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Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered immediate action against those involved in power theft in the country and asked relevant authorities to submit reports in this regard on the daily basis. Chairing a meeting.... (Details on Page 8)



World's silence emboldened India to continue its repression in IIOJK: Masarrat Aalam

Illegally detained Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Masarrat Aalam Butt, has deplored that world's criminal silence has emboldened India to continue its repression in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Masarrat Aalam Butt, in a message from New Delhi's Tihar Jail, said that the Narendra Modi-led Indian government was using its military might to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle ... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Public Private Partnership Authority on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM for promoting public private partnership to reduce govt expenditures, improve performance

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said promoting public private partnership in the country could curtail government expenditures and improve performance of the projects. He stressed the need to further promote public private partnership with respect to the construction of motorways and highways across the country. Chairing a high level meeting of Public Private Partnership

Authority (PPPA), the prime minister said with infrastructure development, the connectivity of different areas of the country would be improved, thus strengthening the national integration. He directed the relevant authorities to present a comprehensive plan with respect to the East-West connectivity to provide better access between Western and Eastern areas of the country.

He said additional opportunities were required with respect to the promotion of public private partnership. During the meeting, it was informed that projects worth Rs 646 billion were launched in the last two years under public private partnership. Direct savings of Rs 150 billion were ensured in terms of government subsidies through the approved projects of public private partnership, the meet-

ing was told. The meeting was further informed that Sialkot-Kharian Motorway, Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway, Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway, Karachi Circular Railways and outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport were among the top Public Private Partnership Authority projects. "Education, information technology and export sectors are also among the priorities," it was added.

It was informed that the PPPA was working to increase awareness about the public private partnership, training programmes, and enhancing capacities. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Federal Minister for Planning Sami Saeed, Advisor to the prime minister Ahad Cheema, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Muhammad Jehanzeb and other relevant government officials.

Closing ceremony of Pakistan-KSA 'Joint Exercise'



News Desk
RAWALPINDI: Closing ceremony of Pakistan-KSA "Joint Exercise in Counter Terrorism domain AL BATTAR-I" was held at Cherat. The two weeks long exercise commenced on 22 August 2023 with participation of Special Forces contingents from two brotherly countries. His Excellency Mr Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy, the Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan and along with senior military leadership witnessed the final day activities of exercise. Combat Aviation along with the Special Forces of both countries displayed their professional excellence. The Exercise concluded with the Fly Past. The exercise was aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations between both brotherly countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept against counter terrorism and identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations.

GB Home Minister warns elements to desist from disrupting peaceful atmosphere

Bureau Report
GILGIT: GB Minister for Home Shams Lone on Monday said that at present there was peace all over Gilgit-Baltistan region and warned the elements to desist from creating any law and order situation. Flanked by Advisor to the Chief Minister on Information Iman Shan, the home minister told a press conference the peaceful atmosphere of the region had been disturbed due to some extent due to the speeches of religious scholars of respective sects. "The state wants all the issues to be resolved through understanding and efforts in this regard are being made at all levels," he added. The minister said they had invited some leading scholars of both sides from other parts of Pakistan to sit with the local Ulema and they were hopeful an amicable solution of the problem would be found. Shams Lone requested the religious scholars to preach the Holy Prophet's (Peace Be Upon Him) teachings of peace, brotherhood and unity from the pulpit. "Peace can only be maintained if we respect each other's beliefs and faiths, which will ultimately help realize the dream of development in the region come true," he added. The minister also appealed to all the residents of Gilgit-Baltistan to play their positive role in the current situation and not to fall prey to the enemy's propaganda. He said the Indian media had made a sinister attempt to misrepresent the current situation in Gilgit-Baltistan though not a single shot was fired anywhere in the region. "We strongly condemn the India propaganda."

Chinese Premier to attend G20 summit in India

Spokesman Report
BEIJING: Premier Li Qiang of China's State Council will attend the 18th G20 Summit to be held in New Delhi, India on September 9 and 10, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced Monday. "As one of the major summits of international economic cooperation, member countries should strengthen partnerships and jointly face the challenges posed by the current world economy and development and make positive contributions to world economic recovery and sustainable development, she said during a regular press briefing.

Pakistan fails to convince IMF on relief in electricity bills: sources

News Desk
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has failed to convince the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for relief in electricity bills as it could affect the recovery of up to Rs6.5 billion as per the government's plan, citing sources. Sources closer to the finance ministry told ARY News that Pakistan and IMF did not reach a consensus over the relief on electricity bills. It was learnt that the caretaker government told the Fund in its plan that the relief would affect the recoveries by up to Rs6.5 billion. It emerged that the Fund rejected the plan as it could have affected the recoveries by more than Rs15 billion. The IMF also sought a plan from Pakistan to fill the financial gap of Rs15 billion. Sources added that the caretaker set-up delayed the announcement for relief on the electricity bill as it is going to share the revised plan with

the IMF. After sharing the new plan, the finance ministry and the IMF officials will hold negotiations again. The Pakistani caretaker government assured the IMF that the required relief would not violate the budgetary limitations. The finance ministry had requested the Fund to receive the electricity bills in instalments for four months. The ministry will hold negotiations with the Fund again for receiving the electricity bills in instalments. On August 31, Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar said that the government has decided to announce relief on electricity in the next 48 hours. He said this issue has become longstanding as a result of unfavourable contracts with IPPs during the '90s, inefficient bill recovery process and bad transmission lines. The prime minister regretted that for many decades we remained

unable to plan an increase in hydel production and the increased dependency on imported fuel for power generation multiplied the electricity cost. He said the best possible professionals have been included in the cabinet to deal with prevailing crucial challenges including economy and defence. PM Kakar categorically refuted the impression being circulated on social media regarding the exploitation of the masses through electricity bills and other taxes. The inflated power bills triggered country-wide protests from Karachi to Khyber and protests in some parts of the country are turning violent. The protesting masses have been demanding that the government should end the provision of free electricity to the notables and provide them relief as the bills they have been receiving are more than their salaries.

PM grieved over navy helicopter crash

News Desk
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic incident of navy helicopter crash in Gwadar. Condoling the martyrdom of three personnel of Pakistan Navy, the prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity. A Pakistan Navy helicopter while undertaking routine training mission, met an accident in Gwadar area on Monday. According to the Pakistan Navy spokesperson, three crew members embraced Shahadat in the incident.

Arshad Sharif murder: Kenyan journalist raises concerns over delay in probe findings

Web Desk
KENYAN: Kenyan investigative journalist Brian Obuya has raised concerns over the delay in the probe findings into the senior journalist Arshad Sharif murder case. Brian Obuya, while talking to the ARY News programme "Sawal Yeh Hai", said that the investigators have spent a very long time completing the probe into the Arshad Sharif murder case. He criticised that neither any report was issued after the probe into the journalist's assassination case nor the names of the accused Kenyan policemen were disclosed. "I haven't received any information from Kenyan authorities so far about the suspension of the accused cops. The Kenyan authorities kept complete secrecy on the names of the five accused cops," said Obuya. It is pertinent to mention here that the senior journalist and former ARY News anchor, was killed in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on October 23 where he was living in self-exile. A few days ago, the five Kenyan policemen, who were involved in the killing of former ARY News anchorperson and senior journalist Arshad Sharif, have 'resumed' their official duties without facing any accountability. This claim was made by Kenyan Crime and Investigative journalist, Nyaboga Kiage. The journalist said the five cops involved in the fatal shootout are back to work and two of them have been promoted to senior ranks.

'No compromise on katcha operation, anti-street crime measures'

News Desk
ISLAMABAD: Sindh Caretaker Home Minister Haris Nawaz said on Monday that no compromise will be made on the katcha operation and anti-street crime measures. Caretaker Sindh Home Minister Haris Nawaz reiterated his stance on anti-street crime measures. While addressing a

press conference, he said that no concession would be given to the wrongdoers. "We are adopting comprehensive steps to curb the street crimes and narcotics. The enemies of Pakistan are always ready to take advantage of our weakness." Haris Nawaz said that a sorrowful incident took place in Jaranwala in which the Christian community was targeted. He added that

the enemies of Pakistan are planning to carry out more incidents like Jaranwala. The home minister announced to launch a thorough investigation into the Gulshan-e-Hadeed incident. "We are not facing any political pressure and action will be taken. No compromise will be made on katcha operation and anti-street crime measures." He vowed that the authori-

ties will take action in all crime hotspots. He hinted at carrying out an operation in Ghotki, Kashmir and Jacobabad. Yesterday, Caretaker Home Minister Haris Nawaz said preparations were being made for major operations in Sindh's capital Karachi and its interior areas of the province. Talking to media at Makli Bypass here, Haris Nawaz said

that the operation will be launched as new officers will come today or the next day. The home minister said that peace will return to Sindh after the posting of good officers. Sindh will turn into a cradle of peace, he said. "Preparations have been completed for an operation in Ghotki, Kashmir, Jacobabad and Kandhkot," Haris Nawaz said.

SIFC's Meeting

ISLAMABAD: SIFC's 4th Executive Committee Meeting, at PM Secretariat on Monday.



PM orders immediate action against power thieves, defaulters

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday ordered immediate action against those involved in power theft in the country and asked relevant authorities to submit reports in this regard on the daily basis.

Chairing a meeting, the prime minister also directed to take swift action against electricity defaulters, saying there should not be any leniency towards electricity thieves and the defaulters.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed in detail about all sections of the energy sector.

The meeting was informed about the total installed capacity, actual generation and overall energy supply during various seasons.

The prime minister was also informed about the energy



mix in power production.

PM Kakar stressed that in future, renewable and hydel sources of energy should be given top priority to produce inexpensive and green energy in the country.

He also directed to take effective measures to reduce

the line losses of the power distribution companies. "A comprehensive plan should also be prepared and presented to implement the transformer metering project."

He said projects of small hydel power projects should be planned under the guid-

ance of relevant experts.

Such projects will not only generate low-cost electricity but also help in reducing the harmful effects of climate change, he said adding local coal should be preferred, instead of expensive imported coal in coal power genera-

tion projects.

The prime minister also directed to immediately start work on the construction of 2400 MW solar power projects while ensuring transparency in the entire process.

The government, he said would take all possible steps to reduce the circular debt of the power sector.

The meeting was also informed about the progress on the establishment of the electricity energy market in the country.

It was informed in the meeting that with the establishment of energy market in the country, the performance and capacity of the power sector would be effectively increased that would eventually help 27 million domestic consumers.

It was also informed that most of the work by the Power Division had already been completed in this regard.

