و چیس کاٹنا،-۲ داڑھی بڑھانا،- ۱۳ مسواک کرنا،

**Barkat Rice Mills** 

IT sector has potential to address Pakistan's trade imbalance: IT minister

Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Tuesday highlighted the potential of the IT sector in addressing the country's trade imbalance. Talking to a private TV channel, the minister said that the IT sector held an almost 80 percent trade surplus... (Details on Page 8)



Pakistan hockey team beat Japan 26-1

The Pakistan hockey team secured a dominant victory over Japar ing victory. Waseem Feroze, Olympian and Gold Me in the World Hockey Cup, currently serves as the Head Coach

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safarul Muzaffar 12, Wednesday, August 30, 2023







www.dailyspokesman.net 🔰 @daily\_spokesman 💶 Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 141 / Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

### Protest

RAWALPINDI: Traders holds protest rally from Chamber of Commerce to Kacheri Chowk against the unjust price hike of electricity and over all inflation across the country.



## PTI chairman to remain in Attock jail despite Toshakhana sentence suspension

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A special court in Islamabad on Tuesday ordered Attock Jail authorities — where the former premier is incarcerated — to keep the PTI chairman in judicial lockup in cipher case.

The order comes hours after IHC suspended PTI Chairman Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana case.

In a letter addressed to the Attock jail superintendent, the special court ordered jail authorities to produce Imran Khan on Aug 30 (tomorrow) in connection with the cipher case.

"That accused Imran Khan Niazi s/o Ikramullah Khan Niazi r/o Zaman Park, Lahore is hereby ordered for judicial remand in case FIR mentioned above, who is already detained in district jail, Attock," the letter read.

It merits here to mention that PTI chief Imran Khan and party



leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi were named in an FIR registered on August 5 under the Official

Secrets Act. earlier after the completion of the

The verdict was reserved a day

arguments from the respondents.

The IHC in its short verdict,

ordered to release of the PTI chairman on bail from Attock Jail and remarked that it would give the reasons for the suspension of the sentence in the detailed

verdict later. The PTI chairman challenged

the cessation of his right to defense by the trial court in the Toshakhana case in the Islamabad High Court.

The petitioner pleaded to the high court to declare the trial court's order void and restore his right to defence in the case. PTI chairman also requested the court to immediately take up his

#### petition. Toshakhana verdict

On August 5, the District and Sessions Court awarded three vears jail term to the PTI chairman in Toshakhana criminal case.

The court also imposed Rs 100,000 fine on the convicted chief of the PTI. The court also declared the former prime minister ineligible to hold public office

The court in its verdict said that the accused had been found guilty of corrupt practices and handed the PTI chairman three years jail sentence.

"Imran Khan deliberately submitted fake details [of Toshakhana gifts I to the ECP and is found guilty of corrupt practices," he stated.

The court also declared the former prime minister ineligible to hold public office for five years. Suspension

The much-anticipated order in the Toshakhana case was announced by an IHC division bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri on the former prime minister's appeal

against his prison term. The verdict was reserved a day earlier after the completion of the arguments from the respondents.

The IHC in its short verdict, ordered to release of the PTI chairman on bail from Attock Jail and remarked that it would give the reasons for the suspension of the sentence in the detailed verdict later.

#### Pervaiz Elahi's physical remand extended in Gujrat corruption case

跨 Bureau Report

Accountability Court has extended the physical remand of Pakistan



Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) president Chaudhry Parvez Elahi till September 2.

chief minister Punjab was presented before the accountability court judge Sajid Ali Awan after completion of physical remand. Pervaiz Elahi told the court that he is 77 years old and a heart patient but not allowed to meet family and

cutor urged the court to grant a 14-day physical remand to carry out an investigation of his alleged corruption in 200 development projects in Mandi

## Delegation of Balochistan political leaders and VOA **Chief South Asia** calls on PM



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of political leaders from Balochistan on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here. The delegation comprised Sardar Aslam Bazenjo, Mir Khalid Lango, Mir Asim Kurd Gello and Mir Waleed Bazenjo. The delegation members appreciated the prime minister for the steps taken for promotion of interfaith harmony in the country as well as for the economic

Meanwhile Head of South and Central Asia Division, Voice of America, Ayesha

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here and discussed matters relating to mutual interests. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi was also present in the meeting.

Head of Emerging Markets Enertech Holding Kuwait Yasser Malik also called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Yasser Malik apprised the prime minister of Enertech's investment in Pakistan. The prime minister appreciated the company's investment in Pakistan and expressed the hope that the firm would enhance its investment in the country to take advantage of govern-Tanzeem on called on the ment's pro-business policies.

### ECP assures to hold 'free and fair' elections as per constitution

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday has assured to hold the next general elections 'peacefully and impartially' as per Constitution and the law.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja made this assurance while chairing two separate meetings in Islamabad today.

According to a statement issued by the electoral watchdog, the meetings were aimed at reviewing the preparations regarding the upcoming general election in Pakistan.

Members of the Election Commission, Secretary ECP, Chief Secretary Sindh, IG Sindh, Chief Secretary Balochistan, IG Balochistan, Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh and Balochistan, and other senior officers of ECP



attended the meetings.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary and IG Sindh briefed the Election Commission on preparations for the upcoming general elections and assured full cooperation.

The Election Commission emphasised on the chief secretary and IG Sindh that conducting transparent and impartial elections are fundamental responsibility of ECP.

In this regard, the first step is the transfer and posting of all officers and officials who are important in the perspective of impartial elections.

### PTI chief 'mastermind' of May 9 vandalism: Bugti

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday said that Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), was the 'mastermind' of the May 9 mayhem against security institutions.

"May 9 was the black day in the history of Pakistan," he said while talking to a private television channel.

Those found guilty of criminal acts against State Television, and national and security institutions would be rewarded with punish-

ment as per law, he remarked. Commenting on delay in general elections, he said delimitation is imperative for holding transparent polls across the

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he said would announce the date for general elections after the completion of the delimitation process. In reply to a question about

the resurfacing wave of terrorism, he said that terrorists have hideouts in Afghanistan. We have completed the fenc-

ing of more than 645 kilometers bordering the area with Afghanistan. About the smuggling of dollars, he said, it is a challenging task to control dollar smug-

#### Court extends interim $bail\, of Asad$ Umar

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A special court Tuesday extended interim bail of PTI's leader Asad Umar in cipher case registered under Official Secret

Special Court's Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the interim bail petition of former federal minister in camera. The accused appeared before the court along with his lawyer Dr. Baber Awan.

The court extended the pre-arrest bail of Asad Umar and stopped the FIA from arresting him till September 14.

#### IT formed to probe | BoD meeting social media campaign against IHC chief justice

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday formed a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe a social media campaign against Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq.
The minister has issued a notifi-

cation in this regard, stating that it would comprise officials of the Feder al Investigation Agency (FIA), Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and police. A directory of FIA Cyber Crime Wing has appointed the JIT's convener. The ministry has given two weeks time to the team to submit its report on the mud-slinging campaign

against the IHC chief justice.

## of autonomous bodies held

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting regarding Boards of Directors (BoDs) of autonomous bodies was held here at Chief Minister's House on Tuesday with Caretaker CM Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the Chair.

Legal matters related to the functions of the BoDs were reviewed in the meeting with a special focus on the decisions taken in the 34th board meeting of the Provincial Housing Authority. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law, Justice (retired) Arshad Hussain Shah, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Secretary Law, Advocate General and other concerned high ups were present.

It was decided in the meeting to review the new policy regarding allotment of plots under PHA, and the chief minister directed the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to look into the decisions taken in the 34th Board meeting of PHA regarding the allotment of plots.

#### Karachi traders to observe shutter down strike on Sept 1

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The business community of Karachi has announced to observe a shutter down strike on September 1 against the inflated electricity bills and rising inflation.

In a statement, Sharjeel Goplani President of All City Traders Association – said that markets across Karachi will remain closed on Friday (September) in protest against inflated electricity bills and rising inflation.

Other trade unions also backed the decision, saying that all markets of Karachi will observe a shutter down strike on September 1. Meanwhile, Rizwan Irfan - Pres-

ident of Karachi Electronics Dealers Association – also warned of strike if Sharjeel Goplani's pre-arrest bail expires. Moreover, All Pakistan Trade Association has announced a countrywide shutter-down strike or August 31 (Thursday) against the inflated bills.

LAHORE:

As per details, the former

carry out therapy. Meanwhile, the NAB prose-Bahauddin and Gujrat.

# The Spokesman

# Called on ISLAMABAD: DG Anti Narcotics Force Major General Muhammad Aniqur Rehman Malik called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior and Anti Narcotics Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Tuesday.

# Caretaker govt has nothing to do with election date: Solangi

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said that the caretaker government had nothing to do with the election date which was a mandate of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under the new amendments in the Election Act. Talking to a private channel, the minister said the government was committed to assist the ECP in holding the election in line with its sched-



tutional responsibility of the ECP had issued its schedule caretaker government to assist for the delimitations of the Federal Cabinet today delib-

the Council of Common Interest which was subsequently notified during the previous government's tenure. Solangi said it was imperative to give 54 days to all the political parties after delimitations for election campaigns in line Minister of Finance Shamwith the Constitution. He said according to Article 218 (3) of the Constitution, it was the responsibility of the ECP to hold free, fair and transparent elections.

To a query, he said the the ECP in holding the elec- constituencies following the erated over the recommenda- circular debt data.

approval of a fresh census by tions of the Energy Ministry on the issue related to inflated electricity bills. Some proposals were discussed during the meeting, he said, adding it was imperative to take the International Monetary Fund on board in this regard. He said shad Akhtar was in contact with the IMF and soon the government would be in a position to announce its decisions over the issue related to the bills. The minister said the decisions would be made after reviewing primary surplus and

## IT sector has potential to address Pakistan's trade imbalance: IT minister

Sommerce Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information economic advancement. Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Tuesday highlighted the potential of the IT sector in addressing the country's trade imbalance.

Talking to a private TV channel, the minister said that developers presently earned the IT sector held an almost 80 percent trade surplus, imately \$17,000 to \$18,000, making it an attractive industry for boosting the country's

the IT sector could significantly contribute to the country's

Dr Saif pointed out that the current value of Pakistan's IT exports stood at \$2.6 billion, providing employment opportunities for around 150,000 individuals within the sector.

He noted that software an annual income of approxwhereas their Indian counterparts earned around \$30,000.



Discussing the academ- revealed that Pakistani univer- 20,000 to 22,000 IT grad-He emphasized that the ic landscape, the minister sities currently produced uates, of which only 2,000

to 2,200 secured jobs. He mentioned a disparity in skills, often falling short of international standards. To bridge this skill gap, he stressed the necessity of collaboration between Pakistani IT experts and universities.

Dr Saif proposed that several IT companies channel funds abroad out of which a significant amount could be repatriated to Pakistan by offering incentives to them.

According to the minister, these incentives could poten-\$2 billion to the country.

