

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ایسٹون کی طرح اللہ عزوجل سے روایت ہے کہ
ایک شخص نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے
پاس آیا اور کہا کہ کوئی شخص جنت کی وجہ
سے لڑتا ہے، کوئی بہادری کی وجہ سے لڑتا
ہے اور کوئی بھلائی کے لیے لڑتا ہے۔ تو
ان میں سے کون اللہ کے راستے میں ہے؟
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جو
اس لیے لڑتا ہے کہ اللہ کا کلمہ پڑھے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 7458)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited



Russia proposes independent payment system to boost trade with Pakistan

Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Danila Ganich has wished for an independent mode of payment between Pakistan and Russia in an attempt to bolster trade activities. (Details on Page 8)



Putin and Kim send rivals a warning

Whatever practical cooperation emerges from this week's summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, their deepening relationship is aimed at sending their rivals a warning, analysts said. Calling each other "comrade", the men toasted their friendship on Wednesday after Putin showed Kim Jong Un around Russia's most modern space launch facility and they held talks alongside their defence ministers. (Details on Page 8)

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Annual Dinner

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the Ambassadors and office bearers of LCCI, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Peace, equitable development inevitable to attract trade, stop brain drain: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday, calling the international responsibility for peace a foundation for trade, urged the world to ensure equitable development to address the issue of brain drain from developing countries.

The president, addressing the Annual LCCI Ambassadors' Dinner 2023, exemplified Europe saying that by enhancing mutual trade, the world had moved towards peace but it required increased efforts to create an enabling atmosphere all around.

He said Pakistan, being the fifth largest country in the world, did not need any charity but the trade with the international community.

He said Pakistan desired the developed world to share its

expertise in information technology with it as pursuing the ideals of "one humanity", they should spend their resources for the betterment of the people outside their borders too.

President Alvi said the brain drain made the nations lose competent individuals despite having spent huge resources on their education. The provision of equitable development would help such individuals to contribute to their own countries.

Recounting Europe's journey to get rid of war, the president said women and children had always been the major casualties of conflicts, and the establishment of peace required the elimination of exploitation.

Highlighting the double standards, the president said the signing of peace conventions and their violations could not go

on simultaneously.

He said the world must focus on enhancing cooperation for the betterment of the next generations as all the world religions preached human service.

President Alvi said that as artificial intelligence was impacting human decision-making, it required timely efforts to tackle the challenge before it got out of control.

He urged the diplomats to persuade their respective business communities to take advantage of Pakistan's renewed commitment to attract investment with a particular focus on a few sectors through a one-window facility.

Calling for attention to human development, the president advised the business community to enhance employment opportunities for women and persons with disabilities.

He said the information technology had eased bank account opening and financial transactions for women, it was the business community's responsibility to create a conducive atmosphere for their physical movement.

Similarly, he also asked the corporate sector to focus on the welfare of their workers as well as environmental protection to leave behind a better world for future generations.

He said Pakistan, being rich with youth bulge, could do wonders by investing in education and health sectors as the country's tremendous success during the COVID-19 pandemic manifested its commitment to achieve the goals.

Earlier, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar said the LCCI had been striving to

strengthen trade relations with the world and lauded the diplomatic community's continuous cooperation.

He said Pakistan was emerging as a safe place for investment and through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) platform, the country had decided to mainly focus on agriculture, mining, and defence sectors.

The LCCI president urged the diplomats to spread the message to their respective business communities to invest in Pakistan and extend their support in building partnerships.

He told the gathering that Pakistan's private sector was also extending its every possible support to provincial and federal governments to create ease of doing business and remove hurdles in investment.

PM to address UNGA on Sept 22: Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will participate in the high-level debate of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from September 18 to 23. Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, during her weekly press briefing on Thursday, said the prime minister would address the UNGA on September 22. "He will outline Pakistan's perspective on a range of regional and global issues of concern, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which is among the longest-standing unresolved items on the UN agenda," she said. The prime minister would also elaborate the significant measures being taken by the caretaker government to consolidate Pakistan's economic recovery and efforts to mobilise domestic and external investment, she added.

The FO spokesperson said the prime minister would also participate in a summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other high-level meetings organized under the auspice of the UN General Assembly. "These will afford valuable platforms to deliberate on effective measures required at the global level for addressing the most pressing economic and development challenges confront-



ing the Global South in the wake of the COVID pandemic, geo-political contestations and climate change." She highlighted that on the sidelines of the UNGA session, the prime minister would hold bilateral meetings with counterparts from various countries as well as with the heads of international organizations, philanthropic organizations and corporate leaders. "He will also avail of the opportunity to engage with other heads of state and government attending the UNGA session during the various activities organized on the sidelines.

The prime minister will also hold interactions with the international media." The spokesperson said Pakistan saw the United Nations as the most representative and inclusive forum of nation-states. The prime minister's participation in the General Assembly session is a demonstration of Pakistan's abiding commitment to multilateralism, with the UN playing a pivotal role in international

affairs for promoting peace and prosperity worldwide, she added. She said Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani would also accompany the prime minister. With respect to the foreign minister's visit to the United Kingdom, the spokesperson said the FM was participating in the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in London.

Speaking about the situation of women in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where human rights violations continue unabated, she said women in the IIOJK had frequently been targets of violence and aggression as a means to punish their families and communities for standing up against illegal and forcible Indian occupation.

"Abduction and harassment of young women during the so-called 'cordon-and-search operations' has been used as a punitive tool by the Indian occupation forces to punish entire communities," She demanded that the human rights violations must end so that the women of IIOJK could live in peace and dignity. Replying to a question, the spokesperson said the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized disputed territory whose final disposition was to be made in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

PM Kakar directs to complete PIA privatization on fast track



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar on Thursday directed Minister for Privatization Fawad Hasan Fawad to oversee the process of privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and complete it on a fast-track basis.

Chairing a meeting on matters related to PIA, the prime minister said process needed to be expedited urgently so as to provide a reliable service to the users and to raise the standards of the national flag carrier to match the global airline standards.

He directed all the relevant stakeholders to find an immediate solution to the matters related to the privatization.

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the progress of the privatization process of PIA. He also welcomed the new caretaker privatization minister Fawad Hasan Fawad to his team.

Another petrol price hike on the cards

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid a backdrop of ongoing economic challenges, including soaring inflation, the government is likely to hike petroleum prices as global commodity prices continue to rally, ARY News reported quoting sources.

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) is expected to announce new prices on September 15, based on the



average international crude oil prices

Meanwhile, the government has not announced any update for expected price revision, and the decision will be finalised in recent meetings.

PTI chairman, Shah Mahmood Qureshi's bail pleas rejected in cipher case

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A special court established under the Official Secrets Act has rejected the bail pleas of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case.

Special court Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the bail applications and announced the verdict after hearing arguments from PTI's counsels.

Earlier in the day, the same court confirmed the pre-arrest bail granted to former federal minister and PTI leader Asad Umar in the same case.

On August 22, the same court headed by Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain had granted pre-arrest bail to Umar against a surety bond of Rs100,000.

The PTI Chairman Imran Khan was sent to jail on August 5 following his conviction in the



Toshkhana case. On August 29, the IHC had suspended his sentence.

However, a special court had directed Attock jail authorities to keep him in "judicial lockup" in connection with the cipher case.

On Tuesday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) reserved its verdict on a petition filed by PTI chairman challenging the law ministry's decision to conduct the trial in the cipher case at Attock jail.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the verdict on PTI chairman's plea after hearing the arguments. The court had sought an explanation from the respondents on the notice.

President Alvi suggested election date 'under pressure': Raja Riaz

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The former opposition leader in National Assembly (NA) Raja Riaz said that President Arif Alvi suggested the date of elections 'under pressure'.

As per details, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja called on Raja Riaz to discuss the matter related to the general elections schedule.

The former opposition leader said that the president did not announce the poll date he suggested the date instead.



Raja Riaz said that he sees the general elections are likely to be held in the mid of February 2024 however the ECP is yet to announce the poll date.

PPP serves show cause notice to estranged CEC member Latif Khosa

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has issued a show cause notice to Sardar Latif Khosa, its Central Executive Committee (CEC) member and senior lawyer.

Latif Khosa and Aitzaz Ahsan, have been at odds with the party leadership over their support to former prime minister Imran Khan in his legal troubles.

