



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عبداللہ بن مسعود رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: ایک دن شخص نے اللہ سے مال دیا اور پھر اس نے دو دن کے راستے میں سے دو دن خرچ کر لیا اور وہ گھس گھس سے اللہ نے حکمت دین کا علم (قرآن حدیث کا) دیا ہے وہ اس کے موافق فیصلے کرتا ہے۔
(7141) (تجزیاتی صورت نمبر 141)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Constitutional term of President Alvi completed yesterday. What next?

The five-year constitutional term of President Dr Arif Alvi completed yesterday (Friday). He is the fourth president in country's history to have completed his term. The three presidents before Dr Alvi who completed their full terms were Chaudhary Fazal Elahi (fifth president, from 1973 to 1978), Asif Ali Zardari (11th, from 2008 to 2013), and Mamnoon Hussain (12th, from 2013 to 2018). Dr Alvi is the third consecutive president to have a full term. Dr Alvi assumed the presidency on Sept 9, 2018.



Foreign Minister's participation in 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Meeting

Foreign Minister Jilani will chair the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Meeting (CYMM) being held from 12 to 15 September 2023 in London. The Commonwealth Secretariat is convening the Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Meeting as Pakistan assumes the Chair of the meeting and plays an active part in setting the agenda ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit to be held next year in Samoa.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safarul Muzaffar 22, Saturday, September 9, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 16, Issue: 151 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

SIFC Apex Committee meeting

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the 5th Apex Committee meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council on Friday.



Photo: PID

SIFC Apex Committee focuses on ways to improve business environment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The fifth meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) Apex Committee held here on Friday with a special focus to improve the overall business and investment environment

in the country being imperative for 'economic revival'.

The meeting was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and attended by Chief of Army Staff, Federal Cabinet members, provincial chief ministers and high-level government officials.

The ministries concerned presented their plans/roadmaps to overcome the macro-economic challenges, governance related impediments and voids in regulatory mechanisms in a bid to attract both foreign and domestic investment, and stimulate economic growth.

The committee deliberated upon various measures to be taken in short, medium and long terms to reap the envisaged dividends. Various practical steps were approved by the prime minister that will be operationalized as soon as possible.

The prime minister asked the ministries to deliver optimal results irrespective of the time that was available with the caretaker government and emphasized to lay a strong foundation for the future government.

SC rejects PDM govt's objection to bench hearing audio leaks commission case

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday rejected previous government's objection to bench hearing the audio leaks commission case.

The government had formed an inquiry commission into the alleged audio leaks of Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Atta Bandial's mother in law, wife of Khawaja Tariq Rahim, son of former chief justice Saqib Nisar, Justice Mazahir Naqvi, Abid Zuberi and Parvez Elahi.

The government had formed this commission of inquiry under the chairmanship of Justice Qazi Faiz Isa to investigate the nine alleged audio leaks. The commission also included the chief justices of Islamabad and Balochistan high courts. However, Abid Zuberi had challenged this commission, on which the court constituted a five-member bench



under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Hasan Azhar and Justice Shahid Waheed. The bench heard the case twice and stopped the Audio Leaks Inquiry Commission from functioning.

However, the previous government had filed separate petitions for separation of three judges from the bench due to conflict of interest. These three

judges were Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Muneeb Akhtar.

The court had reserved its verdict on June 6 after hearing the government's plea on the bench, which was pronounced three months later by Justice Ijazul Ahsan today (Friday).

The Supreme Court dismissed the government's objection petition against the three judges and the court gave a short judgment

termining the previous government's objections on the bench as an attack on independence of the judiciary.

Justice Ijaz, while delivering the verdict, said that objection to the judges was equivalent to attacking the court. The Supreme Court will issue a detailed decision on the case later.

The federal government had formed a three-member inquiry commission to investigate the leaked audios allegedly involving the judiciary and former chief justices and a judge, saying the conversations had raised apprehensions over impartiality of judges. The three-member commission was headed by Supreme Court's Justice Qazi Faez Isa while Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq were its members.

Approval of interest-free loan for 11 high court judges challenged

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The decision of approving an interest-free loan of Rs360 million to 11 judges of the High Court was challenged in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

The application has been filed on behalf of a citizen, Mashkoor Hussain. The applicant has made chief secretary, finance secretary and others party in the dispute.

The applicant submitted that interest-free loans to judges is an illegal act. The judges are already enjoying numerous privileges. The caretaker government is not authorised to dole out public money indiscriminately.

The applicant prayed the court to declare the decision of the caretaker government to grant loans to the judges null and void. He also requested the court to declare the approval of loan to the judges illegal and grant injunction against dispensation of loan pending the final decision.

Caretaker govt continues to implement int'l agreements: Solangi



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the caretaker government respected the international financial agreements and would continue to implement them in true letter and spirit.

Addressing a news conference here after the first session of two-day meeting of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the minister said deliberations were held on the measures which were essential for reducing the government's expenditures and circular debt.

He was flanked by Caretaker Minister for Finance Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali, and Minister for Industry and Production Gohar Ijaz.

Solangi said discussions were also held on working out a schedule for implementing the decisions already taken to carry out privatization of some departments.

He said measures to stop

misuse of international agreements, if there is any, also came under discussion. Restructuring of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), measures for removing bottlenecks in foreign direct investment, including visa policy reforms, and steps to improve performance of different departments were also part of extensive discussion held on the first day of the SIFC meeting.

He said an issue of smuggling of commodities, petroleum products and dollars were discussed at length.

At the outset of the press conference, the minister said traditionally, a press release was issued to highlight the decisions and discussions of the SIFC, but from now onward, the public would be informed by the caretaker government through briefings by the relevant ministers.

The main objectives of SIFC were to boost foreign direct investment in different sectors including mining, information technology and agriculture, the minister remarked.

Caretaker govt adopts holistic approach to revive economy: Shamshad



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatisation Dr. Shamsad Akhtar Friday said the caretaker government had adopted a holistic approach to address the pressing issues being faced by the economy and develop a roadmap with an aim to augment the macroeconomic management.

"We will operate really holistically and consistently as a team. This will be an important change that incharges of all segments will work together," she said while addressing a press conference.

A principle had been adopted to look at the government as a whole, she added.

The minister was flanked by Caretaker Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr. Gohar Ejaz; Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi; and Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali.

Dr. Shamsad said subcommittees of the cabinet had already been institutionalized, including Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC), Cabinet Committee on Privat-

ization (CCoP), and Cabinet Committee on Energy.

She said they were having intergovernmental discussions with one another and making sincere efforts to define a roadmap for augmenting the macroeconomic management in the country.

She said the government was reinforcing fiscal stability and fiscal coordination with monetary policy as well as external policy, as it an anchor of macroeconomic management.

She said the caretaker setup wanted to revive economy and for that they were working to "define the steps for economic jump start". Along with that they were making efforts to enhance social safety net during the period when structural adjustment reforms programme was implemented.

"We will try to enhance the social safety net and more importantly financial inclusion will be expedited so that SME (small medium enterprises) and agriculture sectors, and citizens get an opportunity for financial empowerment through digitization."

The minister said the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) were facing issues and had burdened the exchequer, so the government would prepare an SOE privatization policy to overcome the problems.

She said a Central Monetary Unit would be established with two basic pillars, including (1) to help various ministries to strengthen the corporate governance of SOEs, and (2) prepare the entities that are

'We are ready': Bilawal wants ECP to announce election date

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said on Friday the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should announce a date for next general elections, saying his party was ready whenever they are held.

Talking to media, former foreign minister said: "We are ready for elections if held within 60 days and still ready if held in 90 days".

The National Assembly was

dissolved last month days before the completion of its constitutional term to clear the way for holding elections within 90 days. The Constitution states that election should be held within 60 days if assemblies are dissolved on completion of five-year term and in case of premature dissolution, the stipulated period is enhanced to 90 days.

As per the Constitution, the general elections in Pakistan must be held till November 2023 as the National Assembly had been dissolved prematurely



on August 9, 2023. However, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has hinted at delay in the polls as it has decided to go for fresh delimitation in line with the digital census.

Bilawal Bhutto, whose party was also part of the PDM-led

government, demanded that the elections should be held within 90 days.

He hoped that the ECP would ensure transparent and fair election in the country. While appreciating the past four-year performance of the electoral watchdog, he said it was on the record that the ECP had blocked rigging in Daska elections.

Bilawal said his party was not afraid of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), adding that the PPP had focused on performance instead of cases while in

power.

He recalled that his father Asif Ali Zardari spent 11 years in jail without being convicted in any case. "Those who are facing jails these days, we encourage them as it is a training to make them a politician," he apparently referred to the PTI chief's detention.

At one point, he criticised the ECP for blocking the development funds for Sindh. He said the electoral watchdog had made an illegal announcement as it has stopped development work in flood affected areas.

58th Navy Day

KARACHI: Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem presents Salute after laying wreath at Mazar-e-Quaid on commemoration of 58th Navy Day.



Photo: PID

Shahid Tarar, Donald Blome discuss matters of mutual interest

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister stated that US-Pakistan bilateral relations go back a long way and this relationship has evolved from security to other fields such as trade and investment, science and technology, Climate Change and sustainable development, health and education. He expressed his profound desire to deepen the relations based on development cooperation. Moreover, he affirmed that Pakistan has been benefitting from General Electric Locomotives provided by the US to Pakistan Railways, and based on its vitality, another order has been placed recently. Similarly, he mentioned Tarbela and Mangla Dams as symbols of Pakistan-US cooperation. The Ambassador said that



the focus has shifted from Pakistan's bordering and tribal areas to flood-affected areas of Northern Sindh and South Punjab. Furthermore, possibilities are being explored for provision of clean drinking water and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in these areas.

Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar further stated that Karachi-Peshawar Railway line has been affected by floods at certain vulnerable points and US can cooperate with Pakistan Railways to reclaim these vulnerable tracks and secure them from future floods. He further apprised that Paki-

industries and businesses into South-Asian economies. Likewise, American International Development Finance Cooperation (DFC) has expressed its eagerness to make large-scale investments in Pakistan. In this regard, US is ready to help Pakistan create a business-friendly environment to boost investments. Similarly, the US wishes to cooperate with Pakistan in achieving sustainable and green development, as per international standards.

Mr. Tarar stated that Pakistan has played a vital role in COP-27, and is striving to comply to the environmental standards issued by Climate Conference, in all sectors. The meeting concluded by Minister's pledge to work with the US to eradicate poverty and deprivation in the country.

Institute of Space Technology celebrates 16th Commencement of Class of 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Space Technology (IST), Islamabad celebrated its 16th Commencement of Class of 2023 with the graduation of 459 students in the disciplines of Aerospace, Avionics, Electrical, Mechanical, Materials Science & Engineering, Space Science, Applied Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science here on September 7, 2023.