#### Pak Envoy underlines role of canals as conduits of commerce, culture

Mews Desk

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque underlined the role of canals as conduits of commerce, culture and

He made these remarks while speaking at the Opening Ceremony of World Canal Cities Forum recently at Yangzhou city in Jiangsu province of China. During the visit, the ambassador met the local leadership, interacted with various business enterprises, visited Jiangdu district and some key infrastructure and agricultural projects.

He was also shown city of Yangzhou. around various cultural and scenic sites of the city, and was briefed about the city's economic and cultural land- Zu, Party Secretary of Jiang-

and rich culture of Yang-



historic importance of Yangzhou as a major city along the Grand Canal. The ambassa dor also briefed the audience about Pakistan's canal system along the Indus River, which was among the largest in the world irrigating over 48 million acres.

He also expressed Pakistan's interest in joining the World Canal Cities Organization headquartered in the

During his meeting with Wang Jinjian, Party Secretary of Yangzhou, and Ms. Lili du District, the ambassador Expressing his sentiments expressed his deep admiraabout the scenic landscapes tion for the developmental strengths of Yangzhou and zhou, he acknowledged the Jiangdu respectively.

## Ambassador European Union met with the Caretaker Health Minister

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of European Union Rina Kivanka met with the Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan. They discussed the health sector and issues of mutual interest in the meeting. The Ambassador congratulated the Caretaker Health Minister on assuming the portfolio of federal minister. Ambassador EU said that "The world appreciates services of Mr. Jan in efforts to eradicate polio" Dr. Nadeem Jan values EU relations with Pakistan and said that "the European Union provided full support in the rehabilitation of the flood

is the topmost priority of the caretaker government; health



eliminate polio" said the federal minister.

Pakistan will soon host a high-level meeting on the da. Global Health Security Agen-"The eradication of polio da. Experts and stakeholdministry is in contact with ing. The EU ambassador will nutrition program.

Afghanistan for joint inte- also be invited to participate grated strategy at the border to in the Global Health Security Summit EU Ambassador appreciates practical steps on Global Health Security Agen-

European Union will hold a meeting with the ers from all over the world Nutrition Cell of the Ministry will participate in the meet- of Health to cooperate in the

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

## **Baloch reviews** rehabilitation of roads, bridges affected by floods in Balochistan

👺 Bureau Report

QUETTA: On special directive of Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar, the Provincial Secretary, Communications and Works (C&W), Ali Akbar Baloch chaired meeting regarding measures to protect the infrastructure due to rains and floods in the province and to make the flash flood water management effective.

The meeting was attended by National Highway Authority (NHA) officials, Special Secretary Irrigation Department Nadeem Sumalani and senior officials of C&W Department.

In the meeting, issues related to channelization and effective utilization of flood water by NHA and effective communication with provincial government to protect road infrastructure from floods were

The meeting was also given a detailed briefing on the current condition of the roads and bridges affected by the recent rains and floods in the province and the progress regarding the rehabilitation.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary



Communications and Works Department Ali Akbar Baloch said that due to the recent rains and floods, all the important highways and bridges of the province have been damaged.

Due to which the connection of the province with the rest of the provinces was cut off and the economic conditions of the province and the supply of other food items also faced difficulties after damaging communication system in the area, he said.

He said that the Department of C &W along with NHA started the maintenance of highways and bridges on a timely and emergency basis.

The Secretary said that there was still a need for complete rehabilitation of the important highways of the province, on which the Department of C&W has provided all the details regarding the rehabilitation of these highways to the NHA officials.

## Religious affairs minister, Saudi ambassador discuss upcoming Hajj arrangements, mutual ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, on Tuesday engaged in a productive meeting with Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki and discussed imminent Hajj preparations, strengthening bilateral ties, and addressing challenges within the Muslim Ummah.

In the meeting, Secretary of Religious Affairs Aftab Akbar Durrani and Regional Director of Muslim World League Saad bin Masood al-Harsi, were also present. Minister Aneeq shed light on the shared devotion, respect, and brother-Arabia and emphasized his commitexpressed his confidence in the Saudi Ambassador's support and cooper-

He revealed that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was organizing an 'Interfaith Harmony Conference' in Islamabad, scheduled for Wednesday, where leaders from various faiths, ambassadors, and civil societv representatives would engage in dialogues. Additionally, Minister



Aneeg Ahmed disclosed plans for the upcoming National Secrat Conference, set to take place on 12 Rabiul-Awal. This year's theme, "Strategy of National Economic Stability in the Light of Seerat-e-Tayyaba," aimed to illuminate the world with the profound teachings of Islam, he added. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, highlighting the significance of engaging the youth, hood between Pakistan and Saudi shared that the Muslim World League was gearing up for a global ment to enhancing the experience of conference focusing on contempo-Pakistani pilgrims during this Hajj rary challenges. He underscored the season. Acknowledging the strong need to inspire the younger generabond between the two nations, he tion to actively contribute to resolving the issues faced by the Muslim Ummah. Furthermore, he reminisced about the successful visit of Saudi Minister of Hajj Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah to Pakistan, while also expressing anticipation for the arrival of prominent Saudi personalities in Pakistan in the near future.

> In a gracious gesture, Ambassador Al-Malki extended his appreciation to Minister Aneeq Ahmed for his unwavering support and affection.

### Withdraw taxes and lower unit price of electricity: RCCI

S Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Addressing a protest rally organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce against electricity bills, inflation, petrol diesel price hike and anti-business policies, Chamber President Saqib Rafiq has said that due to brutal taxes and per unit price increase in electricity bills, the cost of doing business has increased manifold, industry has come to a standstill, businesses are now forced

RCCI has demanded to review the electricity prices and give relief, he said that traders should not be forced to shutter down; Saqib Rafiq said that the burden of electricity theft and line losses is being borne by the masses and traders. Instead of increasing investment, the government is collecting revenue by putting taxes in the bills.

The anti-business policies will have to be stopped, he added.

He thanked the participation of markets, bazaars and Anjuman Tairans across the city in the rally. On this occasion, the group leader Sohail Altaf said that Today's large gathering at the rally was a demonstration of merchant unity.

The dollar rate has risen above three hundred, neither importer nor exporter can do any business, the facility of free units and free petrol should be abolished, he demanded.

UNGA adopts Pak-backed resolution declaring Jan 26 as clean energy day

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly has adopted a Panamanian resolution, co-sponsored by Pakistan, proclaiming January 26 as the International Day of Clean Energy. The text, which was adopted without a vote, underlined the 193-member Assembly's commitment to protecting the environment. January 26 will become a platform to drive the adoption of policies and practices to promote awareness on the sustainable use of energy resources and to strengthen collaboration and cooperation to promote the global energy transition. Introducing the draft, Panamanian delegate Markova Concepcion Jaramillo said that transitioning to clean and renewable energy sources was essential to face current environmental and socioeconomic challenges and guarantee human survival and well-being on the planet" The US. representative said her delegation joined the consensus, as the energy sector accounts for over two-thirds of global emissions. The French representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, voiced regret, however, that the resolution does not adequately reflect the indisputable link between energy and climate, and that it contains reference to "cleaner fossil fuel energies".

# Deteriorating political and HR situation in Occupied Kashmir is a grave concern: PM

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the international human rights organizations should take effective notice of the atrocities committed by the Indian army on civilians in Occupied Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the PM, while voicing his grave concern over the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that Indian forces have crossed all limits of barbarism and savagery in Kashmir.

The Indian government, he said, had trampled the Kashmiris' fundamental human rights of Kashmiris under the Prime Minister of India who took the would soon come to fruition.



He, however, maintained that despite its policy of oppression and suppression, India could not break the Kashmiris' spirit and their political will to achieve their cherished goal of freedom. While urging the international community to come up with a solid plan of action to stop bloodshed of innocent civilians at the hands of the Indian occupation forces, the PM said it was high time that the global community should influence the government of India to fulfill the promises and commitments its leaders have made vis a vis the settlement of the Kashmir dispute at the interissue of Kashmir to the United Nations.

He said that it was quite unfortunate that India has not only backtracked from its commitments but also violated the UNSC resolutions that call for holding a referendum in Kashmir. He said that Kashmiris have associated their future with Pakistan. He said that accession to Pakistan was the Kashmiris' ultimate objective, for which they have been struggling at all levels with absolute determination and dedication.

The PM hailed the supreme sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people during the ongoing struggle for the right to self determination. He expressed optimism that the sacrificnational level. He said that it was the es rendered by the people of Kashmir

# First study into gig economy in Pakistan reveals worst practices of six firms—with a focus on pay

S Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan has nearly 2 percent of its labour force engaged in the gig economy through online and location-based services. An estimated 700,000 workers in the country work in the location-based platform economy, but it has been encouraging a race to the bottom regarding working conditions. Six of the most popular gig economy platforms in Pakistan have been rated according to how fairly they treat workers. None of the platforms were able to earn a score this year. The study found that all of the companies, namely, Bykea, Careem, Foodpanda, GharPar, inDrive, and Uber failed to ensure minimum standards of fair work-such as ensuring all workers earn above the national minimum wage. This is the first study of its kind in Pakistan, scoring companies tary, Pakistan Workers Federa-stan said"In our second annu-stan, stressing the need for on labour standards such as tion, Raja Faiz ul Hassan Faiz al report, we have conducted proactive measures to increase contracts, management and Advisor) and Azhar Malik of companies operating in economy.



(Senior Research Economist, Macro Policy Lab PIDE), Zahoor Awan, Member of ILO

were the panelists at the launch event of the Fairwork Report.

Iftikhar Ahmad, Found-Governing Body from Pakistan, er CLR and Principal Inves-Waqar Memon, General Secretigator of the Fairwork Pakicially in South Asia and Pakipay employment conditions (Former Central Labour Law a comprehensive analysis (Deputy Secretary HRD, ride-hailing, food delivery,

Dr. Mahmood Khalid Ministry of OP and HRD) and related sectors, focusing on their treatment of key workers.

Zahida Perveen highlighted the gender imbalance in the platform economy, espefemale participation in the gig

Dr. Mahmood Khalid direction.

added that the Platform tech giants and the rise of embedded finance have shattered the old norms of business and life, rendering "business-as-usual" and "life as usual" relics of the past while fostering innovation and trust in the ever-evolving platform economy.

In acknowledging the invaluable efforts of the Centre for Labour Research, Wagar Memon, General Secretary of Pakistan Workers Federation, emphasized the vital significance of upholding Fairwork's principle of Fair representation for platform workers in the nation.

Azhar Malik ensured government's support for the draft legislation on digital platform workers. Raja Faizul Hassan praised the draft legislation for platform workers and gave recommendations. All of them praised the collaboration between the Centre for Labour Research and Fairwork and their efforts in this regard and declared it a big step in the right

# Wasi Shah, presided over a meeting held at the PTDC Head Office

ISLAMABAD: The meet- life in a tragic incident while ing was attended by Managing Director of PTDC, Aftab ur Rahman Rana, Manager (P&P)-PTDC, Sadia Nauman, President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, Abu Zafar, Deputy Director of the Gilgit Baltistan Tourism Department, Sajid Husssain, accomplished Mountaineer and Alpine Club Member of the Investigation Committee, Rehmatullah, and a comprehensive brief about distinguished Adventure/Tour the incident, while President Operator Qarar Haidri. Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah, expressed his heartfelt condolences for the untime-

Hassan, a porter who lost his climbing the world's second largest mountain K2.

