



NA Speaker inaugurates provision of transportation facilities to Women College

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Saturday said that education was an essential factor for women empowerment and providing basic facilities to women would enhance their literacy rate across the country. (Details on Page 8)



Shopkeepers, public strike nationwide over sky-high electricity bills

The public took to the streets while thousands of traders across the country shuttered their shops on Saturday to register protests against soaring energy and fuel bills stirring widespread discontent ahead of national elections. The recent hike in electricity bills further frustrated the consumers and traders who are already, heavily burdened by the soaring inflation in the country.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Bright Star 2023

Pride of Pakistan, JF-17 Thunder aircraft, participating in the Multinational Air Exercise, Bright Star 2023 displayed at Mohammed Naguib Military Base, Egypt on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Murtaza Solangi calls on Caretaker PM



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed and Principal Information Officer Muhammad Asim Khichi were also present during the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The minister apprised the prime minister of the matters related to his ministry. During the meeting, they also deliberated upon proposed strategy for the effective presentation of Pakistan's positive narrative at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNG-78) session.

PAF JF-17 Thunder participates in Multi-National Air Exercise 'Bright Star 2023' at Egypt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contingent will showcase its exceptional capabilities at the Multi-national Air Exercise "Bright Star 2023" that kicked off at the Mohammed Naguib Military Base, Egypt alongside its JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, dedicated air and ground crew. Originally established as a bilateral training event between the United States and Egypt during

the Camp David Accord of 1977, Bright Star Exercise has evolved into a significant multi-national endeavor, a PAF news release said on Saturday. Since 1995, nations from around the world have been invited to participate in the mega exercise, transforming it into one of the largest and most intricate joint air force exercises globally. The exercise aimed to promote interoperability among the participating nations, fostering shared learning opportunities. Designed

to simulate realistic aerial warfare scenarios, Exercise Bright Star provides an invaluable opportunity for participating Air Forces to assess their operational readiness in real-time. Over the course of two weeks, the exercise will bring together air, naval, and ground assets of the participating nations in the desert terrain of North-West Cairo, Egypt. A total of 34 countries including Pakistan, the United States of America, India, King-

dom of Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar will be participating in this prestigious event. In light of the complex security environment and contemporary strategic challenges, exercises like Bright Star 2023 enable the Pakistan Air Force to enhance its interoperability with friendly nations. Apart from strengthening military relations, this exercise will facilitate the practice of integrated employment of combat and

combat support assets. It will also provide an opportunity to formulate and validate tactics against contemporary threats, ensuring preparedness for any future contingencies. Pakistan Air Force looks forward to contributing to the success of this multinational exercise. Through such endeavors, PAF reaffirms its commitment to regional stability, international cooperation, and the continuous development of own capabilities.

Miran Shah Operation martyrs laid to rest with full military honour



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayers of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced shahadat, while fighting gallantly against terrorists during Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) in the general area of Miran Shah, North Waziristan were offered at Bannu. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Saturday, the martyrs identified as Major Amir Aziz (age

29 years, resident of Sargodha District) and Sepoy Muhammad Arif (age 27 years, resident of Sahiwal District) would be laid to rest with full military honour in their respective hometowns. Senior serving military and civil officials and public attended the funeral prayers. "Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all costs," the ISPR said.

CTD kills eight terrorists in Balochistan

Web Desk

QUETTA: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) killed eight terrorists in separate operations in Balochistan during the past 24 hours. According to the spokesperson, the CTD raided a house in Basima - a town and tehsil headquarter in Washuk district on tipoff. The terrorists opened fire on law enforcers, triggering a gun battle that lasted for some time, he said. As a result, five of these terrorists were eliminated while three others managed to escape the scene. The CTD managed to seize a large quantity of weapons and ammunition as they searched the premises used a hideout and are working on confirming the identity of the dead terrorists. In another operation in Quetta, the CTD spokesperson said, they safely recovered a child and killed three abductors, who were stated to be the members of outlawed organisation. The CTD carried out operation after the terrorists had kidnapped the child for ransom and also seized arms and ammunition from their hideout.

Pakistan's economy still under clouds!

Asrar Raouf

The new caretaker administration realises fully-well that it has not inherited a bed of roses but has taken on a very tough challenge both from political and economic angles. It is widely acknowledged that the Pakistan's economy is still under clouds and it will take a long time for it to recover. By all accounts this is the most inopportune time to change horses in the complicated game of governance but that is where circumstances have brought Pakistan to. It is not hidden that Pakistani economy is in grip of multiple and intractable issues that required persistent and patient handling. For the time being the new financial managers appear to be in a quandary and do not have a clue about where to begin from as matters are really complicated. The main issue is managing the temporary financial arrangements with the IMF that have tremendously raised the level of difficulties. The caretakers are handicapped by their restricted mandate though the powerful elements supporting them within the Pakistani establishment are encouraging them to take difficult decisions with the worry of adverse fallout as was witnessed when the price of petrol was raised to Rs.17.50, a hike that would have brought din of protests if political elements were running the show. The problems are confounded by the very fact that the Pakistani rupee is subjected to unrelenting drubbing and the future of temporary reprieve granted to Pakistani foreign exchange reserves by external financing is dwindling. In this context, Pakistan got over \$5

billion in fresh loans in July, which was the highest amount received in any month, to meet project and foreign exchange reserve requirements, as the interim government sought a review of the annual financing plan in light of the prevailing economic conditions. Pakistan received \$2.9 billion in budget and project financing and another \$2.2 billion came in coffers of the central bank in July and on the basis of these factors, the gross foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank jumped to more than \$8 billion. Out of the total of \$5.1 billion, \$3 billion was disbursed by Saudi Arabia and the UAE with \$2 billion loan for a period of two years at 4% interest rate with the loan maturing in July 2025 along with IMF chipping in with \$1.2 billion. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) disbursed \$20 million, the World Bank \$82 million, the Islamic Development Bank \$67 million and Saudi Arabia \$100 million under the oil financing facility. Pakistan received a \$75 million loan against the highly expensive Naya Pakistan Certificates. Despite this temporary reprieve, the spectre of rising inflation is horrendous as depreciation of the exchange rate will result in an increase in the POL prices and the same will apply in case of an increase in the fuel price adjustments (FPA) in the wake of furnace oil and imported RLNG becoming dearer in months ahead. Headline inflation as well as core inflation is expected to further go up so the policy rate would also be increased under the IMF conditions. The chances of the economy heading towards steep stagflation on account of lowering GDP growth and an upsurge in CPI-based inflation in months ahead. Its ultimate victim would be the poor segments of the society because stagfla-

tion would push up poverty and unemployment. Another difficulty is the upsurge in the rate of dollar against rupee that has crossed Rs.300 mark and has made the situation precarious for clearance of imports, payment of dividends and materialising structural benchmark condition of the IMF under \$3 billion Standby Arrangement (SBA) for keeping the difference between interbank and open market not more than 1.25 percent. The structural benchmark has now breached, as this difference stands at around 4.5 to 5 percent and the widening gap between interbank and open market rates will further reduce the possibility of luring remittances. In this situation the State Bank of Pakistan is consistently looking the other way, not even hinting to try to stop currency speculators from operating with impunity. Same is the case with the caretaker administration whose finance managers are required to determine the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and that could be done by assigning their relevant members clear responsibilities that has not taken place as yet. In the prevailing difficult economic situation, the current account deficit witnessed rebounding and stood at \$1 billion for July 2023 in the wake of reduced exports, remittances and increased imports. On the internal front, the FBR's revenue collection has also lagged behind than the required growth to materialise the annual target of Rs.9.4 trillion. This collection target is quite a large ask and it may prove to be a very difficult target to achieve. It is very clear that the FBR does not have the required wherewithal to successfully fulfil the collection targets assigned to it.

Canada shut its land border to asylum seekers

Reuters

OTTAWA: A deal Canada struck this year to stem the flow of asylum seekers entering from the U. S. was, at first glance, a quick success: Within days, the number of people caught at unofficial crossings along the border dwindled to a trickle. But five months later, the overall number of people filing refugee claims in Canada has risen instead of falling. Many now come by air, while others sneak across the border and hide until they can apply for asylum without fear of being sent back, people working with migrants told Reuters. The numbers show how hard it is for countries to shut the door on desperate people and the challenge unexpected numbers of asylum seekers can pose: In Toronto, hundreds slept on the streets this summer as they struggled to find beds. "The basic reality is that closing a border doesn't do anything to solve the need for protection," said Shau-na Labman, an associate professor and acting director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Winnipeg.

Pakistan Navy Flotilla visits Iraq during overseas deployment



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising PN Ships HIMMAT, DEHSHAT and MUHAFAZ visited Port Umm Qasr, Iraq during Overseas Deployment to Gulf countries. Upon arrival at the port, PN Ships were received by Commander of Umm Qasr Naval Base Rear Admiral Laith Abdal Satar, senior Iraqi Navy officials and Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Iraq, a Pakistan Navy news release said on Saturday. The Mission Commander along with Commanding Officers of ships called on Commander Iraqi Navy Rear Admiral Mazin Abdul Wahid and senior naval leadership of host Navy. During the interactions, matters of mutual interest were discussed and enhancements of bilateral ties in all spheres were reaffirmed. The Mission Commander conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of Iraq in general and Iraqi navy in particular. A reception dinner was also hosted onboard PN MUHAFAZ which was hosted by Ambassador of Pakistan to Iraq. Officials of Iraqi Navy and notables from Pakistani community attended the reception. During port call, various bilateral activities including exchange visits onboard ships, orientation visit of PN personnel to military installations and coordination meetings for exercises at sea were undertaken.

Investment briefing

ISLAMABAD: Briefing session of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), arranged with ambassadors and commercial attaches of Foreign Missions in Pakistan, to illuminate SIFC's initiative, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday.



Photo: PID

NA Speaker inaugurates provision of transportation facilities to Women College

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Saturday said that education was an essential factor for women empowerment and providing basic facilities to women would enhance their literacy rate across the country.

He added that the provision of transportation facilities to girls students in Gujjar Kahn who travel 40 km to reach the college would encourage them to complete their education.

He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering in connection with the provision of transport services to Government Associate College for Girls.

It is pertinent to mention



here that Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf visited Government Associate

College for Girls Manghot on 30th May 2023. During the visit, the

students and faculty members raised the issue of transport problems to girls students.

The Speaker, on the occasion, assured them provision of transport facilities.

The provision of these buses will resolve the traveling difficulties faced by the students coming from far-flung areas.

Now, they will be able to participate in their educational activities more enthusiastically.

This facility would also encourage girls students to continue and complete their education.

The people of the area, the students and their parents have expressed their gratitude to Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf for the promotion of girls' education in Gujjar Khan and its adjacent areas for the development of the area.

Some sections of media misreported PM's recent interaction with journalists: Solangi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Saturday said some sections of media had misreported the recent interaction of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar with journalists in Islamabad regarding the electricity bills issue.