Earlier, both senior lawyers were invited to attend the CEC meeting in Lahore on September 14 (today).

"Latif Khosa has been a member of the People's Party's

CEC but without informing the party assisting the head of another party in legal cases, who has been convicted under corruption charges," according to the show cause notice.

"You have criticized the state over cipher in lawyers' convention."

"Deliver your reply of this show cause notice within 7 days, in case of no-reply, action will be taken as per the rules and your basic membership of the party can be terminated," Khosa has been warned.

The PPP's secretary general Nayyar Bukhari has issued the show cause notice to Latif Khosa.

Pakistan Red Crescent Society concludes two-day training program

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), AJK Chapter under its Climate Advocacy & Coordination for Resilient Actions (CACRA) project and with the generous support of German Red Cross concluded a comprehensive two-day training workshop aimed at enhancing the understanding of climate change, climate-smart disaster risk management (DRM), and small grant proposal development.

The training was held here at local hotel and was attended by fifteen volunteers of Pakistan Red Crescent Society from five districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (Neelum, Jhelum Valley, Rawalakot, Haveli and Mirpur). The training program was part of the PRCS AJK Chapter's on-going efforts to strengthen the capacity of local communities to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and to build



resilience against natural disasters.

The training program was led by experienced facilitators and subject matter experts in climate change, DRM, and proposal writing, from Pakistan Red Crescent Society National Headquarters Islamabad ensuring that participants received instructions about subject matter. In the training,

Participants were provided with an in-depth understanding of climate change, its causes, and its impacts on communities, particularly in the AJK region.

While addressing to the concluding ceremony of the training Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK MS Gulzar Fatima, expressed her satisfac-

tion with the training's success, stating, "This training represents our commitment to building resilient communities and addressing the pressing challenges of climate change. We are confident that the knowledge and skills gained during these two days will empower our participants to take proactive steps towards a sustainable and climate-resilient future." MS Fatima further added that PRCS AJK Chapter looks forward to continuing its efforts to empower volunteers of PRCS and local communities to respond effectively to the impacts of climate change.

At the end of the training certificates were distributed among participants. On this occasion, member managing board of Pakistan Red Crescent AJK Chapter MS Nadia Habib, Program Coordinator PRCS and focal person CACRA Yasir Kazmi, Communication Manager Adnan Qureshi and Youth & Volunteers Officer Tahir Kazmi were also present.

Sardar Attique calls for more effective role of its workers in the current situation

Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan met with former Chairman Prime Minister Inspection Implementation Commission Sardar Altaf Hussain Khan, in the meeting they had a detailed discussion on the current political situation and the latest situation in Occupied Kashmir. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Muslim Conference is an ideological force of the state which has been standing on its ideas for a century, the Muslim Conference workers have heavy responsibilities in the current situation, the message of the Muslim



Conference Worker Party is the new generation.

The situation is becoming critical, the stubbornness of India is not decreasing, the language of the people of occupied Kashmir is being blocked

by the brutal use of force. Apart from uplifting, the rights of the people of Azad Kashmir must also be protected. He said that the Muslim Conference is the guardian of the unity of the state, the sacrifices of the Kashmiris

in the freedom movement of Kashmir cannot be forgotten in any way. The issue of Kashmir will be highlighted in a full way. Meanwhile, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan met President Union Council Rangla Raja Khurshheed Hameed, Raja Mujaddid Khurshheed, Mohsen Tehbib Abbasi and Inzamam Abbasi in the Mujahid Manzil. In the meeting, the current political and Discussions were held regarding the organization of the Muslim Conference, including the latest situation in Kashmir. After that, the President of the Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, visited PMS Sardar Sajjad Abbasi and inquired his health and prayed for his early recovery.

Educational seminar held in Doag with support of DYOSW

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: On Tuesday a seminar on educational awareness was organized by Doag Students Society (DSS) on behalf of District Youth Office South Waziristan in Lower South Waziristan District with the collaboration of District Administration, and educational awareness seminar was held at private institution Imperial Public School Doag.

The Chief Guest of the seminar was District Youth Officer South Waziristan Sardar Ali Wazir.

District Sports Officer Noorullah Wazir, well-known religious scholar Maulana Naik Muhammad Wazir was also with him on this occasion.

A large number of people from different walks of life including tribal elders, Ulemas, political and social personalities, male and female students participated in the seminar.

Addressing the seminar on this occasion, Chief Guest District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir said that we all have to fight together to bring



a pleasant environment in the field of education. He said that if a developed country is to be made, it is made by acquiring knowledge.

He said, because an educated person cannot be pushed on a wrong path, although education is one of the best skills in life, and a person can distinguish between good and bad by getting better education, but the first condition for quality education is hard work.

The District Youth Officer said that joint efforts to improve the education system can be beneficial.

He assured the Doag Students Society that the District Youth Office stands side by side with you for the education awareness

campaign and will stand.

Said further, the seminar was concluded on the point that the society can progress only by getting quality education and everyone will play their full role for this.

Addressing the seminar by the Principal of Superior City Model School Zer Muhammad Wazir and Zubair KK Wazir and other important personalities, and highlighted the importance of education and the bright future of children.

Chairman of Doag Students Society Zahid Wazir said from the seminar; that our goal is quality education and the straight path, we all have to work hard to get quality education.

The chairman said that

people have to move towards positive thinking, our main goal is to give a new determination and desire to the youth, God willing, our struggle will continue.

Private school principal Hamayoon Wazir said that the role of private schools in the area is not hidden from anyone. Private schools have brought a positive and exemplary change in the field of education.

Renowned religious scholar Maulana Naik Muhammad Wazir said that Quranic and contemporary sciences are indispensable.

By which both the world and the hereafter are beautified, therefore, there is a need to take concrete steps for quality knowledge and education.

On this occasion the speakers also said that due to lack of a good environment and brain washing, our children are not paying attention to studies.

Speakers said therefore, you have to provide a better environment for your children and children, then it will be possible to get a good education and they will also be able to get quality education.

US awards prestigious scholarship to 40 Pakistani students



Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: U. S. Consul General Kristin Hawkins joined Higher Education Commission Director General for Human Resource Development Aayesha Ikram and University of the Punjab Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood to award scholarships to 40 high-achieving Pakistani undergraduate students from families affected by last year's devastating floods.

These scholarships, made possible through USAID's Merit and Needs-based Scholarship Program (MNBSP), will support the students in completing their degrees at seven universities in Punjab.

"Higher education enables students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to develop the knowledge and skills needed to compete and succeed in the 21st century," Consul General Hawkins said.



Chief Secretary AJK Dawood Muhammad Bareech chairs meeting of Selection Board No1 at Muzaffarabad

Women University wins Pink Ribbon HEC Youth Award: Dr Kalsoom Pracha

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Women University Multan wins Pink Ribbon HEC Youth Award in Promoting Breast Cancer Awareness during PINKtober



The Pink Ribbon HEC Youth Awards serve as a platform for educational institutions to collaborate with Pink Ribbon in breast cancer awareness among the youth.

Women University Multan secured position while demonstrating their commitment to raising awareness through innovative approaches and showcasing their vital role in advocating for breast health.

In this regard a ceremony was held at VC office, the Women University Multan. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Kalsoom Pracha along with Registrar Prof. Dr Mamoon Khan, Director Students Affairs Dr. Adeela Saeed and Ms. Syeda Sajida Firdos (Lecturer, Department of Applied Psychology) were present. On this occasion Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Kalsoom Pracha admired the efforts of HEC and Pink Ribbon for creating awareness among the youth of Pakistan. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha said that ratio of breast cancer cases are increasing in young girls of Pakistan and awareness is the only key to survival. She further added that, "we need to prepare our generation to be health-conscious so they can have a better future."

Registrar Prof. Dr Mamoon Khan said that the Women University Multan is committed to fulfilling its social responsibilities for the welfare and educating the youth across the country.

South Punjab Civil Secretariat Complex is being constructed on 504 kanals: Capt Saqib

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt (Rtd) Saqib Zafar visited the under construction Civil Secretariat South Punjab along with Additional IGP South Punjab Maqsood Ul Hasan and inspected the space allocated for Police Office Block. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab said the Civil Secretariat complex is being constructed on 504 kanals of land, which includes the construction of Civil Secretariat and GOR He said 50 kanals of land has been allocated for the office block of the Additional IG police and a separate entrance will be constructed in view of security reasons. He said six residences are under construction, including the residence of the Additional IG Police, which is in the final stages of its completion. Additional IG Police South Punjab Maqsood Ul Hasan, on this occasion, said the establishment of a dignified South Punjab Secretariat is very important for the police. He disclosed that the construction work will be started very soon by C&W department. Both officers also visited GOR and reviewed the quality of construction of residences. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab directed IDAP authorities to improve the space in under construction quarters for the employees.



