



AJK coalition regime committed to provide every possible relief to masses: AJK PM

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq on Monday said that the AJK coalition government was fully committed to provide every possible relief to the people. He was talking to a delegation at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis. (Details on Page 8)



Mushaal congratulates Saudi Arabia on National Day

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mallick congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on its National Day. In her heartfelt congratulatory message, SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment felicitated the Saudi government and its people on the National Day of Saudi Arabia. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Geoup photo

LONDON: Senior leaders of London's capital and financial market call on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday.



Photo: PID

UK investors show keen interest in Pakistan's capital market

Spokesman Report

LONDON: The investors of the United Kingdom's capital and financial market in a meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday expressed their keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The leaders of the notable investment firms who met the prime minister in London included Fidelity International Limited (FIL), Wellington Management, Ashmore, Jefferies International,

Redwheel Capital, Switex Industrial SA, Oxford Frontier Capital, GuarantCo, JP Morgan, Kalrock Capital, and UBL UK.

Prime Minister Kakar informed the delegation about Pakistan's current economic landscape, highlighting government measures for external account improvement.

He said that recent administrative actions strengthened the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar, fostering optimism for stability.

He said positive indicators,

including inflows from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and friendly nations, contributed to reduced inflation, stabilized reserves, and revival of industrial growth.

The prime minister spoke about the potential for foreign direct investment in Pakistan's key sectors and the positive impact of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF, exceeding expectations and stabilizing the economy and currency.

Prime Minister Kakar also highlighted economic improve-

ments such as reduced inflation with expected sustained decline, and upcoming growth in agriculture and industry.

He mentioned improved trade after removal of restrictions on imports and fiscal measures for monetary support and medium-term inflation targets.

The prime minister highlighted Pakistan's pro-investment efforts, introducing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

This initiative, led by the prime minister himself, streamlines

investment processes, attracts investments in key sectors, and fosters long-term growth by simplifying the business landscape.

The British investors enquired about the continuity of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme in Pakistan and reform efforts from short to medium term.

The prime minister assured them that Pakistan had expressed its commitment to the IMF programme by undertaking reforms committed with the IMF.

No space for intolerance, extremism in Islam and society: COAS Asim Munir



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Honourable Dr Azad Marshall, Moderator / President Bishops (Church of Pakistan and Bishop of Raiwind) along with a 13-member delegation of Christian Community called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, religious and inter-faith harmony were discussed. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press statement.

COAS General Syed Asim Munir lauded the contributions of the Pakistani Christian Community in national development, including the promotion of quality education, healthcare and philanthropic services and the outstanding role played by them for the defence of the motherland.

The army chief expressed

deep respect for the Christian community and stressed the need to promote greater interfaith harmony in society in order to follow Quaid's true vision of a united and progressive Pakistan.

COAS Asim Munir emphasised, "Islam is a religion of peace and there is no space for intolerance and extremism in Islam and society. No one can be allowed to take law into his own hands in a civilised society".

The Christian Community members acknowledged the Pakistan Army's efforts in combatting terrorism and providing a secure environment for the minorities in the country.

They appreciated the army chief's gesture as an inspiration for Pakistani minorities to take a greater and more active part in nation-building and in restoring their faith in a cohesive and tolerant society.

On Solangi's request, KP CM approves financial assistance for ailing journalist Zafar Wazir

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan has approved financial assistance of Rs 300,000 for the treatment of journalists from Wana Zafar Wazir. Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Murtaza Solangi had written a letter to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the treatment of Zafar Wazir. Zafar Wazir has been serving the national media since 2004 and has been suffering from heart disease for some time.



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had announced to bear the expenses of Zafar Wazir's heart surgery at the request of the federal minister for information. In this regard, the caretaker chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa approved financial assistance worth Rs 300,000 for the treatment of journalist Zafar Wazir.

Pakistan strongly condemns desecration of the Holy Quran in Netherlands

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the latest senseless and deeply offensive act of desecration of the Holy Quran that took place in The Hague, the Netherlands in front of some embassies of OIC member countries including Pakistan. It is a deliberately provocative and Islamophobic act that has hurt the sentiments of Muslims around the world. Such acts cannot be condoned under the guise of freedom of expression, opinion and protest, a spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs said. Pakistan believes that freedom of expression comes with responsibilities.

Chairman PAEC highlights Pakistan's achievements in peaceful nuclear uses at 67th IAEA session

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr.

Raja Ali Raza Anwar on Monday highlighted Pakistan's achievements in peaceful nuclear uses at the 67th session of IAEA general conference held in Vienna, Austria.

The chairman PAEC is leading Pakistan's delegation at the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which is underway in Vienna, Austria, at the IAEA Headquarters, according to a press release received here.

During his statement, the Chairman underscored that Pakistan highly valued its cooperation with the Agency and remained



committed to advance its collaboration by supporting the Agency's role as per its motto, "atoms for peace and development".

The Chairman appreciated the Agency's continued assistance to member states in their efforts to meet developmental challenges through safe, secure and sustainable uses of nuclear science.

He also underscored that global issues require global solutions, highlighting that Pakistan remains

one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

He stressed that Pakistan views nuclear power as an affordable, reliable and clean source of energy and a part of the solution to the climate crisis.

While acknowledging that Pakistan had been a beneficiary of the Agency's assistance, the Chairman shared that Pakistan is effectively utilising nuclear science and technology in areas such as human health, food and agriculture, power generation, industry and environment protection.

He also highlighted that Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi's visit to Pakistan earlier this year provided further impetus to strengthen the mutually beneficial and decades long collaboration between Pakistan and the Agency.

Anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan 'recovered'



Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan was "recovered" Monday and reached his home safely, according to Sialkot police, after going missing for nearly five months.

Imran Riaz was arrested on May 11 from the Sialkot Airport under 3MPO after the May 9 protests that broke out throughout the country following the PTI chairman's arrest from IHC. In a post on X/Twitter — the Sialkot police said: "Journalist/anchor Mr Imran Riaz Khan has been safely recovered. He is now with his family."

Mushahid Hussain Syed hints at 'mother of all deals' with PTI chief

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Monday hinted at a 'deal' with the incarcerated PTI chairman.

In an exclusive interview with ARY News Mushahid Hussain

Syed, who is also heading Senate Standing Committee on Defence, said they are 'unable' to handle prisoner no. 804. Seems like there would be a "Mother of all deals" with the PTI chief.

The PML-N leader said he responded to Western leaders' queries about the issue between the PTI chief and the Estab-

lishment as a matter of 'quarrel among lovers', in which there is also a possibility of forgiveness.

Mushahid Hussain Syed said Pakistan cannot bear the brunt of any other confrontation. Everyone should work for the betterment of the country.

Responding to another question, Mushahid Hussain said

the military establishment is 'against' accountability of its men by others. They have their own accountability system, he added.

The lawmaker said he did not attend the London meeting, in which it was decided to support the extension to Qamar Javed Bajwa as chief of the army staff. He regretted that the PDM



government gave new life to the PTI and its chief in 2022 through a no-confidence move. He was down and out, but PDM gave him a new life.

Concept of delaying cases in top court over from now: CJP

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa Monday remarked that the concept of delaying cases in top court should be considered as

on next hearing on the arguments.

The top court imposed a fine worth Rs 5,000 against a lawyer for wasting the time of court.

The chief justice said that through this case, this message was for everyone that there would be no delay in the cases, adding that it happened in the rest of the courts that time was given to submit the documents.

He remarked that the Supreme Court was the last forum which already had the record of all decisions of the cases.



over from now. During the hearing of a case, the CJP remarked a number of cases were pending in the Supreme Court, adding that in any case the respondents would be notified on one date and decision would be taken

Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest of the event Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani performing traditional Arabic Dance along with Ambassador of KSA to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malkiy and others during the celebrations of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

PM urges British fashion firm to open buying house in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday, highlighting Pakistan's pro-investment policies and facilities, urged the UK-based Boohoo Group to consider opening buying houses in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with leading British businessman and co-founder and Executive Chairman of Boohoo Group Abdullah Kamani, emphasised the advantages of investment in



Pakistan and extended an invitation to Boohoo Group to send a buying delegation to Pakistan for enhanced collaboration.

In the meeting, Kamani expressed keen interest in establishing long-term buying

linkages with Pakistan and the ambition to create a comprehensive supply chain in the country, encompassing organic cotton to apparel production.

They also hoped for improved Pakistan-UK air connectivity to facilitate increased imports from Pakistan.

Prime Minister Kakar conveyed Pakistan's commitment to facilitating investment and offered support in establishing manufacturing facilities within the country,

particularly within Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The meeting marked a significant step towards enhancing economic cooperation and trade between Pakistan and the Boohoo Group.

Boohoo Group is a prominent British online fashion retailer with annual sales exceeding one billion pounds, with a wide range of popular brands including boohooMAN, Pretty Little Thing (PLT), Miss Pap, Karen Millen, Coast, Oasis, and Debenhams.

Nationwide photography competition launched to showcase BRI, CPEC projects in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) have launched a nationwide photography competition, to showcase the progress of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed chaired a meeting here on Monday to review arrangements for the "Nationwide Best Belt & Road Initiative Projects Photography Competition", which was intended to capture the essence and impact of CPEC and other BRI projects in Pakistan.

Nationwide photography competition launched to showcase BRI, CPEC projects

in Pakistan Besides the Head of PCI, Mustafa Syed, the meeting was attended by Executive Director General / Principal Information Officer (PIO) Muhammad Asim Khichi, Director General External Publicity Wing Ms.

Ambreen Jan, Deputy Director General, PID, Raisa Adil and other senior officers from the ministry and its attached departments.

Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed appreciated the PCI for initiating and proposing the photography competition and said that besides highlighting the CPEC and BRI projects, it will also help further strengthen the close and deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and China.

He said Pakistan was really appreciative of CPEC and the meaningful Pakistan-China partnership, under which



various important projects including in the areas of road infrastructure, railways, energy etc. were completed for mutual benefit.

Secretary Information and Broadcasting assured PCI of all out cooperation and directed the Ministry's attached departments including PTV, Radio Pakistan, APP, PID, EP Wing, IP Wing, DEMP and others to do all in making the photogra-

phy competition a success by using their multi-media platforms.

Mustafa Syed, Head of PCI, briefed the meeting about aims and objectives of the nationwide photography competition, its procedure and timeline.

