Munshi said that in the current situation, I will play my role to fill the gap created in the media and lawyers. Lawyers will also raise their voices against the events that happened to martyred journalist John Muhammad Mehr and other journalists. Lawyers are a part of this society, so lawyers and civil society cannot be separated from each other.

Mentitled as 'missing' doctors in DHQ Hospital Dadu

Azad Baloch

DADU: As many as 28 male and female doctors have been posted in the district headquarters Hospital Dadu after the advice of the director civil hospital Dadu due to the shortages of doctors on the DHQ Hospital. However only 5 doctors have joined their duty out of 28 doctors within the period of 20 days. According to details report during the period of 20 days only five doctors have joined their duty on the DHQ Hospital Dadu while other male and female doctors are still absent from their duty.

A list of non-reporting male and female doctors has been prepared by the official management of district Health office Dadu, in which it has been mentioned that still these 23 male and female doctors have not joined their duty and are still missing. It has been written in this list that non-joining doctors are absent. According to official sources of the DHO office Dadu in the report, it has also been mentioned that some are working in hospitals of other districts on deputation, including outside the city and some outside the country. Out of the 28 doctors in the prepared list, 23 doctors have been completely absent from duty for a long time. Out of 28 doctors, only five doctors, including Dr. Farman Hussain Sheikh, Dr. Hidayat Khatun, Dr. Asif Chana, Dr. Seema Panhour, Dr. Iqbal Davch, have joined duty in the hospital after the posting order was issued. According to the sources of the health department, the remaining 23 doctors are working on deputation in hospitals of other districts for their facilities, while many doctors are drawing salaries at home and few of them are present in other countries, sources added. Sources in the hospital have claimed that the doctors' union, along with local influential political figures, are behind the duty-evading employees.

On this matter, Civil Surgeon Dr. Zahid Kahro told the media that to stop the salaries of the doctors who did not join the duty, it has been



Abdul Wahab appointed as focal person of Hyderabad High Court Bar Association

Farming

ISLAMABAD: Gardeners are busy gardening in field of Farm House in Tarlai Kalan area as the whole land of Capital City is very fertile but due to the negligence of Government and also the people, it destroys a lot due to unplanned increasing population.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Second Immunization Campaign Begins in Lower South Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Inayat Ur Rehman has said on Saturday that the second campaign of immunization against 12 infectious diseases has started in South Waziristan Lower district from August 28, which will continue for 08 days.

The DHO has said that the diseases that are being immunized against include TB, whooping cough, tetanus, meningitis, diphtheria, jaundice, pneumonia, typhoid, cholera, measles,



polio and rubella/ measles.

The DHO said that in this regard, the health department has already said that there are 03 campaigns and the first campaign has been done in

July, the second campaign has started from Monday, while the third campaign will be done in September.

It should be noted that these campaigns have been started with the special support of Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, DG Health KP and Director EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The DHO further said that these facilities will not be available after this, therefore, it is a request to all scholars, tribal elders, political leaders, youth, social activists, media persons and parents, to protect your children from

these deadly diseases by getting them vaccinated during this campaign.

Parents are requested to shield your children in the name of the boycott for their various demands, however, they are not well-wishers of you, your children or the nation.

So don't listen to the words of such people because your children's future is at stake.

He said that our job is to inform you about the facts and protect your children from dangerous diseases, so make sure that your children get the immunizations on time.

Gomal University Dept of journalism has launched a one-year & 6-month diploma for journalists

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A one-year and 6-month diploma for journalists was started in the Department of Journalism of Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan.

In this regard, on the special instructions of Vice Chancellor Gomal University Prof. Dr. Shakib Ullah, an awareness ceremony was organized by the Chairperson of Journalism Department, Dr. Imran Khan regarding the various diplomas to be started for journalists.

A large number of journalists associated with print, electronic and social media including Regional Information Officer, Press Club Dera, Wana Press Club members participated in the event.



The ceremony was started by Hafiz Fida Hussain with the recitation of Holy Quran while the stage secretary was performed by PRO Gomal University Raja Alamzeb.

Addressing the ceremony, Chairperson Dr. Muhammad

Imran Khan said that Gomal University's journalism department is the pioneer department of the university and from which hundreds of students are showing the essence of their ability in various fields including international and national

institutes of print, electronics by taking their degrees.

He further said that after Matriculation and Intermediate, one year Diploma in TV Journalism, Diploma in Digital Media and Certificate in Social Media, Certificate in Electron-

ic Media for six months are being started at a very reasonable fee, and all the journalists can submit the form online on Gomal University website.

Muhammad Waqar, representative of Director Admission Riyaz Ahmed Bettani informed the participants in detail about online admission.

At the end of the ceremony, all the journalists were also given a visit to the FM radio and TV studio.

On this occasion, the journalists paid tribute to Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah, Chairperson of Journalism Department Dr. Imran Khan and the entire university administration for the excellent initiative taken by the journalists



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:11 am
Zohr 12:09 pm
Asr 4:48 pm
Maghrib 6:39 pm
Isha 8:06 pm

EMERGENCY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 5611111
MH 5611116
MH 5611116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Commerce minister targets one-billion-dollar export milestone for Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Gohar Ejaz with Pharma Industry to propel exports & targets One-Billion-Dollar Milestone

Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, held a pivotal meeting with the Pharmaceutical Association, led by Farooq Bukhari, Chairman of the PPMA.

The minister's primary agenda was to discuss and strategize ways to boost the pharmaceutical industry's exports.

During the meeting, an ambitious target of achieving a one-billion-dollar export milestone for the industry was set.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed his unwavering commitment and

support to the pharmaceutical sector, not only in his official capacity but also on a personal level.

He assured the delegation of his dedication to creating an environment conducive to the industry's growth.

He further emphasized the importance of focusing on exports as a means to enhance the country's economic conditions.

In a remarkable display of patriotism, Dr. Gohar Ejaz announced his decision to donate his entire income for the year to the welfare of the country.

This gesture showcased his deep concern for the well-being of the nation and his dedication to its progress.

Recognizing the need for a

competitive edge in the global market, the minister urged the pharmaceutical delegation to formulate a comparative policy framework with regional countries.

He directed this framework to be presented by Wednesday, with the goal of aligning the industry with regional peers and facilitating increased exports.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the pharmaceutical industry leaders appreciating the minister's support and dedication to their sector.

As the industry sets its sights on the ambitious one-billion-dollar export target, the nation eagerly anticipates the potential economic growth and benefits that will follow.



Delayed

ISLAMABAD: A view of the under construction flyover at Sector E-11 as the construction is slow down after the completion of the Government tenure.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Govt ensures good governance to State's socioeconomic development: AJK PM

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while reiterating his government's commitment to ensure good governance and supremacy of law, said that good governance was key to the region's socioeconomic development. While talking to public delegations that called on him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Monday the PM said that correcting the system and implementing reforms was the first and foremost priority of the present government. He said that the public would benefit from the government initiatives only if service delivery in the state improves. He said that the government has reduced non-developmental expenses with a view to putting an increased emphasis on the health, education and development of the region. After taking up the reins of the state, the PM said that the coalition government had tried to solve the problems of the people and provide them with all the basic amenities of life. He said that development across the state can be visible on the ground only when the projects allocated in the current financial year's budget are completed. "Our priorities are to raise the standard of living of the people by providing them with facilities at their doorstep and raising the voice for our oppressed Kashmiri brothers on the other side of the Line of Control", the PM said.

Maroof Int'l Hospital organize free medical camp

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital's Clinical Investigation Centre and Research Dept. organized a "Free medical camp at Nala Musalmana" Rawalpindi, to provide treatment services and blood screening free of cost to the local community.

The camp was set up at Nala Musalmana Kalar Syedan for extending vital healthcare to local rural communities. The camp was placed targeting communities in distant small towns that often lack access to essential medical facilities. In a joint effort that underscores the commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility, the Clinical Investigation Centre and Research Dept. of MHI partnered with Resham Barkat Memorial Hospital to organize this free medical checkup and blood screening camp.