Pakistan Navy seized 9.5 tons of narcotics at sea



Bureau Report

KARACHI: In an intelligence based joint counter-narcotics operation, Pakistan Navy and ANF seized 9.5 Tons of narcotics and over 10 thousand bottles of Liquor at sea. The apprehended drugs were stowed in hidden compartments of a fishing boat that was successfully intercepted by a PN Ship. The estimated value of seized

narcotics is US \$ 112 million in international market. The seized drugs were subsequently handed over to Anti-Narcotics Force for further legal proceedings.

The successful execution of joint Anti-Narcotics Operation is a strong demonstration of Pakistan Navy's resolve to deter and disrupt illegal activities in maritime zones of Pakistan.

World's silence emboldened India to continue its repression in IIOJK: Masarrat Aalam

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Illegally detained Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Masarrat Aalam Butt, has deplored that world's criminal silence has emboldened India to continue its repression in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Masarrat Aalam Butt, in a message from New Delhi's Tihar Jail, said that the Narendra Modi-led Indian government was using its military might to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for the right to self-determination but would never succeed in its nefarious designs.

He pointed out that India had waged a war on the unarmed people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian atrocities witnessed an upsurge after 5 August 2019, Kashmir Media Service reported.

The APHC Chairman said the Kashmiris have been facing the Indian brutalities for the last seventy six years just for demanding their right to self-determination.

He said the Indian repression



cannot force the Kashmiri people to give up their just demand.

He appealed to the world human rights organizations to raise their voice against the Indian atrocities in IIOJK.

Meanwhile, the APHC leaders including Saleem Zargar, Abdul Samad Inqilabi, Maulana Musaib Nadvi, Israr Ahmad and Malik Noor Muhamamd Fayaz in their statements in Srinagar, said India is employing terrorism as a state policy to intimidate the Kashmiris into submission.

They said that Indian troops were perpetrating grave human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and 8 Kashmiris fell to the Indian bullets in the last month of August.

The APHC leaders said that atrocities by Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel during cordon and search operations had become a routine matter in the occupied territory.

However, they said the Kashmiri people are determined to continue their freedom struggle, despite Indian state terrorism.

Concern expressed over Kashmiri detainees' plight in jails

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders Khawaja Firdous, Syed Bashir Andrabi and Muhammad Shafi Lone have expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leader languishing in different jails of India and the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC leaders in a joint statement issued in Srinagar lamented that the Modi's government is using illegal and crude tactics to prevent Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders from the freedom movement.

They said Kashmiri leaders have been illegally arrested and imprisoned for demanding their rights and urged the international community to take notice of the plight of Kashmiri leaders and help in their immediate release. The Hurriyat leaders said the Indian troops have been committing atrocities on the innocent people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the past seven decades. It should be raised in the Security Council and the human tragedy happening in occupied Jammu and Kashmir should be stopped, they added. They said the Kashmiri people have made a lot of sacrifices for the Kashmir cause which will not be allowed to go waste. They also paid tributes to the martyrs of Kashmir and expressed their determination that the Kashmiri people would continue their struggle till taking it to its logical conclusion. The Hurriyat leaders appealed to the international community to play its role in resolving the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations resolutions to make South Asia peaceful and the two neighbouring nuclear countries can live in peace



Cement sales hike 37% in August

Web Desk

KARACHI: The country recorded a rise in cement sales by 37% in August 2023 to 4.518 million tonnes from 3.297 million tonnes a year ago, ARY News reported on Monday.

According to the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), it recorded a rise in the sale in August 2023 in the local markets by 30% as compared to August last year.

A significant rise in cement exports was witnessed by 87% to 724,777 tonnes from 387,440 tonnes a year ago.

In July, there was an increase in cement sales by 57.44% in July to 3.212 million tonnes from 2.040 million tonnes as compared to July 2022.

The 57.4% increase in cement sales signalled the commencement of

construction activities in the country.

According to the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), they recorded 3.212 million tonnes in cement sales in July 2023 besides a significant rise in cement exports by 183.91% to 435,854 tonnes from 153,517 tonnes



a year ago. The North-based cement factories sold 2.473 million tonnes in the first month of the current fiscal year which was 46.54% more than the previous year's 1.688 million tonnes.

The South-based cement factories sold 739,376 tonnes, up 109.61%

from 352,747 tonnes in July 2022.

In domestic markets, the North-based cement mills sold 2.351 million tonnes and 425,336 tonnes by South-based factories in July 2023.

The cement exports from North-based factories increased by 73.41% in July and 277.13% from South-based mills.

The APCMA spokesperson said that a strong government is inevitable for economic stability in the country. It added that the commencement of the current fiscal year was better than the previous one.

The APCMA said that the provincial government increased royalty from Rs115 to Rs250 per tonne, electricity by Rs7.5 per unit and petrol by nearly Rs20 per litre.

The spokesperson predicted that the current fiscal year would be better for the cement sector due to investments in major development projects.

Steps urged to make country TB-free

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Civil society and celebrities on Monday stressed the need to take further steps to make the country free from Tuberculosis. "Our nation's fight against TB requires unwavering commitment at the highest levels," renowned actor, producer, director, screenwriter and end TB celebrity ambassador Sarmad Khoosat said while addressing a press conference along with others. He said Tuberculosis (TB) continues to claim 132 precious lives each day in Pakistan, a nation that ranks as the world's fifth-highest TB burden country. However, this deadly disease is entirely preventable and curable.

PM directs devising effective strategy for economic stability

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar on Monday directed the Ministry of Finance to devise an effective strategy to bring economic stability in the country.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with Interim Finance Minister ShamshadAkhtar who called on him here.

The finance minister also briefed the prime minister on the current economic situation in the country.

CM extends best wishes for an auspicious new judicial year

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday extended his heartfelt wishes to the Lahore High Court as he conveyed his congratulations at the commencement of the new judicial year, expressing his hope for the prevalence of justice in the upcoming year.

In his message, the CM acknowledged the role of the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court and his esteemed judicial colleagues, affirming their commitment to upholding the timeless traditions of justice in the new judicial year.



The chief minister added that he fervently prays for the new judicial year to bring auspicious outcomes for those seeking justice.

He expressed confidence that the delivery of justice to the oppressed will continue unwaveringly throughout the new judicial year.

NLC to open land routes of Pakistan to China to materialize CPEC prospects

Spokesman Report

BELJING: The National Logistic Cell (NLC) is trying to open the land routes of Pakistan to the Central Asian states through China to materialize the prospects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flagship project, said Director General, NLC, Major Gen.

Farrukh Shahzad Rao. "We're trying to open the land routes of Pakistan to Central Asia especially through China to materialize the prospects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor," he told APP on the sidelines of the China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFITS) in Beijing. The NLC has set up a booth in the Pakistan Pavilion at CIFITS to showcase their accomplishment particularly their role in promoting trade between the regional countries. He informed that the NLC has been



able to open trade route from Kashgar, Xinjiang to Karachi and has joint ventures with Chinese logistic companies.

"So not only loads from Western China, we are getting loads from Shanghai, which are being brought either to Tashkurgan or Urumqi or Kashgar and then we are taking those loads to Karachi," he added.

Farrukh Shahzad said that the NLC is also helping in boosting trade between the regional countries and added, "We are moving now cargo from Afghanistan to Kashgar and Kashgar to Kabul."

Business, public protest against rising prices of electricity, petrol

Bureau Report.

FAISALABAD: The brave people of Pakistan have proved by going on a complete strike that the governments never run by lawlessness and burdening the people like not withdrawing the rising prices of electricity, petrol and the continuous demonstration of austerity. This is the open slap on the face of democracy said Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq.

According to the details, the business community and the public force further said that they are thankful to all the businessmen, lawyers and labor who ensured arrangements for the complete shutdown in Faisalabad to open the eyes of the sleeping

government.

Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, President of Cloth Board Ittehad Pakistan said that the system of the country has sat down in the real sense.

Moreover, on the call of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Siraj-ul-Haq, Divisional Ameer Prof. Mahub-ul-Zaman Butt, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, traders, lawyers and labor organizations raised voices against electricity bills, petrol and untoward inflation in the country.

On striking, they demanded the government to supply electricity, petrol and other commodities on low rates observing the poverty situations. In the camp set up in Chowk Ghan-

taghar today, traders, lawyers, shopkeepers, laborers and ordinary people from the city of Faisalabad have proved that the people will not accept the government pressing policies at all. They elaborated to Keep in mind that the problems of the common man have been continuously neglected? while compiling the electricity, petrol, gas and others also withdraw taxes levied on essential commodities.

In the camp, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Vohra, Divisional Ameer Jamat- a- Islam Prof. Mahub-ul-Zaman Butt, President Anjumam Tajran City Khawaja Razaq Sikka, General Secretary Sheikh Saeed Ahmed, Chairman Central Ulama

Council Sahibzada Zahid Qasmi, President Supreme Council Amin Butt, Haji Aslam Bhalli, City Cloth Board President Amjad Aqeel, General Secretary Abbas Haider Sheikh, Mian Ijaz Hussain, President Press Market Chaudhry Muhammad Akram, General Secretary Sohail Rafi, lawyers and labor leaders addressed. They warned if the government will not withdraw the prices of electricity, petrol, gas and essential items, then for the future, mega plan of action will be announced soon and then there will be a full-blown Qalandar, and the government has no choice to control this dire situation, and the angry people are ready to do anything at any time, so come to the real track.

Dadu Chamber held a joint news conference



Azad Baloch

DADU: Chamber of Commerce and Industries Dadu leaders Haji Ghulam Qadir Solangi, Imtiaz Ahmed Qureshi, Zubair Ahmed Bhurat, Muhammad Imran Malak, Mohammad Iqbal Charan, Abdullah Khokhar, Abdul Hafeez Akhund and others held a joint news conference in his office against rising inflation in the country, additional electricity bills, continuous increase in the prices of petroleum products and unjustly heavy taxes on food items.

He said that, due to rising electricity prices, unannounced long load shedding, 50 percent of small and large factories have closed in Dadu district, including ice factories, rice mills, marble industries and other small and large factories, due to which thousands of workers have also become unemployed.

He further said in the press conference that he rejects illegal taxes and anti-people taxes on food items, line losses, sales and extra taxes in electricity bills, requests the government to immediately remove such anti-people fake taxes in electricity bill. We demand to end 14 to 16 hour long unannounced load shedding in Dadu district so that electricity can be provided cheaply and without interruption so that businessmen, small and big manufacturers and domestic consumers can work and live easily. The theft of electricity by SEPCO employees should be stopped, the involved employees should be punished and the "Kunda" system should be abolished so that the public can be relieved from line losses and deductions bills.

Punjab Govt appointed Mian Rashid Chairman of WASA



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Punjab government has appointed Mian Rashid Iqbal, president of the Chamber of Commerce, as the chairman of Multan Waste Management Company. Chairman Mian Rashid Iqbal visited the office of Multan Waste Management Company yesterday. He was welcomed and presented with a bouquet.