In response to this tragedy, he has directed the authorities for the establishment of a Training Centre/Institute aimed at enhancing the capabilities of both climbers and porters. During the meeting, Managing Director, PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, provided of the Alpine Club, Abu Zafar, elucidated the various facets of mountaineering.

A member of the Investiga-

ly passing of Mr. Muhammad tion Committee also shed light on the rescue efforts undertaken during the course of the incident. State Minister for Toursim, Wasi Shah also emphasized the need to bridge gaps in existing rules and regulations pertaining to safety measures and, crucially, to work towards providing insurance coverage for Porters and Climbers to the tune of Rs. 3 million in case of

> unfortunate fatalities He also directed to introduce formal documentation regarding penalties and certifications for tour operators, alongside arrangements for training and short courses for guides and

### Muttahida Tajran traders protest against high electricity bills in Peshawar

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Under the leadership of Muttahida Tajran Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and chief Traders Alliance Federation of Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Bilal Javed, leaders of various traders organizations, presidents of markets and traders held a protest rally at Saddar Road and held up black flags and protest banners against this cruel price hike. And expressing great anger raised slogans against the economic massacre of the people by the government and burnt electricity bills in protest. The free privileges and facilities of the elite should be abolished immediately.

## Pakistani youth needs positive thinking for development of country: VC AIOU

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "Positive thinking is such a treasure that turns the soil into gold, youth need to develop positive thinking for the development of Pakistan," said the Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood while addressing the contestants of Speech and Painting competitions held at AIOU. These competitions were organized amongst students from schools, colleges, and universities of Rawalpindi/Islamabad by the Directorate of Students Advisory & Counseling Services (DSACS) to pay tribute to the great leaders of the Pakistan Movement.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized youth to channel their emotions into dedication and hard work for the previous generations and inspire the betterment of Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of admitting mistakes and taking responsibility for one's actions to bring positive change



for the development of Pakistan.

Hifza Nasib, Mahnoor Nawaz, and Umm Abiha secured the first, second, and third positions respectively in the next generation to pursue education painting competition, while Muhammad Ali claimed the first position It is pertinent to mention here that in the speech competition. Amina 36 students participated in the paint-

ing competition, while 40 students second and third respectively in the took part in the speech competition. speech competition. The judges for the painting competition were Dr. Mohammad Sajjad Khan and Aqeel Solangi from National College of Arts, whereas Dr. Farrukh Abbas, Dr. Qasim Yaqub, and Dr. Rashida Imran from Allama Iqbal Open University Adil and Mahnoor Zeib were placed judged the speech competition.



Shazia Atta gives Rajesh Kumar Hardasani rakhi on Rakhi

## Hytera, Jazz partner to launch Push to Talk business communication solution

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hytera Communications (SZSE: 002583), a leading global provider of professional communications technologies and solutions, and Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, have partnered to empower businesses with an instant push-to-talk over cellular (PoC) communication solution.

The Push to Talk over Cellular (PoC) solution, also called Jazz Biz Walkie Talkie, is a mission-critical service that comes with an advanced set of features to facilitate group communication across locations and a nationwide dispersed workforce. It's a cloud-based GSM-enabled solution that offers instant yet cost-effective communication over 3G and 4G networks.

"Our partnership with Hytera is set to transform business communications in Pakistan, empowering industries to achieve an instant, safe, and reliable communication solution to achieve enhanced operational efficiency," said Khurram Riaz, Vice President Marketing & Products at Jazz. "By harnessing our strong 4G network coverage and the power of Hytera PoC solution, businesses get more power to connect with more devices and larger group sizes nationwide on the Jazz super 4G network with Jazz Biz Walkie Talkie."

"Digitalization is crucial in Pakistan's steps to economic growth and how people work. PoC helps ensure businesses communicate as best as they can, and therefore we're looking forward to building on this partnership with Jazz," said Ken Dai, general manager of Hytera Pakistan.

The alliance centers on Hytera Push-to-talk over Cellular (PoC) solution, comprising the Hytera Hytalk platform, along with PNC360S, PNC380, PNC460 and MNC360 rugged PoC radios. Synchronized seamlessly with Jazz's expansive network coverage, the solution offers immediate push-to-talk functionality and supplementary value-added services to a diverse range of industries including transportation, logistics, retail, security, energy, utilities, construction, hospitality, and manufacturing, among others.

Some of the benefits of the PoC solution include cost-efficient nationwide push-to-talk reach, strategic dispatching and precision location tracking centralized governance and exhaustive logging and heightened workforce safety. The solution has been well-received by many customers since its launch on Jazz's platform, with notable customers from a wide range of industries.

#### All students of 9th grade of Girls High School Ganjai Clay fail in matriculation

★ Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: In the recent matriculation results of Mardan Education Board, all the students of the 9th class of Government Girls High School Ganjai Clay failed. The elected public representatives of the area expressed their grief over the poor and poor performance of the school teachers and took strict departmental action against the school teachers. Action and exchange were demanded. Due to the neglect of the government and the members of the Assembly of the area, Girls High School Ganjai and Tehsil Headquarters Hospital have become a cancer for the people of the area. Addressing a press conference at Takhtbhai Press Club, Chairman Village Council Tucker. Mushtaq Ahmed and counselors Haji Imtiaz, Qari Arshad, Usman Khan and Ashfaq Ahmed said that this year, all the students of the ninth grade of Government Girls High School Ganjai Clay have failed, which is a shame for the teachers and the education department of this school.

He said that all the staff of the school are unemployed, while despite repeated requests, the Mardan Education Department has not appointed science teachers in the school. Similarly, the teachers in this school, the concerned clerks and class fours have their own government which is the government. Despite receiving a salary of lakhs of rupees, they perform their personal work during their duty hours. He asked the higher authorities of the Education Department to immediately take strict notice of the poor educational situation of Government Girls High School, Ganjai and to all the staff of the concerned school. He demanded to change from here.

He also expressed deep regret over the bad management situation of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Ganjai and said that hundreds of hospital staff who take huge free salaries are increasing the problems of the poor people instead of becoming the messiah of the people. X-rays and laboratory tests are not available in the hospital and the hospital staff is selling medicines for free. Due to which all the institutions in the area are being destroyed and the people are being defiled.



ISLAMABAD: Devcom Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed presenting an Appreciation of Services award to Mayor Woking (Surrey) Muhammad Ilyas Raja here Tuesday at an event organized in his honour.



## **Namaz Timings**

#### Maghrib . 6:38 pm ...8:05 pm **EMERGENCY**

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

### **Women Police**

Stations			
Islamabad	9222596		
Rawalpindi	9270601-20		

<b>ENQUIRY</b>				
Edhi Ambulance				
PIA Flight Info	114			
PIA Cargo	9280979			
Railway Inquiry	117			
Railway Exchange	9270831-5			
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489			

HUSPI	IALS
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHU .	5556311-4

#### In Islamabad. poor suffer due to rising prices: human rights



ISLAMABAD: Social and human rights leader Maryam Idris says that the rising inflation, unemployment and poverty have made it difficult for the poor to live, the prices of the necessities of life including electricity, petrol and flour are beyond the reach of the people in country. All over the country including Islamabad Lahore, Karachi, Mirpur, Poonch and Muzaf farabad Azad Kashmir, people are on the streets, burning and tearing electricity bills, some houses, some are selling ornaments of girls who have nothing, they are committing suicide, the cause of unemployment. The voice of the people should be heard. If this lava explodes, then it will be difficult to manage. The priority of the rulers is not the people but their personal interests. Social leader Maryam Idris said that due to inflation and unemployment, it has become difficult for the people to meet the needs of life. They are stumbling, a large number are going out of the country, those who make big claims and promises at the time of elections, when they reach the power houses, then they forget the problems and problems of the people, Maryam Idris says. Measures should be taken to provide relief to the people, the prices of electricity and petroleum products should be reduced and a long-term policy should be made to improve the country's economy and when the poor and middle class sell their jewels, houses and lands in

# India using women rape as war weapon, state policy to suppress freedom struggle: Mushaal



#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Caretaker Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick deplored that India was using rape of women in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as a weapon of war and a state policy to humiliate the Kashmiris and suppress the ongoing freedom struggle against Indian slaverv.

The SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment made the remarks during her address to a National Conference of Service Providers on Gender Based Violence: From Legislation to Implementation, which was jointly organized by the Government of Pakistan and UN Women here on Tuesday.

The conference was attended by various stakeholders aimed at ensuring provision of rights and justice to women and elimination of their exploitation.

She said that the use of state power, harassment and humiliation, violence and sexual abuse against women were amongst the worst war tactics the Indian brutal troops had been applying to suppress the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle to break the shackles of Indian unlawful subjugation.

Mashaal recalled that the gravity of the situation could be judged from the fact that around a hundred women were gangraped by the occupation troops during a cordon and search operation in Kunanposhpora area of Kupwara district on the night of February 23, 1991.

She stated that the horrific inhuman incident of Kunanposhpora mass rape was a blot on the face of Indian so-called democracy and the state but sadly the world and human rights organizations' inaction to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to book further emboldened the notorious Indian army due to which

against women were now occurred on daily basis in the occupied valley.

Mushaal continued that as a Kashmiri she knew the hardship the people in general and women in particular were facing in the scenic valley.

Therefore, the SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that she decided to take up the gauntlet to become a voice for the protection of women's rights not only in the IIOJK but also in Pakistan.

Mushaal made it clear that a lot of work had been done in Pakistan pertaining to the women's rights and elimination of their exploitation: however, she added were needed to be taken to put an end on the gender discrimination in the country once and for all.

She stressed the need that making related legislations was essential but ensuring their implementation must have to be ensured in their true spirit, adding that every member of the society had to play his/her role in making a conducive environment in this regard.

Mushaal went on to say that police and judiciary were the main institutions regarding the protection of women's rights, therefore, she advocated that they should have to encourage more women such tragic incidents of rape and violence that more effective and tangible measures participation in judiciary and police, as it

would help further empower the women and they would safeguard their rights in

more effective manner. Moreover, the SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment said that barriers to access to resources were also a major cause of women's exploitation; hence steps should be taken to minimize the gap between policy and practice, besides reducing the obstacles hampering justice for women.

Mushaal urged that the media role of a paramount importance to create awareness among the people to end gender disparity and women exploitation in the

#### <sup>7</sup>isit

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Save the Children International, Inger Ashing along with SCI delegation visited the under-constructed National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) at National Disaster Management Authority.



# Power distribution companies should not be privatized

#### 跨 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Aslam Khan said on Tuesday that electricity distribution companies should not be immediately privatised by taking advantage of the chaos in the country on the issue of electricity bills.

The practice of repeating failed experiments should be abandoned, as it may be in the interests of influential elites, but it is against the country's inter-

Aslam Khan said in a statement issued here today that before the privatisation of discos, the masses should know how much relief they have gotten since Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) was sold

He said that if privatisation of (KESC) failed and the experiment with IPPs didn't work,

how can privatisation of discos succeed in such a scenario?