Dr. Saboor, Associate Director of MHI and other specialist doctors provided essential services on HBV, HCV, Malaria, Dengue Screenings, H. Pylori tests and more. Personalized care, free medicines, and expert guidance on hypertension and diabetes were also provided to patients. Over 100 patients attended the free medical and screening camp. During medi-

cal checkups and screening, the most prevalent health issues among attendees were gastric diseases, with cases showing positivity for H. pylori. Locals also visited the camp with other medical complications including Allergies, Diabetes, And Hypertension. A single case of HCV (Hepatitis C Virus) was also reported, and the patient received thorough counselling

regarding the condition along with a discussion of available treatment options emphasizing the importance of preventing further transmission. This data underscores the significance of addressing these health challenges within the community. Healthcare experts at the camp also educated locals on the importance of creating a concept of healthier community. The team visited local Girls' School and College. There Ms. Nida Ashraf conducted an awareness session with young women, emphasizing the importance of maintaining proper menstrual hygiene and good nutritional health. This educational and awareness effort has the potential to significantly improve the health and well-being of the students.

Maroof Int'l Hospital has planned to organize another free medical camp in September 2023.

DFP urges Kashmiris to assemble in Srinagar to pay tribute to SAS Gilani on his 2nd martyrdom anniversary

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has appealed to the people to march towards Hyderpora, Srinagar in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, on September 1 to pay tribute to the icon of Kashmir resistance movement, Syed Ali Gilani, on his 2nd martyrdom anniversary.

In a statement issued here today the DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal while referring to Gilani's matchless sacrifices and struggle said that the deceased leader was a strong proponent and fearless advocate of the Kashmiris' right to self determination. Gilani, he said, was a symbol of resistance against India's illegal occupation who lived and died for the cause he cherished throughout his lifetime.

He said that Gilani was a man of honesty and integrity. "His life long struggle for the Kashmir cause would be written in golden words in the history of Kashmir", the spokesman said.

The DFP spokesman appealed people of Kashmir to assemble at the deceased leader's graveyard at Hyderpora in Srinagar on his anniversary to pay homage to the great leader who rendered matchless sacrifices for the people of Kashmir.

Director Public Relations makes brief visit to Mirpur

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Director Public Relations Azad Kashmir Raja Shahid Hussain Khokhar visited Divisional Office Public Relations/ Information Mirpur. During the visit, he inspected various departments including computer section, conference room, record room, advertisement department. He also took a departmental briefing. Deputy Director of Information Mirpur Tariq Jameel Durrani, and Divisional Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik briefed the Director of Public Relations about the issues and all the problems related to the department. All the staff and officials were also present on this occasion.

Director Public Relations said that the Department of Information is being developed on modern lines so that it highlights the positive image of the government and meets the demands of the media of the 21st century. Officers and staff will be trained and provided with modern equipment. Close liaison with media representatives and press clubs is the need of the hour and will fulfill all their legitimate needs.

Director of Public Relations Raja Shahid Hussain said that the Public Relations Department is an important department of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government. It highlights the positive image of the government and its institutions. It is working on hundreds of projects worth billions of rupees, the information of which is conveyed to the public only by the public relations department. Raja Shahid Hussain Khokhar said that after taking charge, I have started visiting district offices across Azad Kashmir so that I can visit all the offices. He assured the officers and staff that they will work hard for the improvement and development of the department and staff.

Public Defense of Iqra University's Ph. D. Scholar

City Desk

KARACHI: Faculty of Business Administration Iqra University's PhD Scholar Mr. Jahanzaib Alvi's Public Defence will be held on Saturday September 02, 2023 at 03:00 pm at ORIC. Scholars, Faculty members and students of the same field will participate in it.

Mr. Jahanzaib Alvi completed his PhD Dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Imtiaz Arif. As per HEC requirements, his PhD Dissertation has already been approved by foreign evaluators.

Riphah Int'l University Organized largest career counseling event in Twin Cities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University successfully organized one of the Largest Open Houses not only in RIPHAH's history but also the first ever of its kind in twin cities. Four simultaneous Open Houses were conducted at the same time in G-7/4, Gulberg Greens, I-14 and Al-Mizan Campus, serving visitors from all localities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

For the event day the respective campuses and admissions offices were turned into festive and welcoming spaces, guided pathways through colorful footprints on the floors and Bunting on the ceilings, highlighting the latest ranking of RIPHAH indeed made it a refreshing experience for the visitors.

The Open Houses attracted a significant number of potential students, with over 1500 visitors exploring the Riphah International University campuses.

Millennium Education bagged Fastest Growing Brand of the Year Award

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Education Group has been adorned with a prestigious title of 'Fastest Growing Brand of the Year Award 2022' by the Brand's Foundation, Brand of the Year Award Ceremony held at Marriott Hotel, last day says a press release. The title has been conferred under the category of 'School System' amid this award giving ceremony.

The award has been received by Ms. Amena Khan Regional Director on behalf of Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan. Ms. Amena Khan spoke at the Award Ceremony, underlined the importance of quality education in guaranteeing the success of Pakistan's youth. She furthered and urged to focus on how quality education vitally plays a role,



not only for individual success but also for the country's general prosperity and advancement. On the end note, she reaffirmed the CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq's commitment to offer learners worldwide with innovative and world-class education.

Among the attendees of the auspicious moment has been, Ms. Ayesha Jatoi, HR & TLS Coordinator and Mr. Syed Saim Ifikhar Manager Regional

Office-South Region, The Millennium Education Group, Pakistan. The proud faculty expressed gratitude and belongingness to Pakistan's leading education group accentuating it as the world's largest K-12 teacher training institute, with nearly 9,150 active alumni, over 25 educational degrees, and eight prominent test and qualifying boards.

The Millennium Universal College TMUC is Pakistan's pioneer in setting Transnational Higher Education, recognized by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The institute is committed and stands crucial in the provision of undergraduate, post-graduate, MBA, professional, skills, accounting, modern sciences, fashion, design, media, and business education. The Millennium Education Group also created The Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MiTE) in Sindh, its first chartered

university in Karachi, likewise, recognized by HEC and chartered by the Sindh government.

On this occasion, Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq emphasized the need to encourage academic excellence, student achievement, social entrepreneurship, and equitable opportunity for all. He feels that giving learners the standardized platform is critical in assisting them to achieve their goals of admission to top colleges throughout the world.

It is the consecutive witnessing of bagging the awards and hemming of quality, The Millennium Education is speaking for itself. Moreover, it must be noted that, The Millennium Education Group has been honoured with the prestigious Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry RCCI Leading Education Brand of the Region Award in the recent past.

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Reviving Balochistan: The Imperative for Change and Progress - II

The province grapples with stark educational and living standard disparities. Equally, healthcare accessibility remains critically low for all its residents. UNDP's latest report exposes the harsh reality that 71% of Balochistan's populace dwells in multidimensional poverty, signifying a troubling 7 out of 10 families living in destitution.

These disparities are underscored in the National Human Development Report, which reveals that 31 out of 32 districts in Balochistan are among the country's most underprivileged areas in terms of education, quality of life, and health access.

Per capita gross regional product (GRP) has ascended in all provinces except Balochistan, which since 1999-2000 has plummeted from second to last place among Pakistan's provinces, witnessing a 7 percent decline in real per capita income. Punjab leads the education front, boasting the highest net enrolment ratio and literacy rate, while Balochistan ranks fourth.

While other provinces exhibit strides in human development, Balochistan's progress stands as the most meager among them. Over the period from 2006-2007 to 2018-2019, it registers the least improvement in HDI value. Adjusting HDI for inequality reveals a shift in provincial rankings. Punjab leads the pack, trailed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with Balochistan trailing behind.

The selection of Mr. ANWAR Kakar as the interim Prime Minister, orchestrated by the previous administration with the opposition's unspoken support and establishment's backing, is a remarkable

decision. This ushers in an unparalleled opportunity for Balochistan, a province long overlooked. The anticipation is for this marginalized region to finally receive the attention it rightfully merits. This encompasses a strategic shift in allocating national resources, concentrating on policy formulation, infusing expert guidance, and making data-driven choices.