Chairman Waste Management Company Mian Rashid Iqbal said that according to the vision of the Punjab government, steps will be taken to increase the efficiency of the Waste Management Company, in this regard, reforms will be implemented from the platform of the Board of Directors. Shahid Yaqub also gave a briefing on the company's performance and working mechanism.

Aga Khan University's 5th Paediatric Research Week

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Research done by faculty at the Aga Khan University has contributed to the decline of mortality rate of babies and children 35% and 50%, respectively, at its field sites of research. This is not a quick win but years of scientific work and building trust with communities.

"A published paper takes months, or even years to develop. It emerges, however, as the first single datapoint that is collected out in the field, far from the campus, between a vulnerable mother and child and one of our community health workers. We're now witnessing tangible outcomes of efforts initiated over a few decades ago," said AKU Chair of Paediatrics Dr Fyezah Jehan.

She was speaking at the University's fifth annual paediatric research week which brought together over 300 students and healthcare professionals from Pakistan and beyond. Dr Adil Haider, the Dean of the Medical College at AKU, emphasized the institution's dedication to advancing medical knowledge holistically and driving innovation in maternal, newborn, and child health. "Policy and clinical practice rooted in scientific research is the answer," he said.

Dr Judd Walson, an American infectious diseases expert recently announced as Chair of International Health at Johns Hopkins University, spent his very first hour on the job speaking at the conference. This was significant because of what he had to say about institutions in Europe and the US working with those in Africa or South Asia.

Dr Walson's encouragement for institutions in the US and Europe to re-orient their approach strongly resonated with the conference theme: "Thriving together, looking forward," to move beyond a child's survival. Indeed, chief guest Nadia Jamil, an actor and child protection activist, stressed that, "Children have an inclination to thrive. You give them an opportunity and they will lean towards healing."

The week-long event featured 21 workshops, covering topics such as statistical computing, metagenomics, neonatal ventilations, paediatric endocrinology, and unravelling clinical genetic test results.



Renowned Writer of KPK Fazle Rabi Sartaz presenting his Book Tiltle Economics Emergency To TMO Jehangira KPK Ms Shahana Sikander at her Office.

Protest

FAISALABAD: People are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands at District Council Chowk in City.



Photo: Online

Masarrat Misbah launches Signature Line of Fragrances Released

ABC

KARACHI: Masarrat Misbah, a pioneer of beauty products and well-being in Pakistan, hosted a star-studded event for her inaugural collection of Masarrat Misbah Fragrances: Lasting impressions in Karachi this weekend.

Event had featuring appearances by renowned celebrities and influencers, as well as distinguished guests from the media and business fraternity.

MM Fragrances presented nine fragrances which comprises of six perfumes for women, three for men, and a delightful assortment of mists and unique idea of three discovery boxes consisting of two for women



and one for male. The range of fragrances catering to a diverse array of preferences during the evening's proceedings.

The event also introduced the charismatic and talented, Amar Khan, face of women's fragrance Rosaly. While the charming star, Usama Khan, was announced as the face

of men's collection Noir, adding to the allure of the event. The occasion was an elegant and sensory delight as guests were familiarized with a wide range of scents carefully designed to captivate the senses.

Masarrat Misbah, Founder and Owner of MM Fragrances expressed her excitement about this new venture, stating, "A person is incomplete without their perfect scent. Fragrances tend to leave an everlasting impression and tether us to memories as well as people. I am delighted to introduce MM Fragrances, as an extension of our commitment to add something special to people's lives and enhance our customers' experiences."

With the launch of MM Fragrances, the brand aims to provide a meticulously curated selection of scents, offering a unique journey for individuals who appreciate the beauty of fragrances. This launch elevates the experience for its customers, allowing them to craft their own unique stories through the scents they wear.

Jaranwala incident is an example of religious extremism: Amir Khattak

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: In the wake of the Jaranwala tragedy, a divisional interfaith harmony conference was organized by the divisional administration.

Scholars of all civil society representatives fully agreed on the promotion of peace and religious tolerance and said that the Jaranwala incident is an example of religious extremism and contrary to Islamic teachings. The state and the religious leadership are on the same platform to protect the rights of the Christian community.

In the Divisional Interfaith Harmony Conference, Commissioner Multan Division

Engineer Aamir Khatkhat, RPO Multan Region Captain R. Sohail Chaudhry, DC Multan Umar Jahan-gir, DC Khanewal Wasim Hamid Sindhu, DC Lodhran Abdul Rauf Mahe, DC Wahari Syed Asif. Hussain Shah, all the district police officers of the division participated. Commissioner Amir Khattak said that the divisional administration and religious leadership stand with the Christian community today. All schools of thought have condemned the Jaranwala incident. Strict action has been taken against the culprits.

The religious leadership has always played an exemplary role in establishing peace.

Promotion of 15 Officers Of DGPR to the post of Deputy Director

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: A significant development unfolded within the Public Relations Department of Punjab as 15 Information Officers were elevated to the esteemed position of Deputy Director. This momentous decision transpired during a departmental promotion committee meeting, presided over by distinguished Secretary of Information and Culture for Punjab, Ali Nawaz Malik.

The outcome of this meeting culminated in the elevation of 15 dedicated officers from the Directorate General Public Relations to the esteemed rank of Deputy Directors, firmly

placing them within Grade 18. The names of these promoted officers are as follows: Osama Mahmood, Salman Khalid, Faizul Islam, Sheikh Farhan Ali, Agha Ehtsham, Syed Salman, Nisar Khan, Owais Abid, Manoor Hussain, Muhammad Wasim, Uzma Zubair, Amber Jabeen, Abdul Rauf Awan, Siddique Kayani, and Aftab Zaidi.

Director General of Public Relations, Rubina Afzal, extended her warmest congratulations to the newly promoted officers, along with her optimistic expectations that they will carry out their future responsibilities with unwavering dedication and diligence.

Ameer Ji will visit South Punjab on September 8.

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq's visit to southern Punjab schedule is on September 8 Rahim Yar Khan, will address a public meeting in Muzaffargarh on September 9 and 10 against the rise in inflationary electricity prices. Hassan Ikhwan Central Deputy Media Coordinator of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hasan Akhwani has said that inflation, unrest, unemployment has become the problem of every Pakistani, and the grand strike has made mistakes of the rulers.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan has tried to give lollipops of relief, but without practical measures, the nation will not sit quietly on false claims. He said that there is an IMF government in the country. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj ul Haq will visit South Punjab from September 8.

No respite from crimes as criminals rule the roost in Hassanabdal

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: There is no respite from the crimes in various parts of Hassanabdal as criminals up against arms against masses rule the roost in commercial and residential areas depriving masses from cash and valuables worth millions of rupees as area police seem in deep slumber.

In back to back crimes in the area, two masked men deprived a man from cash worth Rs 1 million in day broad light robbery incident in Meeladnagar area in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station on Monday. Sadir Sadeeq has reported to police that he was going to home after withdrawing cash Rs 1 million from local bank when two masked men riding on a motorcycle, equipped with pistols intercepted him and on gunpoint snatched cash from him and fled with looted booty successfully.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:17 am
Zohr	12:07 pm
Asr	4:41 pm
Maghrib	6:30 pm
Isha	7:56 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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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
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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

AIOU to close Matric, FA admissions today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) commenced admissions in the matric, FA and I. Com programs in semester autumn 2023 and today (5th September) is the deadline for the submission of admission application form. Students can apply today through both online and manual modes to avoid late fee charges. The admission forms and prospectuses are available on the university website, regional offices, and SWIFT centres established nationwide.

The Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has instructed all regional directors of the university to provide free computer and internet facilities to students who do not have access to these resources for online applications. Students can avail these facilities for free at the regional offices of the university. Admissions to various programs such as associate degree (BA/BCOM), BBA, BA Ed programs, Post Graduate Diploma programs and Certificate courses, offered in the second phase, will remain open until October 17.

Training course for assessors of productivity specialist's certification programme inaugurated

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO), Pakistan, in partnership with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, has announced the commencement of an International Training Course for Assessors of the Productivity Specialists Certification Program. Scheduled from September 4th to September 8th, 2023, this event was inaugurated at a local hotel in Islamabad.

This essential training program is set to welcome 17 esteemed overseas participants representing 10 APO member countries, alongside 5 local participants. The course curriculum will be expertly delivered by renowned international resource speakers hailing from Singapore, Malaysia, and Mongolia.

The primary objectives of this intensive workshop are to nurture and equip proficient assessors within National Productivity Organizations, who play pivotal roles as APO-accredited certification bodies. Participants will be intimately acquainted with the requirements for Productivity Specialists, gaining a comprehensive

understanding of the methods, criteria, and competencies essential for conducting assessments leading to the certification of productivity specialists.

At the opening ceremony of the event, Ms. Ismat Gul Khattak, Director General of the Pakistan National Accreditation Council, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In her inspiring opening remarks, Ms. Khattak praised the APO's instrumental role in fostering the development of the Asia-Pacific region. She emphasized the need to rekindle our commitment towards realizing APO's vision of "Inclusive, innovation-led productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific."

Ms. Khattak extended a warm welcome to the international delegates and expressed her deep gratitude to both APO and NPO for addressing this vital subject matter. She underscored the significance of Pakistan's collaboration with APO as a means to tackle long-standing productivity challenges.

The NPO is dedicated to complementing and strengthening the Ministry's mandate by striving towards its vision of "Economically Productive and Globally Competitive Pakistan."



NPO Pakistan has recently achieved Certification Body status under the Asian Productivity Organization Accreditation Body, specifically for the Certified Productivity Specialists program. This initiative aims to promote the development of Certified Productivity Professionals in Pakistan and advance the cause of cultivating a culture of productivity improvement in the nation.

Mr. Zafarullah Khan, Program Officer at

APO Tokyo, Japan, highlighted the collective efforts of the APO and NPO teams in enhancing productivity across the region. He provided valuable insights into APO's journey of success stories and significant achievements in the Asia-Pacific region.

Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO of NPO, welcomed participants and resource persons, underlining the significance of this Certification Body as a strategic initiative that will contribute significantly to Pakistan's productivity drive.

He also noted that three other APO member countries, namely Malaysia, Vietnam, and Mongolia, recently attained accreditation for their Certification Bodies from APO, in alignment with the vision of their respective country leaders, with the assistance of APO, Japan. This achievement underscores the pivotal role that Certification Bodies play in driving productivity initiatives in Pakistan.

