



Former PM says Asif Zardari to issue policy statement on elections

Former PM Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani while talking to the media said that Asif Ali Zardari will release the policy statement of the People's Party regarding the elections. Everyone should be allowed except those involved in attacking the national interest and military installations. (Details on Page 2)



Govt committed to further strengthen relations with China: Finance Minister

Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar here on Thursday expressed govt's unwavering commitment to further strengthen relations with China. Talking to Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong who called on the minister here, she also expressed gratitude for China's invaluable support and assistance to Pakistan in various sectors, according to statement issued by finance ministry. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Farewell Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

President lauds services of outgoing naval chief

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President House said. The president lauded the services of the outgoing naval chief and his contribution to the country and the Pakistan Navy. He wished Admiral Niazi the best for his future.

PM, Baloch businessman discuss problems of trader community

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday held a meeting with businessman Haji Nawab Damar who called on him here at the PM House. The meeting focused on the problems faced by the trader community in Balochistan particularly Ziarat, Harnai, and Sanjawi, the PM Office said. The prime minister also met tribal chief Sardar Farid Damar and social worker Lal Khan Kakar.

Action against illegal residents not targeted at Afghan refugees: FO

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday said its recent decision to deport illegal residents was not targeted at Afghan refugees but was against all foreigners without having valid visa documents.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at a weekly press briefing said the Afghan refugees in the country "remained unchanged" and their safe repatriation was a separate issue.

The spokesperson said the ongoing operation was against the individuals who had either overstayed their visas or did not have the valid documents to stay.

Baloch clarified that the operation had nothing to do with the Afghan refugees that Pakistan had been hosting for several decades despite its economic constraints. She confirmed that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan continued to take place, however, stressed that Pakistan would not accept the misuse of transit trade facilities.

Pakistan, she said, had been clearly articulating its concerns about the threats emanating from Afghanistan.

"We believe in diplomacy and will continue to engage with the



Afghan authorities to ensure that the Afghan soil is not used to foment terrorism," she said.

Baloch said Pakistan was in contact with the Indian authorities and urged them to issue visas to Pakistani spectators and journalists who wished to see the ICC (International Cricket Council) World Cup in India.

She said it was the responsibility of the host country to provide security and a conducive environment for the Pakistan cricket team and emphasized that sports should not be mixed with politics.

She said the Pakistan team was visiting India not for a bilateral cricket series, and thus had every right to participate in the international series.

To another question, the spokesperson said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received the formal communication from

the Election Commission to invite international observers for the upcoming general election.

She said the process would be facilitated in accordance with the policy and past practice.

On Palestine, she said Pakistan's policy was clear that it supported a two-state solution on the basis of pre-1967 borders.

The spokesperson outlined the engagements of Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, who is currently in China at the special invitation of Foreign Minister Wang Yi for participation in the Third Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation being held in Tibet Autonomous Region.

She said the FM in his keynote address delivered today at the opening ceremony of the forum underscored Pakistan's commitment to ecological balance and urged policy coordination and

experience-sharing between countries in the region.

She said FM Jilani and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Forum and emphasized the positive trajectory of bilateral ties, they discussed various aspects of the Pakistan-China friendship and exchanged views on regional and global matters.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and pledged to enhance high-level exchanges and strategic communication for continued cooperation, she said.

In Tibet, she said, FM Jilani met Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, Sainbuyan Amarsaikha where the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to high-level exchanges, and enhance bilateral trade and investment.

Baloch said Pakistan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had concluded the negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the first such agreement concluded by the GCC with any country since 2009.

"We look forward to the early signing, ratification, and implementation of the Agreement, which we believe will contribute to growth and mutual prosperity and

mark a new chapter in economic relations between Pakistan and GCC," she said.

In its capacity as the coordinator of the Geneva-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Group, she said, Pakistan co-organized with the OIC Observer Mission in Geneva an event titled 'Mapping the efficacy of normative framework on religious discrimination, intolerance, and hatred'.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the growing phenomenon of religious discrimination, intolerance, and hatred and the need for strengthening the normative framework for its redressal from a human rights perspective, she said.