This juncture calls for a reinvigorated emphasis on advancing Balochistan's agriculture, bolstering the horticultural sector, and establishing downstream industries to amplify the value of the province's fruits and vegetables. Further attention is required for fostering industries, fostering small-scale businesses, ensuring mechanized mining with robust worker safety measures, and enhancing water resource management that includes rain and snowwater harvesting. A concentrated effort on providing electricity, bolstering gas transportation infrastructure, upgrading highway systems, ensuring clean drinking water access, fostering upscale urban centers, and streamlining government and civic services via online accessibility for all residents of the province is imperative.

Of paramount importance is the establishment of world-class education accessible throughout the province, forming the bedrock for cultivating a high-quality human resource. In an era where our neighboring nations are venturing into uncharted cosmic territories, the significance of human resource cannot be overstated. Neglecting the development

of Balochistan's human potential will impede progress and hinder the prosperity of its people.

The appointment of Mr. ANWAR Kakar stands as a rare lifetime opportunity for Balochistan. With him steering the course, there's a glimmer of hope that this long-suffering and marginalized province will finally attract the rightful attention it deserves. The potential benefits entail a redirection of national resources, strategic policy formulation, the infusion of

knowledge and expertise, aiming to pivot the province toward a more promising trajectory. My extensive engagement within the Federal bureaucracy across Lahore and Islamabad, spanning multiple roles encompassing Information services, Income Tax administration, Foreign Affairs, and the power corridors, left me profoundly disheartened. The stark truth emerged that Balochistan's presence was conspicuously absent from the Federation's discourse, judicial considerations, and bureaucratic operations.

Throughout my experiences, an evident absence of political resolve was evident across successive administrations. This concerning reality underscored the struggle of this remarkable province and its extraordinary people to claim their rightful share in national resources. The potential of its hardworking, inherently robust, resilient, compassionate, and gracious inhabitants remained largely overlooked.

In Balochistan, the intersection of limited education, entrenched pover-

ty, and a prevailing sense of deprivation has provided fertile ground for external actors to exploit through fifth-generation warfare, fueling insurgency and undermining the government's positive efforts. However, the presence of Mr. Kakar at the helm brings a ray of hope. His adept negotiation skills, eloquence, profound comprehension of provincial politics, and societal dynamics might lead him to pursue a politically viable negotiated resolution.

Internationally, it's acknowledged that Balochistan's nationalist movements are fragmented and feeble, with most Baloch favoring enhanced autonomy over outright independence. Given Mr. Kakar's understanding of Balochistan's people, he may opt for a political solution rather than resorting to force. Encouraging nationalist parties to participate in upcoming provincial and national elections on an equitable basis could be his strategy. This path may establish a legitimate and credible Baloch government, enabling local control restoration, violence reduction, and advocating for Balochistan at the federal level.

In closing, the designation of Mr. ANWAR Kakar as interim Prime Minister stands as a beacon of optimism for Balochistan, a province burdened by historical disregard and lack of progress. Armed with meticulous planning, all-encompassing policies, and resolute commitment, the province can transcend its past and evolve into a flourishing and dynamic segment of the nation. It is now imperative to rewrite Balochistan's narrative, shifting it from neglect to acknowledgment, and harnessing the latent potential that lies within its borders.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Through my experiences, an evident absence of political resolve was evident across successive administrations. This concerning reality underscored the struggle of this remarkable province and its extraordinary people to claim their rightful share in national resources. The potential of its hardworking, inherently robust, resilient, compassionate, and gracious inhabitants remained largely overlooked.

In Balochistan, the intersection of limited education, entrenched pover-

Efforts to safeguard biodiversity receive welcome boost

A new global environmental fund marks a major step towards securing the wellbeing of biodiversity in developing countries and will help to ensure sustainable utilization of their natural resources, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a Rome-based UN agency, has said.

The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, launched at the Global Environmental Facility Assembly in Vancouver, Canada, will support the implementation of the landmark Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and guide nature towards recovery by 2050.

Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, emphasized the importance of the Kunming-Montreal Framework and the role of agriculture and food systems in addressing global challenges.

"The Framework places agrifood systems at the forefront of an enormous challenge that will require important financial resources, coordination, and commitment to implement win-win solutions for people and the planet." She added that the new Fund is a critical part of climate action, and a vital step in making these solutions a reality.

The significance of biodiversity in agrifood systems cannot be understated, it was pointed out. Biodiversity is the variety of life at genetic, species and ecosystem levels and it is an indispensable component of food security, sustainable development, and agricultural stability.

It encompasses domesticated plants and animals that are part of crop, livestock, forest or aquaculture systems, harvested forest and aquatic species, the wild relatives of domesticated species, and other wild species harvested for food and other products.

More than half of the targets in the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework directly pertain to agrifood sectors, and FAO is entrusted with overseeing four key indicators: ecosystem restoration, fish stocks, sustainable agriculture areas, and responsible forest management.

According to FAO, transforming agrifood systems to make them more sustainable can yield multiple benefits, including the preservation of biodiversity. Such actions involve diversifying production by integrating multiple species, breeds, or varieties, and promoting habitat diversity within local landscapes and seascapes, the agency said. These initiatives support climate action, enhance resilience, uplift livelihoods, and improve food security and nutrition.

Defaming Pak Army instead of acknowledging its Commendable Contributions - I

In today's interconnected world, social media has emerged as a powerful platform for communication and information sharing. While it has undoubtedly brought people closer and facilitated the exchange of ideas, it has also become a breeding ground for the spread of misinformation and propaganda. The unchecked dissemination of false narratives and biased content on social media poses a significant threat to society, undermining trust, polarizing communities, and distorting public discourse.

Social media platforms have transformed the way information is consumed, with billions of users relying on them for news and updates. However, the ease and speed of sharing content on these platforms have also given rise to a disturbing trend: the rampant spread of misinformation and propaganda. Falsehoods, conspiracy theories, and distorted narratives can go viral within minutes, reaching millions of people before they can be fact-checked or debunked. This unrestricted dissemination has the potential to influence public opinion, shape political discourse, and even impact democratic processes.

Several factors contribute to the proliferation of misinformation and propaganda on social media: Social media platforms provide a simple and accessible means of sharing information, often without robust mechanisms to verify its accuracy. This makes it easy for malicious

actors and individuals to propagate false narratives to suit their agendas. Social media algorithms are designed to maximize user engagement, often by promoting content that generates strong emotional reactions. This algorithmic amplification tends to favor sensational or controversial content, making misinformation and propaganda more likely to gain visibility and traction. Social media fosters the formation of echo chambers, where individuals are surrounded by like-minded people and exposed to information that aligns with their existing beliefs. This reinforces confirmation bias, making individuals more susceptible to accepting and sharing false information that supports their preconceived notions.

The consequences of the unchecked spread of misinformation and propaganda on social media are far-reaching: Misinformation erodes public trust in institutions, media organizations, and even science. When false information is presented as fact, it becomes increasingly challenging for individuals to distinguish truth from fiction, leading to skepticism and a loss of faith in reliable sources of information. Misinformation and propaganda often fuel divisive narratives, pitting communities against each other and exacerbating societal tensions. This polarization can have severe consequences, undermining social cohesion and hindering constructive dialogue on critical issues. In the realm of public health, the spread of misinformation on social media can have disastrous consequences. False claims about vaccines, treatments, or disease prevention can lead to vaccine hesitancy, exacerbate outbreaks, and endanger public health efforts.