According to the timeline, photos relating to CPEC and BRI projects in Pakistan in the categories of "Infrastructure and Development; People

and Stories; and Environmental Impact" can be submitted by October 07, and the winners will be announced on October 10, after judged by a panel of renowned photographers, artists and relevant government bodies on October 08-09.

The prize distribution ceremony and exhibition, to be co-hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan-China Institute will be held on October 12, 2023 and will be attended by dignitaries, officials and media.

The meeting was told that Pakistan-China Institute, a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-political think-tank which endeavors to promote people to people ties between Pakistan and China, will also organize a trip to China for award winners by developing a detailed itinerary and coordinating all travel logistics.

Polio certificate made mandatory for travelers from Pakistan

City Desk

KARACHI: Egypt has made polio vaccination certificate mandatory for travelers from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries, ARY News reported on Monday.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), passengers travelling to Egypt from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malawi, Mozambique and Congo are requested to provide an international certificate of vaccination specifically polio vaccine, OPV or IPV (both are acceptable).

Last month, the International Health Regulations' (2005) Emergency Committee, responsible for assessing global poliovirus spread, expressed concerns over

Pakistan's efforts to reach a large number of children through its polio eradication campaign.

Last week, the health department said two environmental samples, taken from Pishin and Peshawar, tested positive for an Afghan strain of the poliovirus.

Meanwhile, the nationwide polio eradication campaign has been underway since September 25 (today) after polio virus was detected in environmental sites in different cities.

The campaign would be completed in three phases across the country, say sources, adding that the second from October 2 and final phase will be kicked-off from October 9 to 13.

AJK coalition regime committed to provide every possible relief to masses: AJK PM

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq on Monday said that the AJK coalition government was fully committed to provide every possible relief to the people.

Talking to a delegation at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis, the AJK Premier said, "When I saw that the burden on the people has increased in terms of electricity tariffs, which is beyond their capacity, then relief was given to everyone in electricity bills," said a press release.

He said that the tariff burden was not transferred to the public and continuous subsidy on flour



was also given so that the flour remains within their purchasing power. He said that governments are the continuation of governments, but if there is anything that distinguishes a government, it is its style of governance, whose style is in accordance with the expectations of the people remains in

the minds.

"I scrapped protocol and then expected my ministers to follow the same course of action and then bureaucracy is also expected to follow the general policy," he said. He said that the common man is suffering from problems, I do not want to take benefits from people's tax money, but to reduce the problems of the common man who is in trouble.

He said that Muslim League-N and People's Party have an important role in the government and the way they are supporting me I am grateful to them. I will bring such a transparent system of accountability so that no one can raise a finger.

PTI chairman shifted to Adiala jail

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman and former prime minister has been shifted to Adiala jail.

As per details, the Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered to shift Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to Adiala Jail in the cipher case.

The PTI chief counsel Sher Afzal Marwat said that the PTI chief has been kept in a room where attached bathroom and other facilities are available.

Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC) - Amir Farooq conducted the hearing on Chairman PTI's plea to transfer him from Attock Jail to Adiala Jail.

The Chief Justice questioned, "why the former prime minister is being held in Attock Jail, and not transferred to Adiala Jail?" adding that, "the status of his [Chairman PTI] sentence has been changed, and he



is currently undertrial, according to which he should be kept in Adiala Jail along with other undertrial prisoners."

The court sought an answer from additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal, stating that, in Toshakhana case, the original court order was to keep him in Adiala Jail.

In response, the additional Attorney General replied by stating that the Chairman PTI had been detained in connection with the cipher case and he is currently being held in Attock Jail following the court order.

Following the Attorney General's response, the Chief Justice - in his remarks - ordered to shift the former prime minister to Adiala Jail.

PM's speech at General Assembly is reflection of Pakistani people's aspiration: Jan

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Monday said that the Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar's speech at the United Nations General Assembly session is a reflection of the wishes and aspirations of the Pakistani people.

The PM presented the Muslim Ummah's position on the issue of Kashmir in a good manner, he said. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference regarding cabinet decisions at the Chief Minister Secretariat here.

He said that various posts have been approved in today's cabinet meeting which was chaired by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardani Khan Domki.

The information said that the Care-



taker Chief Minister would meet with Prime Minister Anwaar-ul Haq to inform him about the problems of flood victims in order to rehabilitate the victims of last year's flood in Baluchistan.

He said that in today's cabinet meeting termed the speech of Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar positive who addressed to the General Assembly and presented Pakistan's position in the UN General Assembly in the best way.

IFC delegation meets Privatization Minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad on Monday held a meeting with the team of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for the region headed by its Country Director Zeeshan Sheikh.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Privatisation Commission, the Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the Additional Secretary of the Power Division, and other senior officers of the Commission.

During the meeting, IFC made a presentation to the participants sharing different best practices around the world to help the government reform electric distribution utilities with a focus on improved customer services, reduction in losses and an enhanced user base.

IFC also highlighted in detail different reasons for the failures of governments to successfully under-



take privatisation of electric distribution utilities including lack of political will and absence of mechanisms including an efficient regulatory framework.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were made on different options available for bringing in private sector efficiencies in the management of electric distribution utilities. The minister while thanking IFC expressed that there was a need for seeking clear instructions from the cabinet in view of various decisions/instructions in the past and that it will be in the best interest of all stakeholders to come to that clarity before proceeding further.

Mushaal congratulates Saudi Arabia on National Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mashaal Hussain Mallick congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on its National Day.

In her heartfelt congratulatory message, SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment felicitated the Saudi government and its people on the National Day of Saudi Arabia.

Mashaal said that Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Sulaiman put Saudi Arabia on the trajectory of development and prosperity, adding that the entire Muslim Ummah has a heartfelt and emotional attachment to Saudi Arabia due to the two holy places.

Mushaal said that Saudi Arabia has always represented the Muslims in the whole world in a best possible way. He stated that Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan in all circumstances. Moreover, she went on to say that



Saudi Arabia has always supported the position of Kashmiri people with regard to the decades-old Kashmir dispute.

Mushaal stated that Kashmiris pinned high hopes with Saudi Arabia to play its resolve regarding settlement of the Kashmir dispute as per UN agreed formula and aspirations of people of the occupied valley.

The SAPM recalled that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are on one page pertaining to all important regional and international issues, adding that the entire Pakistani and Kashmiri people are praying for the prosperity and development of Saudi Arabia.

Interior Minister says ready to arrest Nawaz if bail not accepted

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti said the government is ready to arrest PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif if his bail is not accepted.

Speaking to ARY News programme "Khabar", the caretaker interior minister said that huge force is not required to arrest one accused from the airport as the PML-N will be arrested if his bail is not accepted however Nawaz Sharif would want to get arrested.

He said the courts will decide whether PTI chief will be released before elections or not. Several Prime Ministers have been arrested in the past but only the PTI chief was the one who feared arrest.

Earlier, former finance minister Ishaq Dar said that there are no hurdles



in PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's participation in elections.

As per details, Ishaq Dar said that article 62 (1) (f) which decreased the disqualification sentence to five years was passed by the parliament and also

approved by the president.

He said that after the approval of article 62 (1) (f) former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) head Jahangir Tareen are now eligible to participate in elections.

Former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan on October 21. "Nawaz Sharif will be given a splendid welcome on his arrival in Pakistan", he added.

He said that Nawaz Sharif was removed from power through a conspiracy and the rigging in the 2018 general elections left Pakistan behind in the region.

"We held consultations with the senior leadership of the party and decided that Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in October and lead the election campaign," Shehbaz Sharif said while talking to journalists in London.

The PML-N president also said that his brother would come to Pakistan and face the law and "there are no two opinions on it".

Shahid Ashraf Tarar met with Ambassador of Azerbaijan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have been enjoying ideal fraternal relations for decades now. After the recent launch of direct flights from Pakistan, Azerbaijan intends to connect the two countries by road and railway routes. The development of bilateral economic cooperation will further strengthen the relations between the two countries.

By connecting Pakistan to international transport routes, regional connectivity would be greatly enhanced. H. E. Khazar Farhadov reiterated that connectivity to Azerbaijan, would enable Pakistan to gain access to European and Russian markets. The Minister informed the Ambassador that the Chairman for Railways has already been directed to chalk out a roadmap for railway connectivity between the two countries.

Mr. Tarar further said that the time has come to transform the bilateral relations into economic cooperation. In this regard, emphasis should be on all forms of communication, private sector development, and trade exploration. The Minister also said that the plan to finalize the Transit Trade Agreement between the two countries should be expedited.

University of Karachi professors' continue to boycott classes

Web Desk

KARACHI: The University of Karachi (UoK) Professors' Association continued their protest due to which more than 46,000 students are facing academic loss.

According to details, the Karachi University Professors' Association announced to persist a complete boycott of classes until their demands are not met.

The ongoing protest by the Karachi University Professors' Association has resulted in an academic loss for over 46,000 students.

The professors are demanding to pay their remaining dues of evening class professors be paid and morning class instructors receive additional relief. According to the Karachi University Professors' Association, the Sindh government has not increased their salaries.

The professors are demanding to disburse the remaining dues of evening class professors, and Ad-hoc relief should also be provided to the morning class teachers.

On the other hand, the Karachi University administration has stated that the M. Phil and Ph. D. fees for professors have been waived, and over Rs 1.15 billion have been disbursed within a year.

The administration has also urged the professors' association to resolve the issues through negotiations instead of boycotting classes, as disrupting in education will only bring loss to the students academics.

PTI women activist re-arrested after release from Kot Lakhpat Jail

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) women activists were re-arrested moments after release from Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore/

As per details, policewomen force arrested the PTI activists and took them from Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

The rearrest came after the PTI women activists were released from jail but their families refused to take them home as they were fearing the rearrest.

Earlier, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) ordered to release Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javed Khan and other party activists in Jinnah House attack case.

As per details, ATC judge Arshad Javed announced the verdict and granted bail to nine suspects in Jinnah House attack case.

The court approved the bail pleas of PTI activists Sanam Javed Khan, Robina Jameel, Afshan Tariq, Ashma Shuja, Shah Bano, Faisal Akhtar, Qasim, Ali Hasan and Hussain Qadri.

May 9 events
Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan were arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order.

Army installations and Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attack during a protest by PTI workers.

It was also reported that Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Ali Nasir Rizvi sustained severe injuries while clearing.

DSP found involved in drug smuggling via drones

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A DSP has been suspended for his alleged involvement in cross-border drug smuggling via drone.