Dr. Raza Samar, HI, SI, Chairman NESCOM, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Senior dignitaries from the civil and military establishments were also present on the occasion. The chief guest conferred the students with the doctor-

ate, masters and baccalaureate degrees in their respective fields of specialization.

The chief guest awarded the President of Pakistan Gold Medals to Muhammad Abdullah Aamer of Aerospace Engineering, Sohaib Shabir of Avionics Engineering, Sawera Jamshed of Electrical Engineering, Mubashir Aziz of Materials Science & Engineering, Ali Hassan of Mechanical Engineering, Ghania Ahmad of Space Science and Osama Azhar of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, who stood first in their respective programs.

Vice Chancellor's Medals for Best Final Year Projects were awarded to Alina Hanan from Aerospace Engineering, Jawwad Hassan Qureshi &

Muhammad Huzaifa Farooq from Avionics, Hassan Abdullah & Zaem Haider from Electrical Engineering, Awab Mughal, Duaa Fatima and Rimsha Areej from Materials Science and Engineering, Bushra Atta Khakwani & Unnayar Waqar from Mechanical Engineering, Syeda Sabeh-Tabassum Jaffery & Muhammad Jawad from Space Science and Amina Tahir from Applied Mathematics and Statistics Department.

Addressing the esteemed audience, the chief guest congratulated the graduates, specially the award winners and position holders. He urged upon the graduating students to actively engage in research and innovation by utilizing

their knowledge and expertise to address the intellectual as well as socio-economic challenges.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Major General Rehan Abdul Baqi, HI(M), (Retd), Vice Chancellor Institute of Space Technology, appreciated the graduating students' diligence and advised them to devote themselves wholeheartedly in fulfilling their obligations.

He instructed the graduating students to further augment their networking, communication, team-building and problem solving skills to become exceptional future leaders. He advised them to play their constructive role as professionals and cognizant citizens in building a strong and invin-

cible edifice of the nation.

He appreciated the efforts of IST's team towards continuous and unwavering endeavors towards the attainment of academic excellence.

Earlier, on September 5, 2023, Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony of class of 2023 was held. Major General Rehan Abdul Baqi, HI(M), (Retd), Vice Chancellor Institute of Space Technology, graced the occasion. While addressing the graduates, he emphasized the importance of co-curricular activities in overall grooming of the students. The Vice Chancellor awarded trophies, medals and certificates to the students for their outstanding performance in the extra and co-curricular activities.

Nepra approves Rs1.46 per unit increase in electricity price

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday notified an increase of Rs1.46 per unit in electricity prices on account of fuel charges adjustment (FCA) for the month of July 2023.

The regulatory authority announced the decision on a petition filed by the Central Power Purchasing Authority (CPPA) after power distribution companies (DISCOs) demanded adjustment for the month.

The additional amount will be collected in bills for the month of September 2023.

This hike in power tariff under the head FCA will not be applicable to K-Electric and lifeline consumers while power distribution companies (DISCOs) will reflect the increase in power price separately in consumers' bills.

Earlier in the day, caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said consultation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was underway for the relief in electricity bills.

Today's Market analysis on behalf of Samer Hasn Market Analyst and part of the Research Team at XS.com

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The pound continues to decline today towards its lowest levels in two months, with it reaching the level of 1.24581 against the US dollar (GBP/USD) at around 8:30 am GMT. The price of the euro against the pound sterling (EUR/GBP) reached its highest level in a week, at the level of 0.85969 at the same time in the morning.

These declines in the pound come after Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey said, before Parliament, that the central bank is nearing the end of its interest

rate hike cycle but may need to do more hikes to combat very high inflation. These comments came amid market expectations that the



Bank of England would raise interest rates once or twice.

It seems that these statements have revived the British bond market. Since yesterday, we

witnessed a sharp decline in bond yields, which wiped out all of this week's gains. Where the yield on one-year gilts reached 5.119%, and for two-years it reached 5.148%. As for the yield on ten-year gilts, they still retained some gains for this week, despite the sharp decline, as it reached the level of 4.463%. Across the gilt market, we witnessed a recovery at the fastest pace this week, with the Shares Core UK Gilts UCITS ETF (IGLT), which tracks the performance of British gilts, reaching the level of 9,9500 pounds this morning, after reaching its lowest levels in ten days during the day. Yesterday,

Pakistan seeks global attention on US arms left in Afghanistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) said on Friday that the weapons left in Afghanistan during the US withdrawal require global attention as they had "fallen in the hands of terrorists".

Her statement regarding military equipment comes days after Pakistan's caretaker prime minister claimed that US military equipment left behind during the American withdrawal from Afghanistan had fallen into militant hands.

The equipment — which includes a wide variety of items, from night vision goggles to firearms — is now "emerging as a new challenge" for Islamabad, Prime Minister Anwaarul-Haq Kakar had said while speaking to foreign journalists.

However, reiterating PM Kakar's stance, FO spokesperson Mumtaz

Zahra Baloch, in a weekly media briefing, stated that Pakistan has informed the interim Afghan government about its concerns regarding the recent incident along the border.

"These modern weapons have fallen into the hands of terrorists in Afghanistan who are using these [weapons] to attack Pakistan and its security agencies," she said.

The weaponry that is available in Afghanistan and has now reached terror entities continue to pose a threat to Pakistan, she added.

FO spokesperson said that the current situation needs international attention and called upon all stakeholders to assume the responsibility that they have in this regard.

The spokesperson said Pakistan and the United States have a robust dialogue on multiple areas including on security and counter terrorism matters.

Pakistan has been communicating with the US and other partners both inside and outside the region about Pakistan's security concerns, she said.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to eradicate the menace of terrorism.

Madad Ali lauds AIOU efforts for combating literacy



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: It is the right time to acknowledge and address our shortcomings. We need to work together towards removing these shortcomings and bringing hope to the country. Ask the past leaders regarding the education system and the alarming statistic of 3 crore children being out of school and start asking questions as it is the only solution to these issues," said Madad Ali Sindhi, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, while addressing a seminar organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on International Literacy Day.

Federal Education Minister, Madad Ali Sindhi stated that he is well-informed about the educational services provided by Allama Iqbal Open University and expressed his satisfaction with the university's nationwide services. He extended his congratulations to the university's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, for organizing a seminar on World Literacy Day.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said there are three crore children in Pakistan who are

not enrolled in schools, even after 76 years of independence. This is a matter of great concern and requires a long-term plan to address. He emphasized that governments often try to enroll these children during their tenure to take credit, but it is the fundamental duty of the government to ensure that every child in Pakistan receives an education. However, this cannot be accomplished in four to five years, and a more extensive 10 to 12-year plan is needed to include these children in the educational network.

Dr. Nasir emphasized the significance of accurately measuring literacy. He further emphasized the need to revise its definition to cater to the needs of individuals. He highlighted the importance of transitioning towards digital literacy and its potential to bring about a positive change. Dean, Faculty of sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad and the Director General, National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Mirza Nasiruddin Mashhood Ahmed also addressed the opening session of the seminar. The seminar was organized by Allama Iqbal Open University in collaboration with NCHD and JICA.

Ombudsman Punjab took 164 Own-Motion Notices in July to resolve public problems: Spokesman

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan took notice of 1674 cases on his own motion in the month of July to provide relief to the public resolving public problems across the province. The administration of the respective districts spent a total amount of Rs.1,613,588,312 to resolve 35 cases; however, 129 public issues did not incur any government expenditures for the actions taken by the relevant departments.

The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab shared the financial breakdown of the actions taken; Rs.4,910,000 were spent to address nine complaints related to the repair of sewerage lines, while a modest outlay of Rs.34,000 was made to cover open manholes. An amount of Rs.10842 was spent in resolving three complaints regarding waste disposal and the cleanliness of streets and roads across different districts, the spokesman added.

Additionally, Rs.142703 was utilized to attend to five complaints linked to the maintenance of water



filtration plants, ensuring access to clean drinking water for the public. The amount of Rs. 26,269,000 was spent to get streets repaired, the spokesman said.

Notably, the concerned administration and government departments also successfully addressed 43 own-motion notices for the restoration of sewerage lines; ten for covering up manholes, forty for waste disposal and solid waste management, twelve for water filtration plants rehabilitation, six for water supply pipeline maintenance and another three for street light repairs, without any government expenditures, the spokesman concluded.

Full scale crack down start in MEPCO against electricity theft and defaulters: Leghari

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The first meeting of the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) board of directors committee established to counter electricity theft and redress defaulters/customers' complaints was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Mohammad Asghar Leghari, in which Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana gave a briefing about the ongoing campaign against electricity thieves and defaulters. Chairman MEPCO Board of Directors Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari participated in the meeting and said that the campaign launched by the government against electricity thieves should be made successful in every way.

Every officer/employee should play his role to bring the big power thieves to justice and deal with those who damage the national treasury with iron hands. Chief Executive Officer Mepco Engineer Mehrullah Yar Bharwana while giving a briefing said that on the instructions of Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar Haq Kakar and Federal Minister of Energy (Power Division) Syed Muhammad Ali, an operation against electricity thieves has been started in South Punjab. With the cooperation of MEPCO, provincial government and district governments, task forces have been formed in 13 districts under the administration of the region to take action against electricity thieves.

Teams headed by Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners of the four



Civil Divisions and Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers

of the concerned operation circles will conduct operations against power thieves. A special operation will be conducted to suppress electricity theft in 2 operation circles of Rahim Yar Khan and DG Khan with high loss feeders under the management of MEPCO region, in which special checking of connections of consumers connected to high loss feeders and persons involved in theft will be done. Not only fines will be imposed but also legal action will be taken against them.

He said that operations will be conducted with police teams against running, dead defaulters and electricity thieves in Mepco region. In each operation division of MEPCO, two teams and one team in night hours will conduct operations against power thieves while one team will conduct

operations against defaulters. In the ongoing operation against defaulters, a team will conduct daily operations. The Chief Executive Officer said that a control room has been set up at the headquarters level to compile data on electricity theft, and deputy commercial manager Irshad Hussain Sial has been appointed in charge of it. On the first day of the ongoing campaign against electricity thieves, indiscriminate operations were conducted in the areas under the administration of Multan / Khaniwal / Wahari / Bahawalnagar / Sahiwal / Rahimyar Khan / DG Khan / Muzaffargarh and Bahawalpur Circles.

In which 293 people including two political figures were caught stealing electricity. In the heavily damaged areas, two hotels in Fort Monroe were

caught stealing electricity by installing direct wires from where the installations have been removed and legal action has been initiated. Director Public Relations Jamshed Niazi gave a briefing on the media drive related to electricity theft in the anti-electricity theft committee of the board of directors.