The FO spokesperson said the Indian forces continued to commit serious human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

She said that in September, the Indian troops killed 13 Kashmiris in extra-judicial killings and arrested 157 civilians and activists.

Those arrested were mostly booked under the draconian laws promulgated by the occupation authorities in IIOJK — Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

FM Jilani, Mongolian Deputy PM discuss bilateral ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani on Wednesday held a fruitful meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Sainbuyan of Mongolia in Tibet.

FM Jilani, Mongolian Deputy PM discuss bilateral ties. The two countries agreed to further deepen mutually beneficial Pakistan-Mongolia relationship, deepen trade and economic cooperation specially in the field of mining, agriculture and textile, Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on X.

Wang Yi calls for speedy 'green transformation' around Trans-Himalayas region

Spokesman Report

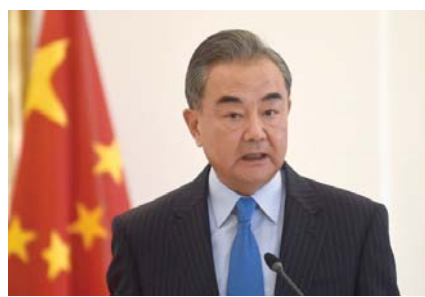
BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday called for speedy green transformation around the trans-Himalayan region in pushing for sustainable economic development of the area.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, CGTN reported.

The Trans-Himalayan region, with its breathtaking landscapes and unique cultural diversity, plays a pivotal role in global geopolitics. It encompasses countries such as Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Tibet, and its significance extends beyond national borders.

The Chinese foreign minister's call for a "green transformation" reflects a growing recognition of the environmental challenges faced by this region and the need for sustainable solutions.

The third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya



Forum serves as a platform for international cooperation, fostering dialogue and collaboration on a wide range of issues, including environmental conservation, economic development, and regional stability.

Wang's emphasis on "green transformation" underscores China's commitment to environmental sustainability and its recognition of the region's vulnerability to climate change. Climate-related challenges such as melting glaciers, shifting weather patterns, and environmental degradation are increasingly impacting the livelihoods and ecosystems of the trans-Himalayan region.

China's leadership in advocating for a green agenda aligns with the global call for climate action and sustainable development. The country has set ambitious targets to reach carbon neutrality by 2060, and Minister Wang's call serves as a practical step towards achieving these goals.

Sustainable development in the trans-Himalayan region is not only vital for the well-being of the local communities but also for the global ecosystem. The region's rivers, including the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra, are lifelines for millions of people downstream, making its ecological stability crucial for regional harmony and prosperity.

The Chinese foreign minister's call for a "green transformation" in the trans-Himalayan region is a call to action. It is a reminder that as nations, we must collectively address the pressing environmental challenges facing our planet. In the trans-Himalayan region, where the impacts of climate change are acutely felt, sustainable practices and international cooperation are the way forward.

PTI chief moves IHC seeking suspension of Toshakhana verdict

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Thursday moved Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking suspension of the trial court verdict in the Toshakhana case.

The development comes more than a month after the IHC had suspended Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana case. The petition was moved through by senior lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa under section 561-A (saving of inherent power of high court) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

"That it is settled principle of law that inherent powers of High Court are very wide and undefinable. High Court can make all such orders to do real and substantial justice and it is a fit case to exercise the powers under Section 561-A Cr. P.C. as the omission in not recording



the contentions of the learned counsel for the applicant/appellant at the bar praying for suspension of the impugned order dated 05.08.2023 and subsequent non mentioning of the same in the order dated 28.08.2023 is an omission floating on the face of the order," states the plea.

It added that the IHC in its August 28 verdict only suspended the sentence of the PTI chief and not the trial court order.

It urged the court to rectify the "omission of not recording the contention of the learned counsel for the petitioner with regard to the suspension" of the Toshakhana judgment of August 5.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with NDMA's team after the inauguration of National Emergencies Operation Center on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM inaugurates state of the art 'National Emergencies Operation Center'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar inaugurated the newly established state of the art 'National Emergencies Operation Center' (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters in Islamabad today.