International Hijab Day

ISLAMABAD: Women activists from Jamaat-e-Islami take part in a pro-hijab rally on the eve of "International Hijab Day" outside National Press Club in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Minister for Tourism pledges support to bereaved porter's family after K2 tragedy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Government to provide stable employment for the widow of Muhammad Hassan, free education for his children and bear health expenses of his mother, says State Minister for Tourism, Wasi Shah.

In a heartfelt gesture of compassion and support, the State Minister for Tourism, Wasi Shah has pledged his unwavering commitment to the family of the late Muhammad Hassan, a courageous porter from Skardu who tragically lost his life while ascending the world's second-largest mountain, K2.



State Minister for Tourism, Wasi Shah met the bereaved family of Muhammad Hassan, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Shigar, Mr. Hamza. During this poignant meeting, Minister Wasi Shah conveyed the government's sincere condolences and assured the family of Muhammad Hassan that they would receive the support and assistance they need during these trying times.

Furthermore, State Minister Wasi Shah shared a groundbreaking development in support of porters like Muhammad Hassan. He announced the initiation of formal measures for the welfare and training of porters, recognizing their invaluable contribution to the mountaineering industry. The government is actively working on establishing a training center with a dedicated curriculum to enhance the skills and safety of porters.

He said that that the training centre will be inaugurated by the the family of Muhammad Hassan, a poignant tribute to his memory.

Pakistan urges to strengthen its food systems transformation process

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In order to transform Pakistan's Food Systems to address food security challenges, the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) launches "Pakistan Subnational Food Systems Dashboard".



In this regard, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Ministry of National Food Security & Research (M/o NFS&R) and GAIN hosted the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan Subnational Food Systems Dashboard (PSFSD). Pakistan Subnational Food Systems Dashboard is built upon the global Food Systems Dashboard through collaborative efforts between GAIN, FAO, Johns Hopkins University, and the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University.

Federal Secretary, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood highlighted the importance of authentic data for the formulation of public policies and the programmes. He appreciated the role of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the other partners including FAO, Johns Hopkins University, and the Columbia Climate School for their wonderful support for the establishment of Pakistan Food System dashboard and he appreciated PARC's technical role in hosting the dashboard and sealing this up.

In his welcome speech Chairman, PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali apprised the efforts of all stakeholders and development partners especially GAIN, FAO and WFP for their contribution in developing this prototype Subnational Food System Dashboard.

Country Director GAIN, Farrah Naz highlighted the importance of data and ensured GAIN support in future policy review and formulation, she also appraised the PARC leadership in taking forward Pakistan dashboard. Ms. Catia Pedro, Program Coordinator (Food Systems Dashboard) at GAIN and Mr. Faiz Rasool, Senior Policy Advisor at GAIN led the technical discussion and shared the importance and role of the Food Systems Dashboard in transforming Pakistan's food systems through data and evidence.

Progressive Group congratulates all the business community for the successful strike

City Desk

LAHORE: The progressive group comprising the members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has congratulated all the business community, political parties especially Jamaat-e-Islami and the people for the successful strike against the rising electricity prices on Saturday.

It said that the rulers should consider this strike as warning and take immediate steps to provide relief to the people.

The progressive group added that the protest will not end here but will continue until the people get relief. For this, the rulers should reduce their expenditure, promote austerity and create a favorable environment for industries and business. The running of industries and businesses will not only provide employment opportunities for the people, but also collect revenue for the government, which will solve the country's economic problems.

Nine Pakistani students participating in the 2023 Huawei Seeds for the Future

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei today announced the launch of this year's prestigious Seeds for the Future program for university students across the Middle East and Central Asia. Huawei kicked off the first phase of the 2023 Seeds for the Future Program at an official opening ceremony at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar, on September 3rd, 2023. Bringing together 175 students from the Middle East and Central Asia (ME & CA) for the first time ever in Qatar, the regional event aims to develop local talent, share knowledge, increase ICT sector awareness, and foster a digital community for young ICT talents.

The 2023 edition of the competition will witness the participation of students from elite universities representing 15

countries in the region, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Oman, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, and Kyrgyzstan. Nine students from Pakistan are set to participate in this year's edition of Seeds for the Future. The participating students hail from NED University of Engineering and Technology, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Karakoram International University (KIU), COMSATS University Islamabad (CU), Institute of Management Sciences (IMS), and The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST).

Shunli Wang, Vice President of

Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, said: "Huawei is committed to nurturing an open, shared ICT talent ecosystem across the Middle East and Central Asia, including Pakistan. The Seeds for the Future program is our flagship global CSR program that aims to inspire talent to shape the future of their respective countries. We are honored for the unwavering support and endorsement the program continues to receive in its sixth year now. We extend our best wishes to the 2023 regional participants and look forward to an exciting edition."

Jawad Abbasi, Head of GSMA, MENA, commented: "Advanced technologies like AI, 5G, and cloud are revolutionizing how we live, learn, and work. Digital transformation across the MENA is accelerating at an unparalleled pace, and it's crucial that we narrow the ICT talent gap

and arm students with 21st-century skills. Enabling students to upskill their tech knowledge while gaining crucial soft skills is of paramount importance."

Huawei's Seeds for the Future program is the company's flagship CSR program that aims to develop ICT talents globally. With an ever-increasing emphasis on innovation and technological advancements, this competition offers a unique platform where these young minds can exchange ideas, network with international peers, and gain valuable insights into the ICT sector that will shape their future and promote their participation in the digital community. Since its launch in 2008, more than 15,000 students have participated from 139 countries. The program has been endorsed by more than 450 senior officials and heads of states.



Participating students will present their Tech4Good projects to the judges, and eight outstanding teams of 40 students will be selected to move on to the second phase of the Tech4Good program, which will be held in Dubai, UAE, from 10-16 September 2023.

The winners will then qualify to compete in the final global competition in China against other teams from around the world. The students will jointly explore ICT's huge potential to drive sustainable development. Winners from the Tech4Good

Global Competition will be invited to the Tech4Good Start-up Sprint in China, where they will visit Shenzhen, Beijing, and other cities to experience real-world entrepreneurial environments and compete for a start-up support fund of US\$100,000.

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In move to dismantle Khan's mantra in colleges

Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, has garnered substantial support among the youth, largely due to his charismatic leadership and promises of change and reform. His message of a "Naya Pakistan" (New Pakistan) built on transparency and accountability has resonated with many young voters. This has raised concerns among opposition parties, who are eager to dent his popularity. To diminish Imran Khan's popularity among the other opposition parties have resorted to negative tactics. However, resorting to negative tactics to achieve this goal is not without its risks.

Imran Khan's narrative has undeniably left a lasting impact on the political discourse in Pakistan, often described as having a "magical effect" on the public. However, the recent move by the Punjab government to deploy politicians from opposition parties, specifically the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), to deliver lectures in government colleges before young students is a unique and intriguing development. It's widely believed that the government's directive is motivated by the desire to secure the youth vote for the upcoming elections. This strategic approach, however, raises questions about the ethical boundaries of using educational institutions for political gain. It also calls into question whether students should be subjected to political influence within their places of learning. The objective of this strategy, as reported

by Azam Malik Multan based senior Journalist, is to harness the persuasive power of local politicians in spreading Imran Khan's narrative and message of "A decisive struggle against corruption and the rule of law" among the younger generation. The hope is to influence the minds and hearts of students, potentially swaying them away from supporting Imran Khan and his political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), in the upcoming elections. However, this move has ignited a heated debate, with many viewing it as a misguided action that deviates from the government's oath and threatens to compromise the educational system's integrity.

In Pakistan, there is a widespread perception that many Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) and Members of National Assembly (MNAs) have been embroiled in corrupt practices, leading to the derogatory term "Looty" used by the public to describe them. Given this context, it's plausible that students, who are typically politically aware and critical thinkers, might be skeptical of politicians' attempts to influence them. Another dimension of concern is the involvement of politicians who face allegations of serious crimes, including murder, land grabbing, and other societal offenses. The ethical dilemma of incorporating such individuals into students' education is

undeniable. Will They Succeed in Changing Imran Khan's Popularity? The ultimate question remains whether politicians engaging in students' ideological training can successfully change Imran Khan's popularity among the youth. Young people today demand accountability and transparency from their leaders, and they may not easily accept rhetoric without concrete actions to combat corruption. While these politicians are involved in corruption no honest and patriotic Pakistani is ready to listen to them.

Furthermore, the utilization of government resources and educational institutions for political purposes has raised concerns about the integrity of the educational system and the appropriate use of public funds. One of the most pressing concerns surrounding this directive is the potential damage to the reputation and sanctity of educational institutions. Critics argue that involving politicians with questionable backgrounds in the education system can compromise the institutions' primary mission: providing unbiased, well-rounded education that fosters critical thinking and independent perspectives. The effectiveness of this directive in altering Imran Khan's popularity remains uncertain.

As the debate unfolds, it underscores the importance of maintaining a clear separation between politics and educa-

tion. Preserving the integrity of educational institutions, ensuring unbiased education, and respecting students' autonomy in forming their beliefs should remain paramount.

The complex task of influencing political ideologies within educational settings calls for careful consideration and respect for the principles of education. In short, while the Punjab government's strategy to utilize opposition politicians for lecturing in government colleges is an intriguing approach to political engagement, it faces significant challenges, including the distrust of politicians among the public and the high expectations of politically conscious students. How students respond to these efforts and whether this strategy proves effective in the long run will be closely observed in the evolving landscape of Pakistani politics. In current situation is making it sad that the college students will address these politicians by calling them "LOOTA". Then these people will have nothing else to escape from.

Opposition parties should present an acceptable narrative to the public so that the people may stand with leaders from other parties and people leave Imran Khan's side. Forcing and pursuing a violent agenda will lead to chaos and decline. Avoiding this is beneficial for the country and nation. The movements and restlessness of the opposition parties shows that there is nothing in their pockets to go to the people. The magic of Imran's narrative began to speak.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Kashmir now a settler-colonial project, Kashmiri leader tells Islamic convention

A noted Kashmiri leader told the annual Convention of the Islamic Society of North American (ISNA) in Chicago that Jammu and Kashmir, which India unilaterally annexed in August 2019, was now "a full-fledged settler-colonial project," one similar to Israel's in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"A genocidal and ethnic cleansing plan is in place", Ghulam Nabi Mir, President of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman of the Kashmir Global Coalition, said in a speech to delegates from across the United States.

Under the new Domicile Law, he said, 4.2 million Indian Hindus have been issued domicile certificates to demographically flood Kashmir with non-Kashmiri Indian settlers to dilute the Muslim population.

"Kashmir has had its checkered history of strife, foreign invasion and occupations just like all other nations of the world," Mir pointed out.

Referring to several of India's actions to occupy Kashmir after the independence, he said, "In August 2019, (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi revoked Kashmir's semi-autonomous status and imposed a media and internet blockade, after building up a massive military presence in the area and shutting down and imposing curfew that virtually cut off the disputed territory from the world.