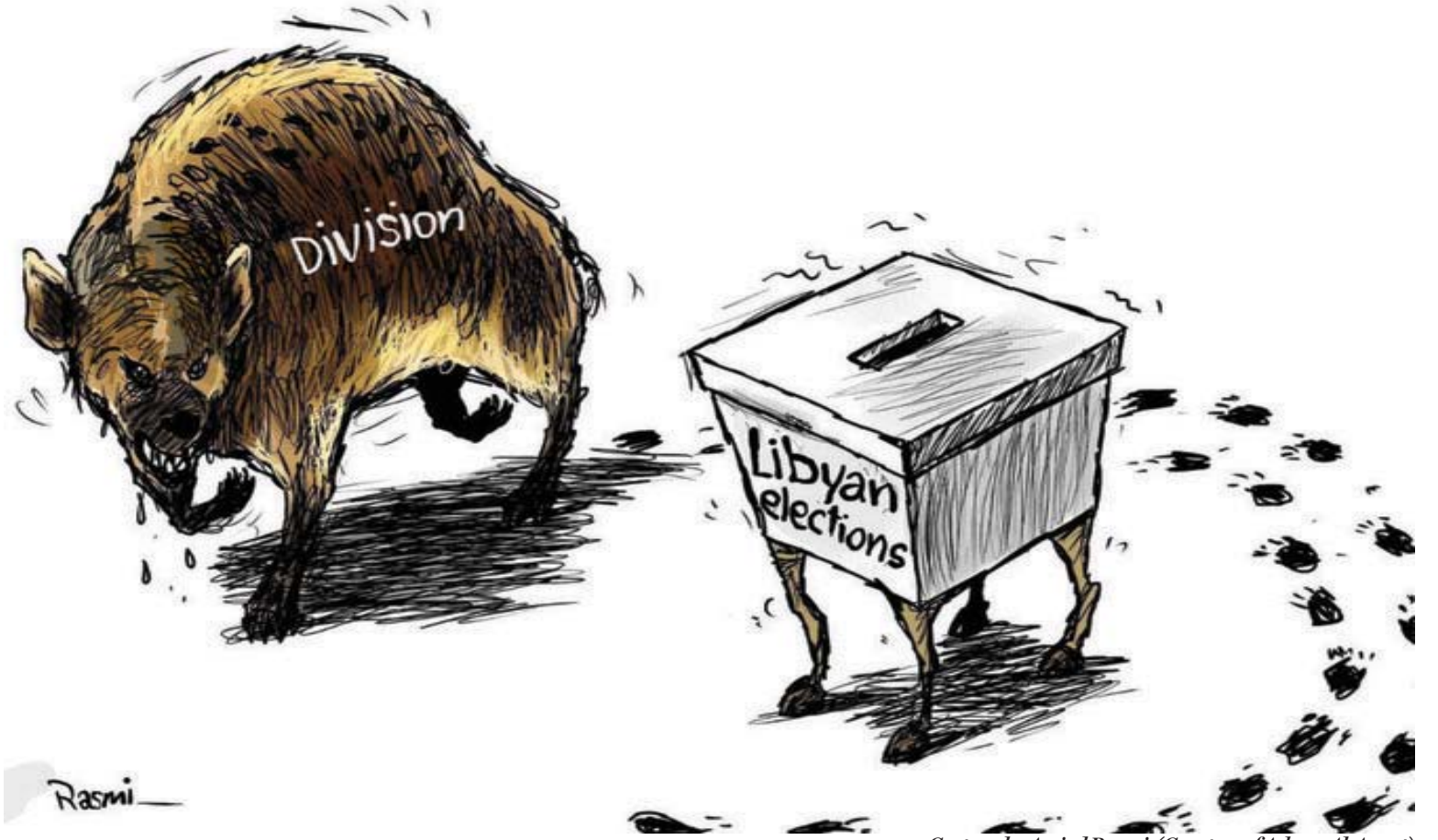
Pak Army has been a very soft target from our enemies and anti-state elements. The fake news and propaganda against the Pak army has increased in recent times.

On June 5, a verified Twitter account tweeted, "Australia has banned Pakistani generals in its country." The Twitter user also posted a video in which he can be clearly heard saying Australia will not allow 50 officials including Ex-Chief of Army Staff General Retd Qamar Javed Bajwa, serving Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to enter the country. The post claimed that "Australian Parliament has banned all Pakistani generals from entering their country for violating human rights in Pakistan. The video has so far been viewed 71,000 times and retweeted over 4,000 times. A similar claim was shared by another Twitter user.

On June 5, a Facebook user also claimed in his post that "Australia has banned Pakistani generals to their country." Whereas according to the Fact Check report of Geo, the Australian High Commission in Pakistan has confirmed that no such travel ban has been imposed by Australia on any Pakistani military officer or official. Aware of the viral reports of the visa ban on social media a spokesperson for the Australian High Commission told Geo Fact Check via email on June 21, "These reports are false." Australia supports a Pakistan that is peaceful, prosperous and democratic. Australia regularly advocates for human rights with the Government of Pakistan," the spokesperson wrote.

Then, there were other reports about some sort of social media campaign against the Army Chief. Also the previous Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned a social media campaign launched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan against Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir and ordered the authorities to take legal action against those involved in such malicious plots. In a statement, issued by PM Office Media, the prime minister noted that similar minds were involved in the conspiracy of May 9. "It is a clear message to 9th May planners, facilitators and handlers that conspiracy against Pakistan and its institutions will be crushed," the statement added.

To be continued



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

An apocalyptic future awaits us

Jalaluddin Kakar

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

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

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

More striking is that all political parties are a graveyard of dead ideas. Rather than having a proactive vision for the future of the nation, all political parties are lambasting each other and dragging each other's feet for their narrow interests. Going by the current situation, Political leaders have directed much of their energy to power tussles and efforts to subdue opponents rather

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

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

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

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

Reinvestigation: True picture of China's global port investments

Xinhua

BEIJING: In the past few months, the Voice of America (VOA) and the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), among other U.S. media outlets, have been hyping up the narrative of "security concerns related to Chinese investments in overseas ports," alleging that they "could be used for military purposes" in the future.

Besides commercial value, "Chinese-run port terminals can be used not only for logistics support but also intelligence gathering and as future potential basing options," a WSJ report entitled "China's global port investments give rise to security worries" claimed, citing American security analysts, yet without giving any evidence.

"As commercial ports could be used for military purposes, analysts have long been concerned about the security implications of ports controlled by Beijing," another report by the VOA, entitled "China's Global Network of Shipping Ports Reveal Beijing's Strategy", said.

The above claims are nothing but groundless speculations, analysts say, emphasizing the fact that whether an investment in a foreign port can be used militarily depends on many conditions, among which is permission from the government of the host country as a sovereign state.

In fact, China's rapidly expanding investments in overseas ports in recent years are a natural outcome of its rapidly growing trade with the international market.

Given China's status as the world's largest trader of goods and a major trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions around the world, it is not in line with commercial logic if China did not expand its investments in overseas ports considering such factors as trade and shipping facilitation and transaction cost saving, the analysts say.

The True Picture

"Chinese companies' investment in some foreign ports is first and foremost an economic act, and its starting point and focus are to facilitate China's ocean freight logistics," said Wang Zaibang, a senior fellow at Taihe Institute, a Beijing-based think tank.

"This kind of investment is not only beneficial to the business activities of China's overseas shipping companies, but also conducive to stimulating the local economy and promoting employment. We can be optimistic that, barring extreme circumstances, such investment can only grow as the size of China's economy and the stock of overseas interests continue to grow," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

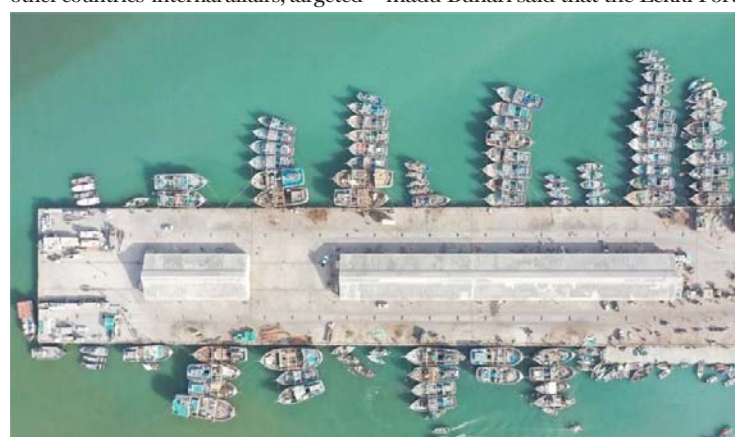
Currently, China's shipping fleet control capacity has risen to the second place in the world from the third place in 2015. As the world's most important intermediate goods provider and the largest supplier of final products, China's docking with the international market

not only requires the continuous facilitation of bilateral or multilateral trade and investment, but also the orderly docking and arrangement of global transportation channels, said Zhang Yugui, dean of the School of Economics and Finance of Shanghai International Studies University.