The meeting was attended by Board Director Engineer Fazlullah Durrani, Mian Muhammad Ali, Jam Muhammad Jabarlad, Athar Mazari, Imaduddin, Zafar Abbas and Nawazish Ali Pirzada, while Finance Director MEPCO Mian Ansar Mehmood, Director IT Qaiser Naqvi, Additional Director D&I Aram. Saba, Deputy Commercial Manager Irshad Hussain Sial and Company Secretary Sajid Yaqub were also present.

Working Meeting

MUZAFFARABAD: Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi presiding over meeting of development working party and approved various development projects in AJK



Promoting products in Sweden will escalate economy



MA Rashid

FAISALABAD: A dinner was given in the honor of Mian Zafar Iqbal, President of Faisalabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry on behalf of the Pakistani community living in Sweden, which was attended by social and business personalities of the Pakistani community living in Malmö, Sweden, in which various issues were

discussed. Mian Zafar Iqbal's referral services for Small Traders in Pakistan were lauded. According to the sources, the business and social personalities of Sweden including Chaudhry Fawad Younis, Javed Iqbal, Chaudhry Shahid Naseem, Chaudhry Naveed Arain, Mian Umeer and Mian Shahbaz Jamal said that Pakistan will have to focus on promoting its products

to escalate Pak. economy instantly. Furthermore Mian Zafar Iqbal asked the participants to play their full role to promote more and more Pakistani products in Sweden. He further expressed that, the hardest job in the world? It's to explain who you are & How much true and sincere with others for your businesses. Zafar pointed out that, it

is also observed how much love to a relationship you want to grip on! But if respect, loyalty and keen consideration goes, surely your love phenomenon also goes away, so have loyalty with your businesses to integrate it in international markets. Your accent, your attitude, your moral values illuminates that you have training or you just has been brought up.

Electricity thieves should be arrested immediately: Amir Khattak



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Under the chairmanship of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak, the first meeting of the Divisional Enforcement Committee was held for prevention of electricity theft and redressal of public complaints, in which it was decided to take strict measures. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the electricity thieves should be arrested immediately. And cases will be registered. Power thieves will be disconnected. Mepco will get support from district administration, police in cracking down on electricity thieves. Commissioner Aamir Khattak ordered MEPCO to form a special task force and said that district enforcement committees should be formed and clear results of the crackdown should be seen.

Pakistan Defence Day Awarded to Professor Dr Haroon Aziz Khan Babar



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day 2023, the Punjab Muay Thai Association organized a performance award ceremony and the personalities who showed outstanding performance in various fields were honored with the award. The recipient of the award was Mr Prof Dr Haroon Aziz Khan Babar In-charge King Edward College and Chief Cardiologist

Malik Shahzad Anjum and Nawab Tabish Khan Durrani are included. Makhdoom Syed Ghulam Yazdani Gillani the head of the Gillani family and Muhammad Kishore. Secretary General Punjab Muay Thai Association distributed awards to the distinguished personalities. Syed Ghulam Yazdani Gillani said on this occasion that the series of awards will be continued. And in this regard, a board will be formed which will select the best performers in various fields.

Gilgit-Baltistan govt, Nestlé Pakistan promote nutritional awareness

News Desk

GILGIT: Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Nestlé Pakistan inaugurated the Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room in at KG Model School for Girls in Skardu and conducted trainings for 250 teachers on nutritional awareness and sustainability education with an aim to reach out to more than 15000 children under its flagship N4HK program in Gilgit, Skardu, Shigar and Kharang.

Speaking about the partnership, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan said, "This partnership is a way for teachers and educators to reinforce importance of good nutrition for children in classroom through fun and engaging activities. Kids are the future of Pakistan and it is important that we encourage them to get involved in activities that inform them about sustainability and conservation practices," he said while also recognizing Nestlé's other recycling initiatives in the region.

Commissioner Baltistan, Shuja Alam lauded Nestlé's efforts, "Such activities will foster values, habits and mindsets that will eventually make an impact and reduce our footprint on the planet," he said while inaugurating the N4HK room.

Highlighting the importance of this partnership, Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Nestlé Pakistan, "We are excited to collaborate with the GB government that it is facilitating in extending the reach of our N4HK initiative to teachers, caregivers and students in districts of Gilgit, Skardu, Shigar and Kharang. We are confident that the awareness imparted on nutrition and this N4HK room in Skardu will play a very important role in promoting healthy habits and a better nourished future generation."

Meanwhile, Nestlé Pakistan, in line with its vision for a waste-free future also partnered with Gilgit Baltistan government on the Clean Gilgit-Baltistan project. Under this project Nestlé is recycling up to 1000 tons of plastic and packaging waste by the end of 2023 and installing three baling and compressing machines at the dumping sites of Gilgit Baltistan Waste Management Company in Hunza, Gilgit and Skardu, apart from donating reusable bags, installing benches and bins made of recycled plastic at tourist hotspots. The company also arranged awareness sessions with students to help teach the younger generation a more sustainable approach to packaging by managing waste.

Grand Operation against Electricity Thieves in the MEPCO Region

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: On the first day of the grand operation against electricity thieves in the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) region on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar Haq Kakar, 293 people, including 2 important political figures, were caught stealing electricity. Alamdard Qureshi was caught stealing electricity. The household meter bug used by the former MPA was found, the screen of which was also washed. The application for registering a case against the former MPA was sent to the concerned police station. In Kabirwala, MPA candidate Rana Mohammad Irfan was caught stealing electricity from direct wires.

On the direction of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar Haq Kakar and the Federal Ministry of Energy (Power Division), a large-scale operation has been launched against electricity thieves in South Punjab. 268 domestic, 12 commercial and 13 tubewell users were caught stealing electricity in 13 districts. 47 in Multan, 47 in DG Khan, 22 in Vehari, 26 in Bahawalpur, 22 in Sahiwal, 30 in Rahimyar Khan, 43 in Muzaffargarh, 17 in Bahawalnagar and 14 in Khanewal were caught stealing electricity.

'Waziristan Olasi Pason' expressed concern over recent incidents of robbery, law & order situation

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Waziristan Wana Olasi Pason held an important meeting on Friday in Wana Bazar regarding the recent incidents of theft, robbery, riots, drugs, weapons, law and order situation in the markets, increase in the number of tinted glasses vehicles and armed men in Waziristan and there was a detailed discussion regarding the increase of people.

Leaders of all political parties PTM, political, social figures, lawyers and the business community participated in this meeting held in Wana.

In which Noor Zaman Wazir from ANP, Aman Ullah from PPP, Ashfaq Wazir from

PKMAP, Nadeem Wazir from JI, Advocate Ajmal Wazir from Lawyers, Haroon from PTI, Imran from NDM, Shahzad Wazir from PTM, Taj Wazir from the business community and social personality Iqbal Wazir among others participated.

In the meeting, "Olasi Pason issued a unanimous statement that on Monday, DC District Lower South Waziristan will meet along with line departments, in which emphasis will be placed on civil administration, that maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the state, establishing a state within a state is not acceptable to the people and we do not need peace through any kind of armed groups.

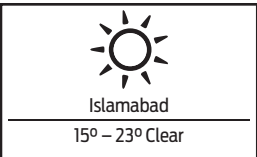
IGP KP visits Dera, Command & Control office Dera, & also inaugurated the office of DPO SW Lower

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat said that a wide network has been established in the command and control center with the help of 300 cameras equipped with advanced technology, through which 24 hours sensitive places of Dera city, security of government offices, central jail, police lines, four bazaars in the middle of the city, markets and entrances and exits of the district are being monitored.

On the occasion of Dera Ismail Khan's visit, RPO Dera Nasir Mehmood Sati and District Head Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani also presented the shield of honor to the Inspector General of Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

giving a special briefing on the Command and Control Center to the Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat said that a wide network has been established in the command and control center with the help of 300 cameras equipped with advanced technology, through which 24 hours sensitive places of Dera city, security of government offices, central jail, police lines, four bazaars in the middle of the city, markets and entrances and exits of the district are being monitored.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:21 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	4:37 pm
Maghrib	6:25 pm
Isha	7:50 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6

Founder Chairman JKSDMI meets SAPM Mushaal

Mushaal urges world to resolve Kashmir dispute as per UN resolutions

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: The founding chairman of Kashmir Movement for Self-determination International, Raja Najabat Hussain (Civil Award Sitara e Imtiaz Pakistan) met Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights Mashaal Hussain Malik here yesterday. Raja Najabat Hussain congratulated Mashaal Hussain Malik on his appointment as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Human Rights. During the meeting, Raja Najabat Hussain discussed the increasing brutality of the Indian forces in the occupied valley. Mashaal Hussain Malik said that India's war frenzy is constantly increasing, which is becoming a very dangerous situation for the region. The international community should take notice of this situation. The missile attack by India in Mian Chanu is a clear proof that India has become dangerous for the region. He said that more than 1 million Indian troops are oppressing the Kashmiri people in occupied Kashmir and the

international community India is silently prolonging it.

Mashaal Malik said that India is fueling state terrorism in Occupied Kashmir which is dangerous not only for the peace of South Asia but also for the entire world. Mashaal Malik further said that three wars have been fought before between Pakistan and India on Kashmir, although the situation was different at that time, now the two nuclear powers are facing each other, which makes the situation more worsening. The nuclear powers should not be left to their own devices but should play their role effectively for the solution of the Kashmir issue.

Mashaal Malik emphasized the need to speed up the International Kashmir Campaign at the international level to ensure the early release of JKLF leader Muhammad Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri prisoners imprisoned in Indian jails. He said that the fascist Narendra Modi has crossed all limits of brutality and terrorism to silence dissenting voices in Occupied Kashmir.



However, the occupying authorities failed miserably to extinguish the flames of the independence movement. Mashaal Malik said that Indian forces illegally detained senior Hurriyat leaders, including her husband, for raising their voices against the illegal Indian occupation.

The speakers said that if the United Nations and international powers do not

play their role, the Indian army will have to leave the region in disgrace. Sustainable peace can be established in South Asia. Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek Haq Khudarat International Raja Najabat Hussain said that overseas Kashmiris are playing an important role to highlight the Kashmir issue worldwide. There are queues to highlight the

issue and everyone is active here. He said that India is involved in serious violations of human rights in Occupied Kashmir and the international community should stop India from occupying it.

Stop human rights violations in Kashmir. Raja Najabat Hussain said that today half of the world's population is sitting on a pile of gunpowder because of the Kashmir issue.

He said that there are useful programs in this regard in Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Islamabad. He said that there is a need to mobilize the youth in this regard, youth are our social asset. Be more active on media so that Kashmiri brothers get support. Raja Najabat Hussain said that the Self-Determination Movement is also working for the release of Yasin Malik and other Hurriyat leaders by organizing conferences and seminars in Britain, Europe, Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to expose the atrocities committed on Kashmiris. Efforts are intensifying. Chairman of Youth Association of Pakistan Abdul Qadir, Sabeen Hussain Malik and Kanwal Hayat were also present in the meeting.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia H. E Mr. Jemal Bekerl called on Caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs Jalil Abbas Jilani. During the meeting, a wide range of bilateral & regional topics came under discussion. They agreed to enhance bilateral & multilateral cooperation especially in trade, investment & cultural exchanges.