"Thousands of additional Indian troops were deployed, a major Hindu pilgrimage was canceled, schools and colleges were shut, tourists were ordered to leave, telephone and internet services were suspended, and thousands of youth and resistance leaders and activists were detained," Mir said.

"The Hindu nationalist BJP wants to change the demographic character of the Muslim-majority region by allowing non-Kashmiris to buy land there," Dr.

Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum was the Emcee of the event.

He said that Kashmir, Palestine and Rohingya genocide are the three important international conflicts.

The Palestinians and Kashmiris should be provided an opportunity to decide whatever they want without any external pressure or compulsion.

"That choice was given to Palestinians under UN Security Council resolutions as well as to the Kashmiris also under the 15-member Council's resolutions.

"The denial of the right to self-determination to the people of Palestine and Kashmir is a clear danger to the international peace and security," Dr. Fai warned.

He added that the genocide in Myanmar should not go unnoticed as more than 1 million Rohingya Muslims have fled and are languishing in refugee camps in Bangladesh and some other countries.

The pain and suffering of Rohingya Muslims are a challenge to the world's conscience," Dr. Fai said, "Time has come that the United Nations need to intervene in all these three situations to bring peace to the region of South Asia and Middle East."



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

Indian Supreme Court on Article 35A and Revival of Special Status of Occupied J & K - II

This special status allowed the state to have its own constitution, autonomy over internal matters except defense, foreign affairs, and communications, and a separate set of laws that governed various aspects of the state's affairs. It was a unique arrangement that aimed to respect the cultural, religious, and political diversity of the region. The abrogation of Article 370 was framed allegedly by the Modi led Indian government to merge Jammu and Kashmir in India. The decision was met with opposition within India and the world. Critics saw it as a violation of the unique identity of Jammu and Kashmir and a threat to its demographic and cultural fabric.

The immediate aftermath of the abrogation saw significant changes in the region. The state was reorganized into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The removal of Article 370 resulted in the loss of the special autonomy that had been a defining feature of the region for decades. While the Indian government promised economic development, investment, and opportunities, there were concerns about the communication blackout, restrictions on movement, and human rights violations that followed the decision. These concerns sparked debates on the balance between security measures and fundamental rights. The abrogation of Article 370 had broader geopolitical implications. It led to tensions between India and Pakistan. Pakistan criticized the move, and the relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors further deteriorated, resulting in increased military activities along the Line of Control.

Article 35A, a provision enshrined in the Indian Constitution, held a special place in the context of Jammu and Kashmir until its abrogation in 2019. Article 35A was added to the Indian Constitution through a Presidential Order in 1954, effectively granting the state government of Jammu and Kashmir the authority to define who qualified as a "permanent resi-

dent" of the State. These permanent residents were entitled to certain rights and privileges, including the right to own property, access government jobs, and avail of social benefits. Supporters of Article 35A argued that it was a vital safeguard for the unique identity and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. They believed that the provision protected the region's demographics and preserved its distinct character by preventing non-residents from acquiring property or benefiting from employment opportunities. For many residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Article 35A represented a symbol of the special autonomy that the state enjoyed within the Indian Union. It was seen as a measure to protect the region's interests in the face of integration.

Article 35A faced challenges over the years, with petitions questioning its constitutionality. The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, which granted special autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, also led to the nullification of Article 35A. This move was met with a range of reactions, including support from those who believed that it would promote greater integration and equal rights across the nation, and criticism from those who saw it as an erosion of the region's distinct identity.

The abrogation of Article 35A led to significant changes in Jammu and Kashmir's legal and administrative landscape. The region was reorganized into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The decision sparked debates on the balance between integration and preservation of identity, and raised questions about the future trajectory of the region's socio-political and economic development. Article 35A was a provision that evoked strong emotions and divergent viewpoints in the context of Jammu and Kashmir. Its abrogation marked a turning point in the region's history, leaving a lasting impact on its relationship with the Indian Union, its identity, and its aspirations for the future.

To be Continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

The Forgotten Words of M. A Jinnah

You are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion, caste or creed - that has nothing to do with the business of the State."

These words of M. A Jinnah are written on the dusty pages in history of Pakistan, hypothesized while addressing to the Constituent Assembly on 11th August, 1947. These very words emphasized on Quaid's vision of Pakistan and indelible sacrifices that minorities had made in the way of acquiring separate homeland for the impoverished minorities of the subcontinent.

But, this vision of Quaid about pluralist democracy with majority of Muslims eroded away with the passage of unwavering time; forthcoming leaders after the death of Jinnah made policies shortsightedly, which plunged the country into religious discrimination, communal riots hinged on religion, language, color and creed.

Evidently, Pakistan is home to many religious minorities such as Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Kalasha; community in Chitral, and minority sects of Muslims akin Shia, Ahmadis than majority Sunnis. These mistreated minorities have unwavering sacrifices in acquiring independence from British Raj and Hindu's majority. After independence, when Muslims refugees were coming to newly Republic, the Christian Community came forward for their help. Christian Community of India felt closer to Muslim League than Congress; Christians are the people of the Book so religious affinity always existed among them.

Additionally, in the arena of medicine, once there was a time in the turbulent history that Christian Women monopolized the profession of nurses and helped the medical profession to stand on its feet in the newly independent republic.

One name which ultimately comes into mind is Dr. Ruth Pfau; who was German Pakistani nun, who dedicated her life eradicating leprosy in Pakistan. She is describes as Pakistan's Mother Teresa; it was her struggle that Pakistan was declared leprosy-free country in 1996. She has been awarded with many distinguish awards by Pakistan's Government and is remembered in golden words.

After all the unprecedented contributions, Muslims in return, gave them discrimination, status of second class citi-

zens, social marginalization, forcibly marriages, vandalism of their belongings, based on personal vendettas, and vicious poverty. This process of discrimination started in 1949, when an attempt was made to declare minorities second class citizens under the banner of Liaquat Ali Khan in Objective Resolution; Suresh Chandar Chattopadhyaya opposed this resolution in the parliament. While doing so Muslims were given free hand which left minorities handicapped

Also, 1953 riots against Ahmadis erupted which left the newly made country on the brink of extremism; 2000 Ahmadis were slaughtered until Martial Law was imposed in Lahore. The words of M. A Jinnah were forgotten long ago, after his demise. Forthcoming leaders left no stone unturned to curb the minorities and their social status. In the era of Z.

A Butto and Gen. Zia, Ahmadis were literally declared non-Muslim. In the turbulent history of Pakistan politicians used Islam and Islamic Laws as tools to mainstream their politics, which in result, has left the country in religious extremism, terrorism, misused blasphemy laws and turmoil has eroded the social fabric of the societies. The Asia Bibi case, which led to the murder of Salman Taseer in 2010, the murder of Sri Lankan Priyantha Kumar in Dec 3, 2021 and recent Jaranwala incident disrepute the country enough on international level.

In summarization, throughout the dusty pages of history in Pakistan, minorities remained disenfranchised in society; deprived of fundamental constitutional rights, irrespective of their unprecedented contributions towards Pakistan. We have forgotten the words of M. A Jinnah, chosen different path for nation instead of pluralist democracy; embarked on the way of politics based on personal scores ignoring nation wholeheartedly. If we continue to do so, will be left behind than fast growing economies and if we continue to undo the rights of our minorities, based on religion as well as personal vendettas, our forthcoming generation will end up solving these issues. As Bhagat Singh said;

"Agar ye khita mazhab ke naam par taqseem hua to nafrat ki iss aag ko bhujate bhujate anaywali naslon ki kamar toot jaegi." (If this land is divided in the name of faith, a tidal wave of hate so enormous will erupt that generations will be engulfed by it.) - Bhagat Singh

Writer is student of BS Sociology at Quaid i Azam University, Islamabad



Analysis

Muhammad Usman

IS "With Saudi, Go Global"

Huawei Cloud launches services in Saudi Arabia

Spokesman Report

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA: Huawei Cloud today announced the launch of the Huawei Cloud Riyadh Region, going live immediately. Unveiled at the HuaweiCloud Summit Saudi Arabia 2023, the new Riyadh region will help promote digital-led economic growth in the country.

The launch of the Huawei Cloud Riyadh Region announced that Saudi Arabia Region will be Huawei Cloud's focus in serving the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, providing innovative, reliable, secure, and sustainable cloud services. This achievement underscores Huawei CLOUD's unwavering dedication to supporting Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aligned with the nation's ambitious technological advancement, leadership, and innovation goals.

H. E. Eng. Haitham bin Abdul Rahman Al-Ohali, Vice Minister at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) in Saudi Arabia, shared his perspective on this monumental achievement: "Huawei is a proud partner in our country's technological progress having worked with the Minis-

try, service providers, enterprises and universities in various collective efforts towards digital transformation. We look forward to the transformative impact the HUAWEI CLOUD Riyadh Region will have on our digital ecosystem, creating new avenues for innovation and growth."

The Riyadh Region provides several benefits to customers. First, this region translates our global expertise on digital transformation into industries' excellence, making innovation easier and faster. HuaweiCloud Saudi Region is located in Riyadh and through a 3AZ (availability zone) architecture, it will provide highly available and secure cloud services, ensuring the stable operations of various services. In addition, the Region can provide full stack cloud services, including infrastructure, databases, containers, big data and AI services to meet the requirements of various industries.

Based on the 3-AZ high-reliability architecture, the Riyadh region provides a low latency, covering all existing carriers' networks powered by STC, Zain, and Mobily. The local data center will store data locally in line with local data regulations. The company will also launch of 68 cloud

services in three categories – data, AI, and cloud-native.

Steven Yi, Senior Vice President of Huawei, and President of Huawei Middle East and Central Asia Region, said: "I've cherished numerous unforgettable moments in this extraordinary country. Just yesterday, walking through the newly renovated Diriyah evoked my deep emotions. It brought to mind an old Chinese saying: "Build the right nest, and a Phoenix will come." The essence is clear: create an inviting environment, and you'll attract the best. This is undeniably true for Saudi, a nation that consistently attracts top investors."

The company revealed that HuaweiCloud will utilize a number of industry-leading technologies to advance Intelligence for Saudi Arabia, including the Pangu 3.0 model, which addresses AI adoption challenges, leveraging industry insights to enhance AI capabilities across sectors like finance, government, manufacturing, and more. Pangu 3.0 AI model will usher a new era of innovation in the Kingdom while accelerating economic diversification.

Jacqueline Shi, President of Huawei Cloud Global Marketing and Sales Service said, "Huawei Cloud aims



global, aims global and aims here in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia Region will be our focus in serving the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, providing innovative, reliable, secure, and sustainable cloud services. We hope to create a better choice for advancing intelligence. This cloud gives you more choices to stay innovative, inclusive, and open. This cloud will help you succeed in the digital and intelligent era. This cloud is for everyone."