He said that some private power producers are earning trillions of rupees with the help of a few top politicians and bureaucrats. This plunder of resources has been going on for years, which has squeezed the people and the business community.

During the investigation against some power producers, trillions of rupees of thefts. billions of rupees of corruption, and money laundering charges have been proved, but cases have not been registered against the offenders, he added.

He said that efforts to recover stolen finds from power producers were stopped, and those who unearthed the scam and proved corruption were fired from their jobs, after which the officers of any organisation did not have the courage to lay hands on the white-collar criminals running



corrupt IPPs.

Despite this looting coming to the limelight, this sector remains a favourite of top politicians and bureaucrats, which has ruined the country's economy, he added.

People are protesting against inflated power bills across the country, and the poor are forced to commit suicide but there is no relief in sight.

According to the people monitoring the situation, some officers of WAPDA are also involved in the fraud of billions of rupees. Still, due to their influ-

ence, no action has been taken. They claim that IPPs' expensive power has rendered the state utility, the Water and Power Development Authority, bankrupt. It is also alleged that IPPs indulged in corruption and colluded with officials to get their signatures on contracts that allowed the procurement of expensive power, which they could not afford.

According to the officials of the Power Division capacity payments to IPPs in the current financial year stood at Rs1.3 trillion, and the dollar-to-rupee conversion rate, imported coal prices, RLNG, and Kibor were the major factors determining the capacity payments.

The current plan to privatise electricity distribution companies is nothing but an attempt to plunder the national resources, which will further increase the problems of the people, they say.

#### Jawad Sohrab visited the OPF head office



ISLAMABAD: In line with the vision of the honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan to enhance the facilitation and support for overseas Pakistanis, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Mr. Jawad Sohrab visited the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) head office to inaugurate a state-of-the-art 24/7 Complaint Monitoring Cell. This cell aims to provide a dedicated platform for registering complaints from overseas Pakistanis around the world, ensuring that their grievances are promptly addressed and resolved; a positive step towards citizen-cenernance and service deliver

During the visit, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development was briefed on various other welfare measures undertaken by OPF in the areas of education, housing, and social services. These efforts were appreciated by the SAPM for their comprehensive impact on the lives of overseas Pakistanis. OPF's commitment to improving educational opportunities, providing affordable housing solutions, and extending essential welfare services to overseas Pakistanis was acknowledged as a significant step towards enhancing their quality of life.

SAPM, OPHRDexpressed his satisfaction on the establishment of the Complaint Monitoring Cell and the integration of modern communication channels to facilitate overseas Pakistanis in voicing their concerns. He emphasized that the Prime Minister's vision of ensuring the well-being of overseas Pakistanis is being pursued ardently, with practical and tangible steps being taken to make their experience fruitful and fulfilling. He emphasized that the current interim government attaches high priority to the overseas Pakistanis and is keen to promote, nurture and sustain a mutually beneficial and reciprocal relationship between Pakistan and overseas Pakistanis. We are keen to provide enhanced facilities with improved service delivery.

#### Federal Minister Jamal Shah visits residences of living legends, inquires about health



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah visited the residences of living legends Ustad Bashir Ahmed Eminent Miniature Painter and Firdous Jamal veteran actor and inquired about their health.

Jamal Shah who is also renowned actor, film producer and sculptor said "I am happy and proud of two Icons who contributed a lot to the country miniature painting, film and drama industry".

Jamal Shah said that the whole nation is proud of the contributions made by Ustad Bashir Ahmed and Firdous Jamal.

Firdous Jamal is cancer survivor and undergoing treatment and Ustad Bashir Ahmed also facing health complications.

Ustad Professor Bashir Ahmed is the most prolific and significant among the miniature artists and has single handedly revised and promoted the art of miniature painting. It was because of him that miniature paintings became a major subject for specialization in National College of Arts (NCA).

He works in original Persian and Mughal miniature techniques. He has made bolder attempts to break through the conventional format in order to express the 'miniature' in terms of tone and new materials rather than surface decoration.

He is recognized worldwide for his exceptional command over traditional techniques of miniature painting.

## Seminar on 'Access to and Quality of FP & MNCH services in KP'

#### **Bureau Report**

this inflation.

PESHAWAR: No real change is possible without active engagement of the community especially youth, said Asghar Ali, Secretary Population Welfare Department (PWD) KP. He was the Chief Guest to provincial-level closing seminar of "Family Planning" and "Maternal, Newborn and Child Health" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here today. The project aimed to improve the service delivery on family planning and maternal and child health, and create awareness by pro-active engagement through



Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri, Execu-

tive Director, SDPI remarked that in current testing times improved health

Dr Muhammad Afsar Anwar, District Health Officer (DHO) Buner, underscored interconnectedness of maternal and child health (MNCH) and family planning, noting that an effective approach to the former hinged upon prudent family planning

## Editorial/Opinion

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

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### Children's right to clean, healthy environment

United Nations committee has updated a key treaty designed to protect children's rights to strengthen their hand in fighting climate change, as they emerge at the forefront of the battle to protect the planet.

The 1989 treaty outlines children's rights, including life, health, clean drinking water, and survival and development.

In the document, the U. N. Committee on the Rights of the Child calls environmental degradation, including the climate crisis, "a form of structural violence against chil-

It says that states should provide access to justice for children, including through "removing barriers for children to initiate proceedings themselves".

"This could definitely strengthen their hand because now there's a fully articulated set of guidance that pulls everything together in one place," said Ann Skelton, chair of the committee and a South African lawyer, adding that she also hoped businesses and policymakers would draw on the document.

Children have been at the forefront of the fight against climate change, urging governments and corporations to take action to safeguard their lives and the future, Committee member Philip Jaffé said.

"The Committee on the Rights of the Child not only echoes and amplifies children's voices but also clearly defines the rights of children in relation to the environment that States Parties should respect, protect and fulfil collectively and urgently," he added.

It specifies that States are responsible not only for protecting children's rights from immediate harm, but also for foreseeable violations of their rights in the future due to action, or inaction, today.

Furthermore, it underlines that States can be held accountable for environmental harm occurring both within their borders and beyond.

Countries that have ratified the UN Child Rights Convention are urged to take immediate action including towards phasing out fossil fuels and shifting to renewable energy sources, improving air quality, ensuring access to clean water, and protecting biodiversity.

David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, called General Comment No. 26, "a vital step forward" in recognizing that every child has the right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable world.

'Governments must now take urgent action to address the global environmental crisis in order to breathe life into these inspiring words," he said.

General Comment No. 26 is the outcome of global and intergenerational engagement, including broad consultation with UN Member States, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and children themselves.

# Defaming Pak Army instead of acknowledging its Commendable Contributions - II

**Abdul Basit Alvi** 

adding the conspirators had again become active against the political and economic stability in the country. The new media campaign was a part and parcel of that abhorrent campaign, which was launched against Shuhada, he maintained. The prime minister observed that the media drive against armed forces and its chief did not fall within the domain of freedom of expression, but it was only a conspiracy, and it was a legal responsibility to eradicate such a tendency with full strength. He said the nation would foil such attempts in such a manner as it had frustrated the attempt on May 9 to stir violence and vandalism in the country. He also expressed the nation's resolve not to allow the disappointed and panicked elements to create new crises in the country.

In an elaborate statement on Twitter, the previous PM Shehbaz separately said that the PTI chief's "vile, sinister and malicious" campaign had been badly exposed. "Imran Khan continues to engage in a vile, sinister and malicious campaign against COAS General Syed Asim Munir. His trick of using proxies to threaten the Army Chief of an assassination attempt has been badly exposed," he wrote on the microblogging site. Shehbaz Sharif said that Imran Khan was desperately working to coerce his way back into power after failure in a methodically planned attack on the state symbols. He said that the PTI chief fails to realise that "the time of his politics of intimidation, violence and hatred is over". "Through such highly condemnable antics, he is only exposing himself, the core of which is defined by putting his personal inter-

hehbaz further termed the est (power grab) over everything else," the deal with natural calamities and accidents thinks of weakening this relationship will mean, evil and violent media PM of that time said. He reiterated that from the borders. Those who criticize the die their own death. campaigns as a result of the people of Pakistan and the political the planning of miscreants, parties strongly stood behind Gen Munir and the armed forces, and will thwart any attempt and conspiracy at undermining Pakistan Army's prestige, honour, and integrity.

Pak army is not an institution but a name of passion and loyalty whose soldiers have the passion to sacrifice their lives for the defense of the motherland and are always in the first line to deal with any emergency situation and help and save the lives of their fellow countrymen. While being ready

at all times, the soldiers of the Pakistani army are always engaged in the service and protection of their land and the nation. It should be kept in mind that, August 22, the day when the operation to rescue the Pakistanis trapped in the

chair lift of Battagram was going on by the Pakistan Army, at the same time the sons of the nation were also engaged in the operation against the terrorists in Waziristan. While the soldiers of Pakistan Army played a key role in saving eight people at the same time and for the sake of defending Pakistan six brave soldiers of Pakistan Army gave their lives while fighting with the dead. It should be remembered that those were not six military men, but are six families who sacrificed their loved ones for the sake of the country. The martyred soldiers were also someone's son, someone's brother, someone's husband, someone's father or someone's only support. Pak Army is not a defense organization but a special army given by Allah which is always ready to

army unjustifiably, have they never seen in the first line to protect them after the any credit or fame, it is only the spirit of patriotism according to which Pakistan army is always present without any delay to perform its duty on the borders as well as to rescue our countrymen from any unexpected situation. In case of floods, earthquakes, storms, droughts, or any other accident, if the eyes of the whole nation are raised towards anyone that is

Pak Army. A few ignorant, less intelligent and self-made analysts who are busy day and night in hating the army should be ashamed of inciting hatred in every case and pulling out bugs. Just like recently those blind people tried to misrepresent Battagram's rescue

operation and failed miserably and Inshallah they will always fail, they should come to their senses and understand that everything is not about money or cheap fame. Do these low-minded people have an idea of what will happen to the hearts of the families of the martyrs and the young people engaged in public service with their negative and fabricated analvses? If it is not Pakistan Army, then who will be in these streets? Have you ever thought? If you don't think so, look at the condition of Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Syria, and India. Look at the plight of Muslims in Myanmar. Anti-national and anti-army elements should keep one thing in mind that Pakistan Army is the pride of the people and the people are the crown of the Pakistan Army. Anyone who attempts against our defenders.