Photo: Spokesman

Midsummer Chaos, the new web series 'Romeo Aur Jameela' bags attention of young viewers



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The new age college romance features a promising love story between the two young leads. "Romeo and Jameela", from the two-minute trailer of the series, we find out that it is an emotional coming-of-age love story.

The protagonists of the film are Romeo, played by Ali Sheryar; an actor, model, & film maker; NCA graduate; known for his natural and relatable performances, and depictions of everyday characters in a way that leaves a mark on the audiences that watch his films. Sheryar also starred in the award winning short film "Safarnama" that bagged first place in the fiction category at ISPR's NASFF Film festival. He played lead role in PTV's Independence Day Telefilm "Rang e Baryaab".

And Fatima; fulfilling the role of Jameela, is an influencer who goes by the name @featuringfatima on Instagram and has over 15,000 followers.

The trailer shows a quest for success by an academically challenged Romeo and a musically ambitious Jameela leads to a forbidden love that threatens to unravel their lives. Will the weight of their secret romance burden their studies or will they decide to walk their separate journeys? It has piqued.

Pakistani Pop Duo 'Hassan and Roshaan' bring back the 90s

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hassan and Roshaan now join the esteemed ranks of RADAR Pakistan's featured talents, and their exclusive two part mini-documentary promises to provide fans with an intimate look into their artistic journey.

Islamabad, September 08, 2023 - Spotify's RADAR Pakistan, a beacon for emerging musical talents, continues to illuminate the local music scene by featuring the captivating Pakistani Pop songwriting duo, Hassan and Roshaan, in its third-quarter showcase. Based in the vibrant city of Lahore, this talented duo brings a fresh and enchanting sound that melds eastern traditions with electrifying western influences.

Hassan and Roshaan's music genre, often described as "contemporary subcon-



RADAR PAKISTAN

tinental," offers a distinctive fusion of traditional Pakistani melodies interwoven with modern western elements. The result is an addictive sound that resonates with a wide range of listeners.

"We have always felt strongly towards the Pakistani music scene and tried to play our part in pushing it forward in a new direction," commented Hassan & Roshaan when asked about what this opportunity means for them. They further stated, "Because of that, to be featured as Spotify's new RADAR artists from Pakistan is not only special due to the fact of the feature alone, it's also very special seeing our journey mapped out in such a comprehensive way in the RADAR documentary. Really makes us think about how far we've come and puts into perspective how far we have yet to go!"

The debut of this effervescent duo was with their album "Chaar Dinon Ka Khwaab" that begins with the track "Allah Hu" which almost instantly gained traction with audiences. The 18-track album was a refreshing addition to the indie music scene in Pakistan.

Professors, lecturers stage protest against government's anti-employees policies



News Desk

ATTOCK: Professors and other teaching staff of Government post-graduate college (GPGC) Attock staged a protest and strike against unjustified and cruel policies of the government in order to eliminate their due service benefits. The protesters led by President Professors Local Unit GPGC Syed Hubba Ali Naqvi protested against the government for putting them in serious financial crises by eliminating their Leave-in-cashment and others due financial benefits. Mr Naqvi while addressing the protestors said that they are launching peaceful protest in connection of Punjab wide strike call to condemn indifferent policies of the government towards educationists. He said the only source of living for employees are their salaries and other connected financial benefits but this government is reducing such benefits day by day, pushing them and their families in financial trauma. He demanded to immediate restore their halted benefits and end the anti-employees policies. Similar protest and strike was also held by professors and lecturers of Government women degree college Attock against such anti-employees attitude of the government and also condemn government cruel policies towards them.

Interim govt greenlights FIA action against dollar, sugar smuggling

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government on Friday announced that it directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to exercise its authority and take necessary measures to curb the smuggling of sugar and US dollars in the country.

In a meeting chaired by Federal Interior Minister Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, the government has empowered the FIA to exercise its authority to tackle the prevailing smuggling issue.

A letter pertaining to FIA's newly granted authority has been issued in this regard.

The FIA will tackle activities pertaining to the smuggling of sugar, fertilisers, petroleum products, US dollars and other foreign currencies.

The investigative agency will be able to exercise its authority and take necessary measures at all entry and exit points of foreign currencies. Furthermore, FIA's zonal directors have been instructed to report to the agency's headquarters on a day-to-day basis via relevant channels.

Meanwhile, an inspector-level officer belonging to FIA's anti-money laundering directorate has been appointed as a focal person.

It is pertinent to mention that the caretaker government last month announced its decision to import 1 million metric tonnes of sugar at an inflated price of Rs220 per kilogramme to address the depleted stock of the commodity in the country.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has linked the surge in sugar prices to unabated sugar smuggling to Afghanistan through Balochistan and KP, Geo News reported on Monday.

PPP Digital Media held its meeting in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A consultative and introductory meeting of PPP Digital Media Islamabad Chapter was held today, Friday, at the central secretariat of the party in which office bearers, social media activists, and workers participated in large numbers. The meeting was co-chaired by Umar Rehman Malik and Syed Sabti Shah Bukhari, PPP's Central Secretariat Incharge.

In his opening remarks, Umar Rehman Malik thanked Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his trust and confidence in appointing him as Digital Media Head for Islamabad and said that it is an honour for him to play a role in moving forward legacy of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He said that his father late Senator A. Rehman Malik served the country, the party, and the party leadership with

loyalty, dedication, and perseverance till his last breath, and he will follow in his footsteps.

Umar Rehman Malik highlighted the importance of digital media and said that we are living in the fast changing globalised world, where people from all over the world are using digital media to connect with each other, plan events, run campaigns, create trends, promote narratives, raise voices and express ideas.

From strengthening national security and the constitution of Pakistan, being the architect of nuclear power, taking a clear stand against terrorism, empowering women, minority rights and provincial autonomy to achievements on diplomatic fronts, there are many feathers in PPP's cap which we need to highlight, Umar stressed.

The newly appointed head of the party digital media for capital said that as Islamabad is the capital of the country, all of us have a great responsibility

to be committed, mature and dynamic, by bringing content on social media that meets international standards. He said the party is based on strong ideological foundations, with the improvement in the life of the common man being a cornerstone in that ideology.

Umar Rehman Malik said that under the visionary leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, all of us youth have to work as his hands and arms. "I believe that the future belongs to the Pakistan People Party, and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be the Prime Minister of Pakistan to take the country towards modernisation and development. We all need unity to serve our country and party", he added.

He said that workers are the party's strength and asset if our workers are not happy, then the party can never be strong and flourish. "We have a legacy of love and respect for our workers. We are all workers under the flag of PPP, and we have to work day and night for



the party", Umar Malik urged.

Stressing on unity, Umar Rehman Malik urged party activists to work with unity, dedication and honesty to strengthen the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who has led the country very successfully on diplomatic fronts as Foreign Minister. He said

that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari took charge as the youngest FM when the country was isolated on diplomatic fronts, our friends were angry with us and our enemies were conspiring against Pakistan in FATF, IMF, UN and other international bodies. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, with his insightful and far-sighted diplo-

matic skills, not only brought Pakistan out of diplomatic isolation and FATF grey list but also brought together all the friends of Pakistan by ending the differences.

A large number of party officials, social media workers, women, and heads of all wings of the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi attended the meeting.

Umar Rehman Malik thanked Syed Sibti Shah Bukhari and secretariat staff for organizing the meeting and part of the office bearers and activists for participating in the meeting and giving valuable suggestions. Participants agreed to continue such discussions to formulate a future course of action and a feasible and effective action plan.

In the meeting, great tributes were paid to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Fatima was recited for the martyrs of the country and the party.

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

Kashmir: Challenge to the conscience of leadership of G20

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

The theme of the G20 Summit that will take place on September 9-10, 2023, in New Delhi, India is, "One Earth - One Family - One Future." The leaders of the major economies of the world will discuss among other issues, 'safeguarding international peace' & 'sustainable development and growth.' The question arises, is there any linkage between international peace, development & growth and resolution the Kashmir dispute?

Few members of the G20 have already spoken. Former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa said on September 2, 1998, that "All of us remain concerned that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir should be solved through peaceful negotiations and should be willing to lend all the strength we have to the resolution of this matter." Former Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata said on July 4, 1995, that "Kashmir is a thorny issue and unless India takes initiatives to resolve this key problem, peace in South Asia remains threatened," and Russian President Vladimir Putin, said on December 3, 2004 "India and Pakistan should resolve Kashmir dispute in the interest of peace in South Asia and the rest of the world."

Likewise, German foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock said on October 7, 2022, that "Germany has a role and responsibility with regard to the situation in Kashmir. Therefore, we support intensively the engagement of the United Nations to

find peaceful solution in the region." President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey said that "We are in favor of peaceful solution of Kashmir issue and international legitimacy in the region. We have always stated that we are in favor of a just solution of Kashmir." Former Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang said on May 1, 2023, that "Kashmir dispute should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the United Nations Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements." The spokesman of the Indonesian foreign ministry, Teuku Faizasyah said on August 7, 2019, "The Government of Indonesia is optimistic that conflicting parties would placate tensions, engage in negotiations, and adopt diplomatic means to solve the problem of Kashmir."

G20 countries need to listen to the President of the World Bank when it comes to the sustainable development and growth. Its former President, James W. Wolfensohn, said in February 2005 "Peace and stability will not return to South Asia unless Pakistan and India sort out Kashmir conflict amicably." In addition, an internationally known academic, Professor Stanley Wolpert, University of California, LA. Wrote, "There cannot be lasting stability in the region until and unless Kashmir dispute is resolved "peacefully and equitably as soon as possible".

The leadership of G20 countries need to realize that there is still great opportunity for peace in Kashmir, but it cannot occur unless the people of Kashmir are permitted to have their own identity and chart their own course.

Were India to allow a referendum in



Kashmir; it would prove to the world that it too is a great democratic country, and not the persistent and militaristic oppressor that it has become. P. Chidambaram, one of India's seasoned diplomats, graduate of Harvard University and former interior and finance minister of India, said on July 31, 2016, "If India is to make Jammu & Kashmir love India, referendum is the only way."

We hope that G20 countries understand that trade and commercial deals are important but not at the expense of the high moral ground and universal principles the world powers have always claimed. Moral values and human rights are the very essence of even being called civilized. The denial of democracy and human rights in Kashmir, especially self-determination, has spawned nuclear and missile proliferation. Kashmir has been an open wound in India - Pakistan relations for more than 76 years. That is why Amnesty International along with four other international NGOs have written to G20 countries on August 24, 2023, to persuade India to 'end the human rights violations in Kashmir and release jailed human rights defenders and political prisoners.'