Imran's appointment as DG Information KP

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The appointment of Imran as DG Information Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will bring a new aura to pave the way for the development and advancement of the journalist community and information department KP.

An important Cabinet meeting of District Press Club Wana was held in South Waziristan Lower District under the chairmanship of Chairman District Press Club Wana Adam Khan Wazir.

In which District Press Club Wana President Mujeeb Ur Rehman Wazir, General Secretary Zardad Wazir, Vice President Noor Ali Khan Wazir, Press Secretary Qismat Ullah Wazir and other office bearers participated.

The Cabinet expressed happiness on the appointment of Imran Khan as DG Information KP and congratulated him.

The cabinet said that after the appointment of Imran Khan, the difficulties of journalists will not only be significantly reduced and rather, avenues for simplification will be provided, and the information department will be put on the path of development.

Cabinet members said that this is a very good initiative of the current caretaker provincial government, that cabinet decided on the merits and issued the notification for the appointment of the new DG Information.



An extraordinary meeting of the parliamentary party of the coalition government held



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting of the parliamentary party of the coalition government was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair.

The meeting, which was also attended by the Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, discussed in detail the problems being faced by the people and the initiatives the coalition government has taken to address the issues of

public concern.

The prime minister Anwar Ul Haq, on the occasion, took the coalition partners into confidence about the measures the government has taken during the past 4 months vis a vis good governance/financial discipline and devolution of power to the grassroots level in Azad Kashmir.

Thirty two members of the legislative assembly who were present at the meeting expressed their full confidence in the leadership of the prime minister

and supported all the decisions he has taken for the welfare of the people in Azad Kashmir.

The meeting, which lasted for six hours, appreciated the PM for presenting the case of the people of Kashmir vociferously during his meetings with the representatives of the federal government and the recently held Senate Standing Committee meeting.

The parliamentary party paid rich tribute to the Prime Minister for raising the issues of public concern with

the federal government, especially the inflated electricity bills, subsidies given on flour and the problems being faced by the residents of the capital city (Muzaffarabad) and its surrounding areas due to the Neelum Jhelum project and completion of important projects including Rathoa-Hariyam Bridge in Mirpur.

THE Prime Minister told the Parliamentary Party that to ensure provision of flour to poor masses in AJK at affordable prices was the government's

top priority.

While referring to the issues that were brought to the notice of the federal government recently, the PM said that WAPDA has agreed in principle to build potential water bodies in the area.

About short term and long term measures being taken to address the environmental impact of the Neelum Jhelum project, he said that the flow of water in the Neelum river has been increased from 8 cumic meters to

20 cumic meters."It has been decided to flush the Neelum river thrice a month to eliminate the deadly effects of sewage," he said.

The meeting, after holding threadbare discussions on issues of key concern, also took a number of important decisions that included suspension of notification regarding the massive increase in electricity charges and collection of utility bills at the tariff rate, which was determined in the month of July.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear**SERVICES****Namaz Timings**Fajr 4:26 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 4:30 pm
Maghrib 6:16 pm
Isha 7:44 pm**EMERGENCY**Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20**ENQUIRY**Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092**HOSPITALS**CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666**DEPARTMENTS**CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886

Sajjad Azhar's book 'Rawal Raj' reflects cultural history of Potohar says: NA Speaker

Naveed Ahma Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly and Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Raja Pervaiz Ashraf attended the launching ceremony of journalist Sajjad Azhar's book 'Rawal Raj' as chief guest in Islamabad press club today. Former Federal Minister Pervez Rasheed, prominent Urdu poet Iftikhar Arif and large number of senior journalists also participated in the event.

while congratulating Sajjad Azhar for writing a book on the rich historical aspects of Potohar region, he said, "Potohar is a historical region and peculiarity of this region is that it has historical importance across the world."

The speaker further said that traditionally and culturally enriched people live in Potohar region. He also said that Sajjad Azhar has enlightened the young generation about cultural aspect of the history through his book. He also said that writ-



ing a book is a very difficult task, one has to read hundreds of books to write one book. He said that Sajjad Azhar has highlighted the centuries-old civilization of Rawalpindi in his book.

Later on while responding to question of journalists regarding return of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the holding of General elections, the speaker said, "it is appreciable and good omen that Nawaz Sharif is returning Pakistan." He

also said that the politics and democracy are interlinked with Elections and whoever wins elections should form government

In response to another question, the speaker said that the constitution outlines that general elections be held within Ninety days. On the question asked regarding the participation of Chairman PTI in the election, he said that this is dependent upon judicial decisions and law of Pakistan.

Flower pot

ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy in painting the cemented flower pot at Nursery along the Park Road in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

ILO forecasts Pakistan unemployment up 1.5 million since 2021

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deflated job growth and rising unemployment could push Pakistan's progress toward decent work back by decades, according to a new labour market update issued by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The brief examines the labour market trends in Pakistan and presents estimates of the impacts of the lingering crisis on employment outcomes in the near term.

According to ILO estimates, in 2023, Pakistan's employment-to-population ratio has fallen well below its pre-crisis trendline at 47.6 per cent while the number of unemployed persons is expected to reach 5.6 million—a surge of 1.5 million since 2021.

The report also highlights that the female unemployment rate, which is historically at least 1.5 times that of male rates, could reach a high of 11.1 per cent.

The increasing labour market challenges reflect the cumulation of Pakistan's economic distress, following from the shock of the COVID-19 crisis, the 2022 floods and exacerbated by the recent macroeconomic turmoil. Pakistan's recent agreement with the IMF, securing a USD 3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) in July 2023, aims to avert a debt default and shore up investor confidence. However, the SBA and the squeeze on public financing required in its implementation are likely to add further stress to labour market prospects, at least in the short term.

Wasi Shah visited the exhibition entitled 'The North' held in Dubai

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Tourism and Chairman Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Wasi Shah visited the exhibition titled 'The North' held at ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai.

Imad Mian, curator of The North, briefed the Minister about the concept of the event. North aims to showcase the diverse landscapes of Pakistan as explored by three artists, Louis Sapri, Sarah Knapp and Phoebe Stewart Carter. The artists visited Pakistan under Daastangoi Gallery's residency program and spent 10 days in September 2022 exploring



and photographing the beautiful landscapes of Pakistan. The work of these artists is on display at Brookfield Place until September 2023

Minister of State Wasi Shah appreciated this unique idea and admired the work of the artists. He added that

while on this occasion Namira Salim, who made a name for herself in space tourism, was also present.

On this occasion, the Minister of State had also invited many Emirati businessmen so that they can see the natural beauty of Pakistan and make up their minds for investment in the tourism sector. On this occasion, Hussam Mobid, who is the CEO of MTC Group, expressed his desire to visit Pakistan in the coming days and invest in the tourism sector. MTC, GCC is considered a large company with twenty years of experience in distribution of IT hardware and software.

PSA lauds Govt: vision to maintain current Net Metering rate

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) has expressed its gratitude to the caretaker government for its decision to maintain the current Net Metering rate for solar energy users, as announced by Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali. PSA Chairman Amir Chaudhry commended the government's commitment to sustainability and the environment, emphasizing that this decision would foster the adoption of solar energy and contribute to a cleaner, greener Pakistan.

Mr. Amir Chaudhry said that PSA fully supports the vision of a cleaner, greener Pakistan and emphasized the need to let the solar sector flourish by simplifying processes and encouraging solar adoption in various segments. He said that the opening of Letters of Credit (L/Cs), a key requirement for solar project sourcing and financing, should undergo simplification. The current ambiguity in the policy regarding L/Cs procedures can deter potential investors and consumers.

Net Metering allows solar energy users to feed excess electricity back into the grid, offsetting their energy bills and encouraging the production of clean energy. The PSA, representing the interests of the solar industry, has welcomed the government's decision to preserve the existing rate, ensuring stability and continuity for the sector.