Readers, addressing the problem of or understood that who always stands misinformation and propaganda on social media requires a multi-faceted help of Allah? Pak army is not fond of approach: Promoting critical thinking and media literacy skills can empower individuals to assess information critically, identify bias, and fact-check claims before sharing them. Social media platforms need to take responsibility for the content circulating on their platforms. Implementing stricter policies against misinformation, enhancing fact-checking mechanisms, and reducing the algorithmic amplification of false content are crucial steps in mitigating the spread of misinformation. Government, civil society organizations, and tech companies should collaborate to develop comprehensive strategies to combat misinformation and propaganda. This includes promoting transparent communication, supporting independent fact-checking organizations, and fostering partnerships to share best practices and resources. The unchecked spread of misinformation and propaganda on social media poses a significant threat to society. It is imperative that individuals, social media platforms, and policymakers work together to address this challenge effectively. By promoting media literacy, implementing responsible platform policies, and fostering collaborative efforts, we can mitigate the impact of misinformation and safeguard the integrity of public discourse, ensuring a healthier and more informed digital society. The trend of spreading fake news and propaganda against the Pak Army is not acceptable for the nation and is not in the larger interests of Pakistan. Strict actions need to be taken against those who are involved in such malicious



## Climate change: time to act now

Earth's climates at local, regional, and global sizes, as well as the consequences of these changes. Since the pre-Industrial period the term "climate change" has been most commonly used to describe changes in the Earth's climate caused primarily by human activity, particularly by the burning of fossil fuels and the removal of forests, resulting in a relatively rapid increase in carbon dioxide atmospheric concentrations.

As among the most significant measurements of global changes, global warming and climate change are often used interchangeably. Global warming is defined as an increase in average global temperatures that has substantial consequences for humans, wildlife, and ecosystems all across the world. Climate change is used to encompass

just rising surface temperatures. Scientists agree that human impact has been the major driver of observed warming trends since the twentieth century, with 97 percent of regularly published climate scientists agreeing. Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have grown from roughly 280 parts per million (ppm) before the Industrial Revolution to 413 ppm in early 2020. This carbon dioxide concentration is unmatched in recorded history. According to scientists, in order to moderate global warming, we must return to a 'safe' amount

Climate change refers to substantial, long-term shifts in the global climate. The interrelated system of the sun, earth, and seas, wind, rain, and snow, forests, deserts, and savannas, as well as everything people do, makes up the global climate. The climate of a place, such as New York, may be defined in terms of rainfall, seasonal temperature changes, and other factors. A depiction of the global climate covers how, for example, rising Pacific temperatures feed typhoons, which blow harder, dump more rain, and do more damage, but also change global ocean currents, which melt Antarctica ice, causing sea levels to rise steadily until New York is submerged. Global climate change is both vital and challenging because of its systemic interconnectedness.

Climate change has multiple effects on numerous aspects of civilization. Drought may have a negative impact on food production and human health. Flooding may cause illness to spread and environmental and infrastructure damage. Human health problems can raise death rates, reduce food availability, and reduce labour productivity. The effects of climate change may be observed in every part of our lives. Climate change consequences, on the other hand, are unequal across range between neighbourhoods or people. Long-standing socioeconom-

limate change is a wide word that refers to changes in ic imbalances can render underserved populations more susceptible, as they are frequently the most sensitive to risks and have the fewest means to respond. Climate change-affected future scenarios are not unavoidable. Many of the issues and solutions are now well understood, and research continues to uncover new ones. Experts think that there is still time to avert the worst-case scenario by controlling warming and lowering emissions to zero as soon as feasible. Investment in new technology and infrastructure will be required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in job growth. Furthermore, reducing emissions will have a positive influence on human health, saving countless lives and billions of dollars in medical costs.

Brief climate pollutants, such as black carbon, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, and tropospheric ozone, are significant climate forcers with these extra consequences since there are more reasons and impacts than many times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. These pollut-

ants have a considerable influence on air quality, food, water, and economic security for most of the world, both directly and indirectly through their harmful impacts on human health, agriculture, and ecosystems. Shortlived climatic pollutants can be reduced by methods and technologies that are practicable, technically possible, and cost-effective. They can provide immediate climatic benefits, aid in the achievement of numerous global sustainable development goals, and enhance the health and lives of millions of people.

Muhammad Faiz-ur-Rehman To avert the worst impacts of climate change, global carbon emissions must be drastically reduced. However, we must also plan for the severe and inescapable repercussions of carbon emissions, such as rising temperatures, altering precipitation patterns, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and an increase in the severity as well as recurrence of extreme weather events. WWF collaborates with local communities. governments, and others all across the world to help environment and people prepare for the myriad effects of climate change.

We must act immediately. Delays in reducing carbon dioxide or other short-lived climate pollutants will have serious, perhaps permanent effects for global warming, increasing sea levels, food security, and public health. Because of their short lifespan in the atmosphere, which can range from a few days to a few decades, lowering short-lived climate pollutants can help to decrease the rate of global warming and complement efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. To effectively react to the difficulties that climate change brings to our communities, we must talk about it directly - and in a way that encourages and welcomes a diverse range of people into the discourse. And here's the kicker: it's hard enough to start a conversation about this, but it's all-too-easy to the country and the globe; even within a single town, impacts might unknowingly alienate or turn off others, or drive them to strengthen their dedication to their own, opposing viewpoints.

## **Election Dilemma**

he President of Pakistan's request to the Chief Election Commissionelections within 90 days and for a credibility and legitimacy. related meeting was subtly avoided, citing a change in law requiring the President's consultation for an election date.

Two provisions of the Constitution of Pakiperiod for holding general elections within 90 days when the assembly is dissolved.

The first is Article 48(5), where if the Presi-Minister's advice as envisioned by Article 48(1), parliamentary organ is paramount.

the President will set a date for the election. The second is Article 224,

which addresses two eventu-(A) Under Article 224(1), elections for the national or

provincial assembly shall be held within 60 days following the scheduled expiry of the assembly's term. (B) Under Article 224(2),

when the National or Provincial Assembly is disrupt the constitutional, parliamentary, and dissolved, a general election shall be held within 90 days after the dissolution. Section 57 in the Election Act 2017, which

Justice (R) Syed Manzoor Gilani

stated that the President would announce election dates after consulting the commission, has been omitted.

The Constitution's provisions clearly indicate that elections must occur within 90 days of assembly dissolution, whether under Article 48(5) or 224(2). The time frame is embedded in both articles.

Within the constitutional framework, the authority to declare general election dates lies with the election commission, responsible for ensuring a fair, transparent, and unbiased election process. The commission determines the administrative feasibility, and impartiality.

The government's head and the President, as government nominees, are excluded from er of Pakistan for holding general the election arena to ensure fair elections' their

While Section 57's omission aligns with the constitution's election regulation, the fact remains that the election commission must hold elections within 90 days, despite Article stan are pertinent in this matter, regulating the 51(5) regulating seat allocation based on census

The assembly, as the foundation of the constitution, institutions, and laws, cannot be put on dent dissolves the Assembly without the Prime hold due to seat reallocation. Continuity of the

> Amid multiple crises, especially political and economic, the country's diplomatic image is tarnished. The need for a fresh mandate is imminent; reallocation can wait, but the country's survival cannot.

> Mandatory elections within the prescribed period are crucial for forming a new assembly and government. Deferring the process would

political systems. Assuming both as errors if not done one after

other (elections and reallocation), by not undertaking them within the stipulated period, reallocation is a lesser error than deferring elections. It's better to err on the side of caution.

The Constitution has a provision to address such situations under Article 254:

"When any act or thing is required by the Constitution to be done within a particular period and it is not done within that period, the doing of the act or thing shall not be invalid or otherwise ineffective by reason only that it was not done within that period."

This article doesn't excuse inaction but allows the authorities to act subsequently, focusing first election schedule based on legal provisions, on the most urgent and indispensable actions, as in this case.

# Celebrating Democratic Values and National Unity on Kazakhstan Constitution Day

**Spokesman Report** 

Kazakhstan Constitution Day, observed annually on August 30th, is a momentous occasion in the history of the country. This day commemorates the significance of the constitution as the foundational document that outlines the principles, rights, and responsibilities that guide the state's governance. The Constitution defines Kazakhstan as a democratic, secular, legal and social

On August 30, 1995, a new Constitution draft found its place through a national referendum, celebrated annually as a prominent state holiday in the republic. This pivotal moment symbolized Kazakhstan's embrace of in 1998, 2007, 2011, 2017, 2019, and fundamental principles: the rule of law, human rights protection, and the separation of powers.

independence, the nation has achieved challenges and fortify the democratic notable milestones in its constitutional journey. The Constitution of Kazakh- ment to its citizens' concerns and its stan has evolved with amendments commitment to improving the govern- in public life,



2022. With each amendment, the country strengthens its dedication to democratic governance. These amendments, Moreover, throughout its years of strategically designed to tackle diverse framework, signify the state's commit-

ance structure.

At the heart of the Kazakhstan constitution are the fundamental rights and freedoms it guarantees to Kazakh citizens. These include the right to freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, ensuring that citizens have the space to express themselves and participate

The constitution also outlines the structure of government and the separation of powers, establishing a clear framework for the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The role of the President and other key institutions are defined, contributing to a transparent system of checks and balances.

Constitution Day serves as a powerful reminder of the values that underpin Kazakhstan's society. It celebrates national identity and unity, emphasizing the common principles and aspirations that bind the nation together. It's a time to reflect on the democratic principles enshrined in the constitution and the importance of upholding the rule of law. Through the constitution, the rights and responsibilities of citizens are protected, ensuring that their voices are heard and their interests are safeguarded.

Constitution Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout Kazakhstan. The day is marked by various events, including flag-raising ceremonies, cultural performances, and educational programs. It's an opportunity for



citizens to come together and reaffirm religion, as well as political diversity outlined in the constitution.

As we celebrate Kazakhstan Constitution Day, let us remember the importance of this foundational document in shaping the nation's path. Kazakhstan has a tolerant society, and every Kazakh citizen is valued and free under the Constitution regardless of ethnic identity and religious belief. By ensuring freedom of speech, assembly and perous society for all.

their commitment to the principles and personal liberty, the Constitution provides the blueprint for the country's social, economic and political development. The constitution serves as a guiding light, leading Kazakhstan toward a future that upholds democratic values, protects human rights, and fosters national unity. It is a testament to the country's commitment to progress and its dedication to creating a just and pros-

## Kazakhstan celebrates Constitution Day for the 28th time

Mews Desk

The journey of any great nation which collectively influence its national identity.

Beyond establishing independence, the adoption of a constitution forms the most important basis of a country's political system and processes, as it outlines the very principles responsible for guiding the nation's future path.

On 30 August, Kazakhstan will celebrate Constitution Day.

Underpinned by the unalienable values of freedom granted to each and every citizen, the Constitution has proven central to the accomplishments of our country and provided us with the guide for development and prosperity which we enjoy today.

This year, Constitution Day holds particular importance, as it is celebrated for the first time after the amendments to the constitution, which were approved rights, and the Ombudsperson

dum in June last year, have come into force.

These reforms have transincludes several key milestones formed Kazakhstan and have ushered in new democratic principles in our country.

More powers and influence have been granted to parliament and the local government, while presidential powers have been limited, which means the government is now more accountable to the people who elected the parlia-

In addition, in line with the updated Constitution, the President of Kazakhstan is now elected for only a single seven-year term, without the right to re-election, which is completely unique for

Kazakhstan has established and further strengthened mechanisms that protect human rights and democracy by enhancing the role and status of the Ombudsperson for Human Rights, the Ombudsperson for children's following a nationwide referen- for protecting people with disa-

bilities.