As per details, the notification regarding the suspension of former DSP of CIA Mazhar Iqbal was issued by DIG investigation Imran Kashmir.

The former DSP Mazhar has been booked in drug smuggling by the anti-narcotic force and his residence has also been sealed however sources claimed that the former DSP has managed to flee abroad.

Earlier, the Anti-Narcotics Force filed a case against a DSP and other policemen over cross-border smuggling of drugs via drones.

Read more: ANF Lahore books DSP, other cops over cross border drug smuggling

The ANF Lahore registered a case against DSP Mazhar Iqbal and others with charges under section 9C and other clauses pertaining to serious offences.

Four policemen including Sub Inspector Mehmood, ASI Kashif and head constable Shakeel have been nominated in the case.

According to sources, an accused Fayyaz alias Peepa was involved in cross-border drug smuggling and has been a confidante of DSP Mazhar Iqbal.

The ANF on August 08 busted a network of heroin traffickers from drones during a raid in the border area in Lahore and added that a policeman was also involved in drug smuggling. The drone and the heroin were seized, while the search was underway for the arrest of the accused.

Earlier on July 7, a drone carrying drugs worth millions crashed in Lahore's Kahna town.

Police seized the drone loaded with 'six kilograms' of drugs (heroin) worth millions of rupees in Lahore's Kahna Town and launched a thorough investigation. The drone crash revealed the smuggling of narcotics through drones.

Waiting for customer

ISLAMABAD: Laborers sit along the road side along with their tools at Peshawar Morr area waiting for customers to hire them and pay daily wages for the livelihood of their families.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Conjunctivitis patients shouldn't rub their eyes

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Patients suffering from conjunctivitis should avoid rubbing their eyes, as it can worsen symptoms. Those who have conjunctivitis in one eye should avoid touching both eyes with the same cloth to reduce the risk of spreading the condition from one eye to the other, the Al-Shifa Trust said Monday.

To relieve the discomfort associated with conjunctivitis, advice from an ophthalmologist is necessary, who may recommend applying either a warm or cold cloth or towel to closed eyelids three or four times a day.

Patients should avoid eye makeup and the use of contact lenses until the condition has gone away, said Professor Dr. Inamul Haq Khan, Consultant Eye Surgeon at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital.

Talking to media men, he said that the infection spreads more by touch-



ing the eyes and is very easily spread to other people.

Conjunctivitis is often spread by touching a contaminated surface, and then touching eyes and washing hands frequently can help avoid contracting or spreading it.

Patients with anxiety need more caution than treatment, he said, adding that one of the reasons for the spread of this disease is more than usual rains.

Dr. Inamul Haq Khan said that at present, many people are affected in Karachi and Lahore, while it is also becoming more common in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Redness, tears, and itching in the eyes are symptoms of conjunctivitis. It is an infection and affects children more because they have low immunity, he informed.

Since children are not careful, they quickly attract infection, which causes the eyes to swell, and affected people experience swelling in their eyes.

There may be separate medicines for children and adults, but unnecessary use of antibiotic drops can damage the cornea, and recovery of the eye may take up to six months, he said.

He underlined that antibiotic eye drops are harmful to the cornea. Eyes can be compressed through a piece of cloth to reduce pain but splashing water in eyes should be avoided while eye wash drops can also be used.

ICC Ghauri Garden Montessori to adopt innovative learning plan for children

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: ICC Ghauri Garden Montessori Section has adopted innovative activity based learning plan. Ethical education and training of children will be made the axis and center in which the concept of mutual respect and honor, peace, honesty, truth, tolerance, politeness and manners, confident speech and other topics should be taught. will In the school assembly, attention will be paid to recitation, prayer and physical exercise, poems and sentences.

These decisions were taken by Chairman Career Group of Institutions Javed Intizar, Principal Afraz Abbasi, Coordinator Kanwal Rana, Teachers Misbah Mazhar and Iqra Maskin in a Montessori policy-making advisory meeting. Javed Intizar said that we will focus on modern education for children to meet the challenges of today.

Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs) are endangering children's health: health activists

City Desk

Islamabad: Health activists have come together to express deep concern over the decision by the previous Cabinet to regularize Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs) through a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO). In a press release by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the health activists have urged the Minister of Health to inquire about this serious matter of regularization of HTPs which are now openly sold everywhere in Pakistan.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, "The decision to regularize HTPs is a grave threat to our public health goals, particularly with regard to our youth. These products have been legalized without conducting any cost

benefit or risk analysis survey to easily direct children and youth towards using these. HTPs are not only highly addictive but also expose users, including our children, to a dangerous cocktail of harmful chemicals and carcinogens. We cannot afford to compromise the health of our citizens, especially our younger generation by allowing these detrimental products into the market. It is our moral duty to protect our children from the predatory tactics of the tobacco industry, which seeks to profit at the expense of our nation's well-being."

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head of the Tobacco Control Cell at the Ministry of Health, stressed the importance of evidence-based decision-making, saying, "The evidence is clear and unequivocal: HTPs are not a safer alternative to traditional



cigarettes. Their consumption leads to addiction and a wide array of serious health issues, including respiratory problems and cardiovascular diseases. As responsible stewards of public health, it is imperative that we act in the best interest of our population's health. The World Health Organization (WHO) has consistently cautioned against the consumption of HTPs, urging governments worldwide to implement stringent regulations

to safeguard their citizens. Pakistan should heed this call and prioritize the health and well-being of its people over any other considerations."

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager at SPARC, underscored the organization's unwavering commitment to protecting the rights and health of children. He stated, "SPARC remains committed to protecting the rights and health of children. We call upon the government to reconsider this decision, which can have dire consequences for the well-being of our youth." Khalil urged the Health Minister to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with public health experts, civil society organizations, and concerned citizens to ensure that any regulatory measures prioritize the health and well-being of the people of Pakistan.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:34 am
Zohr 12:00 pm
Asr 4:18 pm
Maghrib 6:01 pm
Isha 7:24 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79

Letter to Editor

Rising petroleum prices and the impending impact on real estate

Shazia Gulzar, Islamabad

I write with concern regarding the current surge in petroleum prices, which has reached an alarming 340 Rs. This isn't just a figure, it's a looming threat to industries, particularly construction, which is intrinsically tied to petroleum costs.

This inflation is not solely causing a spike in construction costs but is extending its tentacles throughout the entire real estate sector. The inflationary repercussions are leading to increased property values, higher rental rates, and elevated prices for real estate-related services and products, casting a net of economic strain and amplified challenges on every entity involved, from builders to end consumers.

In addressing this issue, a possible solution could lie in examining global best practices. For instance, countries like Norway have invested substantially in renewable energy sources, thereby reducing their dependence on petroleum. It's worth noting that according to the International Energy Agency, investing in renewable energy could potentially reduce petroleum consumption by 15% by 2030. Such a strategy not only offers an environmental benefit but also provides a buffer against fluctuating petroleum prices.

It's crucial for our government to think innovatively and long-term. Considering the massive reliance of our real estate industry on petroleum, exploring alternative energy sources can be a sustainable solution, ensuring stability for a sector that many depend on for their livelihoods and future homes.

Senate chairman extends heartfelt felicitations to Saudi Arabia on its National Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday attended the National Day celebrations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and conveyed warm regards and best wishes on behalf of the Senate and the people of Pakistan to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Royal Family, and Saudi nation. Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, he expressed his gratitude to Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, for extending the invitation and commended the progressive portrayal of Saudi Arabia on the event's invitation card, highlighting its holistic development and inclusive vision.

He emphasized the enduring and multifaceted bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia,

founded on shared values, faith, and aspirations. He acknowledged Saudi Arabia's significant support during challenging times and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to reciprocate in diplomatic and security matters, highlighting recent high-level military engagements. Sanjrani remarked that the partnership was fortified by an unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, underlining both nations' readiness to support each other in diplomatic and security matters.

He lauded Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote regional harmony through diplomacy, dialogue, and mutual respect. He expressed confidence that these initiatives would open doors to mutually beneficial opportunities for trade, cultural exchanges, shared initiatives, and collabora-



tive endeavours, contributing to global progress. He underscored the importance of diplomacy,

dialogue, and mutual respect in building a foundation for lasting peace and regional prosperity.

The Senate chairman said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vision, epitomized by the Neom

City project and initiatives like the Misk, showcases a holistic approach to modern society while remaining grounded in Saudi Arabia's cultural heritage. Highlighting the close ties between Chagai and Saudi dignitaries, he looked forward to further collaboration with Ma'aden, a rapidly growing Saudi mining company, for mutual development and prosperity in mineral-rich areas. He also emphasized the importance of youth engagement and joint ventures in education, research, technology and innovation as avenues to deepen cooperation between the two nations. In conclusion, Chairman Sanjrani reiterated Pakistan's steadfast support, admiration, and warm wishes to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, pledging to continue fostering this enduring friendship and brotherhood.

Watch Repairing

ISLAMABAD: An elder watch maker is busy in repairing the wrist watch at his small road side setup at Karachi Company area in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

ABHI & Pakistan Cables partner to provide Earned Wage Access to employees

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: ABHI, an embedded finance company announced a partnership with Pakistan Cables Limited, the leading cable manufacturer in Pakistan. This collaboration aims to provide AbhiSalary-Earned Wage Access to the employees of Pakistan Cables Limited, thereby promoting financial wellness.



Through AbhiSalary-Earned Wage Access, employees can fulfill their financial commitments by accessing their hard-earned salary using the ABHI mobile app, SMS, and WhatsApp within 30 seconds, anytime, anywhere throughout Pakistan. It provides employees with greater financial flexibility and assists them in managing their expenses without going to loan sharks, family, or friends. Additionally, this service is cost-free and easy to set up for employees.

Mohammad Zaidi, Chief Commercial Officer at ABHI emphasized the significance of this partnership, stating, "ABHI is thrilled to partner with Pakistan Cables Limited to provide AbhiSalary to its employees. Through this collaboration, we empower employees to access their earned salary, and take control of their financial well-being."

The strategic partnership between ABHI and Pakistan Cables Limited underscores a shared commitment to prioritizing the financial well-being of employees. ABHI looks forward to bringing about a positive impact on the Pakistan Cables workforce, aligning with Pakistan Cables' unwavering dedication to empowering its employees and its continuous pursuit of innovative solutions that elevate the employee experience.