At the event, the company also

announced that Huawei Cloud will train 200,000 developers in Saudi Arabia in the next five years. It will also build joint solutions with 1,000 local partners and launch the Huawei Cloud Entrepreneurship Program to help 2,000 startups grow.

Eric Yang, CEO of Huawei Saudi Arabia, said: "We are proudly launching Huawei Cloud Riyadh Region today. It has been a great journey for us in Saudi Arabia for the last 20+ years. Huawei is constructor for intelligent society,

contributor for thriving economy and cultivator for prosperous talent ecosystem. Towards 2030, we will dedicated to continuously providing ubiquitous connectivity green energy, pervasive cloud computing and AI capabilities for Saudi Arabia to unlock unlimited opportunities of the new digital era."

Huawei Saudi Arabia was founded in 2002 and has played a pivotal role in the digital transformation in Saudi Arabia. Over the course of 19 years, Huawei has collaborated with regional communication service providers (CSPs) to provide reliable network assurance for the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia without incident. The company also supported the roll-out of 5G in the Kingdom, enabling the country to become one of the world's pioneer 5G markets. Huawei has helped connect 3.5 million people in rural areas, created 20,000 local jobs and cultivated 10,000 ICT talents for Saudi Arabia.

Under its "Everything as a Service" strategy, HUAWEI CLOUD is focused on becoming the cloud foundation and enabler of industry digitalization, providing services for customers in more than 170 countries and regions worldwide.

Called on

Washington DC: 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 Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan in Pakistan Embassy Washington DC



Coal mine explosion in Iran's Damghan city kills 6 miners

A deadly explosion claimed the lives of six workers after it struck a coal mine on Sunday and their bodies were recovered by Monday morning as the rescue mission had been unsuccessful in its early hours, Iranian media reported on Monday.

According to the official IRNA news agency, the explosion tore through a tunnel in the northern city of Damghan at a depth of 400 metres (440 yards), however, it was not immediately known what triggered the explosion.

"Six miners were trapped underground on Sunday when the coal mine explosion took place in Damghan," IRNA reported.

Soon after the blast erupted, efforts to rescue the miners proved unsuccessful but the bodies were recovered Monday morning, it added.

IRNA showed footage of other workers at the site trying to recover the remains of their colleagues' bodies from under the rubble, according to AFP.

UAE becomes Pakistan's largest trading partner in MENA Region

News Desk

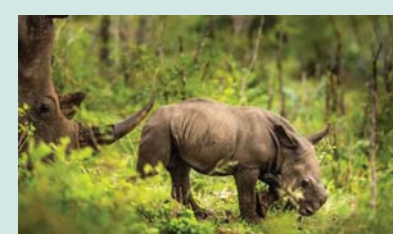
KARACHI: Chairman of the Pakistan - UAE Business Council, Fakhruddin Diwan, has stressed that a long-term economic engagement with UAE can greatly benefit Pakistan in coping with ever-lasting foreign exchange crisis; non-existent economic growth; diversifying exports basket and enhancing workers remittances.

It is pertinent to note that the volume of bilateral trade of Pakistan and UAE has well-surpassed the psychological mark of \$10 billion in FY22 - which makes UAE Pakistan's largest trading partner in the entire Middle-East & North Africa Region (MENA); which consists of 21 countries.

Fakhruddin Diwan explained that given the world-class and state-of-the-art communications infrastructure of UAE, Pakistan should work towards integrating UAE into CPEC through creating bridges with their ports, shipping, trade, financial, tourism and commercial networks.

Additionally, Pakistan's workers remittances from UAE stand at \$6.11 billion. Pair that with UAE's numerous loans and grants to shore up Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves (FER) held by the State Bank of Pakistan on various crunch times over the last 3 decades, UAE is effectively one of the most trusted and indispensable economic partners of Pakistan.

World's largest rhino farm now in hands of African Parks NGO



African Parks, an NGO, announced its acquisition of the world's largest rhino farm, situated in South Africa and housing a staggering 2,000 rhinoceroses.

The move comes amid a pressing need to safeguard these huge creatures, given South Africa's status as a poaching hotspot driven by demand for rhino horns in traditional Asian medicine.

Despite increased protection efforts at national parks like Kruger, South Africa witnessed the tragic loss of 448 rhinos last year, just three fewer than in 2021.

African Parks has now stepped in to take charge of this critical rhino breeding operation, spanning 7,800 hectares in the North West province, presently sheltering 15 percent of the world's remaining wild southern white rhino population.

Previously owned by 81-year-old South African conservationist John Hume, who aimed to find a billionaire successor, the farm faced great poaching risks without any takers.

Hume had poured approximately \$150 million into his philanthropic mission to save the world's second-largest land mammal, with security and surveillance forming the farm's major expenses.

African Parks, a custodian of 22 protected areas across Africa, has outlined a comprehensive plan to reintroduce 2,000 southern white rhinos into the wild over the next decade.

The species, once on the brink of extinction in the late 19th century, has gradually rebounded due to sustained protection and breeding efforts.

The landmark acquisition marks a significant stride in rhino conservation, emphasising the urgency of safeguarding these magnificent creatures from the persistent threat of poaching in South Africa.

ICCI demands removal of small pharmacies from Tier-1 Retailers category to ease their problems

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by President of Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association Islamabad Tariq Saeed met President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and informed him about the key problems of his sector and emphasized the importance of their quick redress.

Addressing the delegation, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Bakhtawari said that small pharmacies are facilitating customers in payment through debit/credit card, but FBR have grouped them in Tier-1 Retailers category for heavy taxation due to which they are facing many problems and urged that FBR should remove them from Tier-1 category to ease their difficulties. He said that the chemists and druggists are performing an important national service by providing timely medicines to patients, but like other



businesses, the business community of this sector is also facing many problems due to which their business activities are suffering. He stressed that the government should solve the issues of this sector for the convenience of the patients. He said that he is well aware of the problems faced by chemists and druggists and will be their voice from the platform of the Chamber and will highlight them at every relevant forum for redress on priority basis.

President of Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association Islamabad, Tariq Saeed, while speaking on the occasion, said that in view of the sky-high inflation, like other industries and businesses, the chemists and druggist sector is also facing great difficulties. The increase in prices is making it so difficult to buy and sell the raw materials, which is causing shortage of medicines in the market. He strongly demanded that the government should try to solve the problems of this sector

on a priority basis to save the patients from problems of shortage of medicines.

Qaiser Masood, Secretary General of Pakistan Chemist and Druggist Association Islamabad, said that due to high inflation, expenses like rent of shops and electricity bills have increased a lot, while the profit margin of chemists is the same and due to this factor business community of this sector is worried. He further said that buying and selling medicines online is not a reliable source and this illegal practice is also affecting the business activities of their sector, so he emphasized that the government should take notice of this practice to save their businesses from further losses.

Arif Yar Khan, Tariq Sheikh, Najeeb Abbasi, Rameez Baig, Chaudhry Sajid, Abdul Aziz, Usman Hafeez, Malik Ashfaq, Babar Kiani and others were among the delegation. Former President of the Chamber and Secretary General of UBG Pakistan Zafar Bakhtawari was also present on the occasion.

Pakistan businesses fear default still imminent, Gallup Survey

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Majority of Pakistan's businesses are "not hopeful at all" about the ability of caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar to save the country from a potential default on its international financial obligations, shows a latest survey.

The 72% of more than 500 businesses surveyed in the second quarter of 2023 by Gallup Pakistan were found concerned over the country's potential default.

The survey results come despite Islamabad's success in securing a \$3 billion fresh bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that helped dollar-hungry Pakistan avoid an imminent default.

Of the total nearly half, 49%

expressed significantly high concern while 17% respondents were not concerned at all, according to the Gallup Pakistan Business Confidence Index Q2 2023 report.

However, the survey found that the business community was less pessimistic about the fate of their businesses than previous quarter despite snowballing crises, worsening inflation and rising power costs.

"Inflation, utility bills and rupee devaluation cause growing concern among business community, but overall fewer businesses express hopelessness compared to the previous quarter," said the survey report.

Less pessimistic about current conditions, the business owners are largely negative about future prospects and the direction

in which Pakistan is heading. "Prevailing economic and political crises have contributed to persisting business insecurity," it said.

The backbreaking inflation was cited as the most important problem the businessmen would want the caretaker government to solve as price hike has significantly eroded people's purchasing power besides keeping the interest rate at a record high in recent months.

The freefall of the rupee and the imposition of taxes were other problems more and more businesses want the government to address. The number of businesses facing load-shedding rose by 25% this quarter as 69% said yes when asked if they were braving power outages.

Half of the businesses surveyed said they had laid off their

employees because of tough business conditions in the quarter under review, showing 13% increase over the previous quarter.

Asked questions about their current and future business situation as well as the direction of the country, the businessmen's view on all three fronts was negative.

The scores in each strand, however, rose by a few percentage points as compared to the last quarter.

"While the overall negative trend persists, this indicates a marginal improvement in business confidence after quarter 1," marked the report.

The current business situation score on Gallup's second quarter Business Confidence Index has improved by two percentage points regardless of the fact that economic insecurity has risen in



Pakistan since the start of the year.

The business owners were equally pessimistic about the future of their businesses as 60% expressed negative expectations this quarter. Only 40% are upbeat things will improve.

The Net Future Business Confidence score has improved by 2% since the beginning of the year and is now at -20%, the

survey shows.

Like past two quarters, 88% of the business owners and managers think that Pakistan is heading in the wrong direction.

"The business community's view about future business in the country is the most pessimistic since Gallup Pakistan started recording this indicator," said the report adding that the Direction

of the Country Score has reduced to -79%, four percentage points less than what it was last quarter.

Half of the businesses surveyed said they had increased their output prices during the quarter under review.

"Less businesses raised prices compared to quarter one, and comparatively more businesses reduced their output prices," the report said.