We have also reestablished the Constitutional Court, which ensures further protection of human rights and freedoms.

Kazakhstan's citizens, including the Prosecutor General and the Ombudsperson, can now directly apply to the Constitutional Court to declare unlawful norms that, in their view, contradict the principles of the Consti-

The impact of the constitutional amendments was particularly visible during the parliamentary and local elections that were held in March this year. Simplifying the process for

ed in new parties that took part in the elections, including Respublica and Baytaq. These elections are considered by many domestic and interna-

registering political parties result-

tional political experts to have been the most competitive in Kazakhstan's modern history.

In line with the constitutional changes, which also include direct

CONSTITUTION HAYL

election of rural mayors, a proportional-majoritarian model was used in the parliamentary election for the first time since 2004.

This enabled numerous self-nominated candidates to participate in single-mandate districts along with party candi-

As a result, opportunities for citizens' participation in the political life of the country have significantly expanded.

Six parties managed to pass

the five percent threshold needed to get into parliament, which has created a truly multi-party

representative body with differ-

ent political views.

As Kazakhstan commemorates its Constitution, we must also celebrate the citizens of our country, who have embodied its fundamental values and showed their support through the referendum for the constitutional reform last year, which enabled to further newly independent countries all enshrine the ideals of freedom, over the world.

equality and concord into the fabric of our society.

It should be noted that five electoral campaigns have taken hold dear and outlined the prinplace in Kazakhstan in approximately one year, including a referendum, which means Kazakhstan's citizens have had a direct say on all the changes.

Ultimately, thanks to the constitutional amendments and reforms, a new civic and political culture has taken shape in Kazakhstan's society.

Of course, our path to overhaul the existing system in our country is far from over.

Transformations and reforms, including social and economic, are a constant work in progress to ensure that the country keeps up with global changes, trends, and challenges that continuously spring up.

At the time of our Constitution's initial signing in 1995, we were a young nation facing the many challenges encountered by

Looking to forge our own national identity, our Constitution codified the values that we ciples that laid the foundation for our stability and achievements.

Today, following the implementation of the constitutional amendments, which affected a third of the articles of the Constitution, Kazakhstan is essentially a new nation even in comparison to just a few years ago.

In ensuring the freedoms of speech, assembly and religion, as well as political diversity and personal liberty, the Constitution has provided a blueprint for our country's social, economic and political development.

Our tolerant society, where every citizen - regardless of their creed - can feel valued and free, as well as our wider domestic prosperity, is a testament to the forward-thinking nature of our Constitution as a guide to success, unbound by time or historic

Courtesy Daily News Hungary



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Founder Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibi- Rehman, Shamriz Iqbal EC member

tion Industry Khurshid Barlas along with the delegation including Fahad Barlas Convener Exhibition, Amin-ur-

## Brazil is keen to increase investment and trade in Pakistan: Olyntho Vieira

along with the Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan His Excellency Mr.

Olentho Vera and Felipe Salguero. Lerman met with the Head of Trade

Sector Brazil at the Embassy. In the meeting, Chairman Khursheed Barlas informed the Ambassador of Brazil and Head of Trade Sector "Third Pakistan International Property Housing and Construction Exhibition 17-19 November 2023" Pak China Friendship. In the three-day exhibition, a large number of prominent builders, developers, allied construction indus-

ing bank projects and various business community associated with tourism industry will participate.

Highlighting the exhibition, Chairman Khurshid Barlas said that the expo is a trade fair Known as where property developers set up their stalls to introduce their latest property developments as well as upcoming projects to property buyers and investors.

During the conversation, the Brazilian ambassador said that the Brazilian government is now more interested in Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas were also present on this occasion.

try from all over the country, includ- Pakistan than in the past and is serious about investing in Pakistan and increasing trade. There are deep and strong relations between Pakistan and Brazil.

The Center said that the excellent cooperation between the two countries on trade relations and multilateral forums is having a profound impact on the global economy from which Pakistani investors can benefit

presented a special invitation to the Brazilian ambassador in the third Pakistan International Exhibition.

The Brazilian ambassador assured that he would definitely attend the exhibition.

Finally, Chairman Khurshid Barlas also presented the shield to the Brazilian Ambassador Olentho Vera on behalf of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry.

Fahad Barlas Canonier Exhibition, Chairman of Pakistan Association of Amin-ur-Rahman, Shamriz Igbal

# Ethiopia's First Year in Pakistan: A Journey of Friendship and Growth

this momentous first anniversary of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. With immense pride and gratitude, I share my reflections on a year that has been nothing short of extraordinary – a year of cultural discovery, economic promise, and an unbreakable bond of friendship and soldiarity.

On August 29, 2023, I had the honor of presenting my credentials to H. E. Dr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Pakistan. His warm embrace of our embassy was embodied in his words: "We, Pakistan, welcome you with open-minded, open-hearted, and open-door policies." These words set the tone for the journey that followed, and I have witnessed the embodiment of this spirit in every engagement with Pakistani government officials, politicians, business community, dedicated civil society members, and above all, the wonderful people who have shown boundless affection not just to me, but to the entire Ethiopian nation.

Allow me to encapsulate this and business relations. remarkable year. From the moment day, we mark the I assumed the role of Ambassador to Pakistan, my foremost priority was to build the image of Ethiopia in this country. With unwavering dedication, I directed my efforts towards enlightening the Pakistani public, business leaders, media, and civil society about the vast potential for business, trade, and investment within the FDRE. Yet, I cannot emphasize enough

the pivotal role played by Pakistani media and civil society. These dynamic forces have stood at the forefront, working to foster the Ethiopia-Pakistan friendship. Through an array of programs and events, they have illuminated the vast opportunities that lie in collaborative ventures between our two nations.

Economic cooperation emerged as a vital avenue of exploration, for bilateral trade had been stood at a mere 78 million US dollars due to the lack of robust institutional ties. Identifying this challenge, I endeavored to bridge the gap by advocating for the establishment of strong institutional linkages.

In February 2022, we celebrated a milestone as both nations signed a groundbreaking trade agreement, laying the foundation for the expansion of commercial

In the following month, a historic delegation of 75 Pakistani businessmen embarked on a transformative journey to Addis Ababa. This marked a watershed moment as the realms of business, trade, and investment were explored like never before.

My heart swells with gratitude for the Pakistani business community, whose resounding response not only made this delegation a resounding success but also resulted in the signing of pivotal Memorandums of Understanding in the realm of trade and investment.

The momentum was perpetuated as a 50-member high-level delegation from Ethiopia graced Pakistan's shores, arriving on the maiden flight of Ethiopian Airlines. The gracious reception by the Sindh Chief Minister's Cabinet, in the middle of night, exemplified the sincere warmth and brotherhood between our two nations.

Under the guidance of H. E. Ambassador Misganu Arega, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, these collaborative efforts culminated in the signing of multiple Memorandums of Understanding in fields spanning trade, science, and technology.

Subsequently, distinguished delegations from the health and

textile sectors participated in various expos and exhibitions in Paki-

The business chambers of Pakistan emerged as pivotal players in fostering closer ties, organizing the "Ethio-Pakistan Business Forum" across key cities. This platform has magnificently facilitated a tighter integration of our business communities.

In fostering people-to-people connections, the focus laid on the launch of Ethiopian Airlines operations in Pakistan. Beyond mere travel, this marked a gateway not only to Ethiopia but to the entire African continent. Pakistani universities extended a hearty welcome, planning to start a special quota for Ethiopian students, thus furthering the academic partner-

In retrospection, I feel compelled to touch upon the avenues that remain unexplored. The economic landscape beckons the Pakistani business community to consider Ethiopia as a novel economic destination - a gateway to the vast expanse of Africa.

Ethiopia's demand for pharmaceutical, surgical, sports equipment, and construction materials perfectly aligns with Pakistan's expertise, while in return, Ethiopia's agricultural treasures, such as coffee, tea, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables, beckon Pakistan.

Ethiopia's remarkable journey towards a double-digit economy is a testament to the transformative power of reforms initiated in 2018. With focused efforts to address bottlenecks in FDI, trade, and business services, progress is evident across pivotal sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing,

mining, tourism, and ICT. A shared commitment to combat climate change has united our nations. Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, conceived by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, stands as a beacon of hope and launched here in Pakistan by the FDRE Embassy. Having witnessed Pakistan's vulnerability firsthand during the devastating flood of 2022, I embarked on a mission to distribute relief items to affected regions, a memory etched forever in my heart. The manifestation of our union is underscored by a mutual demand made by our heads of state at COP27 - a call for a climate fund that stands as a testament to

our shared responsibility. In the realm of security, collaboration against terrorism holds immense promise, safeguarding not only our nations but the global community.

Looking ahead, Ethiopia is



Written by H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula

resolute in advancing our bilateral relationship with Pakistan. The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia envisions a future brimming with potential across various domains including the economy, education, tourism, and culture.

As I conclude, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people and government of Pakistan for their unwavering support. Your solidarity during Ethiopia's non-permanent candidacy in the Unit-

ed Nations and your unwavering stand in the UN Human Rights Council reaffirms the strength of our bond. We stand by Pakistan. just as Pakistan stands by Ethiopia. Together, we shall tread the path of shared history, united in our resolve.

Ethiopia-Pakistan Dosti Zind-

 $The \ author \ is \ Ambassador$ Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan

### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation						
Pakistan: PSX 1	Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index					
Current	Prev. Close					
46,770.41	47,478.61					
Day's High	Day's Low:					
47,372.08	46,598.23					
Index Value	Change					
6,935,562,885	-708.20					
Percentage	Time					
-1.49%	29 Aug, 2023 5:00 pm					
Europe: FTS	urope: FTSE 100 Index					
Index Value	Change					
7,464.99	+126.41					
Percentage						
reiteillage	Time					
+1.72%	<b>Time</b> 29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1					
+1.72%	29 Aug, 4:35 pm					
+1.72%	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1					
+1.72% USA: Dow Jones	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average					
+1.72% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change					
+1.72%  USA: Dow Jones  Index Value  34,796.43	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average Change +236.45					
+1.72%  USA: Dow Jones Index Value 34,796.43  Percentage +0.68%	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average Change +236.45 Time 29 Aug, 1:23 pm					

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

+56.98

**Time** 

29 Aug, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

32.226.97

**Percentage** 

+0.18%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	200	202
Bahrain Dinar	806.17	814.17
Canadian Dollar	230	232.3
China Yuan	41.68	42.08
Danish Krone	43.96	44.36
Euro	340.5	343.5
Hong Kong Dollar	38.22	38.57
Indian Rupee	3.63	3.74
Japanese Yen	2.23	2.31
Kuwaiti Dinar	982.72	991.72
Malaysian Ringgit	63.83	64.43
NewZealand \$	179.13	181.13
Norwegians Krone	28.04	28.34
Omani Riyal	779.07	787.07
Qatari Riyal	83.27	83.97
Saudi Riyal	84.4	85.3
Singapore Dollar	221	223
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	343.18	345.68
Thai Bhat	8.61	8.76
U.A.E Dirham	86	86.9
UK Pound Sterling	401	405
US Dollar	320	323

#### *Pakistani* households and businesses are facing mounting power prices

#### 跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that Pakistani households and businesses are facing mounting power prices. NEPRA's latest forecast for power purchase prices for the fiscal year 2023 - 24 reveals a substantial financial burden, with consumers to bear 68 percent of costs for fixed capacity payments; primarily benefiting coal

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh Added that the substantial fuel costs - particularly petroleum imports -potentially pose extreme volatility and strain on foreign exchange reserves; with no clear solution or governmental strategy in sight. As a result, consumer-end tariff has been increased and applicable with effect from July 1,

## Masses ran out of patience with power bills, interest-free solar loans demanded: Mian Zahid Hussain

#### **Example 2** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Tuesday that the people are tired of inflated power bills.