Murtaza Solangi, in a news statement, clarified that when the prime minister was asked during the interaction whether the electricity bills had caused chaos or anarchy in the country, he ruled out the anarchy, but did not dismiss the matter as non-issue.

He said the prime minister had not stated that the issue of electricity bills was not worrisome for the people, rather he explained what were the reasons behind the expensive electricity. The prime minister reaffirmed in the media interaction that the solution would soon be worked out, Solangi added.

He said those who were responsible for the current situation had also been using the issue for political point-scoring in the wake of the upcoming election.

PM Kakar never said that people's problems were "unjust", he added.



He said some responsible journalists had also confirmed that the prime minister had not referred to the matter of electricity bills as a non-serious issue.

Instead, he had stated that the country had commitments with international organizations, assuring that a solution would be worked out for the people without compromising the promises made to the organizations.

The minister said ironically, it was projected in some sections of media that the prime minister was not concerned about people's difficulties, which was unjust and against journalistic norms.

He appealed to the media to report news according to the facts.

The minister also cited a couplet from Faiz Ahmed Faiz Poetry to comment on the misreporting of the media interaction.

KP hospitals on high alert amid rising chicken pox cases

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A high alert has been issued in hospitals of several KP districts amid the increasing chicken pox cases.

As per details, the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has issued a high alert in hospitals in district Chitral and Khyber amid the rise in chickenpox cases.

The rise in chicken pox cases was reported Mastuj and Tirah areas of Khyber district while cases are increasing in Chitral district as well.

Meanwhile, the KP health advisor directed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability of medicines in both districts.

Yesterday, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan took notice of the outbreak of chicken pox disease in the remote village of Harchin in Upper Chitral district.



The Chief Minister directed the Advisor on Health Dr Riaz Anwar to take effective measures to treat the female students of the government school of Harchin village affected by the disease, an official handout said.

CM Azam Khan said special medical teams should be sent to the area for the treatment of the affected girls, besides monitoring the disease to control its further spread, he added.

Chickenpox is a highly contagious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). It can cause an itchy, blister-like rash among other symptoms. The rash first appears on the chest, back, and face, and then spreads over the entire body.

78th 'Independence Day' brings economic development, prosperity to Vietnam: Ambassador

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong on Friday acknowledged that this year's 78th 'Independence Day' of Vietnam has brought economic development and prosperity to Vietnam.

The ambassador said this in his special message on the occasion of the 78th, National Day of Vietnam today.

He said that under the visionary leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, "Vietnam today is on the path of development and prosperity, which was possible due to the economic reforms of our leadership".

On the occasion he mentioned, "I would like to quote the affirmation of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Phu Trong at 13th Party's Congress in Jan 2021: "With all humility, we can still say that: Our country has never enjoyed such fortunes, potentials, international status and prestige as they are today.

All this combined constitutes a pride, a driving force, an important resource, and a conviction for our entire Party, people and armed forces to overcome whatever difficulties and challenges, continue with firm steps on the road of comprehensive and concerted renewal; and develop the country expeditiously and sustainably".

He said the achievements of 35 years' implementation of the renewal process have continued affirming our Party's renewal line as judicious and creative.

Vietnamese envoy said such



great achievements of historic significance crystallize the creativeness of our Party and people, and assert that our country's road to socialism is suitable with Vietnam's reality and the times' development trend, and confirm that the Party's judicious leadership represents the primary determinant of the Vietnamese revolution's success".

The Ambassador said that after 37 years (1986-2023) of reforms/renovations/renewal/ Doi Moi (in Vietnamese), Vietnam's spectacular economic development is crucially and decidedly attributed to the Communist Party's successful leadership.

He said that nowadays, Vietnam has become a socialist-oriented market economy enjoying an immense breadth and depth of economic connectivity, having acceded to 17 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including three next-generation FTAs of very high standards, and participating in an extensive network of economic linkages with major economies in the world.

While only 30 years ago we only had economic and trade

being both sensible and full of human kindness, in the spirit of equality, amity, tolerance and humanism - have received agreement and support from the international community.

Thanks to this contribution, Vietnam's status and prestige in the international arena are on the rise.

The Ambassador said that with all the above-mentioned foundations and achievements, we are optimistic that the country will obtain more and more success and achievements in its cause of building and protecting the country.

"We will strive for ours to become by the mid-21st century a socialist-oriented developed country", he said.

By 2025 which marks the 50th anniversary of the total liberation of the South and reunification of the country; Vietnam would become a developing country with an industry moving toward modernity and having passed over the lower middle-income level, he said.

He claimed that by 2030, upon celebration of the Party's centennial Vietnam would become a developing country with a modern industry and an upper middle-income level.

He added that by 2045 which marks the centennial of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam would become a developed country with a high-income status.

He said that with those goals and targets, we have to raise the Party's leadership, ruling and fighting capacity; build the Party and political system comprehensively clean and strong; consolidate and enhance the people's trust in the Party, the State and the

socialist system; induce aspirations for developing the country's prosperity and well-being, promoting the willpower and strength of the great all-nation unity in combination with the strength of the times; push forward in an all-sided and concerted manner the cause of renewal, industrialization and modernization; to build and firmly defend the Homeland, and solidly preserve a peaceful and stable environment.

Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong has said that over the past 51 years, Vietnam and Pakistan have enjoyed excellent friendship and cooperation in many fields, including trade, investment, and technology.

He said this year, 2022, Vietnam and Pakistan are celebrating the 51th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations.

Fifty years ago, on November 8, 1972, Vietnam and Pakistan officially established diplomatic relations, opening a new page in friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

He said that current relations are developing in all fields, especially economic cooperation, trade, investment, education, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

Nguyen Tien Phong said the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Vietnam reached over 794 million USD in 2021, an increase of 54.41% compared to 2020, and reached over 904 million USD in 2022.

He said the two sides also cooperate and support each other at multilateral forums, supporting each other in many important international forums.

Asad Umar discharged in five terror cases



Bureau Report

LAHORE: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore discharged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar in five terrorism cases related to May 9 riots, wherein military installations came under attack.

Speaking during the hearing, the investigation officer (IO) said that PTI leader is no more wanted in the five terrorism cases.

Asad Umar was booked in three cases registered at Sarwar Road police

station, one each at Race Course and Gulberg police stations in Lahore.

Case No. 852/23 in Race Course, Case No. 1283/23 in Gulberg, Case No. 97/23, 103/23, 108/23 were registered in Sarwar Road Police station.

Meanwhile, the anti-terrorism court (ATC) rejected PTI leaders' interim bail petition over his failure to deposit surety bonds in cases related to May 9 violence.

On the last hearing, the court had ordered Asad to deposit surety bonds of Rs100,000 each.

Case no 97/23 had been registered against Asad and other PTI leaders at Sarwar Road police station of Lahore for making a speech against state institutions at Sherpao bridge of the city.

Mohsin Naqvi chairs a meeting to review Urs arrangements of Hazrat Data Gunj Baksh (RA)

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at CM Office today to review Urs arrangements of Hazrat Data Gunj Baksh (RA). 3-day Urs celebrations of Hazrat Data Gunj Baksh RA will be started from 5th September and more than 10 lac devotees would participate in the Urs celebrations. Mehfil-e-Sama, Sabeel, Natia Mushaira, and special lectures would be arranged during Urs celebrations. CM Mohsin Naqvi while directing to make excellent and splendid Urs arrangements of Hazrat Data Gunj Baksh (RA) stressed that Urs arrangements during the current year should be made even more splendid than the previous years. Mohsin

Naqvi directed to install sound system and SMD screens for the devotees. Mohsin Naqvi directed to make an extensive sitting arrangements in the Langar Khana adding that the chalked out security and traffic plan should be ensured to be implemented in letter and spirit adding that the law enforcement agencies should maintain a close coordination with one another. Secretary Atqaf gave a briefing about arrangements being made in connection with the Urs of Hazrat Data Gunj Baksh (RA) and CCPO Lahore gave a briefing about the security plan. It was apprised during the briefing that police personnel would perform their duties in three shifts during Urs celebrations and incharge of every shift would be of SP rank.

Jamaat-e-Islami demands end to forced closure of Peshawar traders after 'Pehiya Jam'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and those leading the rally strongly condemn the torture and forced closure of business by the activists. The violence and damage done by Jamaat workers on the peaceful traders of Peshawar will be counted in the dark days of history.

There is no precedent in the history of compensatory business closure for the failure of the Pehiya Jam strike on September 2 in the whole country and especially in Peshawar. Till date, no political party has adopted such an attitude that the businessmen's rejection of the shutdown call is not seen, done on Political parties do not have the power to announce a shutdown.

Tajran Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President Malik Maher Elahi, Chief Traders Alliance Kpk Ghulam Bilal javid and other members and the zealous businessman of Peshawar demanded that the law enforcement agencies identify such elements through CCTV cameras and social media viral footage and other evidence to the traders. Strict legal action was taken against those who spread harass-

ment, violence and incitement and disturb the peace of the city. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq is also demanded to remove such workers from the party membership at the party level so that such heart-wrenching and shameful incident does not happen in the future. Such irresponsible elites and workers are a cause of disrepute for the political party in the entire country.

violations

ISLAMABAD: A view of the people crossing the busy Kernal Sher Khan Shaheed Road instead of using over head pedestrian bridge, which needs the strict action of the concerned authorities.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Business and Commercial Activities were Suspended in Multan: Khawaja Suliman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Business and commercial activities were suspended in Multan like other cities of the country on the call of Tajran Pakistan, a central organization against the increase in electricity prices and inflation. Traders and citizens also held protests in different areas, markets and markets of the city and burned the electricity bills. A strike was held in Multan on the call of the central trade organization Tajran Pakistan. In this regard, the allied trade organizations also kept their respective markets completely closed and raised slogans against the government in different areas of the city.

Muzaffarabad, Sher Shah Main Bazaar, Multan Cantt, Altamish Road to Mall Road Cantt, Gujjar Khada Altamish Road, Azmat Wasti Road, Dera Ada, Nawan Shahr, Kalma Chowk, Abdali Road, Ghan-ta Ghar, Sharif Plaza, Kachhari Road, Sultan Mobile Plaza, Rahma Centre, Kachhari Road, Babar Cinema, Hussain Awadhi, Main Circular Road, Chowk Bazar Hussain Awadhi, Gali Kamungra Walli, Hussain Awadhi



Auto Market, Daulat Gate, Machli Mandi, Shah Shams Road, Khooni Bridge, Pak Gate, Haram Gate, Sarafa Bazar, Chowk Shaheed Akbar Road, Old Sabz Mandi Chowk Shaheed-an, Urdu Bazar Paper Market, Main Urdu Bazar, Bohar Gate, Kale Mandi, Inner Haram Gate, Inner Bohar Gate, Masoom Shah Road, Chowk Kumhar-nawanwala, MA Jinnah, Road Para Missing, Samijaabad,

40 Foot Road, Gulshan Market New Multan, Shah Rukn Alam T Chowk, Chongi No. 14 Wholesale Cloth Market, Rabi Cloth Market, Ulmaka Plaza Chongi No. 14, Hafiz Jamal Road, Manzoorabad Chowk, Rashidabad, Chongi No. 9, Timber Market, Chah Jammu Wala, Chongi No. 22, Wilayatnabad, Ghala Godam. Faizi Road, Old Shujaabad Road, Faroo-pura Chowk, Qasim Bela, Udadand

Busan, General Bus Stand, 17 Kasi, Vehari Road, Setal Mari, Qadirpur Ran, The business was completely closed in Matitil Road, Fertilizer Factory and a shutter-down strike was held. Traders and citizens also staged protests in different areas, markets and markets of the city against the increase in electricity prices and the resulting inflation.