This latest survey is the 10th of a quarterly Business Confidence Survey that Gallup Pakistan conducted across the country. The Business Confidence Index is an important barometer capturing the sentiments of business community in any country and used across the world by policy makers. The survey was conducted with around 560 businesses across Pakistan.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
45,707.42	45,312.65
Day's High	Day's Low:
45,788.74	45,448.02
Index Value	Change
3,410,446,307	+394.77
Percentage	Time
+0.87%	4 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,452.76	-11.78
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	4 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
34,837.71	+115.80
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	1 Sept, 5:19 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
32,939.18	+228.56
Percentage	Time
+0.70%	4 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	210	212
Bahrain Dinar	813.77	821.77
Canadian Dollar	240	242.4
China Yuan	42.14	42.54
Danish Krone	44.24	44.64
Euro	355	359
Hong Kong Dollar	38.83	39.19
Indian Rupee	3.69	3.8
Japanese Yen	2.36	2.44
Kuwaiti Dinar	992.22	1001.22
Malaysian Ringgit	65.66	66.26
New Zealand \$	181.87	183.87
Norwegians Krone	28.83	29.13
Omani Riyal	794.68	802.68
Qatari Riyal	83.71	84.41
Saudi Riyal	87.7	88.5
Singapore Dollar	237.6	240
Swedish Korona	28.16	28.46
Swiss Franc	345.45	347.95
Thai Bhat	8.71	8.86
U.A.E Dirham	91.2	92
UK Pound Sterling	416.9	421
US Dollar	330	333.5

Political stability will reduce the value of dollar by 50 rupees, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that most of the finance ministers have tried to prove themselves as the Messiah instead of correcting the economic corruption.

These finance ministers have caused irreparable damage to the economy in a bid to gain popularity, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that instead of increasing exports, boosting the tax-to-GDP ratio, and luring foreign investment, the finance ministers have been busy tampering with the exchange rate and interest rate, giving the impression of artificial growth.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that foreign ministers'

gimmickry remained counterproductive and damaged our relations with the IMF and other international institutions.

He said that after signing any agreement with the IMF, we cheated the institution by reducing the prices of gasoline and electricity against the agreement, which worsened the situation.

In the past several decades, assurances have been given to the people and international institutions to sell off failed government institutions, implement necessary reforms, provide relief to taxpayers, bring non-taxpayers into the tax net, reduce deficits, and end smuggling, but this is not the case, he observed.

In order to reduce the budget deficit, action is taken against taxpayers instead of tax evaders, and the people are squeezed more, but these policies will not last long because the entire country is protesting.

The business leader said that even in these circumstances, the dollar's value may decrease



to 50 rupees if political stability is ensured and serious steps are taken to increase exports.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that according to some economic experts, the Pakistani rupee is 14 percent undervalued.

Every government in Pakistan has claimed to improve the situation, but it has caused more damage to the country, for which the people have

to pay a heavy price.

As the country moves towards destruction, instead of finding a solution, loud claims are being repeated.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that the top experts are included in the current caretaker government; more than two weeks have passed, but no reform agenda has come out yet, while the IMF review is also due in November.

In these circumstances, the government must immediately bring forward the agenda of privatisation of failed government institutions, increase the tax net, eliminate electricity theft and line losses, and take visible steps to increase exports.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that it is very important for all the political parties and the establishment to come on the same page regarding the agenda of revival of the economy and for this, the military leadership has to play its role; otherwise, the promises of relief to the people will remain empty slogans.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali on Monday.



PSX gains 395pts after COAS allays investors' concerns

TLTP

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) extended gains for the second straight session on Monday on the back of assurances by the army chief regarding ensuring transparency in the foreign exchange rate and efforts to revive economy, with the KSE-100 Index gaining 394.77 points (+0.87 percent) to close at 45,707.42 points.

The market opened on a positive note and remained positive throughout the session. The market experts attributed the recovery to the army chief's assurance over transparency in dollar rates and for bringing exchange companies into the tax net. All these things have brought positivity and confidence among investors.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir met the business community in Lahore and Karachi on Sunday and assured them of bringing money exchanges under the purview of tax-

ation, and fostering transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates. The army chief also revealed during the meeting that task forces focused on economic matters and different sectors had been formed to bolster economic decision-making. The COAS assured that all the attention was on the economy currently and measures are being taken which will come forth in the upcoming days. He stressed on increasing investments in the agricultural and mining sectors and expressed zero tolerance against smuggling.

The benchmark index traded in a range of 476.09 points showing an intraday high of 45,788.74 points and an intraday low of 45,312.65 points, which was the LDCEP. Among other indices, the KSE AllShare Index gained 210.64 points (+0.69 percent) to close at 30,454.17 points, while KMI AllShare Islamic Index gained 224.08 points (+1.02 percent) to close at 21,987.31 points.

TCL Exhibits Latest Innovations During IFA 2023 with Top Awards

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, a leading consumer electronics brand and the world's top two TV brand, hosts a booth at IFA, the world's most significant technology event, taking place at the Messe Berlin Exhibition Grounds from September 1-5. Attracting thousands of global technology brands and industry experts, IFA represents the most comprehensive overview of the international market and TCL's presence at the event for over ten years solidifies its position at the forefront of groundbreaking entertainment and smart domestic technology.

TCL joins IFA in 2023 to proudly demonstrate extensive breakthroughs in immersive entertainment displays, IoT technologies, and sustainable energy through a showcase of the brands latest innovations in home theater, air conditioners, washing machines, smartphones, tablets, AR glasses and smart home solutions, as well as the latest distributed photovoltaics (PV) technologies.

For those who are looking for ultimate home theater technologies, TCL is exhibiting the 115" Mini LED display, the world's



largest of its kind so far, together with powerful multi-channel audio innovations.

As a sports enthusiast and major sponsor to a number of global athletic icons, TCL is also presenting its latest branding updates at the booth, with the much-anticipated interactive session of world-famous football legend.

Industry Recognition for Outstanding Achievements in the Evolution of Domestic Appliances

During the exhibition, TCL received the Smart Air Purification Technology Award as a recognition by Europe Digital Group and Asia Digital Group for its advanced air conditioning technology.

Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani Join Forces to Offer Complimentary Medical Consultations

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, the leading telecom company in Pakistan, and Sehat Kahani, a pioneering digital healthcare platform, have extended their partnership to provide free medical consultations on the Sehat Kahani app. This exclusive partnership aims to combine the strength of technology and telecommunications to provide users with up to 10,000 free medical consultations, fostering improved healthcare access across Pakistan.

In this exceptional initiative, users of the Sehat Kahani retail app and Zong 4G subscribers can avail the free consultations using the promo code 'ZONGSEHAT'. This is a testament to both organizations' shared commitment to prior-



itize the health and well-being of Pakistan's citizens.

"Our partnership with Sehat Kahani is testament to our commitment for making health inclusive for all strata of the society. Our connectivity is not only empowering people, but it is ensuring, the services like health and education is accessible for everyone. We are firmly committed to supporting sustainability causes and will continue to develop and provide innovative solutions can help to create a more sustainable future for all," shared the spokesperson of Zong 4G

Over 7.846 mln metric tons of wheat available for local consumption

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Strategic wheat reserves of the country during by the start week of current month (September) were recorded at 7.846 million metric tons, which is enough to fulfill the local requirements and maintain stocks for keeping the demand and supply smooth in domestic markets. The government had procured about 5.879 million metric tons of wheat during the crop procurement campaign for the year 2023-24, said Food Security Commissioner In the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Imtiaz Ali Gopang. Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that grain procurement targets for the current season were fixed at 7.800 million tons as out of the total fixed targets about 75 per cent was accomplished, adding that Punjab completed 87 per cent of its procurement targets as it procured 3.921 million metric tons, Sindh 56 percent to procured 777,394 metric tons respectively.

Digital Domination: Opportunities and Challenges Unveiled at ITCN Asia 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Day 2 of the ITCN Asia 2023 conference witnessed a captivating event titled "Digital Domination: Opportunities and Challenges," which provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of technology and education. Held in Karachi, this event was conducted in partnership between the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), also an Academic Partner for ITCN Asia 2023, and Viper Technology, making it a significant highlight of the conference. Mr. Talib Karim, President of IoBM,

graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event commenced with opening remarks from the first keynote speaker, Dr. Imran Batada, CIO and Director of CIT at IoBM. Dr. Batada set the stage by discussing the future of higher education and the entrepreneurial vision held by students today. He emphasized the role academia plays in nurturing this vision and urged organizations to embrace a start-up culture.

The second keynote speaker, Mr. Faisal Sheikh, Co-founder of Viper Technology and CEO of VIION Technology, shed light

on the challenges of adopting new technology in Pakistan. He provided a comprehensive overview of the technology domain in the country, emphasizing the need for increased acceptability of innovation.

Following these enlightening keynotes, a panel discussion ensued, featuring prominent figures from various fields, including Mr. Sohail Hassan, an award-winning marketer and media strategist, Mr. Khushnood Aftab, CEO of Viper Technology, Mr. Shaikat Ali Khan, Global CIO at AKUH, and Mr. Abrar Ahmed Khan, CMO of Beaconhouse Group, who

shared their valuable perspectives on AI, brand investment, digitization, and education sector capacity-building.

Dr. Imran Batada, who had opened the event with his keynote, expertly moderated the panel discussion.

While addressing the audience, Mr. Baber Majid Bhatti, CEO, National Information Technology Board (NITB), explored the current landscape and future prospects of the IT sector in Pakistan.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Chief Guest Mr. Talib Karim, who underscored the importance of



focusing on exports and remittances. He urged the audience to prioritize efforts in the IT sector, emphasizing the need to enhance software exports and

equip the youth with the necessary skills to become freelancers. The "Digital Domination: Opportunities and Challenges" event at ITCN Asia 2023 was a

dynamic platform for thought leaders to exchange ideas, address key issues, and explore the potential of technology and education in Pakistan.

Bangladesh's Litton Das declared fit for Asia Cup 2023

📰 Sports Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh received a boost to their Asia Cup 2023 campaign when batsman Litton Das was declared fit to play Monday and was immediately drafted into the squad, the chief selector said.

"Litton is fit now, he will travel to Pakistan tonight to join the squad," Minhajul Abedin told AFP.

Litton Das missed Bangladesh's two group matches of Asia Cup 2023 due to a fever and was replaced by Anamul Haque.

Bangladesh lost their opening match against Sri Lanka by five wickets on Thursday but bounced back strongly on Sunday to beat Afghanistan by 89 runs.

The big win against Afghanistan took Bangladesh's run rate ahead of Sri Lanka, meaning they were assured of a place in the Super Four.



Sri Lanka will face Afghanistan in Lahore on Tuesday for the remaining Super Four slot from the group.

Litton's return to fitness came as a

relief for Bangladesh, who also lost frontline seamer Ebadot Hossain to injury.

Batsmen Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mehidy Hasan Miraz both struggled

with fitness on their way to a 194-run third-wicket stand against Afghanistan in Lahore.

Miraz retired hurt after making a career-best 112, while Shanto, who batted on the crease and was run out after making 104.

Bangladesh will open their campaign in the Super Four against Pakistan, who have already qualified from Group A, in Lahore on Wednesday.

India and Nepal are playing in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, on Monday to qualify for the Super Four as the other team from Group A.

Five Asian Test-playing nations and Nepal are playing in the biannual tournament jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with the final set for September 17.