China Pakistan Business Development Council delegation visits RCCI

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of China Pakistan Business Development Council headed by Council President Chen Jian lu along with Chairman Shafiqur Rehman visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). They were accompanied by Wang Xiaosan, Ms. Li Xin and Ms LEE WONG.



Chamber President Saqib Rafiq briefed the delegation on the ongoing activities and future programs of the Chamber. He said that there are friendly and deep relations between Pakistan and China, exchange of sector-based information is necessary for further cementing the trade relations.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf said that transfer of technology and industry is necessary for the growth of the industry. He said that progress on industrial zones under CPEC should be accelerated.

China Pakistan Business Development Council President Chen Jian lu and Chairman Shafiqur Rehman said that the purpose of the visit is to increase contacts with the business community and the Chamber of Commerce to pave the way for joint projects.

Issues related to bilateral trade, information related to the sector and joint projects were discussed in the meeting. An interactive session was also held where information and scope were shared by relevant sectors including pharmaceuticals, poultry, mining, IT, tourism and agriculture etc.

Daraz and Meezan Bank Partner to Drive Electric Bike Adoption in Pakistan

News Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, and Daraz, Pakistan's largest e-commerce platform, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support and encourage the use of electric bikes in Pakistan. Through this partnership, Meezan Bank will provide Shariah-compliant financing for electric bikes to Daraz delivery staff/riders across the country.

The MoU was signed by Syed Iftikhar ul Haq-Group Head, Consumer Finance, Meezan Bank and Ahmed Tanveer-Chief Operating Officer of Daraz Pakistan, in the presence of senior executives from both organizations.

On this occasion, Syed Iftikhar ul Haq remarked, "We are excited to collaborate with Daraz in promoting electric bikes in Pakistan. Together, we are working to reduce emissions and provide a more cost-effective and eco-friendly transpor-

tation solution that will benefit both our environment and the local community."

Ahmed Tanveer added, "We are fully committed to enhancing our customers' delivery experience while actively contributing to a greener and more sustainable Pakistan. Through our collaboration with Meezan Bank, we hope that we are not only



able to encourage environmentally responsible practices but also provide our riders with a more economically viable solution in light of rising fuel costs."

This collaborative effort between Meezan Bank and Daraz Pakistan signifies a substantial stride towards a cleaner and more sustainable transportation future in Pakistan.

Meeting on IIU's 12th convocation held

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Vice President Research & Enterprise, International Islamic University (IIU) chaired the meeting of the conveners of the sub-committee for 12th convocation of university.

The 12th convocation of IIU will be held on November 8th and 9th of this year.

The meeting was also attended by Prof. Dr. N. B. Jumani, Vice President Administration and Finance, Prof. Dr. Abdur Raheman, Vice President Academics, conveners of the committees and relevant officers including directors and in-charges

In the meeting, the chair was briefed about the procedure and plans of the convocation. Various recommendations were made to make it a memorable and exquisite event. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed urged the conveners of the committee to plan a well-managed convocation. He was also apprised accordingly by different conveners on the overall progress and important points such as reservation of the venue, advertisement and registration of guests.

EFP with support from ILO organizes the 17th Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Awards

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) organized, on 25 September 2023, the 17th Occupational Safety and Health Award, to recognize the efforts of Pakistani enterprises that have demonstrated good occupational safety and health (OSH) practices and taken innovative initiatives to ensure the safety of workers at the workplace.

Over the last 17 years, more than 550 companies have been recognized for their good OSH practices and assisted in improving workplace health and safety through training and guidance

provided by the ILO and EFP. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, and enterprises - including winning and participating enterprises. Omer Soomro, Minister for Law and Religious Affairs, Government of Sindh, attended the ceremony as chief guest.

"Occupational safety and health is a fundamental principle and right at work. ILO is pleased to acknowledge that the Government of Pakistan is actively pursuing the ratification of ILO's core OSH Conventions, Number 155 and Number 187," said Geir Tonstol, ILO's Country Director for Pakistan. "The ratification of these two Conven-

tions would further demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to a safe and inclusive world of work," he added.

Recognizing the private sector's role, Geir Tonstol said that the private sector plays a significant role in fostering a culture of prevention, facilitating the sharing of best corporate practices, and establishing robust connections with national authorities responsible for labour issues, "Health and safety are crucial for the long-term sustainability of businesses."

"EFP recognizes that OSH is not only a fundamental right but also a moral and practical necessity. In 2022, the International Labour Conference in Geneva adopted the ILO's two OSH

conventions as core labour standards, thereby increasing the responsibilities of the government, employers, and workers to respect and comply with OSH legislation," said Malik Tahir Javaid, President of the Employers' Federation of Pakistan.

Tahir Javaid emphasized that the development of local industry and industrialization in Pakistan are the only solutions to addressing the challenges that the economy is currently facing, including increasing unemployment and poverty. "We, therefore, request the Government to place more importance on skills development, simplification of labour legislations and strengthening of social protection and other mechanisms to support



the industry," he added. "The Sindh Government is fully committed to promoting a culture of health and safety, making the well-being of its

people a central focus of the province's sustainable development and growth strategy," said Omer Soomro, Minister for Law and Religious Affairs, Govern-

ment of Sindh. Omer Soomro urged employers, especially those in export sectors, to adhere to ILO Labor Standards, including OSH Conventions, to continue benefiting from the EU's GSP Plus benefits and support Pakistan's sustainable development through increased exports.

Also speaking at the occasion Zahoora Awan, ILO's Governing Body Member, and Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sight Savers, appreciated this very important initiative coming directly from employers and also stressed upon the need to collectively work further on promoting health and safety, especially for individuals with special needs.

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PTI Propaganda Machines V/s National Interest - II

According to false claims of PTI propaganda machines that his death was due to the pain and trauma of his father's separation, but the questions is can a person really die from the feeling of pain or separation? According to medical experts the answer is no and they say that according to the science of psychology, if someone is facing a state of sorrow or grief for a long time, then the physical health of that person may be affected, but it cannot cause death and psychological effects or mental stress can cause diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes and can lead to any physical disorder, but they cannot directly cause someone's death. So this claim and propaganda from PTI is totally wrong.

On the other hand, whole nation seen that a panels of doctors was deputed around Imran Khan to treat his fracture but unfortunately the doors of Shaukat Khanum Hospital could not be opened for Mian Ibad Farooq's son. PTI had no money and resources to take care of a worker's son. Shaukat Khanum's doctors were not supposed to treat him. It's a bitter reality that for PTI and political parties, their party workers are just like a tissue paper, they are used only when needed. PTI is never interested in life or death of its worker. They are always dying for their political gains. The son of Mian Ibad Farooq, who was involved in the May 9 incident, died due to congenital disease. No one is and should be happy on death. Mian Ibad Farooq was brought from jail and met with his son on the basis of humanitarian sympathy. It is surprising that Mian Ibad Farooq continued to vandalize for his leader and attacked the state for the leader's pleasure but in return his family was not given any assistance by

the party for the treatment of his son. He was picked up from a hospital in Raiwind and taken home but could not be treated. Was this the change that the youth of the nation was waiting for?

Imran Khan and PTI have always preferred their personal interests on national interests. The tension between personal interests and national interests is an age-old dilemma that individuals, communities, and nations grapple with. While it is natural for people to pursue their own goals and aspirations, it is crucial to recognize that a harmonious and prosperous society often requires a delicate balance between personal interests and the collective well-being of the nation. A loss of faith in government can have a cascading effect on a nation's governance and stability. Economic prosperity often depends on the collective effort of citizens and businesses working together for the benefit of the country. Prioritizing personal interests over national interests can lead to unethical business practices, tax evasion, and a lack of investment in infrastructure and social services. This hinders economic development and can result in widespread poverty and inequality. When personal interests consistently take precedence over national interests, it fosters a culture of selfishness and individualism. This can lead to a society where people are less inclined to help one another, contribute to the common good, or engage in acts of altruism. A society that values only personal gain can become socially fragmented and disconnected. Ethically, prioritizing personal interests over national interests

raises profound questions about one's responsibility to the greater community. It challenges the principles of fairness, justice, and solidarity that underpin a just society. Ethical decision-making often requires individuals to balance their own interests with the interests of others, including their nation. While it is essential to recognize and respect individual aspirations and personal interests, it is equally vital to acknowledge the broader context of national interests. A harmonious and prosperous society requires individuals to strike a balance between their own goals and the well-being of their country. Preferring personal interests over national interests can have far-reaching consequences, undermining national unity, security,

and trust in institutions, as well as hindering economic development and fostering a culture of selfishness. Ultimately, individuals must weigh their actions and decisions carefully, recognizing that their choices can have a significant impact on the nation and society as a whole. Balancing personal interests with the greater good is a hallmark of responsible citizenship and ethical decision-making. Unfortunately, Imran Khan has always preferred his ego and personal interests on State whether he was in Government or opposition which shows the real value of Pakistan for him.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Fortunately, Pakistan is now on the right track. We have such a Chief Justice who is famous for his principles and honesty. He is committed to provide law to all equally. Live telecast of Supreme Court's recent proceeding put a pleasant impression on people. We have such an Army

and trust in institutions, as well as hindering economic development and fostering a culture of selfishness. Ultimately, individuals must weigh their actions and decisions carefully, recognizing that their choices can have a significant impact on the nation and society as a whole. Balancing personal interests with the greater good is a hallmark of responsible citizenship and ethical decision-making. Unfortunately, Imran Khan has always preferred his ego and personal interests on State whether he was in Government or opposition which shows the real value of Pakistan for him. Fortunately, Pakistan is now on the right track. We have such a Chief Justice who is famous for his principles and honesty. He is committed to provide law to all equally. Live telecast of Supreme Court's recent proceeding put a pleasant impression on people. We have such an Army



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

China-Arab States Expo

The four-day 6th China-Arab States Expo held in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region has further highlighted the new potential of China-Arab cooperation through a series of activities.

This year's expo bore a total of 403 cooperation projects, with a planned investment and trade of 170.97 billion yuan.

All these projects involved modern agriculture, clean energy, medical health and the like, among which were 50 cooperative projects, including release of the 2022 Annual Report on the Development Process of China-Arab Economic and Trade Relations, along with the China-Arab Economic and Trade Cooperation Report under the High-Quality Joint Construction of the Belt and Road, and 218 investment projects, with an amount of 157.1 billion yuan, including 33 projects implemented abroad (overseas), with an amount of 45.83 billion yuan, as well as 185 projects implemented domestically, with an amount of 111.27 billion yuan.