In this regard, the central demonstration was held in Hussain Agahi which was led by the central chairman, Khawaja Sulaiman Siddiqui. On this occasion, he was accompanied by the central officials, Sheikh Javed Akhtar, Syed Jafar Shah, Sultan Mahmood Malik of Qumi Tajir Etihad, Rana Hashim, Sadiq Thehim. Sheikh Pervez Akhtar, Arif Khan and other business leaders were present. The speakers said that the nation has been pushed into a blind well due to the dictation of the IMF. Bills are being given to those who have modest salaries, in such circumstances, where should small traders, hardworking farmers and small employees go, from whom 16 percent heavy additional taxes are being forcefully collected?

Complete Shutter Down in South Punjab, Shops are Completely Closed: Rao Zafar

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: All over South Punjab, traders and lawyers have gone Shutter Down strike on the appeal of Sirajul Haq to prove that we reject high electricity prices. I congratulate the people of South Punjab for supporting Jamaat-e-Islami and rejecting the elite. Rao Muhammad Zafar Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami South Punjab

The entire nation has rejected inflation and elites. Today there is a shutter down in the entire southern Punjab. On the appeal of Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, complete shutter down in South Punjab like the whole country, shops are completely closed, schools, colleges are also closed in large numbers, lawyers, students, laboring farmers and traders are protesting. Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami South Punjab Rao Muhammad Zafar congratulated the workers on the successful strike



and thanked the traders, lawyers, school associations and people from other walks of life. He further said that everyone is worried about inflation. Electricity is expensive, petrol is expensive, now death has also become expensive.

People get the electricity bill as a trap of death. Elites should change their life style, if the elites imposed on the country will sacrifice along with the nation, peace will be available to the Pakistani nation.

Railway PREM workers protest against steep rise in electricity, gas, water bills



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The workers of Railway PREM Union protested against the severe increase in electricity, gas, water bills & various other commodities at Railway Station where the Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Zonal President Muhammad Asif, Sajid Imran, Basit Shafiq, Rana Shaukat, Babar Nawaz, Tanveer Ahmad, Nooruddin, Noor Ahmad, Javed Ahmad participated in favour of the poor who were not planned to damp down there deprivations at any stage.

In the leadership, a protest was held and in the form of a rally, Siraj-ul-Haq Malik also took part in the protest camp around the Clock Tower in connection with the nationwide strike on the appeal to diminish the financial crises created by the default policies of the government.

Speaking at the protest camp, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry said that through dozens of types of taxes, decoity in so called lawful methodology is being put on the pockets of the poor people every month. He explained that the voices against the drastic increase in electricity bills etc; across the country compelled to raise protests which are getting louder. He expressed that, not only the poor man, but people from all walks of life, including the middle class are worried to the extent of suicide.

He illuminated that the people should stand up against this system of oppression and declare that they will not tolerate this ill system of oppression and exploitation in any way and rise above all kinds of prejudices and unite against the looters who have been occupying the country for last for 76 years. We Will stay for the dignity of Pakistan at any cost.

He mentioned that, supporting oppressors is like participating in oppression. The time has come to free Pakistan from the slaves of colonialism and lay the foundation for real freedom. He further said that the country is suffering from the worst economic crisis and it doesn't take long for the economic crisis to turn into a political crisis. When people's hopes turn into deprivation, their opinions also change, those who raise slogans of long life are forced to say dead. If the rulers fail to control the situation quickly, people will die in harness. They will go to kill themselves or others.

Complete Shutter Down and Closed Markets in Multan District: Dr Safdar Hashmi



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The strike on behalf of Jamaat-e-Islami has sacked the country's elite and so-called politicians. Dr. Safdar Hashmi.

I am grateful to the business organizations of Multan, Anjuman Tajran, who proved to be a nation. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan

On the appeal of Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq today, like the rest of the country, there was a shutter-down in Multan. All the major markets of the city were closed., Nawan Shahr, Auto Plaza Masoom Shah Road, Haram Gate Bazar, Cant Main Bazar Sharif Plaza including small and big business centers were completely shut down. Apart from this, complete shutdown and protests were also organized in Shujabad, Secunderabad, Zarif Shaheed Makhdoom Rashid and Jalalpur Pirwala.

A large number of women as well as students, laborers and farmers also participated in the meeting. Dr. Safdar Hashmi further said that the system of cruelty and injustice can no longer continue. The entire nation is worried. An atmosphere of anarchy is being created in the country. The caretaker government should give up the lives of the princes by burdening the entire nation with IMF loans. The slaves of the IMF are living in London and Europe. PDM, PP and Tehreek-e-Insaaf ruled but burdened the people with debt. These luxurious rulers have bound the nation in the grip of inflation

President JI Youth Imran Gurayash, President Islamic Lawyers Movement Rafi Raza Advocate, Hafiz Aslam, Mian Asif Ikhwan, Khawaja Asim Riya and others were also present on this occasion. Dr. Safdar Hashmi while speaking has added that today the entire Multan is closed like the rest of the country on this peaceful strike in which not a single glass was broken, not a single plant was damaged. The peaceful strike has brought the nation out of the swamp of despair. People are worried but today's strike has given new hope to the nation. Entire Pakistan from Karachi to Chitral is shutter down. Dr. Safdar Hashmi further said that Jamaat-e-Islami is the spokesperson of the nation



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Islamabad City Women's Wing Acting President Professor Nighat Wadud led a protest against inflation and unreasonable increase in electricity and petrol prices at Tarnool, on the instructions of the party leadership.

DS Railway Surprise Visit at Multan Railway Station

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent Railways Multan Division Mahmood Rehman Lakho made a surprise visit to Multan Railway Station on taking charge-made a detailed inspection of the coaches of Zakaria Express, Musa Pak Express and Mehr Express trains including Multan Cantt Station -

According to the details, DS Railway Multan Mahmood Rahman Lakhu during his visit to Multan Railway Station, has made arrangements for lighting, fans, clean water for drinking, benches for sitting, waiting areas, cleaning of track and platforms for the passengers at the station. Other available facilities were also reviewed.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:16 am
Zohr 12:08 pm
Asr 4:43 pm
Maghrib 6:33 pm
Isha 7:59 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Tehreek Tahafuz demands end to electricity tariffs; demands end of IMF

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek Tahafuz Sarkari Mulazmeen F.6 demanded that the price of electricity per unit including taxes should be Rs 28 and said that people are being humiliated by expensive electricity. People are forced to call the state the economic killer of the people. Chairman Tehreek Javed Intizar while addressing the protest meeting of the F-6 Sector members central committee said that the wealthy rulers and state institutions have made the nation an economic slave of the IMF. The IMF is a Front player in the global Great Game. Which weakens the state by increasing the distance between the people and the government by making the developing countries economic slaves. In the protest meeting, the members of the Central Committee F.6 /4 & F.6/1 Saleem Shahzad and Rafiq Ahmed said that we are calling people to come out against oppression. Being silent on oppression is also like supporting oppression.

Saba Trust working for promotion of peace, harmony among peoples of different faiths

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The greatest legacy we can pass on dynasties is not financial wealth or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character, values and faith. Faith is the strongest and most vibrant mechanism to promote peace and harmony amongst global community. We being civilized society empirically recognize and affirms that faith plays a fundamental role in life, values, raiment code of conduct, traditions, customs and overall socialization of each person as a part of the wider community he or she lives in naturally. Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and bridge for cooperation amongst peoples, we are pursuing at Saba Trust relentlessly through conduction of different conferences, seminars and brochures.

We at this forum striving for transformation of a society where human rights and values are upheld at eloquence level, free espousing of religion and expression and promoting cultural tolerance, mutual understanding, cooperation and capacity building measures transforming into violence free community.

Canvas of our life is ahead of us and it



is in our hands either we make it abstract with our wrong doings and decisions or makes it pictorial and scenic with our good deeds and decisions. Almighty Allah declares the human being as one of its best creatures. All human beings are created by Almighty Allah and all are knitted with the thread of brotherhood without discrimination of creed, cost, borders, religions, races, etc.

Foremost they all are human beings and have the equal fundamental rights for survivals in the galaxy.

Spotting the imperative requisites for inter-faith / inter-faith to augment mutual understanding, agreement, harmony collaboration, bridge for cooperation amongst all stakeholders, we by medium of this forum encourages to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship on a voluntary basis and according to their own religious traditions or convictions for ultimate securing peace and harmony in



the world. Interfaith Dialog is a precise sort of interaction between religious and/or spiritual groups intended to build bridges and foster understanding between different and diversified cultural communities. The terms "inter-faith or intra-faith often refer to the process of developing tolerance, promoting peace, projecting human values and humanity and convert the globe fear-free from all sort of coercion and socio-pressure and achieve

liberty and free of espousing religions and expressions. This forum is designed and tailored to curb the sectarian violence, extremism in religions and denominations. The sole purpose of convening of this conclave is to promote inter-faith peace, harmony, mutual understanding and a valiant-efforts for bridge of soliciting and zero tolerance for fundamentalists, flabbergasts and obnoxious designs of extremists.

Clean water

RAWALPINDI: People are filing the drinking water from water filtration plant at Sadiqabad area of the City.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Woking Borough Council calls on minister for tourism to boost tourist influx in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mayor of Woking Borough Council United Kingdom, Muhammad Ilyas Raja along with a delegation called on Minister of State for Tourism/Chairman PTDC Wasi Shah at his office at PTDC Headquarters here on Friday. The delegation included Mr Sabir Hussain, a businessman by profession and Mr Saifulah Saif Editor in Chief Daily Markaz. Wasi Shah appreciated the services of Muhammad Ilyas Raja, The Mayor of Woking Borough Council United Kingdom and termed him a pride of Pakistan. The Mayor lauded the efforts of Mr. Wasi Shah he has initiated for promotion of tourism in the country.