The Prime Minister lauded the establishment of NEOC that will help in coordinated efforts to not only manage the natural disasters in the future, but will help in disaster risk reduction and mitigation of damages.

Emphasizing the importance of disaster resilient infrastructure and policy framework, the Prime Minister said that despite being one of the least contributors

of carbon emissions globally, Pakistan is one of the top countries affected by climate change.

"Climate change is a real challenge that will keep haunting our future generations unless we take such concrete steps", he reiterated.

The Prime Minister also praised the coordinated efforts of all State institutions during the devastating floods of 2022, especially NDMA.

"Nearly one third of the population of the country was affected by floods in 2022 and USD 30 billion was estimated to be the economic losses.

The world needs to step forward and help developing countries like Pakistan to cope up the adverse effects of climate change", he said.

The PM also praised the role of NCOC both in COVID-19 and 2022 floods. In a briefing, the Prime Minister was told that NEOC will serve as hub of all technological inputs related to climate change, disasters management and predictive modeling for national emergencies.

First of its kind in Pakistan and the region, this is Pakistan's indigenously conceptualized capability, which will evolve capacity to predict future disasters with credence and accuracy about likely locations, time of impact and damage intensity.

It would generate coordinated response, guiding lower tiers of provincial and district level disaster management authorities.

The need was felt for a platform which should perform the functions for developing a national collage of disasters monitoring, high end technology driven capability.

It can estimate vulnerable areas needs and determine the gap to be pre-coordinated support from global partner through all time ready holistic national outlook in the form of real time National Common Operating Picture.

Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, conducted the briefing session for the Prime Minister who attended as chief guest as well as Ambassadors, UN organizations' country heads, lead global NGOs, Pak academia lead institutional and experts who attended

the event.

He presented key lessons from Pakistan's extensive exposures to disaster and national emergencies in the past and shared new vision of NDMA for pro-active management of disasters through NEOC.

The vision was principally approved by Prime Minister's Office and all national stakeholders of disasters response.

The ceremony was attended by national and international dignitaries who appreciated Pakistan government in establishing a high end outcome, fast-paced development of NEOC in record time and the swath of multilateral utility it promises of mutuals growth and protection of strategic investments.

Govt committed to further strengthen relations with China: Finance Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar here on Thursday expressed government's unwavering commitment to further strengthen relations with China.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong who called on the minister here, Dr. Shamsad also expressed gratitude for China's invaluable support and assistance to Pakistan in various sectors, according to statement issued by finance ministry.

Felicitating Ambassador Jiang Zaidong on his appointment as Ambassador of People's Republic of China to



Pakistan, the Minister appreciated the enduring, robust, and time tested friendly relations between the two countries.

Outlining Government's resolve towards economic

reforms, Dr. Akhtar underlined the importance of these reforms in the revitalization of the national economy.

The Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to

successfully completing the International Monetary Fund Programme, demonstrating the government's commitment to sound economic governance.

On the occasion, the ambas-

sador praised the efforts of the government towards the economic reforms and revival of the economy and assured continuation of the Chinese support to Pakistan.

The meeting also reviewed and discussed the progress of projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and highlighted its strategic significance in the context of regional connectivity and economic development.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to further strengthen the multifaceted partnership between Pakistan and China in order to enhance economic prosperity and fostering development, the statement added.

Govt to file review petition against SC verdict on NAB amendments

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to file a review petition against the Supreme Court (SC) verdict in the NAB amendment case.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on September 15 struck down amendments made to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws as it announced its reserved verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's plea. In a majority 2-1 verdict, the top court approved PTI chief Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments made to the country's accountability laws during the tenure of the previous PDM-led gov.

PM Kakar meets AJK premier to discuss Neelum, Mangla dam projects

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq called on Prime Minister of Pakistan Anwar ul Haq Kakar here on Thursday.

During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual interest with special reference to the current political and economic situation of Azad Kashmir.