Over the past decade since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was launched in 2013, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations, resulting in more than 3,000 cooperation projects and generating nearly 1 trillion U.S. dollars in investment, official statistics show.

Under the joint efforts of participating countries, a connectivity framework involving six corridors, six types of routes, multiple countries and multiple ports have taken shape, playing a key role in transcending geographical constraints and cultural differences, and in facilitating economic development across the world.

During this process, Chinese companies and overseas local authorities have carried out port cooperation projects with an aim to create opportunities for common development under the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits on the basis of respecting the will of relevant countries. China has never interfered in other countries' internal affairs, targeted



a third party, or posed a security threat to any country.

Since 2009, Chinese shipping giant COSCO has invested more than 600 million euros (about 660 million U.S. dollars) in the construction and upgrading of the Container Terminals 2 and 3 in Greece's Piraeus port. In 2019, the port's container throughput has exceeded 5.65 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit), becoming the first integrated port in the Mediterranean, the fourth largest in Europe and one of the fastest growing container ports in the world, with revenue of 195 million euros (214.5 million dollars) in fiscal year 2022, an increase of 26.2 percent, and a net profit of 52.9 million euros (58.2 million dollars), an increase of 43.9 percent.

The Colombo Port City in Sri

Lanka, the first special economic zone constructed and operated by Chinese firms outside of China, has been designated as one of the "Five New Cities Affecting the Future" by Forbes magazine in the United States.

According to management consulting firm Price Waterhouse Coopers Consulting, Colombo Port City will attract more than 9.7 billion dollars in foreign direct investment for Sri Lanka during its development and operation, generate more than 5 billion dollars in fiscal revenue for the Sri Lankan government, and create more than 400,000 quality jobs for the locals.

The project "will promote Sri Lanka's economic development, improve people's livelihood and boost the modernization process of Sri Lanka," said Sri Lankan Ambassador to China Palitha Kohona, adding that "many of the great changes that have taken place in Sri Lanka have benefited from the BRI."

Launched in January 2023 and invested, constructed and operated by China Harbour Corporation, the Nigerian Lekki Deep Water Port project is Nigeria's first modern deep-water port and one of the largest ports in West Africa, with an annual designed handling capacity of 1.2 million standard containers, which can accommodate the world's largest container ships.

Nigeria's former President Muhammadu Buhari said that the Lekki Port



"will open up a new pattern for Nigeria's economic development, strongly promote the export of Nigerian products, especially agricultural products," and create many jobs, contributing to poverty reduction goals.

Built by Shanghai International Port (Group) Co., Ltd., the new Port of Haifa in Israel opened in September 2021, becoming the first large new port in Israel in nearly 60 years. It is by far the most advanced, greenest, fastest and most cost-effective terminal on the Mediterranean coast, using the most advanced port technology in the world.

"We have high hopes for the new port of Haifa to serve the entire region and become a regional logistics hub," said Yitzhak Blumenthal, CEO of the government-owned Israel Ports Company.



The above are just a few examples of the cooperation projects Chinese companies have implemented overseas, which have not only garnered considerable revenue for local governments and driven economic development, but also boosted the construction of local infrastructure and increased employment in these regions.

Strong Rebukes

As a country long committed to peaceful development and promoting a community with a shared future for mankind, China currently has only one overseas naval support base in Djibouti, the main function of which is to serve the Chinese warships fighting piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Wang said.

Responding to the WSJ report's claim that "China's navy has stopped for replenishment or diplomacy at a third of the ports where China-based firms have investments," Wang said it is a matter of course and nothing wrong with China investing in foreign ports for non-war operations in peacetime.

As the world has been constantly threatened by hegemonism and power politics, terrorism and extremist forces, as well as local wars and regional conflicts, and Western countries led by the United States have been waging color revolutions in many countries triggering regional unrest, there is often a need for non-war operations such as the evacuation of Chinese nationals.

"Under such circumstances, warships of any country can naturally dock at foreign ports for supplies or transshipment, which is really not surprising," Wang said.

Meanwhile, various countries have come out to deny the U.S. allegations about the Chinese-invested ports' so-called "military purposes".

In a recent interview with France 24, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe said, "So far there has been no (Chinese) military base in Hambantota harbour... the security is controlled by the government of Sri Lanka... these are just speculations... We have no military agreement with China, there won't be a military agreement, I don't think China enters into one."

As for the Gwadar port in Pakistan, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, chief executive

officer of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, an Islamabad-based think tank, has also recently said that "there was no (Chinese) military involvement."

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a purely economic development initiative... Since the very beginning, Western countries and their allies in the region have started propaganda. Why did they start to malign the BRI and the CPEC by one name or another name? Because they cannot compete in the development," Ramay told Xinhua.

Besides the "military purposes" hype, the WSJ report also alleged that "They (Chinese companies) are also aggregating shipping data in ways that some in Washington worry could give Beijing access to information about rivals' supply-chain vulnerabilities."

On that topic, insiders and analysts from Germany have provided an opposite perspective.

Chinese companies have contributed to the alleviation of the supply chain crisis in the Port of Hamburg through mutual cooperation and learning from German companies. In the future, Chinese companies will also play an important role in addressing challenges such as the digitalization and sustainable development of the Port of Hamburg, said Angela Titzrath, chairwoman of Hamburg Ports and Logistics AG.

"Both sides have established an equal and trusted partnership," she added.

"Numerous Chinese companies have settled in the city (Hamburg) and in the port, with whom the players in the port as well as we have been cooperating successfully for a long time," Axel Mattern, chief executive officer of Port of Hamburg Marketing, told Xinhua.

"In addition, cooperation with Chinese companies secures cargo in Hamburg and thus the supply flows in Germany and Europe," he added.

"The Chinese investment in the port of Hamburg is normal. (Yet) there is a tendency that wants to separate the German economy from China, and the German government is facing pressure and constraints from this," Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and chairperson of the German think tank Schiller Insti-

tute, told Xinhua.

"I would say this is purely ideological, so I'm quite glad that the agreement of the Port of Hamburg went through at the last moment," she said.

Yannis Stourmaras, governor of the Bank of Greece, told media recently: "Greece is one of the few countries in Europe (where) China has a very crucial investment, the Piraeus port, and it is going very well... Piraeus was a big port with huge competitiveness problems and now is one of the most competitive ports in Europe, so I think it was a successful investment."

Motive Behind "China Threat"

As a matter of fact, the United States has also benefited from Chinese companies' investments in port management. Since 2002, COSCO Group has been an important customer and partner of Boston Port, and practical cooperation between both sides during the past 20 years has not only saved 9,000 jobs in Boston Port, but also created 400,000 more new jobs.

Mike Meyran, director of the Boston Port Authority, said that the Boston Port "is a perfect example of U.S.-China economic and trade cooperation."

However, some U.S. politicians and media have been willfully neglecting these positive exchanges between their country and China, and have been continuing to churn out various versions of the "China threat" for many years, as a result of "the hegemonic behavior and deep-rooted militaristic thinking of the United States in the past hundred years," said Wang.

Yet these allegations are increasingly losing appeal. Even Americans are now beginning to see the truth. "Do you know how many military bases we have surrounding China? Three hundred and thirteen. Americans need to wake up. It is a different world. We have about 750 military installations in 80 countries," U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson said recently.

"Look at how the rest of the world sees this. Do you think that they see China as a greater military threat to global security or the United States as a greater military threat to global security?" she asked.

The motive behind the U.S. exaggerations is "to sow discord and undermine the mutually beneficial cooperative relations between China and relevant countries," Wang said.

In the context of a serious decline in the United States' ocean transportation capacity, the U.S. playing up this new version of "China threat" is only meant to intimidate countries that accept Chinese port investments into giving up or weakening their cooperation with the Chinese side, with the intent to hurt China and hurt the investment target countries for its own benefit, Wang noted.

(Xinhua reporters Jitang Chao in Islamabad, Du Zheyu in Berlin and Chen Zhanjie in Rome contributed to the story.)