Prime Minister Modi should realize that money can certainly solve some of the prob-

lems in Jammu & Kashmir, but it will not remove the ever-present and destabilizing atmosphere of oppression, the violence in the streets, and the persistent trauma of rape, murder and disappearances that have been the hallmark of India's history in Kashmir.

Mere sloganeering, economic packages and G20 tourism diplomacy will never solve the Kashmir problem. Kashmir is a political issue which needs a political solution. The immediate necessities are the following:

1. The intervention of the international community to bring the violence in Kashmir to a quick end;
2. Demilitarization of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on both sides of the Cease-fire Line;
3. Release of all political prisoners, including, Mohammad Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmed Shah, Masarat Aalam, Aasia Andrabi, Khurram Parvez and others.
4. Initiation of a political dialogue between all parties concerned - India, Pakistan and the leadership of the people of Jammu & Kashmir to set a stage for a democratic and peaceful solution.

Finally, in 1938, British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain scoffed at the Nazi menace to Czechoslovakia as a dispute over a faraway country about which little was known. His irresponsible neglect precipitated World War II. The G20 should learn from that and end its neglect of Kashmir to avoid a corresponding calamity.

Dr. Fai is also Chairman, World Forum for Peace and Justice. He can be reached at; WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. Or: gnfai2003@yahoo.com

UN condemns school occupations amid violence in Palestine camp

Thousands of children have been put at risk amid a resurgence of violence at a Palestine refugee camp in Lebanon, the UN's top humanitarian official in the country said Friday. Clashes between rival factions in the Ein el Hilweh camp, the largest in Lebanon, have also displaced thousands of refugees, according to reports. Armed groups have taken over eight schools run by UNRWA, the UN agency providing support to Palestine refugees, preventing around 6,000 children from accessing the classroom as a new school year gets underway. "Education institutions must be safe and neutral spaces, critical for children's learning, well-being, and growth," Imran Riza, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon, said in a statement.

He underscored that use of schools by armed groups are not only a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws but also jeopardize the future of the entire community. "I urge armed groups to stop the fighting in the camp and vacate these schools immediately." "I also call for the facilitation of the work of UNRWA and other humanitarian organizations to provide much-needed protection and assistance to families in need in the camp," Riza added. Established in 1948, Ein el Hilweh camp is the largest among the 12 in Lebanon and is home to around 50,000 refugees.

It is located near Saida, a major city and cultural hub, in the country's south. The camp was the scene of brutal clashes in July that claimed the lives of at least 13 people, injured more than 60 - including UNRWA staff - and forced thousands to flee. Two UNRWA schools also sustained damage in the clashes and services at clinics run by the agency were suspended.

The clinics reopened on 9 August, after a nervy ceasefire. In his statement, Riza underlined that protecting civilians, including children and their safe access to school, is a shared responsibility. "All concerned actors must take action to protect civilians, facilitate unhindered humanitarian access, and prevent the use of civilian infrastructure for fighting purposes," he said.



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

Significance of September 6, 7 & 8 - III

A representative delegation of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce went to the Corps Commander Headquarters with their suggestions regarding the alarming business scenario and public concerns, where a detailed discussion was held on the Special Investment Facilitation Council. Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was also present in the meeting held at the Corps Commander Headquarters. The delegation gave suggestions that public and business problems including heavy electricity bills should be solved, political parties should sign the Charter of Economy before the elections. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir highlighted the important role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, emphasizing its ability to attract substantial investments of up to \$100 billion from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other countries.. He disclosed the creation of task forces focusing on economic issues and various sectors, Kashif Anwar recommended active engagement with all chambers to include the perspective of the business community in the agenda of the task force and power. Proposed reduction in income and sales tax rates on bills as people are suffering from high tax burden on electricity which is affecting daily life, businesses and common people. Furthermore, Kashif Anwar introduced a practical approach to fuel adjustment charges and suggested that they should be levied during winter months to reduce the financial burden on consumers when electricity consumption is lower. Discussing the important role of exchange rate in the economic scenario of Pakistan. He also called for greater control over the prices of the US dollar both in the interbank and open markets. General Asim Munir gave a positive response and assured that money exchange will be brought under the ambit of taxation, dollar exchange and transparency in interbank rates will be promoted. President Lahore Chamber also pointed out that the disparity between State Bank rate and Hundi rate often leads to giving preference to hundi channels in terms of remittances. He emphasized that if these rates are harmonised, remittances will naturally flow through the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). He expressed concern over the current lack of response to the proposals made by the business sector. Furthermore, Kashif Anwar called for a united commitment to political parties and suggested signing the Charter of Economy before any upcoming elections. Commenting on General Asim Munir's remarks about the existence of a gray economy, which is 2 to 3 times the total document economy, Kashif Anwar suggested an innovative approach. He recommended encouraging the gray economy sector to transition into a formal, white economy, offering a strategic solution to tackle this pervasive problem. President Lahore Chamber said that as long as the gray economy remains unintegrated, unable to contribute to the formal, white economy, expansion of



Abdul Basit Alvi

Analysis

the tax base will remain impossible. As the Army Chief interacted with the business community in Karachi and Lahore and outlined his plan to take Pakistan forward and stabilize and revive the economy, all the angry YouTubers, and PTT's paid trolls sitting outside, starting talking against Pakistan and Pak Army. They have started anti-Pakistan nonsense which is not surprising at all because these are the people who have never missed an opportunity to harm Pakistan and their anxiety over the Army Chief's address is completely understandable. Today, when the whole world, including the Pakistani nation, recognizes the vision and thought of the Army Chief for the restoration of Pakistan's economy and is also ready to fully support this vision, we can see on the other hand, the liberals and PTT. A certain group is looking to sabotage this economic recovery plan and spends morning and evening on social media creating false stories and conspiracies. Today, if we look around us, some of the facts that we see in front of us are: An anti-Pakistan nefarious group is converging and putting obstacles in the way of Pakistan's economic recovery. All the institutions of the country, including the army, cannot be separated from the problems and solutions of the economy. The army has provided all possible assistance to all the previous governments within the constitutional limits and institutions in the rest of the world also cooperate with the government. One thing that is clear is that with the continuous efforts of the Army Chief, this problem will be solved, but we must also realize that the problem of decades cannot be solved in days. The work has just begun. SIFC has been started. Foreign investors are coming in and there are going to be more developments in the coming days, so it's quite a long journey for the disillusioned elements to follow and these elements will be failed.

Readers, as Pakistan observes yet another Forces Days, let us remember and honor the courage and sacrifices of those who stood firm in the face of adversity. Their legacy continues to inspire us to build a stronger and more resilient nation, united in the pursuit of peace and progress. As the years pass, the significance of these days continue to grow, reminding Pakistanis of their collective strength and resilience. It reinforces the notion that a nation's strength is not solely determined by its military prowess but also by the unity and determination of its people. The lessons from the 1965 war serve as a guiding light, reminding Pakistanis of their duty to protect their homeland and uphold the values of freedom and independence. The lessons from the 1965 war emphasize the importance of unity, preparedness, and the need to constantly strive for peace in a region marked by geopolitical complexities. Pakistan's commitment to maintaining a strong defense capability while pursuing diplomatic solutions is a testament to its responsible approach on the global stage. Our Civil Military collaboration will hopefully sort out the current issue of economic crises as well.

Writer is Senior Analyst

India's G20 Presidency: Challenges, Opportunities - II

Nonetheless, a substantial portion of India's economy remains labor-intensive, necessitating a transition to knowledge-intensive production methods. China has long enjoyed a manufacturing advantage due to low labor costs. While India's focus on research and development and initiatives like Production-Linked Incentives (PLIs) are steps in the right direction, this transformation will take time.

India's G20 presidency has made strides in addressing pressing social and employment challenges. The development of an international occupational classification system to promote cross-country comparability is a noteworthy accomplishment. Furthermore, the commitment to provide comprehensive social protection for gig and platform workers is a crucial step toward safeguarding worker welfare in the modern gig economy. However, it is vital to acknowledge that India faces domestic challenges in this regard, particularly concerning the welfare of its vulnerable populations. Religious and ethnic minorities continue to grapple with discrimination, and incidents of gender-based violence persist. While India's international commitments are commendable, it must address these issues comprehensively on the home front.

India's audacious endeavors during its G20 presidency are not without inherent risks. The lack of consensus on binding agreements, particularly due to objections from Russia and China, could undermine India's credibility on the global stage. Furthermore, the inability to foster a joint communique from previous G20 meetings raises questions about the effectiveness of India's presidency. India's G20 presidency represents a defining

moment for the nation, offering an opportunity to amplify its global influence in an increasingly divided world. The G20 platform provides India with the means to shape global policies, strengthen economic ties, and showcase its digital prowess. However, formidable challenges persist, chiefly in the form of ongoing discord within the G20, escalating geopolitical frictions, and the conspicuous absence of key leaders like Xi Jinping.

As the world closely scrutinizes the proceedings of the G20 leaders' summit in New Delhi, it's crucial for the global community to approach the event with a discerning perspective. While India's presidency indeed represents a significant moment, one should not assume that India possesses the unwavering capacity, visionary acumen, and intellectual prowess to seamlessly leverage this pivotal opportunity to propel its global ambitions and firmly establish itself as a paramount player in international affairs.

India's journey on the global stage is undeniably intricate, characterized by a tapestry of contradictions and complexities. The optics may suggest a seamless ascent, but the reality is marred by multifaceted challenges, conflicts of interest, and political considerations that often transcend the pure merit of the endeavor.

In essence, India's path to global prominence is a formidable one, laden with obstacles and competing narratives and a world marked by intricate geopolitics and diverse interests.

(The author is the former Press Secretary of the President of Pakistan, the former Press Minister of the Embassy of Pakistan in France and also has been the former MD/CEO Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Company (SRBC)).



Qamar Bashir

Analysis

Indonesia has demonstrated compatibility of Islam, democracy and modernity

Online internship program jointly organized by the Indonesia Embassy and the Bahria University

Spokesman Report / PPA

ISLAMABAD: The online internship program jointly organized by the Indonesia Embassy and the Bahria University, Islamabad held its Session-14 on September 5, 2023. Dr. Chusnul Mar'iyah from the Center for Election and Political Parties, Political and Social Sciences of University of Indonesia was the speaker on the occasion to share her insight with the participants of the OIP on the topic of Islam & Democracy in Indonesia.

In her presentation, the Dr. Chusnul Mar'iyah discussed the evolution of democracy in Indonesia, highlighting the country's progress in establishing and consolidating democracy through political reforms. She also enlightened the participants that despite divergent views on Islam and state relations, a national consensus based on Pancasila ideology reflects the nation's diverse culture and commitment to democratic values. She added that Indonesian democracy is a dynamic and evolving system that continues to adapt and grow.