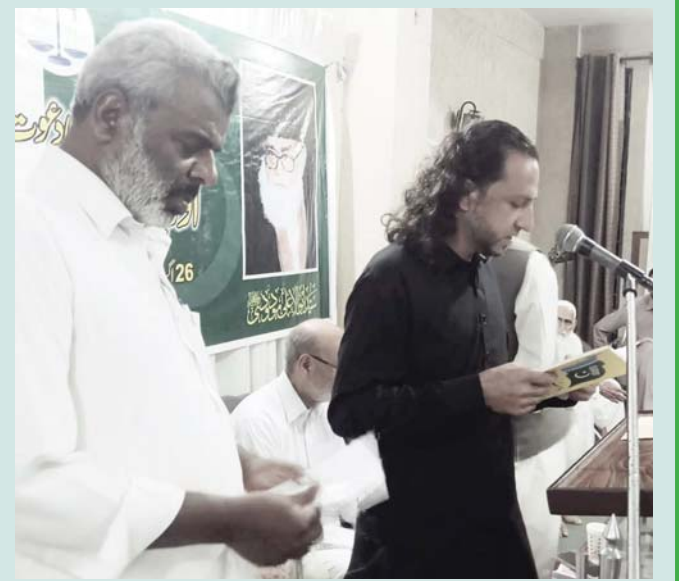
He hoped that the commitment of Minister of State Wasi Shah would take the tourism to all time high and assured him his full cooperation in his capacity as Mayor of Woking Borough, Surrey UK. Wasi Shah thanked the delegation and hoped that foreign investors would take advantage of investment opportunities being extended by the

Caretaker Federal Government in Pakistan.

Mayor of Woking Borough Council, Surrey, UK Mr. Muhammad Ilyas Raja also informed that UK has established toilets and dustbins at every tourist destination and spots so that the tourist could be facilitated and suggested that the same facilities may

be provided for tourists visiting tourist destinations and far flung areas of Pakistan for exploring them. He added that the scenic and beautiful tourist spots of AJK & Pakistan has no match. Wasi Shah, while mentioning his recent visit to Gilgit Baltistan, added that the relevant authorities and district administration had been directed to provide all necessary facilities to the tourists in scenic Northern areas of Pakistan. He stressed that practical measures are being taken to welcome & facilitate tourists visiting Pakistan.

He informed the delegation about the investment opportunities in Tourism Sector of Pakistan and especially Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan.



Amir Jamaat-e-Islami PP 20 Mohammad Saqat Siddiqui is taking the oath of membership of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan on the day of establishment from former Deputy Secretary Information of Jamaat-e-Islami Youth Pakistan Yasir Ali Janjua.

Ali Geelani unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri cause is a shining example: Mushaal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has lauded Syed Ali Geelani's unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri cause as a shining example for future generations. She emphasized that his sacrifices will forever be etched in our memory, highlighting Geelani's resilience against Indian atrocities and occupation forces.

Speaking at an event organized by Friends of Kashmir and Kashmir Media Service to commemorate the second anniversary of the Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani, Mushaal Mullick drew parallels between his life and that of a Sufi. She likened his dedication to the elevation of Sufism and Islam to the life of Baba Balhe Shah, emphasizing that Syed Ali Geelani's entire life was a testament to his unwavering struggle.

Mushaal Mullick reminded everyone of Geelani's endurance in the face of hardships, including imprisonment in Indian jails, where he remained steadfast in his commitment to the Kashmir cause. She also expressed dismay at India's refusal to allow proper last rites for the senior Kashmiri leader, fearing that it would desecrate his body and deny the Kashmiri nation the chance to bid farewell to their great benefactor.



Noorani Foundation Akhuwat School students set a new academic benchmark

City Desk

LAHORE: The students of The Noorani Foundation-Akhuwat School, a not for profit, in Faisalabad have set a remarkable milestone, achieving outstanding results in the 9th-grade board exams.

Performing high above the results of all-well-established private schools in Faisalabad, 48 students of the school appeared in the Board Exams, with a hundred percent pass rate, and 42 students scoring grade A+, and 6 students scoring grade A.

Indeed, this academic success is a validation that The Noorani

Foundation's innovative approach of building low cost boarding schools is yielding superior results. The Noorani Foundation was established in 2019 tonot only bridge the education gap in Pakistan, particularly for the most marginalized communities, but to transform the students through the education and mentoring that can only be provided at a boarding school.

"We are immensely proud of our students' academic performance in the recent board exams. This success showcases the potential that exists within every child, waiting simply to be nurtured and given equal opportunity.

At The Noorani Foundation, recognizing the crucial role education plays in empowering individuals and uplifting communities is at the very heart of what we do. By providing quality education and holistic development opportunities, we aim not only to empower individual students but also to break the cycle of poverty and inequality," said Mr. Tasneem Noorani, Founder of The Noorani Foundation.

The Noorani Foundation was founded on the principles of equity, compassion, and education. Inspired by the Akhu-

wat Foundation's philosophy of interest-free microfinance, The Noorani Foundation provides high-quality education to children who lack access due to financial constraints by providing almost 100% scholarships to all students and covering all their room and board expenses. What started as a small initiative has evolved into a full-fledged educational institution, providing a model that can be scaled and replicated throughout the country.

Indeed, the recent success of The Noorani Foundation Akhuwat School's 9th-grade students in the board exams stands as a



testament to the effectiveness of the Foundation's approach. The Noorani Foundation is currently building a second branch of the school in Swabi, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

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 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

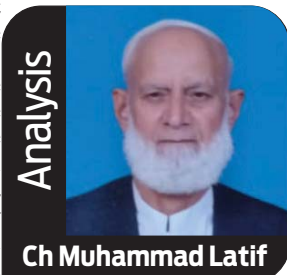
Water Management vital for stability of Pakistan

It is a recognized principle "Those who want to govern must know to listen". Experts on water management have all along been expressing their valuable ideas in the print media. Climate hazards have also been highlighted. The change of pattern of rains has caused havoc in last year flood. There is no denying the fact that conservation of water resources of the country is pre condition for food security. The incumbent PDM government is faced with shortage of food commodities and their price hike despite the fact that we have predominantly an agrarian economy. The PDM government has assigned the major role to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister to face economic challenges. Whereas, the gigantic responsibility necessitates a team effort. Luckily the coalition government stands represented by most of the major political elements of the country with considerable experience and collective wisdom with common political fate and future. The country needs a government which could generate consensus of the political leadership to address the issue of Kalabagh Dam. In our view Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, head of PDM, enjoy the support of his devotees in all provinces. He has sound footing in Baluchistan and KPK. If he makes it a mission to launch a movement for construction of the said vital dam he has the acumen and skill of dealing with political leaders.

inly struggling for good governance, to improve and reform the economy of country, and provide maximum relief to common man. He has developed admirable relations with comity of nations. It is also just and logical to admit that major decisions made by coalition government in this short span of their rule were launched without adequate homework, planning and without taking into confidence the stakeholders and also without appreciating the existing administrative structure available to the government. The sudden directive of Free Atta Scheme during the holy month of Ramzan is an example costing 89 billion of rupees. They could have supplemented the already available Cheap Atta Scheme in the field as the clientele was the same. So the outcome was not as had been envisaged. With the change of global climate, technology, and political scenario, the developing nations have to be updated to coup with unforeseen vistas. The old traditional mode of governance has to be reviewed. The annual tree plantation ceremonies should be replaced with new projects of water management with the same provision of funds. Each forest enclosure should undertake construction of lakes which could meet water requirements in addition to facilitating fire fighting in forest fires and conservation of water.

Alarming fires in Algeria and some other countries are eye openers. There has been colossal loss of life and infrastructure in addition to wildlife. There is a boom of housing schemes with consequent need of tubewells. So there should be a directive for all housing schemes to manage water resources in their respective catchment areas. We have a substantial potential of saving water by huge gathering of Tablighi Jamiat whose volunteers have proved to be effective in maintaining law and order without any help of government agency. They can save water and use it for tree plantation, vegetables and vegetation. Saving and raising fruit trees are perfectly in consonance with Islamic teachings. If they modify their mandate and undertake participation in social welfare activities and help the nation in fighting with the havoc of calamities like floods, earthquakes etc. They can surpass any welfare and charitable organization due to their ideal discipline. The expert studies reveal that we have only water storing capacity of 14 million hectares of water out of 145 million hectares available. The unforeseen and unexpected over flow of flood water release by India in 3 rivers namely Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej should be treated as a wind-fall instead of taking it as water terror-

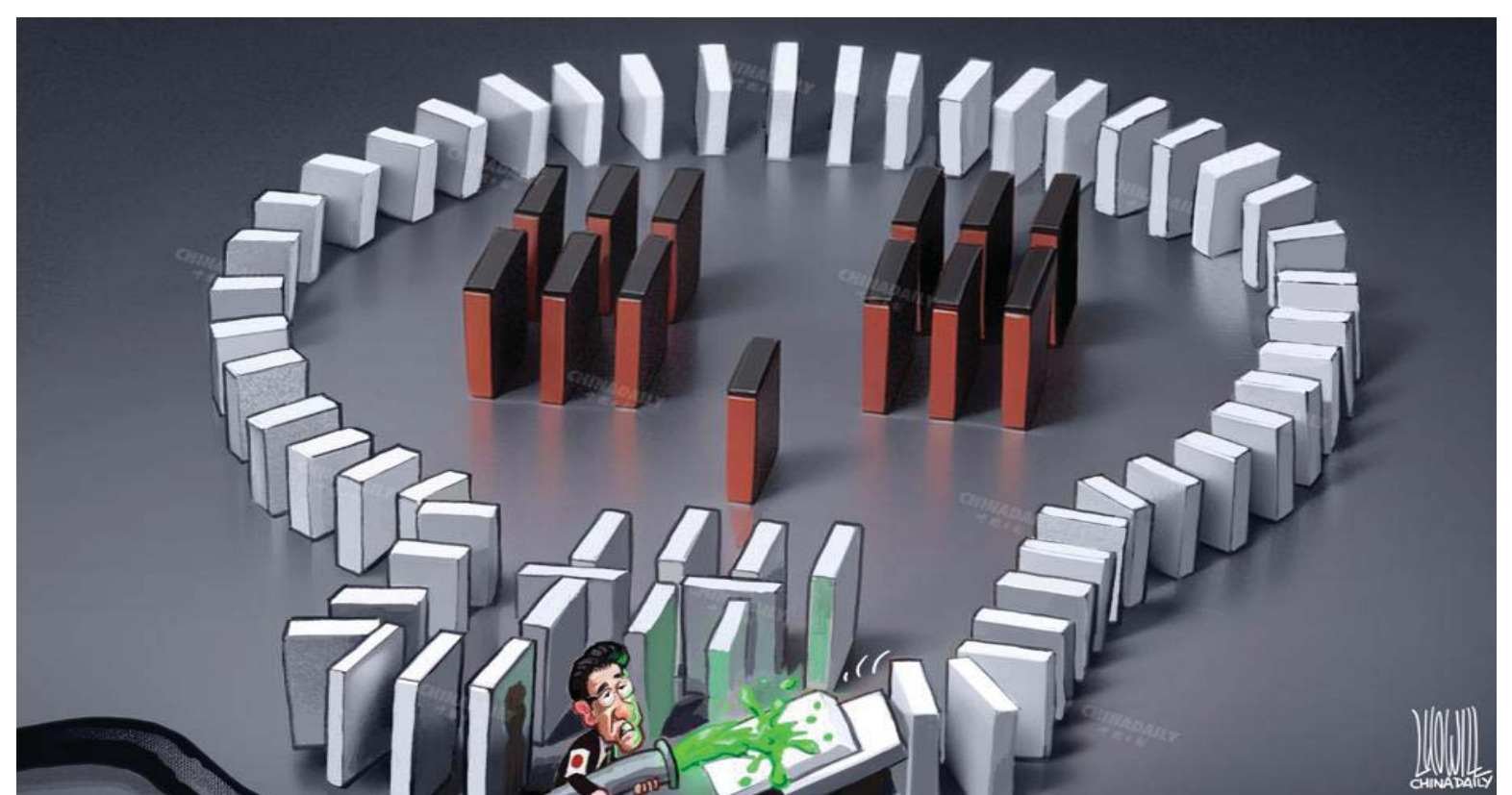
ism. Why we cannot undertake studies to manage the additional source of water. The budget allocation for flood relief and rehabilitation should be diverted to save aforesaid 3 rivers surplus water and utilize for our agrarian objectives. Every year the people of Bahawalpur eagerly await the arrival of Sutlej river. Four years back when the Sutlej overflowed its banks people were jubilant and threw flowers into the river near Empress Bridge. The issue here lies in India's high-handedness whereby it has deprived the dry regions known as Cholistan, Rohi from its due share of water. India has constructed the world's second largest dam on Sutlej river through which the eastern regions of Pakistan yearn for even a drop of this water. We must insist that Sutlej river flows its original course which passes through Cholistan. Secondly our objection could be that India must not discharge polluted water from its industries as it damages the environment, pollutes underground water, and spreads dangerous diseases such as cancer and bone deformities. At the same time we should commence micro level water saving projects such as roof rain water as has been done by the several countries of the world like France and USA. In rural regions small nullahs should be converted into mini dams and lakes.