The tournament is a tune-up for the upcoming ODI World Cup in India.

Dethroned Iga Swiatek out of US Open after Ostapenko stunner

📰 News Desk

Defending champion Iga Swiatek was sent crashing out of the US Open Cup 2023 on Sunday, losing in three sets to Latvia's 20th seed Jelena Ostapenko.

Ostapenko fought back after losing the opening set to record a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory in 1hr 48min and will now face American sixth seed Coco Gauff in the quarter-finals on Tuesday.

The defeat means Polish star Iga Swiatek will end her 75-week reign as women's world number one when the rankings are updated after the US Open, with rival Aryna Sabalenka set to take over top spot.

Ostapenko's victory also extends her unbeaten record against Swiatek after wins in all three of her previous meetings with her.

"I always expect a tough battle against Iga, she's such a great player and won many Slams and is so consistent," Ostapenko said after her win on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.



"I knew I had to be aggressive and play my game because that's what she doesn't like."

"I was just thinking that I have to play until the very last point, until we shake hands. I felt like I was playing better and didn't give her many chances."

Iga Swiatek had cruised into the fourth round after not dropping a set in her first three matches, looking in prime form to defend the title she won last year.

On Sunday she finally looked ready to score a first victory over Ostapenko, playing confidently to take the first set.

But Ostapenko snatched an early break in the second set and then held for a 3-0 lead and Swiatek was always struggling thereafter.

She managed to break Ostapenko and served to level at 4-4, but instead was broken again to give the Latvian a 5-3 lead.

Jelena Ostapenko then

survived a break point to close out the set at 6-3.

In the third, Swiatek had no answer to Ostapenko as she broke the champion twice in the first three games to take 3-0 lead.

She then broke Iga Swiatek in the fifth game to go 5-0 ahead.

Although Ostapenko was broken as she served for the match, Swiatek again struggled on serve and was broken again to go tumbling out.

PAKW vs SAW: South Africa opt to bowl first against Pakistan in third T20I



📰 A Sports

KARACHI: South Africa have won the toss and elected to field first against Pakistan in the third PAKW vs SAW T20I of the three-match series here at the National Bank Stadium on Monday.

PLAYING XIs

Pakistan: Sidra Ameen, Shawaal Zulfikar, Bismah Maroof, Nida Dar (c), Muneeba Ali, Aliya Riaz, Fatima Sana, Umm-e-Hani, Diana Baig, Nashra Sandhu, Sadia Iqbal.

South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (c), Tazmin Brits, Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Anneke Bosch, Nadine de Klerk, Delmar Tucker, Sinalo Jafta, Ayabonga Khaka, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Masabata Klaas.

Dominant India reach Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s at Nepal's disposal

📰 A Sports

KANDY: Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill's unbeaten half-centuries after a combined bowling effort powered India into the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s with a dominant 10-wicket victory over Nepal on Monday.

India were set to chase a revised target of 145 in 23 overs after the second innings was interrupted by a heavy downpour in the third over.

Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill completely dominated the inexperienced Nepal's bowling attack and muscled their side to a flawless 10-wicket victory, courtesy of their unbeaten partnership.

Captain Rohit Sharma top-scored for India with a 59-ball 74 which featured six boundaries and five sixes while his partner Shubman Gill scored 67 not out off 62 deliveries, hitting eight boundaries

and a six. The dominant 10-wicket victory lifted India to book their spot in the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4s and joined the hosts Pakistan, who secured their berth after their much-anticipated clash against India was washed out on Saturday.

Notably, no team from Group B could make it to the next round of the tournament yet.

Put into bat first in their must-win Asia Cup 2023 fixture, Nepal could manage to post 230 on the board with Aasif and Kami leading the charge with the bat.

Nepal got off to a flying start to their innings as their opener Kushal Bhurtel and Aasif dominated the Indian bowlers on their way to a brilliant 65-run partnership.

The pair got several lifelines, courtesy of sloppy fielding by the former champions, who dropped three catches in the first five overs.



Aasif and Kami had taken Nepal past the 60-run mark in the 10th over but Shardul Thakur hit back to provide a much-needed breakthrough to his side as he got Bhurtel caught behind.

Bhurtel scored a brisk 38 off 25 deliveries, laced up with three boundaries and two sixes.

Following his dismissal, Nepal began to lose wickets in quick succession and slipped to 101/4

in the 22nd over.

Aasif, who batted cautiously while losing partners at the other end, then put together a brief anchoring knock with Gulshan Jha.

The duo could put together 31 runs for the fifth wicket before Aasif finally perished in the 30th over.

He remained the top-scorer for Nepal in their must-win Asia

Cup 2023 game with a 97-ball 58 which featured eight boundaries.

Gulshan Jha soon followed Aasif back to the dugout in the 34th over to leave Nepal reeling at 144/6 in the 32nd over.

He scored 23 in 35 deliveries with the help of three boundaries.

Following the slump, Dipendra Singh Airee and Sompal Kami stitched an astounding partnership for the seventh wicket and added a valuable 50 runs to the total before Hardik Pandya broke the stand by trapping the former in the 42nd over.

Airee scored 29 off 25 deliveries, hitting three boundaries.

Kami then put on a one-sided 34-run partnership with Sandeep Lamichhane before Mohammed Shami got him caught behind to spark a collapse.

Sompal Kami fell just two runs short of his third ODI half-century as he scored 48 off 56 deliveries, laced with a boundary and two sixes.

PAKW vs SAW: All-round Pakistan sink South Africa to complete series sweep

📰 A Sports

KARACHI: Nida Dar's quick-fire 36-run knock, followed by a tight bowling display powered Pakistan Women to beat South Africa in the third PAKW vs SAW T20I to clean sweep the three-match series.

Set to chase 151, South Africa could accumulate 144/5 in their quota of 20 overs despite Laura Wolvaardt's half-century.

Wolvaardt remained the top-scorer for her side with a 54-ball 72, laced with nine boundaries, but fell to guide South Africa to glory as she fell victim to Sadia Iqbal when her side needed 18 off 10.

South Africa then needed 13 off the final over to avoid the whitewash.

Diana Baig bowled the final over for Pakistan and leaked only six runs to steer her side to glory.

Besides Wolvaardt, South African batters made modest contributions in the run chase.

For Pakistan Women, Nashra Sandhu and Sadia Iqbal bagged two wickets each.

Put into bat first, Pakistan accumulated 150 runs for the loss of five wickets in the allotted 20 overs, courtesy of a combined effort from their batters.

Pakistan openers Shawaal Zulfikar and in-form Sidra

Ameen laid a solid foundation with an anchoring 41-run partnership.

The pair batted sensibly before young Shawaal faltered against Nonkululeko Mlaba in the seventh over as South Africa got their first breakthrough. Shawaal scored 18 off 19 deliveries with the help of three boundaries.

Sidra Ameen was then joined by experienced Bismah Maroof at the crease and the pair knitted an important 49-run partnership for the second wicket.

Sidra, who scored a match-winning half-century in the second PAKW vs SAW T20I, failed to replicate the feat

in the third T20I as she fell for a run-a-ball 39 which featured four boundaries.

Following Sidra's dismissal, the experienced duo of Bismah and skipper Nida Dar bolstered the total with a sensational 49-run partnership.

Dar dominated the important fifth-wicket stand with belligerent hitting while Bismah rotated the strike before both perished in the 19th over.

Bismah played an anchoring 39-run knock in 34 deliveries while Nida Dar scored a quick-fire 36 off just 20 balls, laced with five boundaries and a six.

Wicketkeeper batter Muneeba Ali added valuable eight runs



to Pakistan's total before perishing on the penultimate delivery of the innings.

POA concluded today its two-day Educational Seminar

📰 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) concluded today its two-day Educational Seminar at Mayo Gardens Club, Pakistan Railways in Lahore. The seminar gathered 60 in-person attendees and 50 via Zoom, including athletes and coaches selected to represent Pakistan at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, alongside officials from National Federations and sports organizations and their athletes and coaches.

Three expert speakers delivered the necessary awareness: Mr. Muhammad Atif Shafiq presented the "Prevention of Manipulation of Competition," focusing on safeguarding sports integrity.

Dr. Asad Abbas Shah, an IOC Certified expert in Sports Medicine, discussed "Prevention from Injuries in Sports" to ensure athlete well-being.

Mr. Hamdan Nazir, MEMOSIAN, emphasized "Protection from Harassment and Abuse in Sports," fostering a respectful sporting environment.

Chief Guest Mr. Shahdi Aziz, CEO/Sr. General Manager of Pakistan Railways, assured athletes of support for the seminar and the dedicated athletes preparing for the 19th Asian Games.

Secretary General of POA, thanked the experts and Pakistan Railway for their contributions. He shared that such seminars bridge the gap between athletes and management, and enhance sports orientation and awareness.

Wahab Riaz congratulates Pakistan women cricket team for winning the T20 series

📰 Sports Desk

LAHORE: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz has congratulated Pakistan women cricket team for winning the T20 series against the visiting South Africa women team in the 3-match T20 International series.

Pakistan women cricket team thrashed the guest team in second T20 International match by seven wickets and took an unassailable lead in the 3-match T20 International series being played in Karachi.

In his greeting message on Monday, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said the Pakistan women cricket team proved their supremacy in all departments of the game against the strong South Africa women cricket team.

Adviser to CM Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that the national women cricket squad and team management deserved huge appreciation for their magnificent performance. He praised the match winning performance of batters Sidra Ameen (61 runs) and the supporting role of Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof and Muneeba Ali.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz expressed his hope that Pakistan women cricket team will continue the sequence of magnificent performance in the 3rd T20 match of the series and subsequent 3-match ODI rubber against the touring South African women cricket team.

Pakistan dominate Maldives 3-0 to secure semifinal spot in SAFF U-16 Championship



📰 Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan U-16 football team secured a 3-0 victory over Maldives in the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 in Bhutan on Monday.

The game commenced with an early breakthrough as Subhan Karim netted the first goal for Pakistan in the 14th minute, setting the tone for their commanding performance. Demonstrating his finesse, Abdul Samad added to Pakistan's lead with a brilliantly executed goal in the 39th minute.

The Pakistani team continued to exert their dominance, capping off their remarkable performance with a third goal, thus completing a sensational hat-trick for the national squad. With this resounding victory, Pakistan not only secured a convincing victory but also punched their ticket to the prestigious tournament's semifinals.

Looking ahead, the Pakistan U-16 team is poised to face the runners-up from Group A in the semifinals, scheduled for September 8.

Tumi Sekhukhune led the bowling attack for South Africa Women with 2/24, followed by

Nonkululeko Mlaba, Nadine de Klerk and Nondumiso Shanga, who made one scalp each.