In addition, 135 trade projects in all with a total amount of 13.87 billion yuan was signed during the 6th CAS expo, embodying 25 projects implemented overseas (overseas) with a total amount of 6.99 billion yuan, and 110 projects implemented domestically with a total amount of 6.88 billion yuan, CEN reported.

The total number of attendees and exhibitors at the 2023 expo exceeded 11,200, which is a new record for this event.

Attendees and exhibitors included scholars, institution, as well as enterprise representatives.

As the Guest Country of Honor at the 2023 expo, Saudi Arabia sent a delegation of more than 150 economic and trade representatives, by whom concluded 15 cooperation projects, worth a total of 12.4 billion yuan.

This expo covered an area of nearly 40,000 square meters, attracting almost a thousand domestic and foreign companies, with more than 12,000 products to draw audience's attention.

Speaking of unprecedented highlights, it featured central enterprise exhibition, smart weather exhibition, equipment manufacturing and technology exhibition for the first time to further demonstrate the advantages of China-Arab cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, energy, infrastructure, and so on.

First held in 2013, the CAS expo has become an indispensable platform for China and Arab states to promote pragmatic cooperation and accelerate high-quality Belt and Road collaboration.

At present, China is the Arab states' largest trading partner, characterized by the bilateral trade volume almost doubled from the 2012 level to 431.4 billion U. S. dollars in 2022. In the first half of 2023, trade between China and the Arab states reached 199.9 billion dollars.

Recognition of Israel on the anvil - I

The Crown Prince, Sulaiman Bin Salman of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has expressed his intention to formally recognize Israel, recognizing the futility of the decades-old hostility over the Palestinian issue. Once Saudi Arabia recognizes Israel, it will put pressure on the Pakistan government to reevaluate its stance, as it will be increasingly isolated in its opposition to the growing trend of pragmatism in the Middle East and around the world.

Many countries in the Middle East and beyond, which previously maintained staunch enmity towards Israel over the Palestinian question, have started to soften their positions. They are actively working towards normalizing their relations with Israel. These countries, unlike Pakistan, share borders with Israel and have direct interests and cultural, linguistic, and racial ties with both Israel and the Palestinian people.

The shift towards pragmatism and positivity is driven by several factors, including the recognition of the futility of hostile relations and the economic and financial losses incurred due to Israel's strong relations with the USA and the Western world. These countries understand that they have the means to influence the policies and thinking of developed countries to safeguard their interests and undermine their adversaries.

Many Muslim and Middle Eastern nations are increasingly prioritizing economic and financial development. They are focused on improving the quality of life for their citizens, enhancing their global standing, and asserting themselves on the international stage. They have come to realize that economic strength provides the resources needed to invest in their human capital, boost their national capabilities, and exert influence on global affairs, including advocating for the Palestinian cause.

The evolving diplomatic landscape in the Middle East and beyond, characterized by the recognition of Israel and the pursuit of economic and financial development, is reshaping the priorities of nations in the region. This shift is driven by a desire to improve their own standing in the world and, paradoxically, may better position them to advocate for the Palestinian cause on the global stage.

Pakistan has had a long-standing position of staunch support for the Palestinian cause and a strong stance against Israel, even though it doesn't have a direct conflict with Palestine. This stance has been consistently maintained by successive governments, and their rhetoric in favor of Palestine and against Israel has shaped public opinion in Pakistan over the years. However, there may come a point where the government realizes the need to reconsider its position and prepare the public for the possibility of recognizing Israel, especially given the changing dynamics in the Middle East.

While the public sentiment against Israel has been deeply ingrained due to years of government rhetoric, it's worth noting that Pakistan has had indirect engagements with Israel in the past. During the era of President Pervez Musharraf, there was an attempt at diplomatic engagement between the two countries. I personally witnessed such an effort during my tenure as Deputy Director at PID (Press Information Department). In 2005, while covering President Musharraf's visit to Quetta, he made a surprising announcement during his address to tribal elders. He mentioned that the Pakistani Foreign Minister was engaged in talks with the Israeli Foreign Minister in Turkey at the same time.

As a young officer, I recognized the significance of this statement and attempted to inform my senior officials about it but couldn't reach them immediately. In response, I took the initiative to create a headline that read, 'Pakistan will not recognize Israel until the resolution of the Palestine issue,' and provided additional details in the ensuing paragraph. This headline served to manage public opinion and prevent an immediate reaction to the explosive statement.

The point here is that even though there have been indirect engagements with Israel in the past, any move towards formal recognition would require a significant shift in Pakistan's foreign policy, as well as careful management of public sentiment to ensure a smooth transition. The government would need to employ effective communication strategies to explain the rationale behind such a decision and navigate any potential public resistance.

To be Continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Devaluation of the currency of Pakistan and its impact on the local trade - I

Attiya

In the realm of economic measures, currency devaluation is a commonly employed tool to address trade balance deficits. Developing countries, like Pakistan, deliberately devalue their domestic currency to adjust exchange rates and control the deficit. Devaluation promotes exports and curtails imports, making traded goods more affordable for foreign markets. Scholars such as Alse, Oskooee, and Narayan have discussed the effects of devaluation on the trade balance, recognizing its potential short-term benefits. Pakistan has experienced a trade deficit and has resorted to devaluation in recent years. The primary objective of currency devaluation is to address persistent deficits, resulting in adjustments to the general price of traded goods and the creation of surplus money to restore real balances. This surplus stimulates net exports and improves the current account. Notably, Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) decreased to \$0.1 billion in February 2023 compared to \$0.5 billion in February 2022. Collectively, CAD fell to \$3.9 billion in the period of July-February 2023, a decline from \$12.1 billion in the same period of FY22. (Source: Business Recorder, 2023)

Throughout Pakistan's history, the currency has experienced multiple devaluations, each with its own implications. In the 1950s, when Pakistan's exports were declining, 30 percent currency depreciation resulted in a 45 percent improvement in exports. In 1972, the devaluation of the currency led to a surplus in the balance of payments. In 2013, Pakistan faced a precarious situation with imports totaling around \$48 billion, remittances at approximately \$13 billion, and foreign exchange reserves of about \$6 billion. The political government artificially maintained the rupee-dollar exchange rates between 100-110, depleting the reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan and reducing them to around \$9 billion. The succeeding government faced a decline in reserves to about \$28 billion, with foreign reserves surpassing \$23 billion. The previous government had left Pakistan with a current account deficit.

In 2023, Hafiz Pasha highlighted the intense inflationary phase of Pakistan's economy. The high valuation of the rupee

adversely affected the economy, impacting foreign remittances and exports. Exports in Pakistan reached \$23.174 billion in 2022-23 but experienced a decline of 11.71 percent in April 2021-20 (Tahir Amin, 2023). The impact of devaluation on the trade balance and currency depreciation can have long-term effects, with internal demand playing a role in trade disturbances (Sajad Ahmad Bhat et al., 2020).

The devaluation of the Pakistani rupee can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the country's trade imbalance, where imports exceed exports, puts pressure on the value of the rupee as more foreign currency is required to pay for imports than is earned from exports. This trade imbalance leads to the devaluation of the rupee (State Bank of Pakistan, 2023).

Political instability in Pakistan also contributes to the devaluation of the rupee. Uncertainty about the country's political future can result in a lack of confidence among foreign investors, causing them to withdraw their funds. This decreases the demand for the Pakistani rupee and leads to its devaluation. Additionally, the interest rate differential between Pakistan and the United States affects the rupee's value. When interest rates in the US rise, investors may choose to move their funds to the US for higher returns, reducing the demand for the Pakistani rupee (Business Recorder, 2023).

Furthermore, the lack of foreign investment in Pakistan contributes to the devaluation of the rupee. Foreign investment plays a crucial role in financing the country's economic growth. When there is a decline in foreign investment, the demand for the rupee decreases, causing its value to decline relative to the US dollar (Business Recorder, 2023).

Moreover, Pakistan's current account deficit, which was approximately \$0.5 billion in 2022, accounting for about 4.6% of GDP, also affects the value of the rupee. A deficit in the current account indicates an outflow of foreign currency, putting pressure on the rupee's value (State Bank of Pakistan, 2023). Additionally, factors such as political instability affecting foreign remittances and smuggling of dollars to neighboring Afghanistan also impact the availability of foreign currency within the country (Business Recorder, 2023).

To be continued

Pakistan, China resolve to work together to realise CPEC's shared objectives

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan and China on Thursday, expressing satisfaction at the steady development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, expressed their firm commitment to continue working together to realize its shared objectives.

The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In the meeting, the two sides agreed on the centrality of CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed satisfaction at the celebratory events held in both countries to mark its 10th anniversary.

They also agreed to further deepening their cooperation at the multilateral fora.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.



The two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship including CPEC, and bilateral economic and financial cooperation. Reiterating support to China on core issues, the

prime minister appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic development.

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir reflected China's principled stance for upholding international law and UN resolutions.

In his remarks, Vice-President Han said that Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of two nations.

He said that as a close neighbour and iron-brother, Pakistan occupied a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue efforts to safeguard Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosperity of its people.

Prime Minister Kakar and Vice-President Han agreed to continue the momentum of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

The prime minister invited the Chinese Vice-President to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience which the latter accepted

Solangi participates in SCO's Television Festival 2023 in China



Spokesman Report

NANJING: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday participated in the Television Festival 2023, organized by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Nanjing, China.

On the occasion, Murtaza Solangi met Chinese Minister for National Radio and TV Cao Shumin and thanked her for organizing the festival.

During the meeting, both ministers expressed the resolve to enhance cooperation in the areas of television and radio.

They vowed to promote innovation in media technology and exchange of journalist delegations.

Murtaza Solangi called for initiating the Chinese Hour programme on Pakistan Television (PTV).

He also stressed for promoting the activities of Chinese media in Pakistan.

PCJCCI celebrated 74th China's National Day

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has celebrated 74th China's National Day by conducting conference titled "CPEC achievements, targets and future prospects".

According to the joint chambers' spokesperson here Monday, the chief guest of the event was Du Yue, director and senior most officer, Consulate General of People's Republic of China. Various keynote speakers including Lt-Gen Nasser Khan Janjua, former Corps Commander Quetta, Shahzad Ali Malik, chief executive officer, Guard Agricultural Research and Services (Pvt) Ltd, Lu Jianxue, President, Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, Ma-Xiayuan, Executive President, Tang

Chinese International Organisation, Moazzam Ali Ghurki President PCJCCI, and Hamza Khalid participated in the event.