Analysis

Ch Muhammad Latif

The writer is retired Additional Chief Secretary AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.



Pakistan's top service enterprises participate in CIFTIS in Beijing

Pakistan's prominent service-oriented enterprises showcased their accomplishments at the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) opened here on Saturday. Pakistani firms including Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NET-SOL, ISBEI, National Bank of Pakistan, National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises and others set up their booths at Pakistan Pavilion to attract Chinese investors. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque officially inaugurated the pavilion. The representatives of the companies attended the inaugural ceremony. "For the first time, we have a meaningful participation of Pakistan's top service-oriented companies which briefed visiting enterprises about the incentives and investment-friendly environment in Pakistan," Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Ghulam Qadir told APP. He said that the response of the people was phenomenal and wonderful as they thronged to the Pakistani pavilion and were briefed by the representatives of the companies specializing in IT, telecommunications, logistics and traveling, and financial services. "It is beginning and hoped that more services companies would come to China and attend in the similar events in China and build business relations with the Chinese counterparts," he added. Ghulam Qadir said that the traders of handicrafts have also set up their stalls at the pavilion and displayed their products which attracted a lot of customers. He expressed confidence that the participation of Pakistani companies would help enhance trade between the two countries and increase the regional connectivity. Themed "openness leads development, cooperation creates a win-win future," the fair takes place in the Chinese capital from September 2 to 6. As the world's sole state-level and comprehensive fair with international reach dedicated to trade in services, the event has attracted more than 2,400 enterprises to participate in its offline exhibition, including over 500 global top 500 and industry-leading companies. With an exhibition area spanning 155,000 square meters, the 2023 CIFTIS features a comprehensive exhibition along with nine thematic ones, covering industries ranging from culture and tourism, education and health to finance, environment, telecommunications, computing and information. The exhibitors are from 59 countries and regions as well as 24 international organizations.

Nation is hopeful from capabilities of Current Technocrat Government - IV

Her illustrious career includes being the 14th Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, serving as a senior adviser to the then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations, and assuming the role of Vice-President of the World Bank. Furthermore, she held the position of the 10th Chief Secretary of the Monetary and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2013. Jalil Abbas Jilani is a highly experienced diplomat who has taken up the role of Interim Foreign Affairs Minister today. With a notable career, he served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the USA and held the position of Secretary of Foreign Affairs for an extended period. His legacy is marked by adept diplomatic thinking and skills, and he has contributed to Pakistan's interests for 36 years as a dedicated career diplomat. Vice Admiral Iftekhar Ahmed Rao (Retd) has been appointed as the Minister for Maritime Affairs, bringing four decades of expertise to this pivotal role. With a distinguished career encompassing shipboard command, naval aviation, and strategic leadership, Vice Admiral Rao's experience is poised to shape Pakistan's maritime landscape. His extensive on-board and ship command experience, combined with his role as a naval aviator, equips him with a comprehensive understanding of maritime operations. Notably, his role as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) highlights his strategic acumen and dedication to advancing naval capabilities. Furthermore, Vice Admiral Rao's active involvement in the Gwadar Port Implementation Committee during its formative phase underscores his commitment to foster-

ing maritime infrastructure development. His contributions to the initial stages of the Gwadar Port Project have played a pivotal role in its evolution. As Managing Director of Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works, Vice Admiral Rao's leadership has been pivotal in orchestrating its successful turnaround. His dynamic approach to maritime engineering and management has been instrumental in shaping the shipyard's trajectory. Jawad Sohrab Malik, Chairman and CEO of the Sohrab Foundation, stands at the crossroads of business and politics. With a background in former Premier Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet, Malik hails from a distinguished political and business lineage based in Islamabad. His familial ties to Mohammed Mian Soomro, a prominent figure in Pakistani politics, add depth to his influence. Ahad Cheema, a retired civil servant, emerged as a visionary leader from humble agricultural origins. Known for his role as CEO of Quaid-i-Azam Thermal Power Company (QATPC) under the Punjab government, Cheema's tenure extended into Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet. His adept management and dedication were pivotal in the success of the "Parha Likh Punjab" initiative, supported by the World Bank. Her name has become synonymous with advocacy and resilience. Serving as the Chairman of Peace and Culture from Indian Occupied Kashmir, Malik has been resolute in her quest to champion peace, vehemently voicing her opposition against acts of Indian aggression. A fervent advocate for freedom and justice, she is also celebrated as a prominent craft revivalist, dedicated to safeguarding the rights of the marginalised. With a distinguished career spanning aviation, industrial management, diplomacy, and negotiations, Air Marshal (retd) Farhat Hussain Khan brings a wealth of expertise to the fore. His tenure includes serving as Pakistan's Air Attaché in New Delhi, India, a role that underscored his diplomatic acumen. Upon retiring, Khan embarked on a remarkable journey of shaping Pakistan's aircraft manufacturing sector, collaborating with a civilian partner in the private domain. At the helm of Scaled Aviation Pvt Ltd, the nation's inaugural and sole aircraft manufacturing venture, he has ushered in a new era of aerospace development within Pakistan. Caretaker Advisor on Education Syeda Arfa Zehra is an educationist. Zehra is an author and historian. She is a former principal of the Lahore College for Women University. She was a chairperson on the National Commission on the Status of Women. She also served as caretaker minister in Punjab cabinet once. Being recognised for her knowledge on the Urdu language and literature she holds command on South Asian social issues, in Pakistan particular. Readers, off Course Pakistan is passing through a difficult time. Pakistan has never seen so many crises in its history which the country is facing these days including political, security, economic, judicial and social crises. But the problem that has become very serious and disturbing for every Pakistani is that of economy. This is the prob-

Electricity bills not big problem; it is being exaggerated

The news broadcast on TV channels has left millions of Pakistanis, including me, in astonishment regarding the electricity bills. Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar stated, "The issue of electricity bills is being addressed intensively." This statement comes after protests over electricity bills on the streets a few days ago, and the Concerned Prime Minister had called for an emergency meeting. Meanwhile, social media is abuzz with discussions about which classes or institutions in Pakistan receive electricity subsidies or lower rates. It is clear that continuous increases in electricity rates, including fuel adjustments and various factors, have led to widespread protests across the country after higher-than-expected electricity bills. Following these protests, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar announced on social media that he has called for an emergency meeting on the issue of heavy electricity bills. This meeting will include briefings from the Ministry of Electricity and distribution companies, and consultations with consumers regarding providing relief on electricity bills. Furthermore, it has been announced that relief will be provided to the public within the next 48 hours. All necessary paperwork for this relief has been completed. Despite discontinuing the supply of free electricity, the public may not receive relief until we bring electricity tariffs in line with the PTI government and eliminate the 13 unauthorized and illegal taxes in the bills. If we go back a year and compare the situation to the present, it becomes evident that the PTI government made successful policies by contracting with companies like 'IPP' to break away from producing electricity. Now, due to abandoning those old contracts and aligning with the IMF, privately produced electricity has become expensive for us to buy. We won't delve into who owns these private electricity-producing companies, whether they are domestic or foreign, or who benefits from them. We are lamenting why we are forced to buy electricity at high prices due to these unjust policies. If there are contracts, why is the blood of the people being squeezed due to

these oppressive policies? During the past year, the rate of inflation has increased, and arbitrary increases in electricity and oil prices have left the common citizen financially strained. Now, in such circumstances, the statement by the Concerned Prime Minister that 'the issue of electricity bills is being addressed intensively' is like adding salt to the wounds. To use the words of Karl Marx, which our friend Alavi shared, these words are for the elite who have only seen heat and cold through their windows and learned poverty solely from books: 'They are people who cannot think about the problems of the common people.' Freedom of the press was already suppressed, and now the Concerned Government has taken a step ahead of the outgoing government. Orders have been issued that news about protests and strikes over electricity prices will not be shown on TV channels, and the headlines in the first three headlines will not display the high cost of electricity. In this advanced era of social media, the organized TV channels have already been abandoned by the public. Such regulations have resulted in a loss of respect and esteem for the Concerned Government in the eyes of the Pakistani people. In short The recent statement by the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan regarding the electricity bill issue has sparked considerable debate and frustration among the public. In his statement, the Prime Minister dismissed the concerns raised by citizens about rising electricity bills, describing it as "a storm in a teacup" or a minor issue blown out of proportion. This response has left many citizens feeling unheard and dissatisfied with the government's handling of the matter. Public reactions to the Prime Minister's statement were swift and passionate. Frustrated citizens took to the streets in peaceful protests, demanding transparency in electricity billing, fair pricing, and a more empathetic approach from the government. These protests served as a powerful reminder of the role of civic engagement in holding political leaders accountable. Now 25 crore people will decide whether the problem of high electricity rates is real or just being exaggerated, not by a single person.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Rahmatan Lil 'Alamiin's universal values emphasized in embracing multiculturalism

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A lively session of the Online Internship Program "Contemporary Dynamics of Indonesia" had an interesting an enlightening discussion on "Commitment to Islam Rahmatan Lil 'Alamiin". Renowned Indonesian scholar Dr. Dicky Sofjan from the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) Yogyakarta, was the speaker at this session of the OIP which is a collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy and the Bahria University Islamabad.