Solar energy is an essential component of Pakistan's clean energy transition, contributing to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, energy independence, and job creation within the renewable energy sector. Maintaining the current Net Metering rate provides much-needed certainty to investors and encourages further investment in solar infrastructure.

Experts organized a dialogue to address SDGs challenges and opportunities

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: "Growth is important, but it must be sustainable and inclusive" says Ali Kemal, ChiefSDGs, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiative. He expressed his views during his speech at the National People's Assembly that was organized by Awaz Foundation Pakistan, GCAP and Pakistan Development Alliance. He further expressed that this assembly provides a platform for diverse voices to unite and address the challenges and opportunities presented by the SDGs, fostering not just growth, but sustainable and equitable growth for Pakistan.

This event aimed at fostering dialogue and engagement surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was also attended by reps of Ujala Network, Child Rights Movement (CRM), and many more, including a diverse range of stakeholders. These include civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, CBOs, political party representatives, media, academia, students, and advocates for marginalized groups, including women's rights, sexual minorities, and human rights defenders.

"In the National People's Assembly, civil society will unite from every corner of the world to address the pressing needs of SDGs. SDGs 16+ are all interconnected goals, from poverty alleviation to education, underscore the importance of inclusivity," Says Mohammad Zia ur Rehman, CEO, Awaz Foundation.

Representatives of PWDs, Women, TGs, Children, and Young People expressed that "our diversity is our strength, and our unity is our progress. We advocate for a world where every voice matters, regardless of age, gender, or ability."

Intelligent Energy to provide Smart Control to Pakistan Army at PEPE

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Director Marketing, Cons Tech Zaheer Ahmad said in the interview that Pakistan Energy Exhibition and Conference is a positive sign for Exhibitors and we received wonderful response on the first day. He said Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman also visited in our stall and he appreciated our Company products. He said that We are providing Dianamic services regarding our products like Street Lights and Road Lights for Highways, Motion Sensor Based LED Lighting (Different Types), Stainless Steel (SS 316), Exd, EExe and Exec Jundtion Boxes (JBs), Local Control Stations (LCS), Snap Switches, Exd Brass, Nickel Plated Brass Cable Glands, Exd Plug and Sockets, Welding Sockets and Wall Boxes, International Ses, Fuse Gears, Fuse Holders, Surge Protection Devices (SPDs), Switche Ex Brass, Nickel plated Brass Cable Glands, Ex Plug and Sockets etc. He said that we are also giving Smart Control facilities to our customer which they can check on their Muble through our applications and we give the warranty life time and we give the quality products to our dietnt and we are giving Smart Solution to our customers which they can control out of their homes. He said that we are also giving the servies to Pakistan Army and we are receiving the huge response from them and also from our other customers.



MIPD and DIQCA hosted a special 02 days MQCAP 2023

ISLAMABAD: Millennium Institute of Professional Development MIPD and Department of International Qualifications, Curriculum, and Assessments DIQCA at The Millennium Education Group jointly hosted a two-day event called the Millennium Qualification Curriculum & Assessment Programme MQCAP 2023 at a local hotel says a press release.

The program, centered around the theme "Leaders as Partners," focused on enhancing leadership capabilities primarily within the academic domain. Its objective was to encourage school leaders to perceive leadership as an ongoing process rather than just a position of authority, which should be shared and practiced at all levels of education. This encompassed various aspects, including academic rigor, student well-being, attention spans, admissions, resource management, and more.

At MQCAP, Directors, General Managers, Senior Managers, Curriculum Leads, Master Trainers, and School

Principals highlighted the significance of The Millennium Education Group policies & procedures, curriculum, in-house teaching and learning methods, and their integration with 21st-century teaching techniques. During her opening keynote address, Ms. Ayesha Amir, the General Manager of the Millennium Institute of Professional Development, captivated the audience by inviting them to express their anticipations regarding MQCAP. Ms. Ayesha Amir underscored the significance of ongoing professional growth through school-based training and the enhancement of the school environment. She stressed the importance of "upskilling" rather than "reskilling."

In an enlightening session, Ms. Erum Atif, Director of Teaching and Learning, accentuated that outstanding school leaders aim to enhance both the components and the effectiveness of TME policies and procedures. The conference's aim was clarified by drawing parallels between qualifications and

quality, curriculum and capacity development, and assessment and achievement. The key message highlighted the transformation of "Leaders" into "Partners" through their training and empowerment. Mrs. Asma Saleem, the General Manager of the Department of International Qualifications, Curriculum, and Assessments (DIQCA), delved into various facets of teaching and learning. She discussed a wide range of topics and considerations related to education, including instructional methodologies, curriculum development, assessment techniques, and the integration of technology in the learning process. Mrs. Tayyaba Naureen, General Manager of the Department of ICT and Digital Inclusion, illuminated the audience about the importance of empowering and enhancing learning "One click at a time." She elaborated on the significance of STEM robotics and three technology-driven teaching approaches, underlining the cultivation of Showcase School Leaders through Microsoft training.



Besides many other keynote speakers, Mrs. Tayyaba Tameem, Associate Professor, School of Education LUMS Lahore, provided valuable insights to the conference delegates regarding the notion of "Mindfulness and Resilience." She connected this concept to the significance of having a common vision and effective leadership. Ms. Tameem heightened the importance

of fostering a growth-oriented mindset, embracing humility, and being open to change. She concluded her discourse with a thought-provoking statement "Never let a crisis go waste."

In 2-day, event CEO of The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mush-taq TI addressed the session with a focus on "Developing Schools as Social Enterprises; students as Social Entre-

preneurs," aligning with TME's philosophy of opportunity, achievement, excellence, discovery, and entrepreneurship. He highlighted the shift in learning from globalization to Millennialization and advocated for global citizenship by incorporating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the curriculum. Dr. Faisal Mush-taq highlighted the importance of the five pillars of Education, viewing learning as a circular process, and strengthening school governance through Core, Essential, and Extended practices. He accentuated the transition from curriculum to concept, promoting critical thinking, leadership skills, and technology connectivity. He concluded with the phrase "Give your room some class." Besides many high notes, the need to redefine leadership and to get the best out of the system was revisited by setting, implementing, monitoring, reviewing, and refining campus-based goals, practices, and policies so that student learning outcomes are continuously improved.

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Syed Ali Shah Gillani: A Life Dedicated to Kashmir's Freedom Struggle and Injustice

Muhammad Hammad Madni

Two years have passed since Syed Ali Shah Gillani, a Kashmir Pro-Pakistan leader, had departed from this world. He was regarded as the father of the Kashmiri Indigenous freedom movement. His great sacrifices for Kashmir's right to self-determination are still remembered by the people of Kashmir as well as Pakistan. Syed Ali Shah Gillani, a top separatist leader in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir IIOJK, died on 1st September 2021 at the age of 92 after a prolonged illness. He died at his residence in the main city of Srinagar. As soon as the news of his death began to make rounds in the Himalayan region, authorities blocked the internet services and deployed hundreds of troops to prevent a mass funeral procession and protests against Indian rule.

Syed Ali Shah Gillani was born on 29th September 1929 into a poor family in Zoorimuz village in Kashmir's Bandipora district in the north. He studied in the local schools and later in Lahore, a city in Pakistan, under the guidance of Mullah Saeed Masoodi (a close confidante of Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, who is referred to as Sher-Kashmir). Gillani's long and precarious journey for the legitimate cause of Kashmiris started well before his formal political career which

started from the platform of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), the region's largest political-religious organization that shared ideological affinity with the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Egypt, in 1952. He soon rose to become district chief of the Kupwara and Baramulla districts. He spent more than twelve years of his life in jail, he was first arrested in 1962 on the charges of "raising the Kashmir issue".

Gillani initially struggled for his cause through mainstream politics but later on, realized that the government of India had never been sincere in the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He staunchly opposed the enactment of the Indian law of Public Safety Act (PSA), the act, termed a lawless act, by Amnesty International, and was brought to be used against timber smugglers. However, it was later modified to imprison political voices. Under the law, anyone could be imprisoned for up to two years without trial. He played an active role in the formulation of the Muslim United Front (MUF) in 1987 ahead of provincial elections, all Muslim parties came under a single platform—MUF—against pro-India parties, including National Conference. Only four candidates on the platform, including Gillani, however, managed to secure seats due to alleged rigging. Gillani, along with three other winners, were jailed by the Indian government. This was the watershed moment, which marked the beginning of indigenous armed resistance against the "Indian unlawful occupation of IIOJK". In 1992, the foundation of the All Parties

Hurriyat Conference (APHC) was laid. It was a platform of at least 30 pro-freedom parties to take forward Kashmir's fight for the right to self-determination. The JeI was represented by Gillani. He along with Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, launched Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (movement of freedom) in August 2004. Gillani emerged as a prominent face when Kashmir held mass civil uprisings post-2008. Gillani's uncompromising stand boosted his popularity among the youth, a senior Kashmir-based journalist, told Anadolu Agency

"He would shoulder coffins of slain freedom fighters, and would in his public speeches eulogize the resistance movement."