Ceremony honoring renowned bureaucrat and constitutional expert Farhat Ali Mir

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A distinguished ceremony was meticulously organized to celebrate the accomplishments of Farhat Ali Mir, a distinguished bureaucrat and constitutional expert hailing from the independent state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event garnered an esteemed assembly of speakers who hailed Farhat Ali Mir as a source of immense pride for the Kashmir region. His contributions towards enhancing the state's administrative, financial, and constitutional framework were emphasized. Notably, he played a pivotal role in the landmark amendment of Act 74 in Azad Kashmir,

a testament to his remarkable abilities.

The speakers emphasized the need to gear up for a global legal battle to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir conflict, putting an end to human rights violations in India and ensuring the right to vote.

Prominent figures such as Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmad Bhat, former Deputy Speaker Shaheen Kausar, esteemed businessman Shafiq Ahmed Butt, Commissioner FBR Abbas Mir, Director General of the Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Sardar Tariq, former Deputy Attorney General of Pakistan Raja Khalid Mahmood, and other notable personalities, addressed the gathering. These individuals under-

scored Farhat Ali Mir's significant role in driving positive change.

In his address, retired Additional Chief Secretary and Founder Chairman CBR Farhat Ali Mir highlighted the original intent of civil service, which was not merely about employment but rather dedicated service to the public and the growth of the state. He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for Kashmiris over seven decades, even fighting three major wars on their behalf.

Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) acknowledged the sacrifices of countless Kashmiris in their ongoing pursuit of freedom from Indian occupation. He urged Pakistan and

Azad Kashmir's governments to play a more robust role in the movement, providing support to global efforts that advocate for Kashmir's cause.

Chairman JKSM also stressed that after the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A on Aug.05,2019 Indian Fascist government has unleashed reign of terror upon besieged an oppressed Kashmiris. Thousand sof youth have been detained on flase charges vis a vis lawless laws such as AFSPA, PSA, UAPA. While target killing of youth in fake CASO's has become a norm for one million Indian occupation forces in IIOJ&K.

Former Deputy Attorney General of Pakistan, Raja Khalid Mahmood,



praised Farhat Ali Mir's instrumental role in the approval of the Thirteenth Constitutional Amendment, navigating legal challenges along the way.

Commissioner FBR Abbas Mir echoed these sentiments, underscoring Farhat Ali Mir's enduring impact and his pivotal role in various departments. In conclusion, event host Shafiq

Ahmed Butt commended figures like Farhat Ali Mir for their invaluable contributions to society. The event's diverse attendance affirmed the recognition of such exceptional individuals. Butt stressed the importance of tackling unemployment and advancing the freedom movement in Jammu and Kashmir.

Protection of minority rights in Hyderabad Division: Hyderabad Range Police joint initiative with CSSP

Akram Ranjhani

Hyderabad Range Police urged to Prioritize Safeguarding Minority Rights in Hyderabad Range. Under the directives of Deputy Inspector General of Police Syed Pir Muhammad Shah, Hyderabad Range Police Joint Initiative with Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) to enhance the effectiveness of the "Minority Facilitation Desks" across 09 districts in Hyderabad Range to facilitate and protect the rights of minority communities.

Over the course of a two-day training session, Police officers underwent specialized training on the roles and functions of the Minority Facilitation Desk, over 70 Police officers from districts including Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Tando Mohammad Khan, Badin, Matiari, Sajawal, Thatta, Jamshoro, and Dadu were trained to

effectively address and resolve issues concerning minority rights.

Deputy Inspector General Hyderabad Range Syed Pir Muhammad Shah, the chief guest, addressed the participants, stating, "The minority community is an integral part of our societal fabric, and their prosperity is intertwined with the nation's progress." He reaffirmed that safeguarding the rights and honor of minorities is not only a legal obligation but a moral duty that resonates with the principles on which Pakistan was founded.

Mr. Wahid Sangrasi, Head of Programme CSSP, discussed the interpretation of Pakistan's Constitution Articles 8 to 22, which pertain to safeguarding Human Rights / Minority Rights and guiding responses to complaints.

Mr. Kashif Bjaeer, Ms Naila Panhwer and In-charge Operation and PRO

to DIGP Hyderabad Range Inspector Munawar David offered insights into the referral mechanism, reporting protocols, media updates, and district SSP control room reports to foster efficient communication between the Hyderabad Range office and district SSP offices.

As the training session concluded, chief guest DIGP Hyderabad Range Syed Pir Muhammad Shah along with CSSP-CEO Mr. Noor Bajeer, distributed certificates to the trained participants.

In his closing remarks, Noor Mohammad Bajeer, Chief Executive of CSSP, addressed the attendees and acknowledged their pivotal responsibility in safeguarding the marginalized sections of society. Bajeer expressed optimism in amplifying the desk's efficiency through the training and looked forward.



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
47,478.61	47,671.21
Day's High	Day's Low:
47,733.50	47,399.27
Index Value	Change
5,135,078,569	-192.60
Percentage	Time
-0.4%	28 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,338.58	+4.95
Percentage	Time
+0.067%	25 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,595.32	+248.42
Percentage	Time
+0.72%	28 Aug, 1:08 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,169.99	+545.71
Percentage	Time
+1.73%	28 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	797.76	805.76
Canadian Dollar	230	232.3
China Yuan	41.33	41.73
Danish Krone	43.44	43.84
Euro	339	341.8
Hong Kong Dollar	38.22	38.57
Indian Rupee	3.63	3.74
Kuwaiti Dinar	970.39	979.39
Malaysian Ringgit	63.83	64.43
New Zealand \$	177.29	179.29
Norwegians Krone	28.04	28.34
Omani Riyal	779.07	787.07
Qatari Riyal	81.91	82.61
Saudi Riyal	83.7	84.5
Singapore Dollar	221	223
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	338.8	341.3
U.A.E Dirham	85.3	87.1
UK Pound Sterling	399.3	403
US Dollar	316	319

Police officers assure to provide safe environment for business activities

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said that due to the inflated electricity bills, citizens and traders are protesting in Islamabad like the rest of the country and stressed that instead of being harsh with the protestors, police should deal with them with a soft approach and try to keep them peaceful so that the situation in the federal capital remains undisturbed and business activities are not affected. He said this while talking to Syed Ishtiaq Hussain Shah, SHO Sumbal Police Station (G-13) and Muhammad Saleem Raaza, SHO Shams Colony Police Station (H-13) during their visit to ICCI.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that traders always want to remain peaceful because their business can develop better only in an environment of peace and tranquillity, but the massive hike in electricity bills has angered the people and traders are also feeling the heat of these heavy bills.



However, he hoped that the SHOs of all the police stations in Islamabad would avoid any harshness on the protestors and try their best to keep them peaceful with a gentle attitude. He also demanded the government to take war-footing steps to provide adequate relief to the people in

electricity bills in order to prevent the situation from getting out of control in the country. He assured the two SHOs that ICCI will cooperate with the police in its efforts to provide better security to the traders.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Ishtiaq

Hussain Shah, SHO of Sumbal Police Station (G-13) and Muhammad Saleem Raaza, SHO Shams Colony Police Station (H-13) assured that they would try their best to provide a safe environment for the business activities to flourish. They said that the purpose of their visit to ICCI was to consult with the leadership of the Chamber to deal with the prevailing situation triggered by inflated electricity bills so that the law and order in the city can be further improved. They also apprised the leadership of ICCI of their strategy to control crimes and provide security to the citizens including traders within the limits of their respective police stations and welcomed the suggestions of ICCI to make these efforts more effective.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari, Saifur Rahman Khan, Raja Imtiaz, Shahid Zaman Shinwari, Khalid Chaudhry, Aslam Khokhar, Abid Khan, Maqsood Tabish, Babar Chaudhry and others were also present on the occasion.

Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: A laborer is busy in his work at cemented things making factory along the Lehtarar Road in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Dawlance joins forces with Bondh e Shams to deliver clean water solutions

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Dawlance is the leading brand of innovative home appliances in Pakistan and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Arçelik—the 2nd largest manufacturer in Europe. It also sponsors valuable initiatives to accelerate the socio-economic progress of the country. On this world water week, Dawlance has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bondh e Shams – a resourceful social-development organization, for setting up two Solar-Water Projects, named 'OASIS Box'.