Sharing his views, the chief Mr. Du Yue said, "I believe the bilateral relationship between the two neighboring countries is characterised by feelings of mutual trust, respect and goodwill towards each other. PCJCCI has set a remarkable example of this goodwill. I regard China Pakistan Economic Corridor; not only the road to economic prosperity of Pakistan, but the future of whole world."

In his welcome address, the PCJCCI President Moazzam Ali Ghurki said, "I congratulate the people and leadership of China on the occasion of National

Day. We highly admire and appreciate the development of China, especially during the last four decades. We believe it is all due to the visionary leadership of China and the right reforms and policies introduced by the Chinese government."

Nasser Khan Janjua emphasised to provide infrastructural support to investors as Gwadar alone has the capability to change the fate of Pakistan and by putting our motherland into the right direction.

Governor's Inspection Team Chairman Dr. Saad said that it is expected; CPEC projects would add a rise of 2.5 per cent in GDP of Pakistan and provide employment opportunity with almost 2.3 million jobs as well.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI

shared his views by saying that every year there was a festive mood in Pakistan on the National Day of China, as the Pakistan government and the people knew that the completion of the CPEC related economic projects being done with the cooperation of China would certainly enhance Pakistan's trade, its economic growth rate, created employment for the people and would enhance their incomes and in the overall scenario this economic development would ultimately bring prosperity to the Pakistan and its people and would also help Pakistan in alleviating poverty.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, thanked the worthy speakers and the event was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate China's National Day.



PCFA PUNJAB celebrates 74th National Day of China in Lahore

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

LAHORE: China is a trusted friend and successful global player, we should learn from the China's experience in various walks of life to strengthen our socio economic development activities.

This was stated by the speakers at a cake cutting ceremony organized by Pak-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Punjab at Lahore Grammar School, Wapda Town, Lahore this morning.

The aim of this ceremony was to enhance people to people interaction and appreciate the initiative taken by the Chinese leadership for shared future philosophy which is successfully implemented by the Chinese across the globe for peaceful co-existence.

The PCFA Punjab event was graced by Mr. Du Yue, Head Political Affairs, Consulate General People's Republic of China in Lahore, Madam Chang Xiaonong, Vice President Paki-



stan China Chandong Chamber of Commerce (PCSCC) at Lahore, Mrs. Zeenat Amir Rokhri, President PCFA Punjab, Mr. Usman Shahjahan, General Secretary PCFA Punjab, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Secretary-General PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Amir Bhatti, Director Indigo Canal.

During the ceremony it was also

discussed that we should enhance people to people interaction especially exchange visits with sister cities. Historic city of Xian (capital city of Shaanxi province of China) and Lahore (capital city of Punjab province Pakistan) are enjoying sister city relationship since decade.

The Chinese Consulate General in Lahore hosted a well-attended diplomatic reception last afternoon in Lahore, which was attended by who is who in Lahore a part from Governor Punjab, Chief Minister and good number of Federal and Provincial ministers. Acting Council General Mr. Cao Ke warmly received all guests and spoke very well.

As Chinese consulate general Zhao Shiren was away to China and his esteemed initiative in Punjab Province yielded fruitful result, the gathering shows Chinese diplomatic social interaction with people's of Lahore. This is appropriate time that we should benefit each other with our rich cultural civilization, economic and agricultural growth.

PCFA Punjab proposed that we should enhance the Chinese language classes across the province which will help out masses to understand China and Chinese philosophy for economic development and prosperity.

Pakistani delegation impressed by China's economic marvel, envisions future of cooperation

Misbah Saba Malik, Ma Xiaocheng

ISLAMABAD/GUANGZHOU (XINHUA): Abdul Razzaq Sabir, vice chancellor of the University of Gwadar in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, was awestruck by seeing the infrastructural development during his recent visit to China, and observed that the hard work and commitment of the people and leadership of China is the secret behind the economic miracle.

Sabir was among the 12 members of a delegation, from various walks of life in Pakistan's southwestern city of Gwadar, which recently had a 10-day trip to China.

The delegation visited Tiananmen Square, the Summer Palace, the Bird's Nest or the National Stadium, the Olympic Park, and the Forbidden City in China's capital Beijing.

They also traveled to South China's tech hub Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, visited the Chinese tech giant Huawei, leading new energy vehicle manufacturer BYD, Shenzhen fish-



eries company, Yantian Port, Southern University of Science and Technology, and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, among others.

Sabir, who led the delegation, said that he visited Beijing in 2005 and the city's transformation which he witnessed in his latest visit was nothing short of astonishing.

"The skyline has changed

dramatically, with towering skyscrapers and modern infrastructure that surpassed my expectations, the city's efficient public transportation system, urban plantation, and technological advancements were remarkable," Sabir told Xinhua.

It is evident that Beijing has become a global metropolis at the forefront of innovation and urban development, he

said, hoping that the University of Gwadar will be able to sign memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Chinese universities on education cooperation to enable them to play a role in Pakistan's development.

Sabir said Pakistan and China are paying special attention to economic cooperation. Pakistan was among the first countries to join the China-proposed

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As a flagship BRI project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) saw tangible results in the past years.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

For Babu Gulab, businessman and former chairman of Gwadar's Municipal Committee, it was his 10th time visiting China, and on his every visit, he finds something new.

After visiting Shenzhen, Gulab said that it is a smart city, with high-tech companies growing fast. He was impressed by how Huawei's smartphones and BYD's electrical buses gained popularity in the international market.

"Shenzhen shows how a small village can achieve by adopting the reform and opening up policy. We have a lot of potential to cooperate, from the fishing industry to other high-tech fields," Gulab said.



Talking about his impression of Shenzhen, Sabir told Xinhua that he hopes that the fate of his hometown Gwadar will also change with the cooperation with China, like Shenzhen which also used to be a small fishing village and now is a great example of a metropolis to be followed by Pakistan.

The delegation was highly impressed by the warm welcome they received from the Chinese people wherever they visited and felt the depth of Pakistan-China people-to-people relations.

Muneer Notezai, the district education officer in Gwadar, felt that he landed "in my own home after a long journey," and

was overwhelmed by the warmth of friendship for Pakistan he felt in China.

For Notezai, the most striking thing he noticed during his visit was China's zero-tolerance for corruption, and honesty and work ethics being the key drivers for its success.

"Pakistan can learn a lot from China, eradicating corruption, giving people opportunities to learn modern, opening vistas of employment and opportunities for them through special economic zones, as China did, can bring revolution in Pakistan too, and in this regard cooperation with China will play a great role," he added.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
46,393.67	46,421.15
Day's High	Day's Low
46,590.26	46,305.88
Index Value	Change
4,250,594,417	-27.48
Percentage	Time
-0.06%	25 Sept, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,623.99	-59.92
Percentage	Time
-0.78%	25 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,937.17	-26.67
Percentage	Time
-0.079%	25 Sept, 11:58 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
32,678.62	+276.21
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	25 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196	198
Bahrain Dinar	781.13	789.13
Canadian Dollar	220	222.20
China Yuan	40.22	40.62
Danish Krone	42.35	42.75
Euro	311	314
Hong Kong Dollar	37.93	38.28
Indian Rupee	3.57	3.68
Japanese Yen	1.88	1.95
Kuwaiti Dinar	951.03	960.03
Malaysian Ringgit	62.62	63.22
New Zealand \$	174.23	176.23
Norwegians Krone	27.87	28.17
Omani Riyal	762.72	770.72
Qatari Riyal	80.69	81.39
Saudi Riyal	78.05	78.8
Singapore Dollar	215	217
Swedish Korona	26.62	26.92
Swiss Franc	325.12	327.62
Thai Bhat	8.31	8.46
U.A.E Dirham	82	82.8
UK Pound Sterling	368	371.5
US Dollar	291.1	294

Atif Ikram is the most popular contender for FPCCI's presidency

Tariq Kattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh has emerged as the most favorite and deserving candidate for the slot of President of FPCCI in the upcoming elections.

He will contest the election as the candidate from United Business Group (UBG).

In a recent meeting, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) unanimously nominated him as their candidate for the FPCCI's post. The representatives of traders, industrialists, and the corporate sector supported him.



Moreover, Chairman UBG North Rauf Alam, Chairman UBG Punjab Tanveer Ahmad Sheikh, Chairman UBG KPK Ghazanfar Bilour, Chairman UBG Balochistan Daroo Khan Achakzai, and Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari have also put their weight behind Atif Ikram Sheikh.

Chairman of the Founder Group, Khalid Iqbal Malik, who was the first to voice his favour, said that Atif Ikram is the best choice as he is popular among all and sundry, he is very hardworking, and he enjoys respect in business and government circles.

Atif Ikram Sheikh has also served as Chairman PVMA and President ICCI, and he is very

popular among the social and business circles. I hope that he will not only improve the image of FPCCI but also try his best to resolve the problems of the business community, said Khalid Jaweed and Tariq Sadiq, who have served as presidents of ICCI.

It may be recalled that the nomination of Atif Ikram was approved in a UBG meeting held on August 4, 2022, after which the Core Committee of the UBG, in its meeting held at PC Karachi on August 21, unanimously approved the name of Atif Ikram for the slot of President FPCCI. That meeting was presided over by the founder and patron-in-chief of UBG, SM Muneer.

An undocumented economy can bankrupt the country, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that Pakistan's tax system is very unfair and contradicts the ground realities, which are the basis of almost all problems.

In Pakistan, 64% of taxes are collected in the form of sales tax, customs duty, and federal excise duty, while only 36% is collected in the form of direct tax, which is insufficient, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the flawed tax system, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, and 40 percent of people in Pakistan have gone below the poverty line.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that it is impossible to stabilize the country's economy without increasing the share of direct taxes in the tax system.

He added that notice should be taken of the repeated demands of the IMF, the World Bank, and other international organizations to balance Pakistan's tax system.



The business leader said that the main reason for the fiscal deficit, inflation, imbalance of payments, and lack of investment and savings is our faulty tax system, which is very cruel and all its focus is on squeezing the people.

The tax system has been continuously harming the poor rather than benefiting them to such an extent that the head of the IMF has to issue statements in this regard.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the head of the IMF has strongly said that taxes should be collected from the rich and the poor should be protected through subsidies

and other welfare measures.