The electricity tariff should be revised downward immediately; otherwise, the ongoing protests across the country will intensify, which will destroy law and order and cause great damage to the unstable economy, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that electricity has become so expensive that it is not possible to run industry, trade, or any kind of busi-

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that taxes on electricity bills should be moderated and rationalized. The issue of capacity payment should be resolved, and interest-free loans should be no response.

provided to people for installing solar systems.

He said that increasing the cost of electricity to meet the deficit of trillions of rupees in the power sector is like filling water in a broken

Instead of increasing the price of electricity, electricity theft, line losses, and non-payment of bills should be controlled, and no one should be given free electricity.

The business leader said that laws should be made stringent to discourage electricity theft so that the burden of stolen electricity is not passed on to the people.

He demanded that the electricity generation and distribution system and the entire infrastructure should be improved.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that WAPDA wants the recovery of electricity bills, but the police do not help it because its priority is not recovery but to maintain law and order, and if the police do not cooperate, there will be



Similarly, cases are not registered against electricity thieves, and if they are, they are not properly investigated and arrested. Even if someone is arrested, he is released with a minor punishment.

Until the punishment and penalty for electricity theft are drastically increased and fully implemented, the loss of electricity theft will

continue to be borne by the bill-paying public. Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of continuously increasing the cost of electricity, free electricity distribution should be stopped to reduce the circular debt, WAPDA and the police should be brought on the same page to increase the recovery, or a separate force should be raised for the recovery of outstanding bills.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that at present, the demand to end the provision of free electricity among government employees, senior officers, politicians, etc. has gained momentum, but the real problem is not free electricity but electricity theft, line losses, and non-compliance, which amount to almost Rs 800 billion.

He further said that if the energy sector is not reformed, it will destroy the country's

#### Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: Welders are busy in welding during the installation of over head pedestrian bridge at Kernal Sher Khan Shaheed Road in Federal Capital.



## Business Leaders call for focusing on hydro power to provide cheap energy to industry

#### **156** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ch. Abdul Majeed, Chairman, Faisal Town and the 3rd largest real estate developer in the country said that Pakistan has the potential to generate 100,000 MW of hydro power, which is very cheap, but has not been exploited as yet due to which the nation is in trouble on account of inflated electricity bills. He stressed that the government should build small and medium size dams to produce hydropower in order to provide cheap energy to businesses and industry that would help boost the economy. He said this while addressing a Business Role Model ceremony organized in his honor by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

Ch. Abdul Majeed said that the government should ensure fair spending of tax money to improve the confidence of taxpayers and promote tax culture. He said that 90 percent of loans taken by the country have been spent on non-productive activities due to which the Pakistanis now facing huge foreign debt of USD 140 billion and stressed that the loans taken by the country should be spent on productive projects that would generate economic activity and create jobs.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Ch. Abdul Majeed has delivered



many mega real estate development projects including Faisal Town, Faisal Hills, Margalla City, Islamabad Gardens, Multi Gardens, Tele Gardens, Multi-Residencia & Orchards, which have provided a quality living environment to the citizens. These projects have also generated a lot of business activities and provided jobs to thousands of people. He said that the real estate sector has the potential to revive the economy and stressed that the government should announce a package for this industry to steer Pakistan out of the

current economic crisis.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the real estate and construction sector promotes the business of 70 allied industries and the government should create a conducive environment for this industry to turn around the economy.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that Sec-7E is a major hurdle in the growth of business activities in the real estate sector and stressed that the govern-

## **NBP Records Pre**tax Profit of PKR 47.7 Bn, 41% up YoY

#### Sommerce Desk

KARACHI: Financial results of National Bank of Pakistan "the Bank" for the half-year ended June 30, 2023 were approved today (August 29, 2023) by the Board of Directors in their meeting held at the Bank's Head Office. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Ashraf Mahmood Wathra. The President/CEO of the Bank Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie was also present in the meet-

period of a remarkable perfor-

mance, the Bank reported a profit before tax (PBT) of PKR 47.7 Billion, nearly 41% higher than PKR 33.9 Bn for H1'22. The Bank's performance remained particularly strong during Q2'23 as the a commendable performance in both the fund based and non-fund based earning streams. Despite a continued challenging environment during the period, the Bank's profit after tax more than doubled to PKR 26.0 Bn depicting a massive increase of 114% over the PKR 12.1 Bn for H1 period of the previous year. Accordingly, Earnings Per Share closed at PKR 12.23 as against PKR 5.71 for H1'22. This excellent performance was driven through an efficient portfolio-mix, maturity profiling, effective risk management and maintaining a stable funding pool that is delivering sustainable and improved operating performance. In the increasing interest

rate environment, gross interest income recorded a 141% increase YoY to close at PKR 432.3 Bn being PKR 252.9 Bn higher than PKR 179.4 Bn for the same period of 2022. Similarly, the Bank's cost of funds also recorded an increase of 184% YoY to close at PKR 359.2 Bn. Accordingly, net interest income closed at PKR 73.1 the end of 2022.

Bn, depicting a YoY increase of 38%. Despite the challenging business environment and lacklustre performance of the stock market during most of the period, the Bank generated total non-fund income amounting to PKR 19.0 Bn which is 4% higher YoY. Equity investment of the Bank generated a divided income of PKR 2.4 Bn (Jun'22: PKR 1.9 Bn), i.e. 22% higher YoY. Fee & commission income earned through branch banking operations stood at PKR 10.5 Bn i.e. 3% higher, YoY. Recording yet another

Amidst the high inflationary pressures and depreciation in Rupee, operating expenses of the Bank for the half-year period under review amounted to PKR 43.9 Bn which is 22.6% higher YoY as compared to PKR 35.8 Bn for the similar period Bank earned a PBT of PKR last year. However, proactive 29.5 Bn as against PKR 18.2 cost management efforts Bn earned in Q1'23. These contained expense growth to results were driven through 19.2% over Q2'22, improving the cost/income ratio from 50.1% in H1'22 to 47.6% in H1'23. The Bank is currently investing significantly for a major upgrade of its IT systems & infrastructure.

As the Bank is following a prudent risk-profiling strategy, loan infection ratio stood at 14.5% slightly above the 14.3% as of Dec'22. Accordingly, net provision charge amounted to PKR 0.4 Bn i.e. significantly lower by 76.2% or PKR 1.3 Bn as compared to PKR 1.7 Bn for H1'22. The key contributor towards this drop was the loans & advances that recorded a net reversal of PKR 0.95 Billion. Specific and General provisions held against NPLs stood at PKR 204.1 Bn (Dec'22: PKR 190.7 Bn) and PKR 16.7 Bn (Dec'22: PKR 17.3 Bn), respectively. Thus, provision coverage at June 30, 2023 stood high at 92.9%.

With an 18.5% YTD growth in its assets base, the Bank achieved PKR 6 TRILLION milestone in its balance sheet as its total assets reached PKR 6.2 Trillion from PKR 5.2 Trillion at

### Sunridge Foods Winning Trust through Transparency-Opens Doors to Media production of Sunridge products. With ble to all. Additionally, we prioritize the

KARACHI: Sunridge Foods Limited (SFL), a subsidiary of Unity Foods media to win trust through transparency for an exclusive visit to their Sunridge Flour processing factory in Port Qasim. Approximately 40 media professiondigital outlets accepted this invitation, showcasing SFL's strong commitment

Sunridge Foods remains committed to providing safe & fortified nutrition to Pakistan through its products. The purpose of this visit was to maintain complete transparency of farm to fork journey and to familiarize the media with the entire process of food quality and safety deployed by Sunridge Foods.

This media visit provided a firsthand experience of the cutting-edge technology, fortification, and uncompromising safety protocols that underpin the their products affordable and accessi-

the global spotlight on the importance of food safety and quality, SFL aims to convey a positive and informative Limited (UFL) opened its doors to the message to its consumers and key stakeholders, showcasing how their transparent approach is leading them to success.

On this occasion, Farrukh Amin, CEO SFL, stated, "We are proud to open als from various print, electronic, and our doors to the media and share our commitment to transparency, quality, and innovation in crop transformation to transparency, quality, and innovation. and farm-to-fork methodology. Through unity in purpose and firm commitment, we stand poised to redefine the possibilities in food security for responsible production and consumption."

> He further emphasized we stand committed to our unwavering commitment to consumers: Gizayat say bharpur zindagi. This commitment drives our dedication to providing safe and fortified nutrition to the people of Pakistan. To achieve this, we are dedicated to making

well-being of their farmers by providing them with training on best farming practices. Together, we strive to create a sustainable food system that not only benefits the current generation but also future generations.

This tour provided the media professionals a comprehensive overview of the entire flour production process which included the sourcing of wheat, rigorous quality checks, and adherence to international and national food safety regulations. During the tour, the media was introduced to the entire supply chain and production process, emphasizing Sunridge Foods Limited's (SFL) unwavering commitment to providing safe and fortified nutrition.

Notably, the Sunridge Factory stands out as the sole flour mill in Pakistan to utilize the advanced PESA Mill, a Swiss technology that enables 100% automated flour processing without human intervention. This cutting-edge tech-



checks, final product inspections, and SAP-backed batch releases, every step is meticulously monitored. This ensures that our products consistently meet the highest standards from start to finish. With automated packing processes in place, we guarantee top-tier quality and safety throughout our operations. SFL

continuously strives to exceed expectations by prioritizing food safety protocols, embracing innovative technologies, and upholding the highest quality standards.

Nageen Rizvi, the Head of Corporate Communications, expressed deep appreciation for the media's active participation in the comprehensive tour, which provided a transparent understanding of SFL's processes regarding food safety and quality in the preparation of their brands. Rizvi underscored the importance of every Pakistani's right to consume safe and fortified products, particularly in light of the alarming stunting crisis affecting 45% of children in Pakistan. She further highlighted SFL's dedication to addressing food insecurity and combating malnutrition through their flagship CSR campaign, Sunridge Taqatwar Pakistan. Through this initiative, SFL has collaborated with the government, NGOs, orphanages, and hospitals to provide fortified nutrition to over 150,000+ families.