He launched the "demilitarization movement" in 2009 and in 2010 when three civilians were killed in a fake encounter along the LOC in the Machil area of Kupwara district by Indian forces, a mass uprising was triggered. Gillani was at the forefront. In 2016 after the killing of popular young freedom fighter Burhan Wani at the hands of Indian security forces, Gillani, along with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik organized protests against the brutal action of Indian occupation forces. After the Indian government revoked Articles 370 and 35A from its Constitution, scrapping the country's only Muslim-majority state with its autonomy, Gillani remained consistent with the struggle before the revocation of special status. He remained under house arrest after 5 Aug 2019 till his death.

The Indian government, fearful of his stature, denied the proper burial of the great Kashmiri leader and was internationally condemned for this brutal and inhuman act. In grave violation of Human Rights, the family of the iconic Kashmiri leader was denied performing the last rites, and Syed Ali Gillani was laid to rest in a strict military siege at Hyderpora in Srinagar. As the family was preparing for the last rites of Syed Ali Gillani, a heavy contingent of the Indian occupation Forces raided his residence in Srinagar, harassed the family members, and took away Syed Ali Gillani's body. The Indian government tried to justify its barbaric action of burying Syed Ali Gillani as necessary to maintain the law and order situation, however, the people of Kashmir termed it a blatant act of human rights abuse. The serious Human Right Abuses by the Indian government in the case of performing last rites and burial of a 92-year-old veteran Kashmiri leader were condemned by OIC Organization of Islamic Conference and covered by important international news agencies and papers like Reuters, Washington Post, and France 24. Pakistan condemned India's 'barbaric act' of snatching Syed Ali Gillani's body. Thus Syed Ali Shah Gillani spent his entire life fighting for the rights of the people of Kashmir.

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Chinese Premier Li Qiang to attend 20th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning

Chinese Premier Li Qiang will deliver remarks at the opening ceremony of the 20th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on September 17, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Thursday.

The theme of this year's China-ASEAN Expo is "Building a Homeland through Harmony and Cooperation, Sharing a Shared Destiny for a Future – Promoting the high-quality development of the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative and creating an economic growth center," she said at her regular briefing." Mao Ning said, this year marks the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's proposal to build a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future and the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" initiative.

It is also the 20th anniversary of China's accession to the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

At present, China-ASEAN economic and trade cooperation has been steadily upgraded.

The spokesperson said, China has maintained its status as ASEAN's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years, and the two sides have been each other's largest trading partner for three consecutive years.

Last year, China-ASEAN trade volume exceeded US\$970 billion, a year-on-year increase of 11.2%.

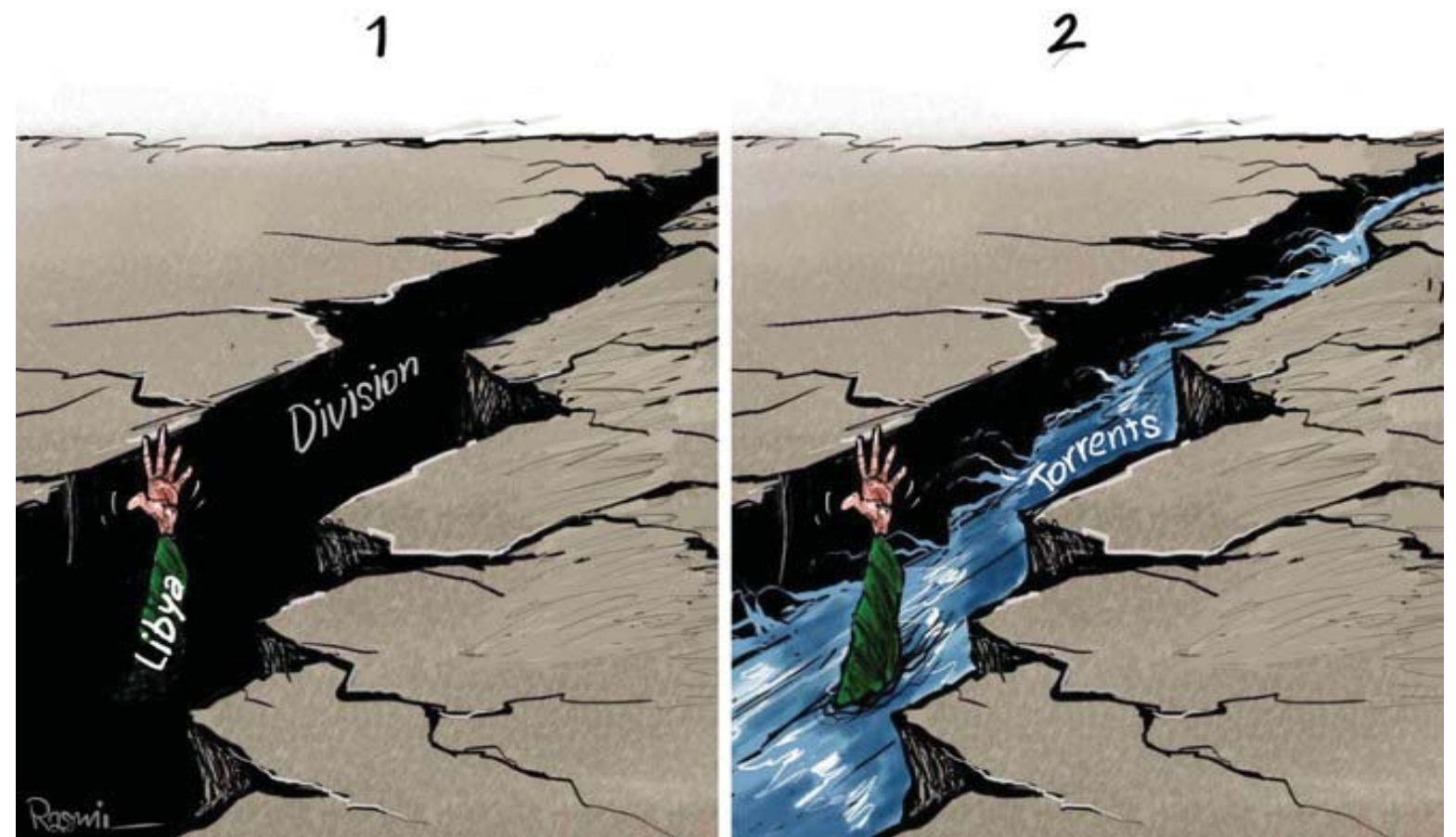
As of July this year, cumulative two-way investment between China and ASEAN countries has exceeded US\$380 billion.

At the recent series of East Asia Cooperation Leaders' Meetings, Premier Li Qiang and leaders of ASEAN countries reached an important consensus on comprehensively deepening China-ASEAN cooperation and jointly building the "Five Homes" of peace, tranquillity, prosperity, beauty, and friendship, she added.

Mao Ning said the China-ASEAN Expo is an important platform for deepening China-ASEAN cooperation and promoting regional economic integration.

This year celebrates its 20th anniversary.

China is willing to use this event to discuss opportunities, meet challenges and seek cooperation with all parties, further implement the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with high quality, promote China-ASEAN trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and enhance the level of regional connectivity, jointly build an open regional economy, and promote the construction of a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future.



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

Terrorism from Afghan Soil - II

This influx of advanced weaponry into Pakistan has made the TTP a formidable adversary, one that follows no rules, respects no territorial boundaries, and is completely committed to a toxic ideology. They now possess lethal weapons and are well-equipped to carry out their activities with deadly precision. On the other hand, Pakistan's security agencies operate within the constraints of local, national, and international laws, respecting the territorial boundaries of neighboring Afghanistan.