The session discussed the contemporary challenges Muslims were facing in the ever growing multicultural world. It also shed light on the issue of tolerance, pluralism, inclusion, Islamophobia and tendencies of extremism and how Muslims embrace the change and engage with people from various culture and with different world view under the guiding principles of Wasatiyah and Islamic universal values of Rahmatanlilalamin.

"As a religion of peace, the beauty of Islam is in its universal appeal for the entire mankind with its guiding principles of moderation in life and rejection of prejudices based on race, caste and creed" the speaker said while sharing his thoughts.

Dr. Dicky Sofjan highlighted Indonesia's mega biodiversity, rich culture, and diverse traditions, including 700 psycholinguistic groups and over 400 local indigenous belief systems. Islam is the predominant religion, alongside Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Indonesia is not an Islamic state but has "Pancasila" as its state ideology and philosophical basis, making it a diverse and multicultural country, he added.

The speaker emphasized the importance of respecting and appreciating various worldviews, stating that Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad is sent as a mercy and blessing to the Multiverse and that these teachings are relevant to contemporary contexts. "The Islamic universal doctrine of



Rahmatan Lil 'Alamiin's needs to be contextualized in the broader understanding that the world is moving towards a multicultural society with increasing diversity of world views becoming a reality" the speaker shared his insight.

Dr. Dicky Sofjan discussed how

homogenous country like Japan was becoming multicultural due to increasing acceptance of Islam, similar to the other changes occurring in the UK and USA in line with the growing multiculturalism.

The speaker while discussing the concepts of tolerance, pluralism and inclusion dismissing that they were creating misconception that all religions were the same. He explained that tolerance embraces differences and pluralism acknowledges that people's experiences are influenced by their environment, upbringing, and ethnic identity. He also underlined the importance of inclusion in social interactions, politics, and economy, arguing that extreme views cause conflict.

While discussing pluralism, he also cited examples of differences within Islam and other religions like Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. He said that the main challenge was engaging people who may be different in fundamental values, rituals, and practices arguing that studying religion

and multiculturalism can help develop better understanding among people of different world views.

Dr. Dicky Sofjan attributed the rise in anti-Islamic sentiments to religious illiteracy and mistrust towards Muslims' ability to embrace modernity and engage with others. He stressed the importance of good character in displaying Islam, stating that discrimination and stereotyping hinder the development of understanding and integration of Muslims globally.

"One of the toughest question we face is that why Muslims were economically backward, undemocratic, without technology innovation and at the lowest rankings in all indexes be it GDP, investment, education, health or financial systems" the speaker lamented.

Sharing his thoughts on the rise of the internet and digital world, he said that social media is transforming our lives in both positive and negative ways. Social media has led to negative fragmentation of religious communities

with people learning Islam from the internet rather than authentic sources, he added.

"Big data analytics, machine learning with robotics, and artificial intelligence have also been used to propagate certain world views and as we move towards a multicultural world, the world becomes even more polarized causing frictions and competitions both online and offline" Dr. Dicky Sofjan said while mentioning another emerging unique and complex challenge.

As the people are coming across new cultures and ideologies, the speaker emphasized the importance of being Muslims and the significance of Islam in preventing nihilism and the notion of no meaning of life. He urged on the need for Muslims to appreciate diversity and be kind and empathic towards others who may be different from them. He stressed the need for strategic actions and propagation and avoid being unmindful of emerging realities and challenges.

Diplomatic Reception

KARACHI: The caretaker Minister of Home and Prison, Bring (rt) Haris Nawaz in a group photo with Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Kuncoro Hadiningrat during the event "Diplomatic Reception" organized by the Consulate General of Indonesia at Pearl Continental Hotel.



Xinhua sends team overseas to report on Belt and Road construction, achievements



Xinhua

URUMQI: A reporting team from Xinhua News Agency on Saturday departed from Horgos Port in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to report on the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as this year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI. The team plans to visit 15 overseas countries, including Kazakhstan, Türkiye, Germany, and Portugal, and report along the way. News report in various forms, such as articles, posters, documentaries, short videos, vlogs, and livestreaming, will be produced, and the team also plans to conduct BRI-themed exchange activities.

The reporting trip aims to present audiences with the history, culture, and customs of overseas countries and domestic regions along the Belt and Road and show people a picture of cooperation and joint development in the economy, culture, education, and healthcare since the BRI was launched.

The team started from the Chongqing Municipality in southwest China on July 26. It has covered stories of prevention and control of desertification, gas transmission, and other subjects in areas along the way inside China, including Shaanxi, Ningxia, Gansu, and Xinjiang. Technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) have been applied during the reporting.

China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013. In the following three consecutive years from 2014, Xinhua News Agency sent reporters to conduct interviews in nearly 30 countries along the Belt and Road.



CANADA: Malik Sohail Hussain Secretary General Islamabad Industrial Association IIA, USPICC & PWCTA & Chief Coordinator UBG with Saddique Sheikh Chairman & Founder President USPICC, Mr Najeeb Choudary Board Member USPICC and Sajjad Ahmed Choudary Prominent Pakistan American Businessmen. Called on Esperanza Gomez Jelalian Executive Director Asia US Chamber of Commerce Washington DC.

23rd ITCN Asia 2023: Caretaker Govt Committed To Promoting IT Sector: Dahga

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker federal and provincial governments are committed to promoting the IT sector across the country to support the vision of the Special Facilitation Investment Council (SFIC) for strengthening the economy.

This was stated by Younus Dahga, Minister for Finance, Planning, Development and Revenue — Government of Sindh, while talking exclusively to the media on Saturday at the concluding day of the 23rd ITCN Asia: Declaring Pakistan The Regional Hub.

The IT sector is one of the crucial sectors in addressing the country's issues of macroeconomic indicators, including bringing in precious foreign exchange to the country, generation of entrepreneurship, creation of jobs, and enhancing financial inclusion in the country.

The caretaker provincial government will focus on digitization and automation within the governance to expedite the facilitation to the masses, enhancing transparency in the processes to control corruption and delays in the system.

The provincial minister said the business deals with foreign and local companies at 23rd ITCN Asia are a testament to the potential of the IT sector and the resilience of the local economy to address its challenges.

Umair Nizam, Vice President of E-commerce Gateway, said the ITCN Asia proved to be a tremendous economic activity in the country, which generated an estimated business deals of \$110 million among IT and IT-enabled companies.

More than 450 organizations participated in the event, which was supported by the Ministry of IT & Telecom, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and the Pakistan IT Industry Association (P@SHA). ITCN also hosted various conferences on cybersecurity, e-commerce, fintech, digital education, gaming, etc.



Karachi Slush'D hosts a fireside chat between Spotify and Coke Studio

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The recently concluded Slush'D event in Karachi included a much-anticipated fireside chat between Khan FM, Spotify's Artist and Label Partnerships Manager for Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, and Zeeshan Haider Sikander, Coke Studio Manager for Coca-Cola in Eurasia and Middle East. Representing two of the most loved music brands in the country, the two individuals discussed a wide variety of topics including the impacts that collaborative efforts of Spotify and Coke Studio have had on revolutionizing a traditional music space.

Having officially entered Pakistan in 2021, Spotify has taken a rich and evolving music scene up several notches through numerous initiatives. Shedding light on some of these offerings and their influence on artists and listeners alike, Khan FM noted how Spotify has put the power in the hands of creators and audiences themselves. During the discussion, Khan highlighted some incredible talents like Hassan & Roshan, Taha G,



Maanu, and Hassan Raheem who have become household names in Pakistan today, and how Spotify has given them the platform to go beyond the barriers.

"Spotify is allowing artists to carve a legitimate profession out of a passion project, i.e. music," said Khan FM. "By giving access to real-time listenership data through Spotify for Artists, a unique platform that makes music management and reach enhancement simpler, we are enabling artists to determine exactly where their audiences are, the tracks that they are enjoying, and what their expectations for the future are. To top that, we have programs like Fresh Finds, RADAR, and EQUAL that have and continue to take indie artists

to new heights".

Khan FM underlined how piracy used to be one of the biggest competitors for any artist trying to make their mark in the industry. In the olden days, the notion that music should be readily available without regard to cost detrimentally impacted many artists' careers. Today, Spotify is moving people away from this preconceived ideology. To combat piracy effectively, the music streaming service offers a swifter, more interactive, and highly personalized platform where artists know every single detail about their listeners across 180 markets.

"Coke Studio celebrates our culture and heritage through music that shapes the Pakistani identity for the youth. It showcases our musical talent and diversity to the world," said Zeeshan Sikander. "Coke Studio is the emotional soundtrack to the Pakistani identity in over 150 countries, with a library of over 250 songs and 300 artists that have generated over 4 billion views across seasons; and has become the country's biggest cultural export

ILO and All Pakistan Labour Federation join hands to protect safety and health of mine workers

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Pakistan (ILO News) – Ratification of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Safety and Health in Mines Convention will ensure the rights of Pakistan's 300,000 mine workers, participants at a consultative workshop, supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in Quetta, Baluchistan, concluded.

Representatives of government departments, workers' and employers' organizations, examined ways to promote occupational safety and health in mines at consultation, organized by the All-Pakistan Labour Foundation (APLF) and Pakistan Central Mines Labour Federa-

tion (PCLMF).

The participants agreed to intensify the campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention No. 176, to ensure workplace safety and social security coverage for Pakistan's mine workers. 34 countries have so far ratified Convention 176 which came into force in 1995, but not Pakistan.

"The ratification of Convention 176 is central to achieving decent work in a sector that is particularly prone to accidents and injuries. It is an essential tool for resolving the challenge of occupational safety and health in Pakistan's mining industry," said Geir Tonstol, Country Director of ILO in Pakistan.

He further recalled that a significant proportion of work-

ers in Pakistan's mining sector, especially casual labourers, are not able to access social protection, as they are not recognized as mine employees. "I am encouraged by the initiative of our social partners to establish a trade union platform of action on OSH in mines here in Baluchistan. The ILO is committed to providing the technical assistance required to create safer, healthier, and more inclusive workplaces for all," added Geir Tonstol.

Lala Sultan Khan, President of APLF, welcomed participants and highlighted the challenges faced by mine workers, and called for joint actions using Trade Union Platforms, such as those in Baluchistan. "It's crucial

to have a thorough understanding of the country's mining operations. Regular provincial and federal consultations are overdue to address mining sector challenges and enhance worker safety," emphasized Sultan Khan.