Dr. Chusnul Mar'iyah observed that Indonesian experience tells a whole different story contrary to the general perception that Islam and democracy rarely go together. "Indonesia has proved that



Islam, democracy and modernity can go hand in hand by respecting the diversity and people of other faiths" the speaker underlined. She said that adhering to democratic norms and spirit of unity in diversity, Indonesia as the largest Muslim nation and world's third largest democracy has continuously been regarded as a progressive democratic country among the Muslim world that practices and promotes a moderate Islam.

"Moderation, tolerance and pluralism are the core values, recognized and practiced by the Indonesian majority under the state ideology of Pancasila" the speaker explained.

She informed the participants that Pancasila, the philosophical basis of the Indonesian State, focuses on the Five Principles: Belief in the One True God, Just Humanity, Indonesian Unity, Representative Democracy, and Social Justice.

The speaker stated that Indonesia is characterized by a diverse population and a vibrant political landscape with multiple parties representing diverse voices. She added that regular elections including presidential ones have seen peaceful power transfers with citizens actively participating in the democratic process and exercising their right to vote and express opinions freely.

"Despite challenges, Indonesia has made significant progress in

its democratic journey with ongoing efforts to strengthen institutions, promote accountability, and promote inclusivity" the speaker elaborated.

Dr. Chusnul Mar'iyah specifically mentioned the role of the country's robust civil society that plays a crucial part in shaping the country's political landscape and said that the government of Indonesia in collaboration with civil society continue to collaborate to ensure transparent and fair elections, uphold democratic values, strengthen democratic institutions, safeguard human rights and promote social justice, inclusivity and accountability. The active participation of civil society organizations in the democratic process is a testament to the nation's commitment to democratic values, she added.

The speaker emphasized that voters should favor candidates with integrity, knowledge, competence and honesty about their intentions to serve their country rather than foreign interests.

She asserted that democracy is a diverse and dynamic idea and both Indonesia and Pakistan being multiethnic society can gain from each other's democratic practices and various approaches to democratic governance. She emphasized the importance of



Photos: Raja Farid

fostering relationships between academia, civil society, and legislators of the two countries stating that exchange of best practices and ideas on the challenges and achievements of maintaining a democratic system can enhance democratic institutions' performance and advance democratic values.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan share vision for economic, social reforms at high-profile conference



Spokesman Report / PPA

ISLAMABAD: A conference was held dedicated to the program of political, economic, and social reforms, as well as the foreign policy activities of Kazakhstan under the leadership of President K. Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This conference was organized in the context of the annual Address to the people of Kazakhstan titled "Economic Course of a Just Kazakhstan," which was delivered on September 1, 2023.

The event was attended by representatives from Pakistan's leading media, experts, and academic circles in the capital.

Amb. Dr. Raza Muhammad, President of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), was invited as the guest of honor.

Conference speakers included

Brig. Dr. Raashid Wali Janjua, Director of IPRI, Mr. Tazeen Akhtar, founder and editor at "Pakistan in the World," Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director of the Pakistan Research Center Communities with a Shared Future (PRCCSF), and Mr. Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, President of the Eurasian Century Institute (ECI).

In his welcoming speech, Ambassador Y. Kistafin highlighted the key points of the President's Address, particularly emphasizing several priority sectors of Kazakhstan's economy designated by the President of the Republic as priority, including agriculture, mechanical engineering, the military-industrial complex, and the transport and logistics industry. He noted the potential for cooperation with Pakistan in these sectors, taking

into account the host country's existing experience and infrastructure.

Ambassador Y. Kistafin especially emphasized the order of the President to develop the international transport corridor "North-South", within the framework of which the Islamic Republic can and should play an important role by ensuring access to open ocean routes for Kazakhstan and Central Asia through its seaports in Karachi and Gwadar.

The main speaker of the event, Brig. Dr. R. W. Janjua acknowledged Kazakhstan's achievements in implementing political reforms, improving the judicial system, and establishing a balanced system of checks and balances. The speaker emphasized the continued commitment to meritocracy in public adminis-



Photos: Raja Farid

tration and the inclusiveness of the political system of Kazakhstan.

Mr. T. Akhtar praised Kazakhstan's initiatives and the state's achievements in "building a unified Kazakhstan." He particularly highlighted innovations in the judicial system and the efforts of President K. Tokayev in the development of the social sphere, especially in school education.

Mr. H. T. Akram stated that Kazakhstan's leadership is dedicated to achieving economic self-sufficiency and self-reliance while promoting economic, social, and cultural cooperation. He focused on the progressive development of the IT sector, digitalization, and the fintech industry in Kazakhstan, predicting the emergence of Kazakhstan as a technological Hub in Central Asia.

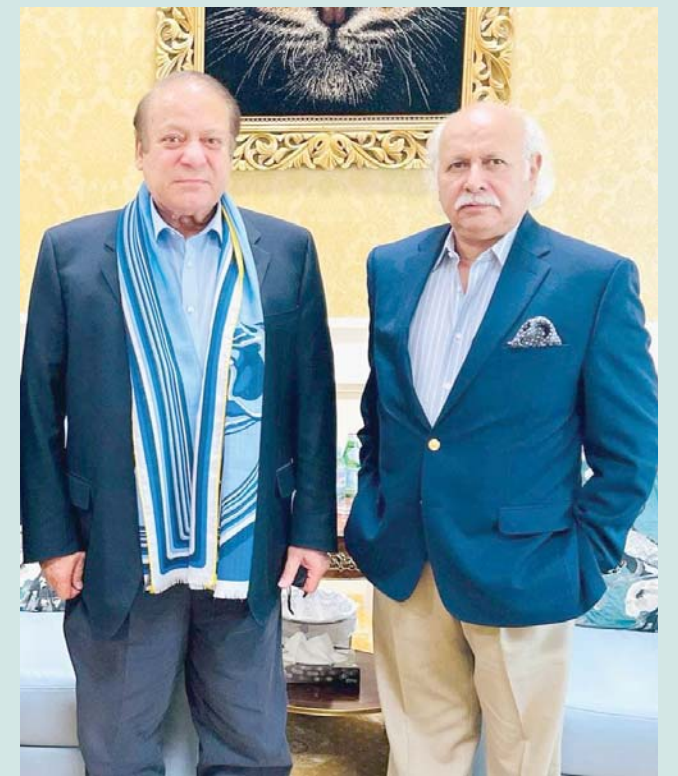
Mr. Takalvi considers it important to implement the initiatives of President K. Tokayev both for Kazakhstan and for the entire Asian region. The speaker emphasized the social

orientation of Kazakhstan's new course; the special focus of the state on creating favorable conditions for future generations. The expert gave a positive assessment of the specific timelines outlined by the President for the implementation of the stated initiatives.

The guest of honor, Ambassador Dr. Raza Muhammad, commended Kazakhstan for its constitutional reforms, which serve as an example for countries in the region by creating a balance between state institutions and the civil society. The process of improving the justice system and effective foreign policy were noted in a positive light.

In general, the Pakistani expert community gave a positive assessment of the reforms being carried out in Kazakhstan, and the ambitious vision set out in the President's Address to the People of Kazakhstan. They noted the need to study the Kazakh experience for its possible application in the political agenda of Pakistan.

Political circles hailed the meeting between Mian Nawaz Sharif and Hamid Nawaz Raja



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Public and political circles hailed the meeting between Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif and former Nazim and candidate of NA-59 Hamid Nawaz Raja in London. They hoped that the people would choose the right leadership in the upcoming elections. So that the problems of Pakistan are solved and the country can go on the path of development again.

These views were expressed by the public and political circles of Pakistan about the meeting between PML-N leader Mian Nawaz and former Nazim and NA-59 candidate Hamid Nawaz Raja in London. They said that it is expected that the impact of this meeting will have a positive result. Hamid Nawaz Raja truly served day and night in the service of the people, as a result of which Hamid Nawaz Raja ruled the hearts of his people.

Public and political circles said that Pakistan is suffering from many problems. The people of the constituency are in dire need of sincere and intelligent leadership like Hamid Nawaz Raja. Who can solve the problems of the people on priority basis. Hamid Nawaz Raja will undoubtedly be the right choice of the people.

Called on

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan paid a farewell call on Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin. Matters relating to bilateral military cooperation with commitment to strengthening Defense ties came under discussion.



COMSTECH and QAU sign MoU to Strengthen Cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at COMSTECH Secretariat on Friday.

Both institutions agreed to promote and strengthen cooperation, provide a platform for collaborative activities, and to encourage mobility and cooperation.

COMSTECH and QAU agreed to develop and implement joint educational and scientific programs in the field of science, technology and innovation, and collaborate in organizing national and international events, such as workshops, conferences, symposia, seminars, exhibitions, training course.

QAU is offered to become the member of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence and register on the



OIC Technology and Innovation Portal. QAU will also participate in the COMSTECH Distinguished Scholars Program under the MoU.

The MoU enables COMSTECH to place students, academic and scientific personnel from OIC member states at Quaid-i-Azam University for training, professional development and improvement of scientific and educational activities, including international academic exchange.

COMSTECH support for admissions of international students for full degree

programs at Quaid-i-Azam University, faculty development through sabbatical visits, training and consultation for the establishment of Science Park at QAU, technician training for a period of 3-4 weeks are also part of the MoU.

Under the MoU, COMSTECH will develop a program in association with QAU, through which young researchers/students from OIC member countries particularly from Africa will visit QAU and conduct research for 6-12 months' duration under the supervision of QAU professors in different disciplines.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
46,013.48	45,757.23
Day's High	Day's Low:
46,077.38	45,728.89
Index Value	Change
4,507,334,906	+256.25
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	8 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,478.19	+36.47
Percentage	Time
+0.49%	8 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,587.64	+86.91
Percentage	Time
+0.25%	8 Sept, 12:57 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,606.84	-384.24
Percentage	Time
-1.16%	8 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	816.3	824.3
Canadian Dollar	228.8	230
China Yuan	41.79	42.19
Danish Krone	44.04	44.44
Euro	323.8	327
Hong Kong Dollar	39.15	39.5
Indian Rupee	3.69	3.8
Japanese Yen	2.2	2.29
Kuwaiti Dinar	995.05	1004.05
Malaysian Ringgit	65.72	66.32
New Zealand \$	180.54	182.54
Norwegians Krone	28.83	29.13
Omani Riyal	798.42	806.42
Qatari Riyal	83.54	84.24
Saudi Riyal	80.7	81.5
Singapore Dollar	220	223
Swedish Korona	28.16	28.46
Swiss Franc	343.8	346.3
Thai Bhat	8.63	8.78
U.A.E Dirham	85.5	86.3
UK Pound Sterling	379.5	383.3
US Dollar	302	305

Control over currency market is devaluing the dollar, 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 Friday that the sluggish power sector is ruining the country's economy.