Under this agreement, Dawlance has committed to provide financial assistance and other resources, over the next five years, to Bondh e Shams for completing this project. OASIS Box is a transportable, solar-powered water-filtration and storage unit that removes bacterial water contamination providing safe access to clean water daily. This is one of the sustainable projects conceived by Bondh e Shams, with a vision to provide clean drinking water for the well-being of deprived communities at various locations, all over Pakistan. One OASIS Box has the capacity to provide 10,000 litres of fresh drinking water daily. If 2 litres of water is consumed by each person; one Box will be sufficient for 5000 people. So, these two boxes will quench the



thirst of 10,000 people, every day.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance – Umar Ahsan Khan stated that: "It is a pleasure for us to contribute towards this noble humanitarian effort, to mitigate water shortage in Pakistan. We understand that the mission pursued by Bondh e Shams is long and challenging, but we will extend every possible help to this capable and credible humanitarian organization."

The corporate and industrial sectors must take inspiration from the gener-

ous initiatives of Dawlance, to ensure the progress of Pakistan. Socially-responsible enterprises should come forth to help improve the quality of life for the common people, to give them hope for a brighter future.

Dawlance and Arçelik have adopted social development policies to promise; quality education, healthcare, empowerment, and opportunities for the masses, while protecting environmental sustainability for the future.

Visa and NymCard launch

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Visa, the world's leader in digital payments has launched the Visa Ready To Launch (VRTL) program, giving fintech and non-banking entities a seamless experience in issuing payment products. NymCard is the first BaaS player in the Middle East and Pakistan region to join Visa Ready to Launch program and transform payment credentials issuance capabilities for fintech through a first of its kind plug and play end to end platform in the region.

Fintech and non-banking entities face many challenges when attempting to launch new payment programs.

Technological, operational and commercial enablement are all difficult to achieve in the marketplace as the card enablement landscape remains fragmented. This means partnership with numerous players in the ecosystem like Bank Identification Number (BIN) sponsors, issuer processors, Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) partners etc. is required for multi-market

penetration.

"Visa Ready To Launch is the first of its kind plug and play end-to-end issuance platform which effectively bundles products and services for Fintechs to swiftly and seamlessly launch a payment program. The program promises simplified pricing, singular contracting and seamless integration, which are absolute key pillars of a swift launch. We are extremely happy to have partnered with NymCard to bring this offering to our markets" says Umar S. Khan, Visa Country Manager for Pakistan.

Omar Onsi, CEO and Founder of NymCard, says, "We are excited to be able to use our expertise and our modern payments platform to scale up the onboarding of Visa's Ready To Launch Program. And we are honored to be chosen as the first processor to do so."

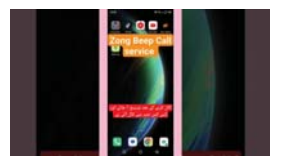
This fintech enablement program is now available in the Gulf Cooperation Council and North Africa, Levant, and Pakistan regions and will be expanded to Central Europe, Middle East, and Africa in the future. NymCard is the first processor to join the program with others to come.

'Zong 4G now charging just 3 Paisas plus tax per beep for its new and improved Beep Call Service'

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: With its commitment to making communication affordable and accessible for all, Zong 4G has improved its Beep Call Service, making it the market's most economical missed call solution at just 3 paisas plus tax per beep.

With the Beep Call Service, customers can stay connected in times of need without requiring a balance top-up. This feature allows users to effortlessly send a "beep" to their friends and family when they do not have the balance to make a call



enabling uninterrupted communication. The service is being offered at a minimalistic rate keeping the customer's affordability in mind.

Zong 4G has always been focused on its customers' evolving needs and this service is a testament to ensuring that individuals can maintain connections with their loved ones, irrespective of their available balance.

Mastercard, BOK, and LMKR Revolutionize Transit Solutions in Peshawar with Innovative Partnership

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mastercard, Bank of Khyber (BOK), and LMK Resources Pakistan (Private) Limited (LMKR) have partnered to improve Peshawar's mass transit system. Under the Mastercard Transit Partner Program Agreement, this collaboration will advance Pakistan's transit landscape and drive financial inclusion for the city's residents.

The partnership empowers BOK and LMKR to leverage Mastercard's expertise to enable the development and implementation of cutting-edge EMV® transit solutions. The solutions are set to redefine the travel experience by introducing an advanced open-loop payment method, effectively eliminating the need for conventional paper

tickets. Commuters can enjoy a seamless experience, using their debit and credit cards to pay for bus fares, in line with Pakistan's digital transformation goals.

"For over a decade, Mastercard has been at the forefront of shaping smart cities and urban mobility solutions as we engage in transformative transit projects across the globe. We are committed to introducing innovative digital solutions to enable faster, safer and more convenient payment experiences for the communities we serve. Our alliance with Bank of Khyber and LMKR harnesses our global expertise, ensuring a seamless travel experience for Peshawar's commuters through our renowned transit payment solutions," said J. K. Khalil, Cluster General Manager, MENA East, Mastercard.

"At Bank of Khyber, we're committed to enhancing the everyday experiences of our customers. This collaboration with Mastercard and LMKR marks a leap forward in that direction with introducing a smarter and more efficient way to travel. With the combined expertise of our partners, we're now turning this dream into reality. Our collective efforts aim to bring unmatched ease and convenience to daily commutes, while also building a system that promotes financial inclusivity for the people of Peshawar," said Ali Gulfaraz, CEO & MD Bank of Khyber.

"At LMKR, our commitment is to reshape transit payments through innovative collaborations, envisioning a future where seamless contactless payment solutions redefine commut-



drive to create a unified financial and digital ecosystem that caters to evolving commuter needs. The innovative open-loop payment solution ensures secure, scalable, and cost-effective travel payments, while offering flexible fare calculation methods.

Aligned with Pakistan's digital transformation ambitions, this partnership sets a new standard in transit solutions, placing strong emphasis on accessibility, convenience, and financial inclusion.

Mastercard's commitment to enhancing transit solutions and the collaboration of BOK with LMKR reflects their

PM rejoices Pakistan's first-ever silver medal clinch at World Athletics Championship

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed gratification over Pakistan's first ever silver medal clinch by Arshad-

Nadeem at the World Athletics Championship, 2023.

"What a day! What a moment of joy for Pakistan. Arshad Nadeem you've made the nation happy and proud for your excellent sportsmanship that won you—and

the country—a silver medal at the World Athletics championship," he said on his social media account X (formerly known as twitter).

Pakistan's javelin ace Arshad Nadeem won a silver medal in the Javelin Throw

competition of the World Athletics Championship on Sunday in Hungary's capital Budapest.

Nadeem made his best throw of 87.82m in his third attempt and secured the medal, a private news channel reported.

Pakistan Cricket Board unveils Star Nation Jersey for ICC Cricket World Cup 2023: PCB

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board unveiled the Star Nation Jersey today at a grand ceremony held at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The ceremony, led by Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the PCB Management Committee, marked a significant step as the national team prepares for the forthcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

The Star Nation Jersey signifies more than a mere piece of apparel; it embodies the profound connection between Pakistan's cricketing heroes and their steadfast supporters. Drawing inspiration from celestial bodies, each star symbolises brilliance, aspiration, and the radiant glow of cricketing achievements. This design philosophy encapsulates the spirit of cricketing excellence, resonating deeply with every Pakistani cricket enthusiast.

Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the PCB Management Committee: "The Star Nation Jersey bears witness to the enduring bond between our cricketers and the passionate fans who stand by them through every match. This jersey encapsulates our rich cricketing heritage and the luminous future that awaits."

Usman Waheed, Director – Commercial: "The Star Nation Jersey isn't just a uniform; it's a canvas woven with stories, sacrifices, and triumphs. Each star on this jersey represents the unwavering



support of our fans and the radiant legacy of our cricketing heroes. Every detail has been meticulously crafted to ensure that donning this jersey will instill profound pride in every Pakistani."

Interested individuals can view the official reveal video by visiting the link here.