The IMF chief issued a similar statement in February as well, but her advice was ignored, he said, adding that the IMF is repeatedly highlighting the fundamental problems of the country, but our policymakers are not taking any interest in this regard.

The advice of the IMF has never been taken seriously; otherwise, the policymakers would have taken needed measures in the budget. The budget is not adding people to the tax net and pushing them away.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the tax base is increased only in statements; otherwise, the tax-to-GDP ratio would not have been 8.6% and the fiscal deficit would not have been 7% for many years because more than half of the economy is undocumented.

The government is not collecting taxes from various important sectors while receiving less taxes from many other sectors, resulting in a crisis every two or three years.

Now it has become impossible to continue such policies because international organizations and friendly countries have also become fed up with Pakistan, and if the country is not put on its feet, no one will be able to save it from bankruptcy, he warned.

CCP Chairman calls on Federal Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Chairman of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), called upon the Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, & Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division today.

Chairman Sidhu briefed the Minister on the CCP's performance so far. He provided an overview of the CCP's strategic vision, specially focusing on curbing collusive practices of cartels, market abuse, manipulation, and advocacy. He also apprised the Minister about the status of outstanding penalties within the courts.

The Chairman informed the Minister that the Competition Appellate Tribunal has become dysfunctional since 14 July 2023, due to the expiry of term of chairman Appel-

late Tribunal. Due to a lack of quorum, Tribunal cannot make decisions. This has left hundreds of cases pending against sugar, automobile, poultry, and cement undertakings. Lack of enforcement will only benefit the cartels and result in higher prices for consumers across the country which will result in higher inflation.

Chairman Sidhu also briefed the Minister on the CCP's policy recommendations aimed at addressing market distortions and promoting efficiency within the value chain of essential food commodities.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar assured of the Ministry's full support to CCP. She said that the Government of Pakistan remains dedicated to fostering fair competition and a level playing field for businesses across sectors.

ICCI calls upon CDA to focus on better development of G-11 Markaz



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a lunch in honor of the newly elected Office Bearers of Traders Welfare Association, G-11 Markaz, Islamabad. Naeem Akhtar Awan President, Farrukh Khan Secretary General, Nazim Ghori Senior Vice President, Ibrahim Noor & Qasim Shah Vice Presidents, Muhammad Shakeel Joint Secretary, Adnan Anwar Finance Secretary, Abid Hussain Press Secretary, Asim Abbasi Chairman, Chaudhry Aftab Gujjar Group Leaders and others attended the lunch.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI said that G-11 Markaz is one of the important commercial centers of the federal capital and called upon the CDA to focus on its better development

that would facilitate the growth of trade activities. He said that ICCI is working actively with CDA to develop all markets on modern lines and assured that ICCI would work with CDA to develop G-11 Markaz as a model market.

Naeem Akhtar Awan, President and Farrukh Khan, Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association G-11 Markaz, Islamabad said that due to the inattention of CDA and MCI, their market is deprived of the basic facilities and traders are facing many problems.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that all markets are playing a key role in generating economic activity and emphasized that CDA should develop them on modern lines that would help boost trade activities and strengthen the local economy.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan, said

that the Office Bearers of Market Associations are playing an important role in solving the problems of the traders by sacrificing their business and family responsibilities, which is laudable. He said that Ahsan Bakhtawari is working hard to solve the issues of traders and assured that he would also work for the welfare of the traders of G-11 Markaz.

Ch. Aftab Gujjar, Group Leader G-11 Markaz thanked President ICCI for hosting a lunch in their honor. He said that ICCI is a big brother to them and they would work with it to address the key issues of traders.

Khalid Chaudhry, Ahmed Kamran Kamil, Imtiaz Abbasi, Ashfaq Chatta, Rao Faisal, Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal Gujjar, Irfan Chaudhry, Mian Ramzan, Nisar Mirza, Zulqarnain Abbasi, Sheikh Haroon, Amen Syal, Akmal Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion.

SECP imposes pricing caps on digital personal loans

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) imposed pricing caps on digital personal loans by mobile applications.

In a significant move towards promoting responsible lending and consumer safety, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) issued an all-encompassing set of requirements for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) offering digital personal loans via mobile applications, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The requirements set a maximum limit for the annual profit rate and the total cost that can be charged by a Nano lender to the borrower. The total cost cap for Nano loans will encompass all associat-

ed fees, including processing charges, service fees, verification fees, loan handling fees, interest charges, late payment penalties, and any other applicable charges. The cumulative price of a loan shall not exceed the aggregate amount of the principal loan amount.

Moreover, limits have been set for loan rollover. To ensure uniformity and standardization for the profit rate calculation formulas and brief illustration has been specified in the circular issued by SECP.

SECP is actively evaluating and adapting policies to improve financial access and combat manipulative business practices.

The measures, developed through consultation with stakeholders and industry participants, aim to balance financial inclusion and consumer protection against excessive debt burden.

TPL Insurance and HBL Islamic Partner to offer seamless Takaful coverage for car finance customers

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: TPL Insurance - WTO, a leader in premium insurance and Takaful services, is excited to announce a strategic collaboration with HBL Islamic Banking. This partnership is set to redefine Takaful coverage for HBL Islamic Car Finance clients, delivering top-tier Auto Takaful solutions to the Pakistani market.

A key feature of TPL Insurance - WTO's Takaful services is immediate policy issuance, ensuring prompt coverage for clients. Another essential aspect is risk mitigation through Islamic insurance, also known as

Takaful services, for non-life businesses. This approach aligns seamlessly with ethical principles in accordance with Islamic rules.

Muhammad Aminuddin, CEO-TPL Insurance - WTO, expressed his enthusiasm for this partnership, stating, "The collaboration between TPL Window Takaful Operations with HBL - Islamic Division is a welcome Takaful solution for existing and new customers to avail Pakistan's best Auto Takaful coverage as well as a new feature added to HBL Islamic Car Finance. I am pleased to say that the partnership further strengthens ties between HBL and TPL Insurance."



Raja Sohail Siraj, Head Retail Banking - HBL Islamic, also shared his thoughts on this alliance, saying,

"This partnership highlights HBL Islamic Banking's commitment to support its clients' strategic needs.

We are poised to reshape the Takaful landscape and deliver unparalleled value and service to clients.

A delegation of PIDE called upon Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) headed by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE called upon Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries and Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz. The PIDE delegation presented Research Reports on the energy sector, the state of commerce in Pakistan, the state of the engineering industry, SLUDGE and the urgent need for deregulation in the country. The meeting was also attended by Special Secretary Ms. Sarah Saeed, Mr. Asad Rehman Gillani and Mr. Shahid Abdullah of the Sapphire Group.

The Minister appreciated the efforts put in by PIDE for evidence-based policymaking and the revival of the economy. He stressed the need for increasing investment and exports as a top priority for the coming years. Without a stable macroeconomic environment, which includes low inflation, low interest rate, and stable exchange rate, all investors are likely to regard Pakistan as too risky. Sadly, in Pakistan the business community is stigmatized while in other countries entrepreneurs are lauded for creating economic activity. This mindset has to change. We must celebrate success.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque pointed out that PIDE agreed with this assessment of the ministry. PIDE's research agenda also shows that the topmost priority for the next decade must be the sharp increase of investments and exports. And of course, this can only happen if entrepreneurship and business success is celebrated. PIDE is also determined to find solutions for Pakistan's economic woes and has suggested several deep reforms for the promotion of markets such as real estate market and commodity markets, ease of transactions and business growth.

The Minister concluded by noting that PIDE, being a premier public sector think tank, must work closely with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on this very important agenda of an investment and export emergency. It was agreed that PIDE will work very closely with all industry experts to develop deep reform ideas and research for the ministry. He noted that it was important to embed PIDE research in his policy agenda.

Pakistan thump Canada to continue winning streak in Over 40s Global Cup

A Sports

KARACHI: Abdul Razzaq's brisk 70-run knock, followed by a tight bowling display propelled Pakistan to thrash Canada by 78 runs and register their fifth straight victory in the ongoing Over 40s Global Cup.

Abdul Razzaq made an immediate impact as he came up with a Player of the Match performance in his maiden outing in the Over 40s Global Cup.

Leading Pakistan, in the absence of regular skipper Misbah-ul-Haq, Abdul Razzaq blasted half a dozen sixes and five fours in his blazing 43-ball 70 which helped the home side set a formidable total of 312/8 in the allotted 45 overs against Canada.

Openers Kashif Siddique (29 off 40 balls) and Junaid Khalil Nainitalwala (31 off 34 balls) laid the foundation with a solid 60-run opening stand in little over 10 overs.

Rizwan Aslam (47 off 46 balls) was content in rotating the strike while captain Razzaq himself took up the responsibility of dominating the Canadian bowlers.



The pair added 96 runs for the third wicket to put Canada under pressure. Hassan Raza (42 off 44 balls) and Amjad Ali (33 off 32 balls) sustained the momentum which ensured a commendable total. Ali Farooq, Iqbal Kassamali and Sultan

Malik took a couple of wickets each for Canada in their all-important Over 40s Global Cup fixture. Chasing a daunting total of 313, Canada got off to an unwanted start as they lost both their openers cheaply.

The asking rate kept mounting and the only consolation for Canada was playing out their full quota of 45 overs in which they could score only 234.

Tyrone Atmaram Persaud waged a lone battle for Canada with a cautious 61 off 78 balls while Ayaz Ali (47 off 61 balls) and Talal Iqbal (39 off 55 balls) remained the next notable run-getters for Canada.

Part-time leg-spinner Hassan Raza led the bowling attack for Pakistan, returning with astonishing figures of 2-50.

Pakistan have virtually booked a place in the semifinals by having won their first five matches, earning them 10 points.

In another fifth-round fixture of the ongoing Over 40s Global Cup, the USA outclassed Australia by 77 runs at Karachi Gymkhana while the West Indies crushed Nepal by eight wickets at NBP Sports Complex on Monday.

New Zealand eye Bangladesh series win ahead of World Cup

Sports Desk

New Zealand wrap up preparations for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023 hoping to achieve a rare series win in Bangladesh in their third and final one-day match on Tuesday.

"When we came into the series, it was always a goal to win every match you play, and we certainly hope so," Kiwi batsman Henry Nicholls told reporters in Dhaka on Monday.

"It's an exciting opportunity for the group to have an opportunity to win a series here".

The series is the last for both teams ahead of the ICC World Cup 2023 in India, which opens on October 5.