Local and foreign investment is difficult without bringing transparency to the power sector and introducing reforms in it so that it can become self-sufficient, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that taxes worth 734 billion rupees will be collected on electricity bills in the current year, but it will not help the power sector unless strict measures are taken to eliminate electricity theft, line losses, and non-payment of bills.



Talking to the business community, the veter-

an business leader said that the power sector has become very incompetent and a burden. Due to the high cost of electricity, its use is decreasing while theft is increasing, and there is a need to stop theft of electricity, collect electricity bills, save electricity by closing the markets early, and revise the agreements made with private power plants.

He said that closing the markets in the evening will save a huge amount of electricity, which will also save foreign exchange, which is in short supply in the country.

He further said that at present there are about one million defaulters in the country, while the number of defaulters who have been disconnected is almost 150,000, except for those in Karachi.

The business leader said that the defaulters owe more than one and a half billion rupees,

which must be recovered.

He said that the currency market in Pakistan is unrestrained and unruly; it enjoys unprecedented freedom in Pakistan, which is draining the economy.

The role of the black sheep of this sector in the economic disaster cannot be ignored, he said, adding that an action against the currency dealers who are breaking the law has proved good for the economy.

He said that currently, no organisation is willing to accept the responsibility of plunder by shady exchange companies. The central bank and SECP continue to blame each other for the situation; therefore, the exchange companies should be fully subordinated to the central bank; their supervision should be increased; but their business should not be closed because they play an important role in receiving remittances.

Youth plays a pivotal role in the nation building: CEO Irfan Wahid

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Vanguard Houses of Schools organized a "Meet and Greet" event at Vanguard School in Karachi that was attended by the educational experts and dignitaries from different walks of life including media persons. Chief Executive of GFS Builders and Developers, Irfan Wahid was the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the auspicious occasion, CEO of GFS Builders and Developers, Irfan Wahid, said that the future of the country is in the hands of the youth, so it is very important to groom them. It is beyond doubt that youth plays a pivotal role in the nation building and they are the future of the country. If they are active and performing their role as nation-builders, that means the future of the country is secure.

The new generation of Pakistan is rich in potential with innovative ideas and completely eligible to bring positive change to society. Our youth is too passionate about



the growth and development of Pakistan.

Registrar of Hamdard University, Shahmeer Khatak, said that the new generation is the future of our country. Irfan Wahid of GFS Builder is doing a great job. He is working for the welfare of the underprivileged people of the country. In collaboration with GFS Builders, an IT Centre is being established in Karachi where free

courses will be available for the youngsters. May God give more courage to Irfan Wahid to keep on his divine work to help and support humans and humanity.

Director Vanguard, Usama Palla said that all the facilities are available at school to groom and educate students in a better way. The school has a swimming pool, zoo, modern education system, etc.

PTA and TikTok sign MoU to foster a safer digital environment



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and TikTok signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration to promote digital safety in government schools across Pakistan through a multifaceted approach.

In attendance at this significant event were Chairman PTA, Maj Gen (R) Hafeez ur Rehman, Director General (WAD), and Director General (S&D) as well as representatives from MoITT; Joint Director Policy & Sector Growth and Director Inter-

net Governance International. The Head of Public Policy and Government Relations at TikTok, Mr. Fahad Khan Niazi as well as the Head of Public Policy Programs South Asia for Pakistan TikTok, Ms. Zara Basharat Higgs were also present.

Speaking at this event, Chairman PTA said that PTA remains steadfast in its dedication to digital safety. This partnership with TikTok, a prominent social media platform, serves as a robust reaffirmation of PTA's commitment towards a more secured and safe online environment.

MD NTDC Prioritizes Maintenance of Transmission Lines and Grid Stations for Uninterrupted Power Supply in winter

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Managing Director National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC), Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, has issued directives to the engineers of Asset Management (North) to develop a maintenance plan for transmission lines and grid stations. The aim is to enhance the reliability of the system and ensure a smooth power supply during winter and adverse weather conditions. Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan emphasized that washing, replacement of insulators, and other maintenance works must be completed before the foggy / winter season.

He was addressing a large gathering of engineers from Asset Management North at WAPDA House. In addition, MD NTDC inaugurated the Transmission Line Monitoring System application and directed immediate monitoring of aging transmission lines, as well as the development of remedial strategies.

During the meeting, Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan was apprised of the progress of various ongoing tasks, including the pilot project for inspecting transmission



lines using quadcopters / drone, the digitalization of utilities, substation automation, transmission line monitoring system and dissolved gas analysis.

MD NTDC directed live line training to be conducted at Faisalabad, Rawat and Jamshoro in the coming weeks. He also instructed the initiation of Substation Automation System program trainings at the 500 kV New Lahore and 220 kV

Gujrat grid stations, as well as the TSG Training Center Lahore.

He urged the officers to work diligently within their mandate to ensure smooth power transmission and the removal of system constraints. Deputy Managing Director (AD&M), General Managers, Chief Engineer, Managers and other seniors officers were also present during the meeting.

Program to promote productivity improvement culture in Pakistan: Speakers



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Five days international training course for assessors of the productivity specialists certification programme concluded here on Friday.

The training course was arranged by the National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan.

Seventeen from APO member countries and five local participants attended the training course while resource speakers from Singapore, Malaysia and Mongolia delivered the lectures.

The workshop was aimed at developing qualified assessors in national productivity organizations that can serve as APO-accredited certification bodies and explain the methods, criteria, and competencies required to conduct assessment for the certification of productivity specialists.

The speakers addressing the closing ceremony of the event were of the viewpoint that the programme would help in promoting the cause of producing certified productivity professionals to support the agenda of creating a productivity improvement culture in Pakistan.

Political blame game on sugar crisis termed a fixed match

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Friday that leading politicians from different political parties are trading accusations on the sugar crisis which has engulfed the whole country.

This blame game is a fixed match as all the stakeholders have benefited from the crisis in which the poor masses lost billions of rupees, he said.

Now the rhetoric is being used to deceive the public, which is insufficient to convince the masses struggling amid runaway inflation, he added.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said in a statement issued here today that, like all the mafias in the country, the sugar mafia also enjoys influence in the corridors of power.

They have agents in political, bureaucratic, and all other important circles, and if any action is ever taken against them, they get immediate relief.

For many decades, the statements of controlling the sugar mafia have been made frequently, but these rhetorical politicians give them an opportunity to skin masses in which bureaucratic and other institutions fully cooperate with the mafia, he observed.

In every crisis, billions of rupees are extracted from the pockets of the people and distributed among the white-collar criminals.

He recalled that in 2021, the Competition Commission of Pakistan raided the office of the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA), seized the records, conducted a detailed investigation, and imposed a fine of Rs 44 billion. The fine has not been received until today because the courts have issued a stay order.

This type of delay has negative effects on the economy and the public while encouraging cartels, he said, adding that the strict measures taken by the army chief are commendable, due to which the price of sugar has come down.

Now sugar is available at 190 rupees per kg in Lahore and 220 rupees per kg in Quetta. Currently, sugar mill owners and other hoarders have hidden millions of tonnes of sugar in different parts of the country, which, if released, will restore its previous price, he said.

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) stressed that all political parties should agree to sign a Charter of Economy in order to ensure long-term business and economic policies that would help attract local and foreign investment, facilitate the growth of trade and industrial activities, boost exports and revive the economy.

He said this while addressing a reception hosted in his honor by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, former President ICCI and CEO Centaurus Mall, Islamabad. The prominent business leaders of the twin cities including representatives

of various trade unions/ trade associations like All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran, Anjuman-e-Tajran Rawalpindi, Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajran, and members of business community were present on the occasion.

Ahsan Bakhtawari emphasized that the government should formulate a 10-year economic policy that would help the business community and the investors to make long-term business and investment plans in Pakistan.

He further urged that all political parties should present their economic manifestoes to give a clear direction to the business community about the future economic outlook of the country.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan

former President ICCI stressed that the prominent business figures from the twin cities should be included in the Special Investment Facilitation Council to represent the voice of the business community in its decision-making process.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI urged that all economic policies should be formed in consultation with the private sector that would improve the confidence of the business community and investors ultimately leading to the better revival of the economy.

Saqib Rafique President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ms. Rizwana Asif President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry,



Sohail Altaf Group Leader RCCI, Sardar Tahir Mehmood President Federation of Realtors Pakistan, Dr. Rashid Ilyas Khan, Ch. Nadeem ud Din and

others also spoke on the occasion. They emphasised that the government should take measures to stabilize the local currency, bring down the

dollar rate, increase exports, reduce tariffs, and improve the ease of doing business in the country that would help revive the economy.

ICC announces match officials for ICC Men's CWC 2023

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced 20 match officials for the League Round of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2023 in India. Sixteen umpires would officiate the 13th edition of the tournament, including all 12 of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires and four members of the ICC Emerging Umpire Panel, they are: Chris Brown, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Ahsan Raza, Paul Reiffel, Sharfuddoula Ibne Shaid, Rod Tucker, Alex Wharf, Joel Wilson and Paul Wilson, said a press release. The experienced list includes three of the four umpires who were appointed for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 final at Lord's - Dharmasena, Erasmus and Tucker - with only Aleem Dar missing, who stepped down from the Elite Panel in March of this year. The Emir-



ates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees is represented at the event by a quartet of former international cricketers, namely, Jeff Crowe, Andy Pycroft, Richie Richardson and Javagal Srinath. Srinath will take charge of the tournament opener between the last event's finalists, England and New Zealand on 5 October in Ahmedabad. Menon and Dharmasena

will be the standing umpires, with Paul Wilson as TV umpire and Saikat taking on fourth umpire duties.

The officials have been named for the entirety of the League segment, with the selections for the semi-finals and final of the tournament to be named in due course. Wasim Khan, ICC General Manager - Cricket, said, "The ICC Elite

panel of umpires, referees, and emerging group of umpires involved will bring immense skills, experience and world-class standards to this World Cup. We are delighted with the group that we have assembled for this tournament".

"Our competitive pathway system continues to see the development and emergence of high-quality match officials across the game. We are pleased that four members of the ICC Emerging Umpire Panel have earned the opportunity to be part of this showcase event and we wish them, and all the other match officials involved all the very best for the tournament."

Sean Easey, ICC Manager - Umpires and Referees said, "This group is the best from around the world and will be ready to perform a challenging job, with the eyes of the global cricketing community focused on the event. We are confident that they will do an excellent job and wish them all the best of luck for what promises to be a World Cup to remember."

PAKW vs SAW: Kapp, Luus tons aid South Africa to thump Pakistan

A Sports

KARACHI: Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp's brilliant centuries, followed by a combined bowling effort led South Africa to a thumping 127-run victory over Pakistan in the first PAKW vs SAW ODI.

Set to chase 293, Pakistan Women's batting lineup failed completely and could raise 165 before being bundled out in the 37th over despite Aliya Riaz's gutsy 49.