The factory tour concluded with the media representatives engaged in a question and answer session, during which they expressed a resolute commitment to advocating for fortified nutrition as a means to combat food insecurity and malnutrition across Pakistan. They praised SFL for their unwavering dedication to food safety and their commitment to upholding high-quality standards for consumers. The media representatives also expressed admiration for

## The cricket teams of Pakistan and Nepal will face each other in Multan Cricket Stadium

**Asim Tanveer** 

MULTAN: Asia Cup world number one Pakistani team will compete against Nepal in the first match tomorrow

The opening match will be played on 30th August at Multan Cricket Stadium. Nepal's first participation in the Asia Cup.

The wait for the Asia Cup 2023 is over and on Wednesday the world number one Pakistan cricket team will compete against Nepal in the opening match at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

The Asia Cup is starting from Multan and this is the first time that Multan is hosting a continental tournament match

The teams of Pakistan and Nepal are competing for the first time in the One Day International. Nepal team is participating in Asia Cup for the first time.

Multan Cricket Stadium is expected to have a great atmosphere on the occasion of this match and a huge number of fans will be present in the stadium to enjoy this match. There will be an opening ceremony before

the match and the match will start at 2:30 Pakistan cricket team last played an ODI series against West Indies in Multan in June

last year which they won by 3 nil. Pakistan team has won seven out of ten

ODIs at this ground.



to play in front of the enthusiastic fans of by 3-0 in the past few days and won the first Multan and we are all very happy to start the Asia Cup from Multan.

Babar Azam congratulated the Nepalese team for qualifying for the Asia Cup and said that their participation in this tournament will help in the promotion of cricket in Nepal. The competition with the Nepalese team will

The Pakistan team is starting the Asia Cup Captain Babar Azam says that he is happy at a time when it whitewashed Afghanistan

position in the world ranking of One Day International. The Pakistan team has become the world number one for the second time. Twenty-two out of thirty-one matches in the cycle have been won.

Pakistan team's recent performance has been good in all three formats. He tied the T20I series 2-2 against New Zealand and won the ODI series 4-1. And then won both the Test matches against Sri Lanka and won eling Reserve: Tayyab Tahir.

the ODI series against Afghanistan by three

Babar Azam says about the added pressure after becoming the world number one, I will not say that there will be pressure but we will start this tournament with confidence. This team has achieved the top position through hard work and efforts over the past few years. The process is not over yet, we want to win the Asia Cup and then the World Cup. The coming months are very exciting and competitive and we are determined to do well for our country. Every player wants to win for his country and all the players are ready to show their best even in tough and difficult conditions. The past few months have been great and it's time to continue that momentum.

The Pakistan team will leave for Sri Lanka on August 31 where they will play the second match of Group A against India in Kandy on September 2. Kandy will also host the third match of Group A which will be played between India and Nepal on September 4.

Pakistan Squad: Babar Azam (Captain), Shadab Khan (Vice-Captain), Abdullah Shafiq, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhr Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imamul-Haq, Muhammad Haris (Wicketkeeper), Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Rizwan (Wicketkeeper), Muhammad Wasim Jr., Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Osama Mir. Trav-

#### Pakistan Cycling Federation announces decision to lift ban on all cyclists



LAHORE: In a historic gathering held at the Lahore Coaching Centre, the General Counsel of the Pakistan Cycling Federation convened to make a momentous decision. Under the esteemed leadership of Chairman Kokab Nadeem Warraich, President Syed Azhar Ali Shah, and General Secretary Moazzam Khan Klair, the house overwhelmingly voted to lift the ban on all cyclists, excluding those involved in doping, across the nation.

This remarkable development marks a significant stride towards the promotion and advancement of cycling in Pakistan. Following the meeting's conclusion, members of the Pakistan Cycling Federation visited former National cyclist Chaudhary Muhammad Qasim, who is recovering from a brain hemorrhage. Despite his current inability to speak, Mr. Qasim's health is improving, evident from the joyful smile that graced his face when presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The Pakistan Cycling Federation's solidarity and support for Mr. Qasim reflect not only their commitment to the sport but also their compassion for those who have dedicated their lives to cycling. The Federation remains optimistic about his speedy recovery and eventual return to normalcy.

#### Quaid Banaspati Defence Day Tennis tournament from Aug 31

Spots Desk

KARACHI: To commemorate Defense Day of Pakistan, Sindh Tennis Association / Karachi Tennis Association Sponsored by Maria Edible Oil Industries Pvt Ltd will organize Quaid Banaspati Defense Day Tennis Tournament from 31st August at Modern Club Tennis Courts.

Events are, Men's Singles, Ladies Singles, girls 17 Singles, Boys and Girls Under 8 Singles.and 55 Plus Doubles. Few exclusive Karachi events are also included, namely. Juniors 17 Singles, Boys and Girls Under 15 Singles, Under 13 Singles, Under 11 Singles, Men's Doubles, 45 Plus Doubles.

Out station players shall be entitled to daily and traveling allowance only in Sindh Ranking events. Last Date of entry is 30th August 4-00 PM.

Entries can be sent to Muhammad Khalid Rehmani (Referee) at Whatsapp number 0300 3607209.

#### Nepal captain says facing world number one Pakistan will be 'tough'



Paudal, the captain of the Nepal cricket team, says that the opening match of the Asia Cup is facing the world number one team in

this sense, he is planning to win the match. Addressing the pre-Asia Cup media conference at Multan Media Center last evening, he added. It is a success for our Nepal team that we are playing Asia Cup. There is a huge difference in experience between the two teams. Pakistan is an experienced team. Both teams have the best bowlers and batsmen. We have prepared a lot for success. We need to focus on our bowling. We are really enjoying hosting Pakistan. Playing in Pakistan for the first time and I think the wicket here is very good.

## 'Job not done,' Babar Azam eyes Asia Cup, World Cup glory after leading rankings

MULTAN: Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam said Tuesday that the job is not done yet for the top-ranked ODI side as they aim to win the upcoming ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023 and ICC Men's World Cup in India.

Babar Azam-led Pakistan enter the Asia Cup with momentum on their side. They topped the ICC rankings for ODI teams on Saturday after securing a 3-0 whitewash over Afghanistan in Sri Lanka. This is the second instance of the team surmounting the chart since April. Pakistan also boast the best win/ loss ratio of 2.750 with 22 wins in 31 matches since in this World Cun

Reflecting on whether there is an added pressure for being the top-ranked side, Babar Azam said, "I would not say that there is a pressure. Rather, we enter this tournament with more confidence.



"This team has put in a lot of hard country. ver the last few years and we achieving the top spot to win matches for his country and 10 ODIs here and won seven. is a testimony of it. The job, howev-raises their hand. They are always er, is not done as we want to win the ready to put in the hard yards and in front of the passionate Multan Asia Cup and the World Cup.

and we are eager to do well for our and now it is time to build on the Azam said on the eve of the contest.

erv player in this side want never shy away from tough and "We have some competitive and difficult situations. We have had exciting next few months lined up some amazing last few months this city," Pakistan captain Babar

The much-anticipated Men's ODI Asia Cup 2023 is finally here

stan, the top-ranked One-Day International side, taking on Nepal in the Group-A clash at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The contest marks many firsts as Nepal, as a team, and Multan,

and it begins tomorrow with Paki-

as a venue, make their debuts in the continental tournament. It is also a maiden contest between Pakistan and Nepal at the top level. Pakistan's last outing in Multan

in the format was in June last year and the home side enjoyed resounding success over the West Indies by thrashing them 3-0 in the threematch series. The team has played

"It is always a great feeling to play crowd and we all are very excited that the Asia Cup is beginning from

"I want to congratulate Nepal for qualifying for the Asia Cup and I hope that their participation will give a boost to the development of the sport in the country. We are looking forward to playing Nepal and I am sure it will be a good contest," he added.

Pakistan will fly to Sri Lanka on 31 August to play India in the second Group-A match on 2 September at Kandy. The venue will also host the third and final match of the group between India and Nepal on 4 September. Pakistan squad for Asia Cup

2023: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Haris (wk), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Usama Mir.

# Neeraj Chopra's mother's remarks about Arshad Nadeem win hearts

A Sports

Star Indian Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's mother downplayed the hype of her son triumphing over Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem in the World Athletics Champi-Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra on

Sunday made history as they became the first to win a silver and gold medal respectively in the World Athletics Championship. Following his sensational run to capture

the silver medal, Arshad Nadeem became the first athlete from Pakistan to achieve the feat in the World Athletics Championship while Neeraj Chopra became the first

Indian to win a gold.

Arshad Nadeem secured the silver with his best throw in his third attempt which went at a distance of 87.82 meters.

His Indian counterpart Neeraj bagged India's first gold medal at the World Athletics Championship with an 88.17m throw in his second attempt.

Neeraj Chopra's remarkable achievement sent the masses across the border into immense jubilation but few of them ignited the India-Pakistan rivalry by drawing the comparison between the two athletes, who have, in many instances, displayed mutu-

Following her son's record-breaking



performance, Neeraj Chopra's mother was interacting with the media and in the midst was asked about her emotions regarding Neeraj triumphing over Pakistan's Arshad.

"How big of an achievement it was for

Neeraj to defeat the Pakistani?" the reporter asked, to which she replied: "There is no division of countries on the field all players are equal."

"In the field, everyone is an athlete, and someone has to win; it doesn't matter if they are from Pakistan or from Haryana," Neeraj Chopra's mother said.

She further said: "It is a matter [Neeraj's victory of joy for me and I am happy for the Pakistani athlete as well."

Neeraj Chopra's mother's befitting response to the journalist quickly went viral across social media platforms and fans from both neighbouring countries greatly admired her exceptional perspective.

## **Pakistan Cricket** Team net practice at Multan Cricket Stadium

Spokesman Photos by Asim Tanveer









#### TENDER NOTICE FOR INFOTAINMENT SYSTEM ASA SERVICE (ALONG WITH ANCILLARY SERVICES) FOR PAKISTAN **RAILWAY FLEET**

Sealed proposals are invited from reputed companies for licensing of the Infotainment system in all classes and Wi-Fi in all coaches of Pakistan Railways. Further details are given as under:

The successful company will be required to provide Infotainment / Wi-Fi services as specified in detail in the bid documents.

The interested firms companies can obtain the bid Documents, at a cost of Rs.3000/- (non-refundable) for licensing / Wi-Fi services, consisting of Condition of contract, evaluation criteria and format of Technical Proposals from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Selection of firms shall be carried out as per competitive bidding under Single stage of two envelopes procedure of PPRA rules.

Sealed Proposals in a single package must reach the Committee Room No.2 by 11:00 A. M on

All technical proposals will be opened in Committee Room No. 02 of Pakistan Railways Headquarter Office Lahore on 25-09-2023 at 11:30A. M in the presence of bidders or their representatives who may choose to be present.

For further details please visit Pakistan Railways Website:.www.pakrail.gov.pk and PPRA website: www.ppra.org.pk.

Dy. Chief Commercial Manager (M)

Pakistan Railways Headquarter Office, **Empress Road, Lahore** Phone: 042-99205701 "ریلوےلائن کوصرف ریلوے کراسنگ سے احتیاط سے پار کریں'