The Kiwis lead the hosts by 1-0, and their 86-run win in the second match on Saturday was the side's first win against Bangladesh in the country in nearly 15 years. The first match was washed out by rain.

The Kiwis last beat Bangladesh in their own backyard in October 2008. They then lost the next two series in 2010 and 2013, respectively, by 4-0 and 3-0.

Lockie Ferguson will lead the Kiwis in Bangladesh, where they brought only five members of the World Cup squad, including the stand-in skipper, pacer Trent Boult, all-rounder Rachin Ravindra, spinner Ish Sodhi and batsman Will Young.

Bangladesh initially rested key players, but with the series at stake, they brought back stalwarts Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam.

Najmul was named captain of the side for the series decider, as regular captain Shakib Al Hasan took a break.

Liton Das, who led in the first two matches, is being rested.

"If we win this game, definitely it will give the team a good feeling," Najmul said. "But in case of a bad result, I don't think it will affect our World Cup form much".

Bangladesh were unbeaten at home in ODI series for nearly seven years until they lost to England and Afghanistan this year.

PSL 9 to feature six teams, confirms PCB

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 9, scheduled next year, will feature six teams, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed Monday.

The chairman of the PCB Management Committee Zaka Ashraf presided over the meeting of the PSL Governing Council at the National Cricket Academy here.

The high-profile meeting saw a wide range of issues being discussed, including the number of teams for the upcoming PSL 9.

"The upcoming ninth season will be played with six teams. No additional team will be added in the upcoming season," stated PCB.

For the unversed, former chairman of the PCB Management Committee Najam Sethi, in March this



year, expressed his strive to expand the PSL by adding two more teams in the next edition.

"If you ask me what are our plans for the next PSL, keeping it brief my strive is to add two more teams. But obviously, this decision is subject to the approval of the franchises and is impossible without doing the homework," said Sethi.

"That is because if any

franchise suffers a loss by the addition of two more franchises then it is not a good thing to do. It must be a win-win situation for everyone. So I'm doing homework on this.

"We had a brief discussion with the franchises and after the conclusion of this PSL, we will formally start consulting them the next month about the addition of teams and the model after

the completion of 10 years."

After successfully hosting three women's exhibition matches on the sidelines of the PSL 8, the PCB decided that it would continue to explore similar opportunities during PSL 9.

"For the promotion and support of women's cricket, the PCB will continue to explore opportunities for women's league or exhibition matches during HBL PSL," said PCB.

Furthermore, the window for the upcoming PSL 9 was also decided in the PSL Governing Council meeting while the final schedule of the extravaganza will be confirmed in the next meeting.

"The window for the upcoming season is decided between 8 February to 24 March 2024. A final schedule will be confirmed in the next meeting," PCB shared.

Morata scores twice to help Atletico defeat Real Madrid in La Liga derby

A Sports

MADRID: Alvaro Morata scored twice to end Real Madrid's perfect start in the La Liga season 2023/24 as Atletico Madrid earned an inspiring 3-1 victory over the city rivals at Civitas Metropolitan Stadium on Sunday.



Real Madrid entered the game with a five-match winning streak in the ongoing season of La Liga, while Atletico Madrid were coming off an away loss against Valencia.

However, the home team wasted no time and gained an early advantage in the fourth minute as Morata scored off a header.

Real Madrid maintained possession and made several vain attempts to equalize before Antoine Griezmann got into the scoresheet as he netted a header to extend the lead for Atletico Madrid at the 18-minute mark.

Real Madrid finally managed to reduce the two-goal deficit, thanks to a brilliant strike by veteran Toni Kroos in the 35th minute, leaving no chance for goalkeeper Jan Oblak.

Kroos attempted to equalize before half-time with an assist from Eduardo Camavinga, however, Oblak made the save in the bottom left corner to deny the comeback for Los Blancos.

Atletico Madrid continued their dominant performance in the second half, with Morata scoring off a header less than a minute after the restart to extend their lead to two goals once again.

They then defended well enough to keep Real Madrid's aggression limited and ended the game at 3-1 to hand Real Madrid their first loss of the ongoing La Liga season.

On the other hand, Las Palmas registered their first victory in the La Liga season 2023/24, as they triumphed over Granada at Estadio Gran Canaria. Kirian Rodriguez scored a mere five minutes before the final whistle to lead his team to victory after being reduced to ten men.

Meanwhile, two La Liga games ended at a 1-1 stalemate, as Real Betis drew with Cadiz at Benito Villamarin, and, Rayo Vallecano drew with Villarreal at Estadio de Vallecas on Sunday.

In another La Liga fixture, Real Sociedad made a stellar comeback to a 4-3 victory over Getafe at Anoeta Stadium.

The home side started the game with Takefusa Kubo scoring in the first minute, thanks to an assist by Brais Mendez, however, Getafe's Carles Aleña scored off a header from very close range in the 39th minute to level the scores.

Getafe further extended their lead as Borja Mayoral converted a penalty in the extra time after Alex Remiro was shown the yellow card. The first half ended with Getafe on top with 2-1.

Real Sociedad equalled in the 61st minute as Mikel Oyarzabal scored off the penalty, and got the lead only five minutes later with Brais Mendez scoring off a header from the centre.

Mikel Oyarzabal got his name in the scoresheet once again as he scored in the 88th minute, thanks to an assist by Mikel Merino to make it 4-2.

Juanmi Latasa scored one for Getafe to reduce the deficit to end the game at 4-3.

QEAT: Abid Ali's ton in vain as Lahore Whites, Multan settle for draw

A Sports

LAHORE: Opening batter Abid Ali scored an unbeaten century for Lahore Whites in their third-round Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (QEAT) 2023/24 fixture against Multan, which ended as a draw.

At stumps the previous day, Multan remained comfortably at 329 for the loss of six wickets with veteran Aamer Yamin and Ali Usman at the crease.

They got to 346 after which they declared the innings, inviting Lahore to bat.

Other than Abid Ali, none of the Lahore batters stuck on the crease long enough to stitch together any solid partnerships. Abid, who got a century, was crucial to Lahore Whites getting to 304 runs in



the innings.

The match was drawn, without either side getting to bat for the second time.

Another third-round QEAT fixture between Faisalabad and Lahore Blues failed to produce a result as the game remained majorly affected by rain.

Faisalabad after starting their day at 34/2 kept losing

wickets periodically, which did not allow Faisalabad batters to sustain any solid partnerships. Mohammad Hurraira and Irfan Khan Niazi, both of whom scored 39, were the highest scorers on the card.

Faisalabad got to 188 runs having lost seven wickets, in their second innings. Lahore did not get a chance to bat for the second time. The match

was effectively drawn.

The 12th match of the ongoing QEAT 2023/24 between Karachi Region Whites and FATA also returned no result.

FATA started the day at 110 for the loss of six wickets. Mohammad Sarwar Afridi produced a fighting knock of 70 runs. The second-highest score of the innings was 24, which came from Mohammad Nisar Afridi's bat. FATA was bowled out for 184.

The Karachi bowlers had a proactive outing with the ball; they displayed a collective bowling effort, with each bowler picking wickets. Ghulam Mudassar got a five-wicket haul while Mir Hamza returned with three wickets. The two captains shook hands as the match was drawn.

Pakistan squad to get visas tomorrow to partake in ICC World Cup 2023 – sources

Sports Desk

Pakistan's 15-member squad is likely to receive their Indian visas on Tuesday to partake in the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023, sources told.

According to the sources, the Indian government has issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) of security clearance to the Pakistan team and it has also been received by the Indian High Commissioner.

Consequently, Pakistan's ICC World Cup 2023 will receive their passports, eligible to travel to India.

Pakistan contingent, as per schedule, will depart from Lahore to Dubai early Wednesday and then travel to Hyderabad, where they will take on New Zealand in their first warm-up fixture of the ICC World Cup 2023.



Earlier on Monday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) recorded its protest by writing a letter to the International Cricket Council (ICC) over a delay in the issuance of Indian visas.

According to the details, the PCB sent a stern letter to the crick-

et governing body and raised concerns over the ongoing visa debacle and reminded the regulatory body about the Host-Member agreement.

"We have been discussing this issue for three years. No one paid attention to our concerns. And now the situation has gotten to the point where we are yet to receive visas," the letter stated.

"We are in a state of uncertainty due to ignorance of concerned authorities. We had to stay in Dubai

for two days but due to this visa issue, we had to cancel that [trip]."

"Whenever we contacted the concerned authority, we were told that the visas would be issued in 24 hours.

"And now, with every passing day, the uncertainty is increasing and it is worrying everyone."

Pakistan squad for ICC World Cup 2023

Babar Azam (c), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Haris Rauf, M Wasim Jnr, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Salman Ali Agha.

Travelling reserves: Mohammad Haris, Abrar Ahmed, Zaman Khan

Pakistan's warm-up matches schedule:

September 29 — vs New Zealand in Hyderabad
 October 3 — vs Australia in Hyderabad
 Pakistan's schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023:
 October 6 — vs Netherlands in Hyderabad
 October 10 — vs Sri Lanka in Hyderabad
 October 14 — vs India in Ahmedabad
 October 20 — vs Australia in Bengaluru
 October 23 — vs Afghanistan in Chennai
 October 27 — vs South Africa in Chennai
 October 31 — vs Bangladesh in Kolkata
 November 4 — vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)
 November 11 — vs England in Kolkata
 The day matches will start at 10:00 am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures starting at 01:30 pm (PST).

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD INVITATION TO BID

(Single Stage Two Envelopes)

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) with its Head Office located at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, Ferozpur Road Lahore invites sealed bids on single stage two envelope basis from the eligible firms/contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue and registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C4 and above for the following work:-

Renovation/Upgradation of National Cricket Academy (NCA), Lahore

Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, etc. can be obtained from the Office of the **Infra & Project Department, Pakistan Cricket Board, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore** on payment of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) in the form of pay order or bank draft in the favor of **Pakistan Cricket Board** by 13th October, 2023 on working days from 9 am. to 5 a.m.

The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, sealed and addressed to Director, Infra & Real Estate must reach at **Pakistan Cricket Board, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore** on or before 16th October, 2023 at 11:00 hrs. Bids will be opened on the same day at 11:30 hrs.

This advertisement is also available on PPRPA website at www.pprpa.org.pk and Pakistan Cricket Board website at www.pcb.com.pk

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