Given these challenges, Pakistan has adopted a cautious and prudent approach. It has employed economic measures to encourage the Afghan Interim Government to act responsibly and honor its commitments under various bilateral and international agreements. Pakistan has wisely closed smuggling routes and border crossings, with the closure of the Torkham border crossing being particularly significant. Pakistan is likely to extend this embargo until Afghanistan takes concrete steps to rein in the TTP.

The Prime Minister's caution regarding illegal Afghan immigrants on Pakistani soil is well-founded. There are over 50 million Afghans in Pakistan, with only 2.8 million of them registered. This massive undocumented population poses significant challenges to national security and resources. The Prime Minister has categorically stated that all illegal Afghan immigrants in Pakistan will be identified and repatriated through due legal processes.

Addressing the acts of terrorism by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from Afghanistan into Pakistan requires a comprehensive understanding of the complex web of historical, geopolitical, and socio-economic factors.

Furthermore, Pakistan should exercise caution and not be ensnared by the Afghan Government's proposals. The Afghan Government has persistently suggested that since they lack authority over the TTP, Pakistan should engage in direct negotiations with the Taliban. Pakistan, in a gesture of goodwill, previously acceded to this suggestion, allowing TTP fighters and committed adherents to relocate to vari-

ous regions within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces and Northern areas. However, this move inadvertently provided the TTP with an opportunity to regroup and activate their sleeper cells, leading to an escalation of their nefarious activities across the country.

Simultaneously, the government should address this issue with the U. S. government and its allies, stressing the need to provide compensation to Pakistan and its security agencies for the loss of lives, damage to property, and the economic losses incurred as a result of the conflict. Pakistan has borne the brunt of the war waged on its soil by weapons left behind. It is imperative that the international community supports Pakistan by enhancing the capabilities of its security forces with improved weaponry and providing essential training to effectively counter attacks launched by the TTP and other criminal elements armed with such advanced weaponry.

In conclusion, Pakistan's approach reflects a commitment to safeguard its national interests while seeking peaceful resolutions to complex challenges. In a rapidly evolving regional landscape, Pakistan's clarity and pragmatism are key to ensuring stability and prosperity for its people and the broader region.

Addressing these root causes requires a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach, including efforts to improve governance, economic development, education, and security in the affected regions.

Diplomatic initiatives that aim to reduce the conflict in Afghanistan and enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan are also crucial.

Additionally, international collaboration to disrupt external support for militant groups and strengthen border security measures is essential to mitigate the threat posed by TTP and similar organizations.

(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)).



Analysis
Qamar Bashir

Fundamental Rights (Constitution of Pakistan 1973)

Ansharah Farooq

Fundamental rights are the group of rights that have been recognized by the supreme court as requiring a high degree of protection from government encroachment. Fundamental rights are the basic rights of the citizens.

According to Constitution of Pakistan (1973): All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. Chapter 1 of constitution of Pakistan contains articles about fundamental rights. Articles 8 to 28 of the constitution deals with all fundamental rights provided to all citizens of Pakistan.

Followings are the fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens of Pakistan:

- Article 8: Law inconsistent with or in derogation of fundamental rights to be void.
- Article 9: Security of person. No person shall be deprived of life or liberty save in accordance with law.
- Article 10: Safeguards as to arrest and detention.
- Article 10(A): Rights to fair trial; For the determination of his civil rights and obligations or in any criminal charges against him a person shall be entitled to a fair trial and due process.
- Article 11: Slavery, forced labor prohibited.
- Article 12: Protection against retrospective punishment.
- Article 13: Protection against double punishment and self-incrimination.
- Article 14: Inviolability of dignity of man.
- Article 15: Freedom of movement.

- Article 16: Freedom of assembly.
 - Article 17: Freedom of association.
 - Article 18: Freedom of trade, business or the profession
 - Article 19: Freedom of speech.
 - Article 19(A): Right to information. Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law.
 - Article 20: Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions.
 - Article 21: Safeguard against taxation for the purpose of any particular religion.
 - Article 22: Safeguard as to educational institutions in respect of religion.
 - Article 23: Provision as to property. Every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property in any part of Pakistan.
 - Article 24: Protection of property rights.
 - Article 25: Equality of citizens.
 - Article 26: Non discrimination in respect of access to public places.
 - Article 27: Safeguard against discrimination in services.
 - Article 28: Preservation of language, script and culture.
- In Pakistan, fundamental rights are given to every citizen. Fundamental rights that are given to citizens of a state are according to their own constitution. They are essential for protecting the dignity, liberty and equality of individuals within a society.
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Call of the Ambassador of Turkiye on the Prime Minister

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye Mr. Mehmet Pacaci called on Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish leadership for their warm messages of felicitations on his assumption of office.

He said the people of Pakistan enjoyed a historic, cultural and fraternal relationship with Turkiye. President Erdogan enjoyed the same popularity in Pakistan as in his own country.

The Prime Minister appreciated Turkiye's reconstruction efforts following the tragic earthquake of February 2023 and reiterated Pakistan's readi-



ness to continue extending all possible support to the Turkish people.

On bilateral relations, Prime Minister said that the two countries could further enhance cooperation in trade, agriculture, energy, mining, IT and defence. Pakistan was keen to attract foreign investors and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been established to generate new and attractive investment opportunities in priority sectors.

The Prime Minister praised Turkiye for its long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

In addition to having strong and time-tested bilateral relations, Pakistan and Turkiye share convergence and cooperate closely on a wide range of regional and multilateral issues, including efforts to combat Islamophobia.

Syria aims for soccer success at Hangzhou Asian Games



Xinhua

DAMASCUS: With the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou approaching, the Syrian Olympic football team is preparing to make their mark on the international stage.

The quarterfinalists in Indonesia 2018, the Syrian team is aiming higher this time, as they gear up for the highly anticipated Asian Games, scheduled to take place from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8 in Hangzhou, China.

Haitham Al-Looz, a 22-year-old player hailing from Homs Province in central Syria, conveyed the team's enthusiasm and optimism. "We are so happy to participate in the Asian Games, particularly because we have friendly ties with China," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Al-Looz said, "We would like to be a tough competitor and win at the Games." The team's commitment is evident through their training, which is being conducted at a high level, further fueling their aspirations for success. Mahmoud Mohanna, 20, shared his excitement.

Reflecting on their past success, he said: "In the last Asian Games, we reached the quarterfinals, and we would achieve more than that to reach the semifinals and the final."

Coach Tamer Hassan, an Egyptian, welcomed the challenge to lead the Syrian Olympic football team in Asia.

"When I was offered this job to train the Syrian Olympic football team, I got excited because it is in Asia with a new set of challenges," Hassan told Xinhua.

Hassan's motivation extends beyond personal achievements as he said he is dedicated to bringing happiness to the Syrian people through their performance in the upcoming Games.

"We will try to do better in the Asian Games. It's a challenge for me and the players, and we will do something to make the Syrian people happy," Hassan said.

Adding to the anticipation surrounding the Asian Games is Muhi al-Deen Dawleh, the director of the Syrian Olympic Football team, who has visited China five times before.

Dawleh expressed his admiration for the host country, saying that "China is a friendly country with friendly people."

"We wish success to our team and we wish China success in the organizing of the Games," Dawleh said.

Appreciation



Executive Director General, Information Service Academy (ISA), Dr. Tariq Mahmood Khan distributing certificates among the participants of 37th MCMC Domain Specific Training in Islamabad on Thursday.

London police beg pardon, pay huge damages to women detained roughly at vigil

London's police force has issued an official apology and paid "substantial damages" to two women who were detained during a vigil held in memory of Sarah Everard, a tragic victim of rape and murder by a serving police officer.

The incident occurred in March 2021 when Everard was abducted off a London street while walking home, and her body was later discovered in woodland approximately 50 miles away.

The news of Everard's heinous killing and the subsequent revelation that a serving officer, Wayne Couzens, had been arrested, ignited widespread anger and protests.

In response, hundreds of individuals, predominantly women, gathered at Clapham Common in southwest London, near where Everard was last seen, to hold a vigil just three days after her body was found.

Among the attendees were Dania Al-Obeid and Patsy Stevenson, who were detained by the police and subsequently taken away in handcuffs.

Law firm Bindmans, representing the women, confirmed that the Metropolitan Police had settled civil claims brought by Al-Obeid and Stevenson. As part of the settlement, the women received damages and an apology from the police.