The hosts, after getting off to a poor start, lost wickets at regular intervals and were eventually dismissed for a meagre total to hand a convincing victory to South Africa.

All-rounder Aliya Riaz waged a lone battle for the home side with an unbeaten 49 in 58 deliveries, hitting six boundaries.

After Aliya, the next top contributors for Pakistan were Muneeba Ali (20) and Sidra Ameen (19).

Nadine de Klerk and Nonkululeko Mlaba led the bowling attack for South Africa with three wickets each while Ayabonga Khaka and Delmi Tucker struck out a batter each.

Opting to bat first, South Africa piled up a massive total of 292/4 at the back of Luus and Kapp's centuries.

Earlier, the openers provided a flying start as they charged on the Pakistan bowlers early on before both perished in successive overs to leave South Africa reeling at 40/2 in the fifth over.

In-form openers Tazmin Brits and Laura Wolvaardt could make meagre contributions in the first PAKW vs SAW ODI, scoring 17 each.

Coming out to bat at number three Lara Goodall attempted to anchor the innings



with a cautious 24-run partnership with Luus but failed to stretch the stand as she fell victim to Aliya Riaz in the 10th over.

With the side having slipped to 64/3, veteran all-rounder Marizanne Kapp joined Sune Luus in the middle and launched an astounding recovery.

Watch PAKW vs SAW ODI Live on ARY ZAP

Luus and Kapp dominated Pakistan bowlers on their way to a massive

fourth-wicket partnership, adding 183 runs to the total.

Pakistan then finally got a much-needed breakthrough in the 44th over when Nashra Sandhu removed Kapp, soon after the latter amassed her century.

Marizanne Kapp scored 100 off 105 deliveries, laced up with 12 boundaries and a six.

Following Kapp's dismissal, Luus joined forces with Nadine de Klerk and

put together an unbeaten 45-run partnership to guide South Africa to 292/4, notching up her century in the process.

Sune Luus top-scored for South Africa in the first PAKW vs SAW ODI with 107 in 129 balls with the help of seven boundaries.

Nashra Sandhu led the bowling attack of Pakistan Women with 2/50 in her 10 overs while Umm-e-Hani and Aliya Riaz made one scalp each.

Al-Mujahid Hockey Club Chichawatani wins final match

Sports Desk

OKARA: Pakistan Martyrs Hockey League tournament was held at Al Baraq Hockey Stadium Okara and the final match was won by Al-Mujahid Hockey Club Chichawatani.

According to details, Al-Baraq Hockey Stadium arranged for the tournament to promote the national game and pay tribute to martyrs of Pakistan. Total 60 teams participated in the tournament including four civilian teams belong-

ing to Sahiwal division, and three military teams.

The final was played between Al-Mujahid Hockey Club and Al-Baraq Lions. GOC 40 DIV Major General Ahmad Bilal and Commissioner Sahiwal division Shoaib Iqbal Syed were the chief guests.

Both teams had won their 6 matches each before reaching the final. The final was decided through penalty shoot-out, with Al-Mujahid Club scoring five goals against Al-Baraq Lions' three goals. Four

international players also participated in the match, including Hamad Anjum, Rana Suhail, Waqar and Aleem Usman in the final. The teams played brilliantly which made the hockey fans very happy.

The match was played in 4 quarters, each quarter consisting of 15 minutes. In the second quarter, Al-Mujahid Hockey team scored the first goal on a penalty stroke, while in the third quarter, Al-Baraq also scored a goal. Till the end of the match, the match between the two teams was tied with one goal each. Later,

both teams were given five each penalty shoot-outs, in which Al-Mujahid Hockey team scored four more goals, totalling five goals, compared to Al-Baraq Lions' three goals.

At the end of the tournament, prizes were distributed among players. Tribute was paid to the martyrs of Pakistan. A large number of students, female students, Pakistan Army and police martyrs were present in the stadium to watch the match in a colorful and dignified ceremony.

Labuschagne ready and waiting as Green adds to Australia's injury woes

Sports Desk

All-rounder Cameron Green will miss a substantial part of Australia's Cricket World Cup build-up after being struck on the head by a ball from Kagiso Rabada during the first one-day international against South Africa on Thursday.

An Australia team spokesperson confirmed on Friday that Cameron Green will undergo an eight-day concussion protocol during which he will be monitored by the team's medical staff.

He is unlikely to be available until the fifth and final match in Johannesburg on September 17.

It adds to a list of injury concerns for Australia with the World Cup starting in



India on October 5, less than a month away.

It also provides an opportunity for Marnus Labuschagne to press his claims for a call-up if a vacancy opens up in the World Cup squad.

Marnus Labuschagne was

man of the match on Thursday after batting as a concussion substitute for Green. He made 80 not out to steer Australia to an unlikely three-wicket win.

He went out to bat with Australia 72 for five, which

then became 113 for seven chasing South Africa's 222 all out on a tricky pitch.

Injuries meant that only 11 of Australia's World Cup squad of 15 travelled to South Africa. Cameron Green's injury reduced that number to ten, which means Marnus Labuschagne has a good chance of playing in at least the next three matches, starting with the second game in Bloemfontein on Saturday.

Australian captain Pat Cummins is recovering from a wrist injury. Other World Cup players missing the South African tour because of injuries of varying degrees of seriousness are Glenn Maxwell (ankle), Mitchell Starc (groin) and Steve Smith (wrist).

Australia still have a

three-match one-day series in India ahead of the World Cup in which injured players can prove their fitness.

Marnus Labuschagne was not due to tour South Africa, having been dropped after a sequence of poor form in one-day games. He was added to the squad when Smith withdrew. After his match-winning performance on Thursday, he played down his chances of getting to the World Cup.

"I wasn't too shocked when I was dropped. But I did say (to the selectors) that I still want to be that person batting for you in the middle order. You've just got to sit tight and wait for that opportunity and when the opportunity comes you've got to be ready."

Sports Department organized a training workshop

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab in collaboration with Arfa Karim Technology organised a training workshop on Nurturing an Entrepreneurial Mindset and Exploring Freelancing Opportunities on the eve of World Literacy Day at NPSC E-Library on Friday.



Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs

Wahab Riaz was the chief guest on this occasion. Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Assistant Director Youth Affairs Nazish Noor, Assistant Director M Sajid, CEO Arfa Karim Foundation Ms Tabinda Usman, freelancing expert Shahid Ali and a large number of male and female students from various colleges and universities were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the training workshop, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz said that young people are the icon of the nation. "Our youth are quite talented and they have to play a key role in the progress of the country".

He said that it is the right time for us to make collective efforts for the bright future of the country and we should benefit from each other's experiences. "Freelancing is helping a lot in providing plenty of job opportunities to talented youth of the country".

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz further said that Punjab E-Rozgar Programme is providing multiple business opportunities to potential youth. "We need to enhance awareness among our youth about freelancing and its benefits".

CEO Arfa Karim Foundation Ms Tabinda Islam and freelancing expert Shahid Ali gave training lectures to the students.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz distributed certificates among the participants of the workshop. Tabinda Usman presented a souvenir to Sports Adviser Punjab Wahab Riaz. Later, a question/answer session was arranged to enhance the knowledge of the participants of the workshop.

50th Pakistan Open Golf Championship

Sports Desk

Young Ahmed Baig has gradually begun to show his immense golfing strengths and in the process succeeds in intimidating his fellow competitors through an excellent performance in the ongoing four rounds 50th Pakistan Open Golf Championship in progress at the Rayhan Hills Golf Club Golf Course in Karachi. This is a national title bearing golf championship conducted by Pakistan Golf Federation and at stake is lucrative prize money and the huge honor of becoming the national golf champion of Pakistan.

For the second round running, Ahmed Baig was once again, all charged up at the Rayhan Golf Course, Karachi in this 50th Pakistan Open Golf Championship. With his putter in full control and all round game reflecting excellence, he fashioned another round of 65, seven under par giving him a two days aggregate of 132, a commanding look. With this kind of achievement, he has eased the situation for himself, moving into the final phases of the contest. As a result of his great showing, even heralded players like the unbeatable Muhammed Shabbir (Islamabad Golf Club), M. Munir (Rawalpindi), M. Ashfaq (Airmen Golf Club), Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi) and Matloob Ahmed (Garrison) lag behind with barely any chance of taking over the reigns from Ahmed Baig over the remaining two rounds.

Matloob Ahmed (Lahore Garrison) and M. Shabbir (Islamabad) however have one consolation. They are placed in the second and third slots and while outright victory is likely to evade them, they can achieve second and third positions. As for Matloob Ahmed, he is placed at a two rounds aggregate of 138 with reasonably good rounds of 70 and 68 while Shabbir is at a score of 142 bunched with M. Alam (Garrison).

Other notable ones are M. Naqas (Margalla) at 143, M. Ashfaq (Airmen) at 143, M. Saqib (Garrison) also at 143.

At a score of level par 144 are Minhaj Maqsood (Rawalpindi) and Dilshad Ali (Karachi Golf Club).

There was a cut after the second round and as a result 52 players stood eliminated. Only the best 53 professionals will play the remaining two rounds.

A. S. Natural Stone U-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-V Whites, Zone-VII Whites and Blues moved into Semi Finals after beating their opponents in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-13 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament Tournament at various cricket grounds. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi.

Summarized Scores:

At Landhi Gymkhana Ground in the Morning, Zone-III beat Zone-II Greens by 12 runs. Zone-III Blues 120/3. Naaim Omar 62.

Positions Available

Visiting Faculty Required

COMSATS University Islamabad (CU), Attock Campus invites applications from interested candidates for visiting faculty positions for the following subjects:

Department	Area of Specialization
Computer Science	AI, Data Science, Mobile Applications Development, Web Engineering, Fundamentals of Programming, OOP, Microprocessor and Assembly Language, Data Structure and Algorithms, DevOps for Cloud Computing, Discrete Structure, Management Information System.
Management Sciences	Project Management, Business Data Analytics, Marketing, Business/Corporate Law, Chinese, Finance.
Humanities	English (Literature/Linguistics), Sociology/Psychology/ Philosophy

Application Procedure

- Candidates having MS or M.Phil (18 years)/Ph.D degree from HEC recognized institutes/universities are eligible to apply for visiting faculty positions.
- Eligible candidates should apply online at www.atoock.comsats.edu.pk/career.aspx
- Printout of the filled form should be sent along with copy of valid CNIC/passport, all certificates/degrees (from Matric onward), experience certificates, etc. on the address given below.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for demonstration/interview.
- No TADA will be admissible.
- The candidates should apply Online using the link mentioned above within in 15 days from the date of publication of advertisement.

Applications should be sent to:

Incharge HR

COMSATS University Islamabad, Attock Campus

(A Public Sector University of Ministry of Science & Technology)

Kamra Road, Attock

Ph: 057-9049353

www.comsats.edu.pk