Mines in Pakistan employ around 300,000 workers and contribute significantly to the GDP of the country. Accidents and injuries are reported every year. Workers at mining sites in Pakistan are often not provided with appropriate skills training to execute the work allocated to them, and they are unaware of potential hazards. In June 2022, the International Labour Conference took a historic step by incorporating "a safe and healthy working environment"



into the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work.

Pakistan Energy Exhibition & Conference-PEEC 2023



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Energy Exhibition & Conference PEEC Lahore offering a very accessible and effective market place with opportunities for business and a platform for networking.

PEEC 2023 has four focus sections: Oil & Gas; Power Technology; Smart Energy & Coal showcasing solutions for Energy Industry, mainly Petroleum, Exploration & Production, Power Generation, Electrical Equipment, Alternate Energy Solutions (focusing on Renewable Energy through Solar,



Wind, Bio-Gas Sectors.

PEEC 2023 will open its door to facilitate around 200+ International and local Exhibitors and it will be attended by over 8000 visitors in its 3 days of inception. In which exhibitors will be showcasing their solutions to the government officials and business stakeholders to create awareness about their products and secure good business.

The Exhibition is supported by Board of Investment (Prime Minister's Office)-BOI, Private Power & Infrastructure Board-PIIB, Energy Department (Government of Sindh), Solar Energy Trade Union Pakistan - SETUP, Renewable Energy Association Pakistan - REAP, Pakistan LPG Marketers Association - PLPGMA, Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association - PDA, CNG Dealers Association, -CNGDA, All Pakistan CNG Association - APCNGA, Shanghai Steel Tube Industry Association.

The exhibition will be highlighting Smart Mobility for Smart, Sustainable, Connected and Integrated mobility solutions of products to overcome energy sector crisis.

Conference:

The one-day Conference scheduled on 16th September 2023 on "Fueling the Future: The Energy Mix in the new Normal" will discuss on key areas like Financing Mechanism to Support off-take of Solar PV in the Corporate Sector, Wind Curtailment issues in Pakistan: Challenges & the Way Forward, along with The Future of Energy Transition & In the direction of Zero Carbon Emissions: presenting both Challenges & Opportunities.

The Global Energy Conference is supported by Sustainable Development Policy Institute - SDPI and will be honored by numerous Government organizations and its representative, private sector & academia as well.

ICCI and IBECHS sign MoU to establish a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in Capital

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society (IBECHS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Expo Centre in the Federal Capital. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI and Shujaat Ullah Qureshi, Secretary, IBECHS signed the MoU in a ceremony held in a local hotel.

Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Mehmood, President, Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society said that by establishing an Expo Center in the Federal Capital, we would be discharging an important national responsibility. He said that the Expo Centre is the backbone of an economy and a joint venture between ICCI and IBECHS for this important project would go a long way in improving the economy. He said that this project would make the region a hub of business activities. He stressed the value addition of products to boost exports and revive the economy. He thanked ICCI for signing a MoU with IBECHS for this key project and assured that his organization is ready to start more projects with ICCI on a



joint venture basis.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that joint venture between ICCI and IBECHS is a step in the right direction to improve the economy as the Expo Centre would showcase the exportable products of Pakistan and boost exports. He said that China and Turkey have increased their exports and tourism by organizing expos and hoped that this expo center

would also help enhance exports and tourism in Pakistan.

Shujaat Ullah Qureshi, Secretary, IBECHS said that their society is located at an ideal place and many new development projects would be completed here. He was optimistic that the expo center would open up many new avenues for promotion of business, investment and exports.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI

said that ICCI has been making efforts since long for the establishment of a new industrial estate in the region and it would like to work with IBECHS for materialization of this important project.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that the joint venture between ICCI and IBECHS is a great step for the revival of the economy. He said that Pakistan has great potential to boost exports and hoped that the expo center would contribute positively towards achieving this goal.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that reduction in taxes on real estate would boost foreign remittances and FDI in Pakistan and stressed that the government should take measures in this regard. He said the expo center would also showcase the potential of exportable products of the defence sector and increase their exports. He said that ICCI would also like to set up JVs with IBECHS for many other projects including hospital, university, college etc.

Khalid Javed, former President ICCI congratulated ICCI and IBECHS for signing MoU for the expo center as it would be very beneficial for the local economy.

CSR activities

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Technologies organized a clean green Pakistan walk and tree plantation in Rose and Jasmine Garden, Islamabad. Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud was also present on the occasion and planted a tree.



Get Ready for Asia Cup with Zong 4G's trivia contest

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As Cricket Season kicks off this year with the much-awaited Asia Cup, Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading digital provider, is gearing up to give its subscribers the chance to win up to 2 GB of free data! This exciting trivia contest is sure to satisfy your cricket fever through fun polls, elevating your cricket experience.

During each of Pakistan's matches in the Asia Cup, you can guess the answers to fun questions like who scored the most runs or took the most wickets and stand a chance to win a generous 2 GB of free data, valid for 24 hours! To make it even more challenging, this opportunity is only for the first 5 individuals who answer correctly. It's a thrilling race against time, adding to the excitement of the match!



The official spokesperson for Zong 4G said, "Zong 4G is excited to show its love for cricket through this incredibly enjoyable and engaging trivia. We are ready to celebrate every victory by giving 2GB of data to all winners!" Don't miss the chance to be a part of the most exhilarating competition on social media. Simply follow Zong 4G on Facebook and keep an eye out for the trivia questions to pop up during Pakistan's matches in the Asia Cup starting from their anticipated face-off against India on Saturday, 2nd September.

Enabling 'Islamic First' mindset and opting for Islamic mechanisms crucial

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can transform its external debts, by opting for Islamic financial modes of IMF and World Bank, and domestic debts, through mechanisms like Mudarabah, Musharakah, and Murabaha, provided that the necessary steps are taken in a timely manner and strict priorities are set by the legal authorities. Along with this, enabling an 'Islamic First' mindset at state and organizational levels is crucial

to establish an Islamic economic system.

This was emphasized by Ahmad Ali Siddiqui, director, Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance, IBA, senior executive vice president & head, Product Development and Shariah Compliance (PDSC), Meezan Bank, and secretary for Shariah Supervisory Board, Meezan Bank, during a detailed presentation and discussion on 'Road Map for Conversion towards Islamic Financial System in Islamic Republic of

Pakistan: Enabling Mindset and Strategies', held with IPS' research team associated with the Institute's economy desk. The session was moderated by Naufil Shahrukh, IPS' GM Operations.

The talk was aimed at understanding the status quo, exploring the required legal measures for the development of the Islamic Financial System in Pakistan, and forging a strategic roadmap with recommendations for converting the financial system into a complete interest-free

system.

In his talk, Siddiqui discussed the importance of adopting an 'Islamic First' mindset and having strong political will to bring about desired changes. He highlighted the need for the government to transform government-owned financial institutions, schemes, and instruments into Shariah-compliant ones, such as National Savings and Treasury bills to sukuk. Siddiqui also pointed out the feasibility of converting external debt to Shariah-compliant forms,

given that the World Bank and IMF accept such financial modes. He explained methods for Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to convert their debts and suggested that conventional banks could easily transition to Islamic ones with a coordinated effort by the State Bank and SECP, supported by legal and regulatory frameworks, comprehensive acts, laws, and Islamic banking courts. Encouraging bank conversion through incentives and tax benefits for consumers was proposed.

News Desk

LAHORE: The business community, under the banner of the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), held peaceful protest rallies against the soaring cost of living, including higher fuel and utility bills and record depreciation of the rupee against the dollar, which has led to widespread discontent among the trade and industry.

The protest rallies against the inflated power bills were led by PIAF patron-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar, chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol and other leadership of the PIAF, BMP and FPCCI. The protesters chanted slogans against the successive governments for escalating energy cost and made the commitment that their protest will continue until the withdrawal of power tariff hike in the country.

World Bank completed the restoration work of Manchar Lake on time

Zainab Hyder

MANCHHAR LAKE (SEHWAN): The World Bank technical mission comprised on Ms. Amparo Samper Hiraldo, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Mr. Juan Soler Cabado Mr. Hendrik Arnold Vernoon, Bilal Khalid, Ms. Hina Lotia, and Mr. Aijaz Shaikh visited the Aral head regulator, Aral Tail and Danister Canal of Manchar lake.

Manchar lake comprises on Sehwan taluka in Jamshoro district and Johi in Dadu district. Additional Director SFERP Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project, Iqbal Ahmed Palejo briefed the world bank technical mission about rehabilitation work at Manchar lake and its component at Rehabilitation structure of Aral head regu-

lator of Manchar lake. He briefed that all flood rehabilitation works at Manchar lake will be completed till 30 September 2023.

On that occasion, Deputy Director SFERP Balram briefed that the 95 percent rehabilitation work of the Danister tail regulator, Aral head regulators were completed. He said that discharge capacity of Danister Canal was increased from 500 cusecs to 5000 cusecs.

The world Bank Technical mission hoped the timely completion of rehabilitation of Manchar lake Containing Bund and would ensure the protection from future floods.

"Discharge water capacity was enhanced from 37000 cusecs to 82000 cusecs from Manchar lake to River Indus through three sources including

Aral head regulator, Aral Tail and Danister Canal" Ms. Amparo Samper Hiraldo, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist told this correspondent during visit of rehabilitation work at Manchar lake.

"25000 cusecs from Aral tail regulator, 52000 cusecs from Aral head regulator and 5000 cusecs from Danister Canal will be discharged from Manchar lake to River Indus" said Ms. Amparo Samper Hiraldo, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist.

"Karampund bund is also rehabilitated near Sehwan as it was also used for travelling purpose by the local settlements in 2022 flood when it was high flood in River and relief cuts were given at Manchar lake to reduce the losses of flood disaster" said Ms. Amparo Samper Hiraldo,



Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist.

"During 2022 high flood, Sehwan city was also posed serious threat of flooding hence to protect Sehwan city, 19 RDs of Aral left embankment was rehabilitated" Mr. Hendrik Arnold

Vernoon World Bank Technical mission member told this correspondent.

"With rehabilitation of Aral left embankment, Sehwan city and its surroundings settlements will remain safe in flood disasters in future from Hilltorrents,

Manchar lake water, and River Indus water as well" Said Mr. Hendrik Arnold Vernoon.

"These benefits will ultimately manifest in protection and contribute to improvement in the lives of vulnerable people" said Mr Nasir Panhwar.

"Manchar lake was fresh water lake and it was turned into brackish water due to disposal of saline water through Main Nara Valley Drain which has destructed the boat culture and civilization of Manchar lake" said Nasir Panhwar.

World bank technical mission also met the local communities of fishermen at Bund Manchar near Bubak.