Stevenson expressed her thoughts on the resolution, stating, "It has taken over two years to reach this conclusion. It's been a really tiring and difficult process but it has felt important to push for some form of accountability and justice for myself and all women who attended the vigil to express our anger and grief over the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving Metropolitan Police officer."

Standard Chartered enters into an agreement with Kashf Foundation

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Standard Chartered Bank has entered into a distribution agreement with Kashf Foundation. Through this arrangement, Standard Chartered will be offering Kashf Gender Bonds to the Bank's non-individual business banking clients.

This distribution arrangement of the Kashf Gender Bond is a significant step towards the Government's agenda of economic empowerment and financial inclusion of women in Pakistan. The proceeds from the Bond will be utilised for micro-infrastructure finance loans directed towards the welfare of women through entrepreneurship, business support, flood rehabilitation, education, and home rehabilitation projects to name a few.

This agreement was signed in presence of Saadya Riaz, Head CPBB, Standard Chartered Bank; Roshaneh Zafar, Founder and Managing Director, Kashf Foundation and Maheen Rahman, CEO InfraZamin, at a ceremony in Lahore.

Saadya Riaz, Head CPBB, Standard Chartered said, "At Standard Chartered we are strongly focused toward



lifting participation of women and we feel privileged to have partnered with Kashf Foundation for this impactful venture.

Our commitment to our clients is absolute and we strive to offer solutions well suited to their needs. Through our Wealth Management Platform we bring forth the best-in-class investment and protection solutions for our clients. This arrangement gives us an opportunity to deliver real value to our clients due to bond's quality credit rating, market

competitive return and guarantee by InfraZamin and we foresee a strong appetite for it."

Roshaneh Zafar, Founder and Managing Director, Kashf Foundation said, Kashf has always been at the cutting edge of investing in innovative financial services for women. The gender bond will make finance accessible for women from underprivileged backgrounds by linking them with capital markets, a segment that is often ignored.

Maheen Rahman, CEO, Infracam-

in said: We are excited to be part of the first Gender Bond transaction in Pakistan and grateful to Kashf Foundation for their pioneering vision towards their long history of enabling women empowerment. As a country which sits near the bottom of the Gender Equity Index this transaction marks a significant leap forward in raising commercial capital directed to female empowerment and financial inclusion and represents an important milestone in the development and growth of the capital market.

Crafts of Compassion Outlet Inauguration Ceremony Hashoo Foundation showcased UNHCR-HF LIVE HMT project trainee Products

ISLAMABAD: On 14th September 2023 Hashoo Foundation officially launched its new outlet, "Crafts of Compassion", at Pearl Continental Bhurban. This pop up offers a wide range of exquisite Afghan Products, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of Afghanistan. Each purchase from the outlet directly supports the empowerment and livelihoods of Afghan Refugees. The event was attended by UNHCR, the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees Office and other partners of Hashoo Foundation, who commended the initiative and its impact on empowering Afghan refugees.

Hashoo Foundation's Acting Country Director, Mr. Abdul Waheed emphasized the profound impact of promoting Afghan products, highlighting the importance of empowering women and vulnerable groups for long-term economic growth and stability. He stated that by championing these products, Crafts of Compassion ensures that Afghan women and youth can flourish and thrive, even in



the face of adversity.

During the gathering, the UNHCR and CAR representatives applauded Hashoo Foundation's approach and shared their resolve to continue the impact-oriented work. They stated that these initiatives equip refugees with the necessary skills to achieve self-sufficiency and establish sustainable livelihoods.

Nadia, a beneficiary of the program expressed that "I am beyond grateful



for the opportunity provided by the Hashoo Foundation and UNHCR. With their support, I was able to turn my passion for my generations old craft into a business. The resources and training I received have been invaluable in helping me start and grow my venture. I am excited to see where this journey takes me and I am forever

thankful to them for believing in me."

This inauguration ceremony marked an essential milestone in Hashoo Foundation's mission to empower and uplift the lives of beneficiaries through the UNHCR-HF LIVE HMT project. It stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work of all those involved in this noble endeavour.

ISSI launches book on 'Pakistan's Strategic Frontiers'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A new book, entitled "Pakistan's Strategic Frontiers" was launched at a ceremony at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI). This was the third edited volume put together by ISSI's Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East, and Africa (CAMEA).

The Chief Guest on the occasion was the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi, and the Keynote address was delivered by Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan. Other speakers included: Director General ISSI, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood; Director CAMEA, Ms. Amina Khan; Mr. Martin Mader, Head of the Asia Pacific Department, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES); Prof. Muresan Liviu, President

EuroDefense Romania; Ambassador (R) Riffat Masood, former Pakistan Ambassador to Iran; and Mr. Michael Kugelman, Director and South Asia Senior Associate, Woodrow Wilson Center. The contributors to the book also spoke.

Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi, in his address, stated that Pakistan, a country situated at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, occupies a unique and strategically vital position in the global geopolitical landscape. The term "strategic frontiers" encompasses the geographical, political, economic, and security dimensions that define Pakistan's role and significance in shaping regional dynamics and global interactions.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, speaking on the occasion, said that the book "Pakistan's Strategic Frontiers" is an

important addition to the existing literature on Pakistan's place and role in an evolving region and a transforming world. In the rapidly changing milieu, developing better understanding of Pakistan's strategic frontiers and outlook is of crucial importance for the academic and policy communities alike. It is a gratifying that both these communities are sufficiently represented here today. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that the world finds itself at a pivotal juncture, today, marked by unparalleled flux and uncertainty. We are indeed at an inflection point — an era has ended; while the contours of a new era have yet to take a definite shape.

The DG ISSI pointed out that the book delves into the various dimensions of the complex dynamics and processes, particularly those associated with Paki-



stan's extended western neighborhood.

Director Amina Khan, in her remarks, said that in today's rapidly changing global environment, having a profound comprehension of Pakistan's strategic frontiers is essential for academics, researchers, professionals,

and anyone with an interest in matters related to peace, security, and development in the area.

Ambassador Asif Durrani, while expressing his views, stated that 'Pakistan's Strategic Frontier' is a subject about which many analyses have been made during various stages of

our history. From the strategic point of view, Pakistan has been facing a two-front situation for decades. While India has been an adversary since Pakistan's independence, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan created a destabilizing situation for Pakistan.

Mr. Martin Mader described the book as a valuable addition to the existing literature. He said that the shifting global dynamics bring forth a dual landscape of challenges and prospects for both Pakistan and the wider region.

Professor Muresan Liviu opined that in a fast-changing international environment, it is important to understand the complexities of the relations between countries and the profound changes that are taking place. He further said that the happenings in Afghanistan have a deep impact on the surrounding countries.

In her remarks as a discussant, Ambassador Riffat Masood said that the region is experiencing rapid developments, making this book exceptionally timely and the aspects covered within the book hold immense significance.

Michael Kugelman, described the book as a valuable addition, which has come out at an opportune time as the geopolitics of South Asia and beyond is undergoing profound changes and these shifts have been particularly seen since the last three years. This has made it more challenging for Pakistan to figure out how it can manage this geopolitical flux.

The launch was attended by academics, practitioners, former and serving Pakistani diplomats and officials, experts from think tanks, students, and members of the diplomatic corps in Islamabad.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
45,650.05	45,590.92	
Day's High	Day's Low	
45,776.96	45,581.48	
Index Value	Change	
2,017,935,170	+59.13	
Percentage	Time	
+0.13%	14 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,673.08	+147.09	
Percentage	Time	
+1.95%	14 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,918.91	+343.38	
Percentage	Time	
+0.99%	14 Sept, 1:01 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,168.10	+461.58	
Percentage	Time	
+1.41%	14 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	198	200
Bahrain Dinar	786.83	794.83
Canadian Dollar	220	222.20
China Yuan	40.72	41.12
Danish Krone	42.57	42.97
Euro	322	325
Hong Kong Dollar	37.8	38.15
Indian Rupee	3.57	3.68
Japanese Yen	2	2.09
Kuwaiti Dinar	958.55	967.55
Malaysian Ringgit	63.21	63.81
New Zealand \$	175.01	177.01
Norwegians Krone	27.64	27.94
Omani Riyal	768.48	776.48
Qatari Riyal	81.28	81.98
Saudi Riyal	79.05	79.8
Singapore Dollar	217	219
Swedish Korona	26.6	26.9
Swiss Franc	331.44	333.94
Thai Bhat	8.29	8.44
U.A.E Dirham	81.7	82.5
UK Pound Sterling	376.5	380
US Dollar	297	300

Dr. Gohar Ijaz engages in talks with Japanese Ambassador to strengthen trade relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister of Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ijaz, held a meeting with His Excellency WADA Mitsuhiro, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan. The meeting was held to discuss and rejuvenate trade relations between Pakistan and Japan, with an emphasis on Japan's automotive sector and the possibility to amplify bilateral trade in other sectors such as textile and agriculture.