Fans can pre-order the Star Nation Jersey on the PCB's official online store, shop.pcb.com.pk. By proudly wearing

this jersey, fans can show their support for the cricketing heroes and unite under a single banner as Pakistan embarks on its quest for glory in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

Pakistan and Nepal Play Asia Cup Opening Match at Multan Cricket Stadium on 30 August



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: One day left for the Asia Cup 2023 cricket festival. Teams of Pakistan and Nepal are present in Multan to play the opening match in Multan on August 30. Both teams spent Monday resting in the hotel and today, August 29, both teams will have net practice at Multan Stadium at 4:30 PM. Captains of both teams will hold a media conference. On the other hand, security and traffic from

Abdali Road to Multan Stadium Plan work has been completed to ensure fool proof arrangements. And security and traffic police officers and more or less 5000 personnel on duty have also been informed about their duties. Spectators have been provided parking in Fatima Jinnah Town, a government residential area two and a half kilometers away from Multan Stadium. From where free transport facility will be provided to spectators through Vida bus service. According to the traffic

plan, cricket fans and citizens will not have any traffic problems. Zero route will be given to the teams from the hotel to the stadium and from the stadium to the hotel.

During the movement of the teams, the roads will be closed for a minimum time. Forklifts and breakdowns will also be deployed to eliminate wrong parking. Citizens will be informed about the traffic situation moment by moment through the Rasta app, Rasta FM 88.6.

'BCCI President, Vice President are coming to Pakistan,' says Zaka Ashraf

A Sports

LAHORE: Zaka Ashraf, Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee on Monday shared that BCCI President Roger Binny and Vice President Rajiv Shukla will visit Pakistan this week for the opening ceremony of ACC Men's Asia Cup commencing from August 30.

While talking to the media at Gaddafi Stadium during the national men's team's jersey unveiling ceremony for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, Zaka Ashraf welcomed the players and officials who are visiting Pakistan for the Asia Cup.

"BCCI President and Vice President are coming to Pakistan for the opening ceremony of Asia Cup," Zaka Ashraf said. "We welcome everyone who is coming to Pakistan [during Asia Cup]."

He also showed confidence and faith in the Pakistan team and expressed his hope that the national team will continue the recent good form and perform well at the Asia Cup as well as the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup in India.

"Our team is currently united and performing well, and consequently is number one in the ODI team rankings," he said.

"Looking at the recent performances of the team, it is hoped that our team will be successful in the World Cup, however, at the moment all the attention is focused on the Asia Cup," he added.



Elite National Boxing Championship to kick off



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Opening ceremony and media brief of 1st Commander Karachi and 2nd Inter Departmental Elite National Boxing Championship 2023 was held today at Naval Physical & Sports Centre Karachi.

Pakistan has a brilliant past record of achievements in all categories of international boxing. Our players in the past have brought enough laurels to our country and we cherish its memories. To regain our pride in the field of boxing, Pakistan Navy is organizing 1st Commander Karachi and 2nd Inter Departmental Elite National Boxing 2023 at Karachi. It is a milestone for revival and promotion of boxing in Pakistan. In order to excel in boxing or any other game, it is a pre-requisite to give its players right opportunities. Boxing tournaments will continue in the coming years and play their role in promoting boxing as a sport in Pakistan under one umbrella of Pakistan Boxing Federation (PBF).

A total of 08 x teams from various departments of Pakistan will participate in this championship which includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Railways, KPT, Police, WAPDA and PBF. A total of 104 x male and 56 x female boxing players of national and international level will participate in this event. This championship will mark Pakistan Navy's commitment towards promotion of sports and opportunities for talented athletes to shine on a national stage.

Pakistan blind team beat India in IBSA World Games 2023



Sports Desk

BIRMINGHAM, UK: In a remarkable display of sportsmanship and skill, Pakistan clinched the coveted Gold medal in blind cricket at the IBSA Games 2023, prevailing over arch-rivals India in a gripping final on late Saturday.

The final clash, held at the iconic Edgbaston Cricket Stadium in Birmingham, was set alight as India won the toss and opted to bat first under the afternoon sun.

Displaying their batting prowess, India managed to amass a formidable total of 184 runs for the loss of 3 wickets within the stipulated 20 overs. Durga Tompaki led the charge with an impressive knock of 76 runs off 57 balls, complemented by Sunil Ramesh's 48 runs off 29 balls. Pakistan's bowlers Muhammad Salman and Matiullah secured a crucial wicket each.

Undeterred by the challenge, Pakistan embarked on their pursuit of the target with flair and determination.

Exhibiting exceptional teamwork, Pakistan's response was swift and calculated, achieving victory in just 14.1 overs with 8 wickets to spare. The unbeaten innings of Muhammad Salman, who scored 48 runs off 25 balls, coupled with Badar Munir's explosive 41 runs off a mere 16 balls, featuring 7 fours and 1 six, propelled Pakistan towards an emphatic win.

The final outcome was a testament to Pakistan's unwavering spirit and skill, resulting in a victory by 8 wickets.

SG Pakistan Cycling Federation congratulates to Arshad Nadeem

Moazzam Khan Klair, Secretary General of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, extends warm congratulations to Arshad Nadeem for securing a historic Silver Medal at the World Athletics Championship 2023, marking Pakistan's first-ever achievement in the event. The nation takes pride in this glittering success. Neeraj Chopra from India also deserves congratulations for his Gold Medal win. As Arshad prepares for the Paris Olympics 2024, urgent financial support is essential. The government and corporate sector must step up to ensure our hero receives the backing needed for his Olympic journey.



Over 12,400 athletes to compete at Hangzhou Asian Games

Sports Desk

BELJING: A total of 12,417 athletes from all 45 Asian countries and regions will compete at the Hangzhou Asian Games, organizers said. The Hangzhou Asian Games, which will take place in Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang Province from September 23 to October 8, will be the third Asian multi-sport event held in China, after the 1990 Beijing Asian Games and the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.

Ticket sales for the Hangzhou Asian Games have started on July 8, with tickets for events such as swimming and e-sports on high demand. The ticket price varies from 20 to 1,000 yuan (\$2.75 to \$137), with more than 60 percent of them costing less than 100 yuan, organizers said. The torch relay for the Asian Games will start on September 8 in Hangzhou and hence commence a provincial tour in Zhejiang until September 20, said Chen Weiqiang, executive secretary general of the Hangzhou Asian Games organizing committee.

The organizers have made some adjust-

ment to the competition schedule recently based on the athletes' registrations, with a confirmed race schedule to be unveiled at the end of August, said Zhu Qinan, director of Sports Department of the organizing committee, the Global Times reported on Sunday.

The Hangzhou Asian Games will also witness the debut of some emerging sports that are quite popular among young people, such as break dance and e-sports. Weiqi, a mind sport, will make a return to the Hangzhou Asian Games, after a 13-year hiatus since it appeared at the Guangzhou Games in 2010.

Certain regional sports in Asia, notably dragon boat racing, kurash, and sepak takraw, though not recognized as Olympic sports, will also be medal-awarded events at the Asian Games.

China is expected to send a delegation of over 900 athletes to the Hangzhou Games, as the Asian sports powerhouse is expected to dominate the podium once again. Since 1982, China has been sitting on the top of the medal table in each of the Asian Games it has participated in. Several Chinese national teams have been

preparing for the Asian Games, as they plan to defend their glory while facing off challengers from other Asian sports powerhouses.

China's East Asian neighbors Japan and South Korea are also considered the favorites at the Asian Games, as the duo have often finished in second and third place on the medal table thanks to their excellence in swimming and archery respectively.

In the lead-up to the sporting event, the design details of the victory ceremony components, including bouquets, trays, and podiums, were revealed. The official theme song and music video were also released and a commencement ceremony dedicated to the event's volunteers was held.

The commencement ceremony for volunteers was held at Zhejiang University recently, with 1,800 representatives of a total of 37,600 volunteers expected to serve during the event in attendance. The global recruitment drive for volunteers for the Hangzhou Asian Games and Asian Para Games was initiated in May 2021, with 317,000 applications received.

The volunteer body is primarily



comprised of individuals from 46 universities within Zhejiang. Additionally, specialists in fields such as sports, less-commonly spoken languages, and medicine were sourced to provide much-needed

assistance during the event. Around 400 volunteers from other provinces among others joined the effort. The floral bouquets for the awards ceremonies were named "Fruits of Triumph," and included

rice ears and lotus pods, representing harvest and achievements in Chinese culture, along with the iconic "Rainbow Purple" showing the event's core color palette.