Moula Bux Mallah chairman Manchar Bachayo Ittehad informed to world Bank Technical mission that with rehabilitation of Manchar lake embankment, their settlements will remain safe from future floods.

Mohammad Sharif Mallah informed that with rehabilitation of embankments and Danister regulator, their fear of inundating of their houses was ended for future floods.

Pakistan Red Crescent, Pakistan Army organize two-day cricket tournament in Neelum district

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Kashmir, International Committee of the Red Cross and Pakistan Army organized a two-day cricket tournament in Neelum District. The tournament is being organized at Shahkot Sports Ground Neelum in which six teams from Neelum district are participating.

The aim of the tournament is to promote hazard awareness and safe attitudes in Neelum district.

According to the details, a cricket tournament is being organized in Neelum district under the program of risk awareness and safe behavior of Pakistan Red Crescent Azad Kashmir State Branch. Its pertinently remembered that many precious lives have been lost due to mines and cluster bombs and other detonated explosives in Neelum Valley. Pakistan Red Crescent is active to reduce these threats and create awareness among the people



and prevent the loss of precious lives.

In the two-day tournament, three pool matches will be played today and tomorrow, while the final between the top teams of the two groups will also be played tomorrow. Today's first match

was played between Pakistan Red Crescent Tigers and Cam's XI in which Tigers defeated Cam's XI team. While in the second match Boom Boom Boys made two four defeats against Cam's XI team.

Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society Ms. Gulzar Fatima was a Chief guest. On this occasion, the secretary of Pakistan Red Crescent Society said that the purpose of the tournament is to raise awareness of dangers and safe behaviors among the young generation. She added and said that Neelum district is suffering from various natural calamities. In addition to cross-border firing, there are other threats such as explosives, landslides and floods.

Apart from Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent, senior officers of Pakistan Army, District Education Officer Male Khawaja Zakir, Assistant Education Officer Female Mansha Anjum, Social Welfare Officer Iftikhar Gilani, Program Coordinator Yasir Kazmi, Liaison Officer Nasir Bukhari, Spokesperson of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Adnan Qureshi, Youth Officer Tahira Kazmi, volunteers of Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Community Focal Persons and local people were fully participated.



Pakistan Dodgeball Federation PRO Amjad Nawaz Khan is presenting the official dodgeball kit to Commissioner Lahore Chaudhary Muhammad Ali Randhawa.

Pakistan outplay Bhutan in opening match of SAFF U16 C'ship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan downed Bhutan by 2-1 in the opening match of the SAFF U16 Championship 2023 at Bhutan on Saturday. According to details, Pakistani Skipper Obaidullah Khan scored the first goal in the 17th minute while the second goal was scored by Subhan Karim in the 30th minute. Bhutan's lone scorer was Tandan Phantshu who scored the goal in the 13th minute of the game.

Pakistan team would play their next match against Maldives on September 4.

Pakistan lose to India on penalties in final of Asia Hockey5s WC Qualifier



Bad luck shrouded Pakistan's hockey team on Saturday as they lost to India 4-4 on penalties in the final of the Asia Hockey5s World Cup Qualifier in Salalah, Oman.

Pakistani players failed to correct any of their penalties during the shootout, while Indian players scored two out of two and won the championship after an eight-goal thriller.

However, the side won silver medal after finishing second in the tournament.

Earlier, Pakistan's Abdul Rehman scored the first for his side in the 5th minute but just after the two minutes, Jugraj Singh equalised for his side.

The Blues took the lead in the 10th minute with Maninder Singh finding the back of the net but once again, just three minutes after India's goal, the Men in Green scored another and levelled the game.

The first half ended 3-2 in Pakistan's favour as Zikriya Hayat scored another one for his side just one minute before the half-time whistle.

The second half saw a total of three goals. Arshad Liaquat scored for their side in the 19th minute but Pakistan's two-goal lead couldn't stand for long as India's Mohammad Rafeel scored a brace in the second half and made sure that the match ended in a draw.

After the final whistle, Mohammad Murtaza and Arshad took the penalties for their side and missed.

Meanwhile, Maninder and Gujrot Singh were the penalty takers from their side with the latter hitting the winning shot.

Pakistan's skipper Rana Abdul Waheed remained the top-scorer of the tournament with 27 goals to his name while goalkeeper Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan was named the Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

Both teams have qualified for the 2024 Hockey5s World Cup, which is set to be played in Muscat, Oman.

Pakistan reach Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s as rain washes out PAK vs IND clash

A Sports

KANDY: Pakistan's pace-packed bowling attack booked India on 266 in the first innings after Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya's half-centuries before persistent rain washed out the high-octane PAK vs IND clash in the ongoing Asia Cup 2023.

As the highly-anticipated PAK vs IND clash returned no result, the two arch-rivals shared a point each.

Pakistan, who had two points, courtesy of their dominating victory over Nepal, secured their spot in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s as they finished their group-stage campaign with three points in two matches.

Meanwhile, India next face Nepal on September 4 in a bid to join Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s.

India after winning the toss started off cautiously amid Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah's fiery seam bowling before rain interrupted the play briefly. Shaheen Afridi then wreaked



havoc on India after the break, as he bowled Indian captain Rohit Sharma (11) on the fourth ball after play resumed and did the same to Virat Kohli (4) in his next over, reducing India to 27-2.

Haris Rauf removed Shreyas Iyer (14) and Shubman Gill (10), hindering India's recovery.

Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya then stitched a solid 138-run partnership for the fifth wicket to help India recover

from a dismal 66-4. This was India's highest partnership for the fifth wicket in the Asia Cup ODIs.

Both batters dominated the Pakistani spin bowlers in the middle overs and scored

half-centuries before the pace bowlers came back into the attack and brought an end to their record partnership by dismissing Ishan Kishan.

Ishan Kishan scored 81-ball 82 featuring nine boundaries and two sixes before ballooning up Haris Rauf's delivery to be caught safely by Pakistani captain Babar Azam.

Hardik Pandya was then involved in a brief 35-run partnership with Ravindra Jadeja before giving a catch to Salman Agha off Shaheen's slower delivery.

Hardik Pandya scored 87 runs off 90 balls with the help of seven boundaries and one six.

Pakistani bowlers then wrapped up the Indian innings at 266 in the 49th over after a brief cameo of 16 off 14 by Jasprit Bumrah.

Shaheen Afridi led the bowling charts in the first innings of PAK vs IND with figures of 4-35, while Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf shared three wickets each.

Messi goes to Hollywood as Inter Miami seek to close playoff gap

Sports Desk

MIAMI: Lionel Messi and Inter Miami face the MLS champions as their bid to make the playoffs takes them to Los Angeles on Sunday.

Los Angeles FC are second in the Western Conference and represent one of the toughest tests for a Miami team that are 10 points outside of the playoff places with 10 games remaining.

Miami's attempt to surge into the post-season, after a winless run of 11 games in MLS before Messi's arrival left them rock bottom of the league, suffered a blow on Wednesday when they were held to a goalless draw at home to Nashville.

That disappointing result came after a 2-0 win at New York Red Bulls last Saturday in Messi's first outing in the regular season.



"We have tunnel vision on our goal, which is making the playoffs, so this

feels like a loss, but we're just going to keep moving forward," said Canadian defender Kamal Miller after Wednesday's draw.

Messi had led Miami to victory in the mid-season Leagues Cup tournament and into the final of the US Open Cup and has already scored 11 goals in all competitions.

But he was well below his best against Nashville, raising concerns about whether the intense schedule since his debut has taken a toll.

"We got a little too accustomed to titles, finals, winning in New York, but we have to keep going because a lot can still happen," said Argentine coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino.

L.A.F.C are seven points behind Western Conference leaders St. Louis City but are expected to be among the favourites for the MLS Cup again.

Haaland hits hat-trick to take Man City top, Son treble inspires Spurs

Sports Desk

Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick as Manchester City maintained their perfect Premier League start with a 5-1 thrashing of Fulham on Saturday, as Son Heung-min also netted three times in Tottenham's 5-2 victory at Burnley.

But Chelsea's huge investment in the transfer market is still to reap reward as the Blues lost 1-0 at home to Nottingham Forest.

In keeping with the early weeks of the season, Manchester City were good enough for the three points without ever hitting top gear.

"Every year is like this at this club. We start a bit late and a bit sloppy because we play right until the last game (of the season) because we are the best club," said Haaland.

"We will only get better and better from here."

The English champions were without manager Pep Guardiola as he recovers

from back surgery in his native Catalonia. The home side had not had a shot on target until Julian Alvarez turned home Haaland's cross to open the scoring on 31 minutes.

Fulham, who were missing influential midfielder Joao Palhinha after his deadline day move to Bayern Munich collapsed on Friday, responded immediately when Tim Ream tapped in from a corner.

Manchester City needed a set-piece of their own to restore the lead in controversial circumstances.

Nathan Ake's header was allowed to stand despite Manuel Akanji, who was in an offside position, jumping over the ball.

Erling Haaland exploded after the break. He became the fastest player to reach 40 Premier League goals, in just 39 appearances, with a cool finish from Phil Foden's through ball.

The Norwegian then put his missed penalty at Sheffield United last weekend

behind him to slot home from the spot. Erling Haaland made it six goals in five games this season by completing his hat-trick in stoppage time.

Spurs sit two points behind City after their sparkling start under Ange Postecoglou continued.

Burnley took the lead after just four minutes at Turf Moor through Lyle Foster.

Son, who was moved into a more central role by Postecoglou in place of Richardson, soon proved his manager had pulled off another masterstroke.

The Tottenham captain's deft chip levelled before a thunderous strike from Cristian Romero put the visitors in front in first-half stoppage time.

James Maddison's curling finish from the edge of the box made it 3-1 before Son took centre stage to score twice in three minutes and complete his hat-trick.

"I'm the captain, but I have great players around me," said Son, who was



handed the armband when Harry Kane departed for Bayern Munich.

"My job is really easy and I try to be an example, try to smile and try to take responsibility on and off the pitch."

Chelsea's spending on deadline day

took their total splashed on new players in just over a year under a consortium fronted by Todd Boehly to more than £1 billion (\$1.3 billion).

Moises Caicedo's move from Brighton, that could rise to £115 million, broke

the British transfer record last month.

But the Ecuador international was at fault for the only goal at Stamford Bridge to leave Mauricio Pochettino's men embarrassed.

Anthony Elanga slotted home three minutes into the second-half after Caicedo gave the ball away inside his own half.

New signing Cole Palmer was thrown on to try and turn the game around, but Chelsea's lack of a natural goalscorer, despite their huge outlay, was again exposed.

Pochettino has won just one of his first four games in charge to leave Chelsea already eight points adrift of City.

Bournemouth were denied their first win under Andoni Iraola as Bryan Mbuemo snatched a 2-2 draw for Brentford.

Sheffield United and Everton both secured their first point of the season after a pulsating 2-2 draw in the lunch-time kick-off.