During the meeting, Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz underscored the importance of Japan's exemplary trade practices and its global reputation as a leader in international trade. He remarked, "The only way to trade is the way Japan trades," emphasizing Pakistan's admiration for Japan's trade strategies and its aspiration to learn from and collaborate closely with Japan.

The Minister extended a warm invitation to Japan, expressing Pakistan's keen interest in revitalizing its trade relationship with Japan. Pakistan recognizes the immense potential for growth and collaboration that lies within this partnership.

Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro echoed the



sentiment of collaboration and highlighted the need to formulate a comprehensive road-map for expanding exports to Japan. This road-map will serve as a strategic guide to strength-

en economic ties and facilitate smoother trade between the two nations.

The meeting focused on Japan's renowned automotive sector. Japan is a global leader in automotive manufacturing and Pakistan sees immense opportunities for cooperation and trade growth in this sector.

Japan's automotive sector represents a multi-billion-dollar industry, known for its cutting-edge technology and high-quality products. Pakistan, with its growing economy and skilled workforce, is well-positioned to collaborate with Japan in this sector, leading to mutual benefits and economic growth.

Minister Dr. Gohar Ijaz and Ambassador WADA Mitsuhiro concluded the meeting with a shared commitment to explore opportunities for trade expansion, particularly in the automotive industry. Both parties expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-Japan trade relations.

The Pakistan Ministry of Commerce remains dedicated to fostering a prosperous economic partnership with Japan and looks forward to further discussions and initiatives to enhance bilateral trade.

Horticulture

ISLAMABAD: Gardeners are busy in planting plant saplings into flowers pots at a nursery along the Park Road in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Purchasing power of people lowest in the region



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Thursday that inflation has increased a lot while the purchasing power of the people has become the lowest compared to other countries in the region.

In these circumstances, the increase in wages has become inevitable to enable the masses to bring food to the table, he said.

Raising wages will increase inflation, but inflation is the only option we have to fight merciless inflation, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that the Central Bank is ready to increase interest rates while the government is mulling to increase the fuel price by Rs 10 per litre.

The SBB wants to increase interest rates to combat inflation and stabilise forex reserves but this will only increase the problems of the government as the cost of borrowing and debt servicing will increase.

Such a move will put a dent in the confidence of the business community and it

will multiply their problems, he observed.

On the other hand, the government has decided to increase the price of oil by ten rupees per litre, which will increase inflation in the country while the people and businesses will be badly affected.

At present, a levy of 60 rupees is being collected on petrol and 50 rupees on diesel, and it will increase further with the increase in the oil price.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Russia have announced to cut the production of oil by 1.3 million barrels per day, which will increase the price of oil, while the price of LNG is also increasing in the global market.

Increased fuel prices will damage the majority of the population of energy-importing countries, he said.

He said that improvements in the economy and trade balance should control currency depreciation to provide relief to the masses. Taxing the untaxed sectors and improving tax collection should increase the resources needed to finance the subsidies that may be required to keep the poor population afloat.

COAS lauded for stabilising the currency, lowering sugar price

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Thursday that all the credit goes to the Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir for the continuous increase in the value of the rupee and the decrease in the price of sugar.

He has also taken important steps to eliminate smuggling, money laundering, and speculation, which is restoring the confidence of the public and the business community, he said.

He added that more measures should be taken to provide relief to the public and keep the dollar under control.

In a statement issued here today, Saifuddin Sheikh said that the army chief has done in a few days what politicians and bureaucracy could not do in decades.

He supported the massive crackdown and showed 'zero tolerance' towards smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities, due to which the price and



availability of sugar are gradually becoming stable.

However, he expressed shock over the Punjab government's decision regarding the procurement of sugar at a significantly higher price of Rs 140 per kg from mill owners.

Governor Punjab inaugurated the three-day Pakistan Energy and Conference-PEEC, 2023

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated the three-day Pakistan Energy and Conference- PEEC, 2023 at Expo Centre, Lahore. The Ceo Punjab Board of Investment and Trade Jalal Hassan and President IEEEEDr. Sohail Aftab Qureshi were also present on this occasion. The Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman did the speech on this occasion with media and said that such kind of Solar and Energy Exhibition can boost up the industry he said that we are facing the energy crisis since 2013 but now the condition is going to be better regarding solar and energy and now since 2022 we did more work on solar and energy He said that this exhibition will produce better result for industry.

He congratulated whole the team of Management to hold such a fabulous exhibition energy event. There were many stalls were displayed in the exhibition. Oil and Gas, Power Technology, Smart Energy & Coal while it is showcasing solutions for Equipment, Alternate Energy Solutions 9Focusing on Renewable Energy Through Solar, Wind, Bio Gas Sectors.

PEEC 2023 has opened its door to facilitate around 200+ International and local Exhibitors who are showcasing their solutions to the Government officials and business stakeholders to create awareness about their products and secure good business while attendance of over 8000 visitors is expected in the 3 days of this exhibition.

The Exhibition is supported by Board of Investment (Prime Minister's Office) BOI, Private Power and Infra-

structure Board, PPIB, Energy Department (Government of Sindy), Solar Energy Trade Union Pakistan-Set Up, Renewable Energy Association Pakistan-REAP, Pakistan LPG Marketers Association-PLPGMA, Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association-PDA, CNG Dealers Association, CNGDA, All Pakistan CNG Association-APCNGA, Shanghai Steel Tube Industry Association. The one day Conference "Fueling the Future, The Energy Mix in the new Normal is also scheduled on the final day of PEEC, 2023. The Global Energy Conference is supported by Sustainable Development Policy Institute-SDPI and will be honored by numerous Government Organizations and its representative, private sectors and academia as well.

The Stallers who displayed their stall were included SGS, MAS Associate Pvt



Ltd, Crescent Steel and Allied Products Ltd, Marine Services Pvt Ltd, Superior Technology, Sufy Trading Company, Cons Tech, Bestway, Agitrol, NFA, Creative Electronics Pvt Ltd, SIEMENS, Power Solar-99, Shimi Taghtiran Co, Orient Electric International Group Ltd, DDFC Pvt Ltd, Hitech Networks Pvt Ltd, Creative Group, Diamond Jumbolon, Global Industry Interprises, Velosi, Bret, Jinnuo, Supcon China, Al Bario Engineering, Homeage.

SECP witnesses 21% growth in August incorporations

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,847 new companies in the month of August 2023, taking the total number of registered companies in the country to 200,629.

The incorporations recorded 20.6% increase as compared to the same period last year and 99.7% were registered online. The total capitalization of these companies was recorded at Rs. 3.5 billion. Moreover, as a result of integration of SECP's registration system with FBR and various provincial departments, 2,776 companies were registered with FBR for registration of NTN, 83 companies with EOBI, 46 companies with PESSI/SESSI, and 49 companies with excise and taxation department.

Out of the total incorporations, the information technology sector took the lead with 415 companies, followed by trading with 392, real estate development & construction (357), services (324), tourism (125), mining & quarrying (119), ecommerce (111), education (98), food & beverages (90), corporate agricultural farming (83), textile (59), marketing & advertisement (58), engineering (47), transport (43), health-care (42), pharmaceutical (41), chemical (41), power generation (38), cosmetics & toiletries (34), auto & allied (30), lodging (29), broadcasting & telecasting (27), communications (22) paper & board (22), cables & electrical goods (13) and 191 companies were registered in other sectors.

Foreign investment has been reported in 69 new companies, with foreign investors from Afghanistan, Australia, China, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE, the UK, the US, and Uzbekistan. A major chunk of investment was received from China with investment in 33 companies, trailed by the US with 9, Afghanistan and the UAE with 4 each, Australia, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, and Russia with 2 each, and investment in 7 companies from other countries.