Prime Minister Haq, who was accompanied by the AJK chief secretary, briefed the PM Kakar about the difficulties faced by the people of Mangla and Mirpur due to left-overs of the Mangla Dam Raising Project and non-completion of Rathua Hariyam Bridge project.

Prime Minister Kakar was also given a comprehensive briefing regarding the environmental impact of Neelum-Jhelum power project, water usage charges and prevailing sense of unease in the region over non-signing of tripartite agreement on the Neelum-Jhelum project.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister



ter Kakar assured his all out support to the AJK premier saying that the federal government would spare no efforts in resolving all the issues and addressing the concerns vis a vis the Neelum-Jhelum and Mangla dam projects.

The PM Kakar issued instructions to the Federal Minister of Water and Power and the Secretary of Water Resources to resolve all outstanding issues immediately while

maintaining close liaison with the government of Azad Kashmir.

He also directed the Planning Commission authorities to pay the full installments of the first and second quarters of the development budget to the AJK government.

The PM Kakar also formed an inter-governmental committee that has been entrusted with the task of reviewing AJK's matters relating to the federal government.

President lauds Pakistan Rifle Team



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday congratulated the Pakistan Rifle Team on winning European Long Rang Rifle Championship 2023 held in the United Kingdom. Talking to a delegation of the team which called on him here, the president commended Lt. General Ahsan Gulrez and Col. Junaid Waqas on winning silver while Col. Junaid Ali

on winning gold medal in the event. He said the team of Pakistan Armed Forces had presented the excellent performance in international rifle shooting event. President Alvi said the Pakistani rifle team was worthy to be lauded for winning the championship. He stressed the need to promote and encourage different sports across the country. The president expressed success and good wishes for the Pakistani rifle team in the future.

Pakistan bans export of 212 items to Afghanistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce has banned the export of 212 items to Afghanistan under the Transit Trade Agreement.

According to SRO Number, 17 types of clothes, all types of vehicle tires, tea leaves, cosmetics and dozens of toiletries have been banned.

Similarly, nuts, dry and fresh fruits, home appliances including fridges, refrigerators, air conditioners, juicer, and mixer blenders have also been banned from being taken to Afghanistan.

The move comes a day after Pakistan imposed a 10 percent processing fee on several items imported under the Afghan transit trade agreement.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 18D of the Customs Act, 1969 (IV of 1969), the Federal Government is pleased to impose processing fee at the rate of 10 percent ad valorem on the following Afghan transit Commercial goods imported into Afghanistan in transit via Pakistan," said a customs department



notification. The items affected include confectioneries, chocolates, footwear, various machinery, blankets, home textiles, and garments.

Pakistan has formulated a new strategy to curb financial losses to the exchequer from the Afghan transit trade, it emerged Friday.

The federal government decided to end the smuggling of luxury items through the Afghan transit trade following the recommendations of the Special Investment Facilitations Council's (SIFC) apex committee.

According to the documents, a ban was imposed on the exports of several luxury commodities including tyres, fabrics, cosmetics, tiles and other items until their clearance from the relevant authorities.

Karachi man moves court against K-electric

Bureau Report

KARACHI: A citizen of Karachi has moved court against the K-Electric over inflated electricity bill.

As per details, Abdul Khaliq a resident of Shah Rasool colony Clifton Karachi filed a plea against the KE in Sindh High Court (SHC) for issuing three electricity bills worth Rs 598,000.

The petitioner told the court that he was accused of power theft and no prior notice was issued to him.

At this, the court inquired about his unit consumption. The counsel of the petitioner said that he is a star customer of K-electric.

The court asked the customer to pay the current bill and adjourned the hearing for the dues till October 12.

Giving another shock to the already burdened power consumers, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved an increase in tariff by Rs1.71 per unit.

As per the issued notification, the power regulatory authority approved the increase in power tariff under fuel adjustment charges (FAC) for the month of August.

The notification stated that the surge in electricity tariff would be applied to the bills of October. Meanwhile, the hike will not be applicable to Lifeline and K Electric customers.

Separately on October 3, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved an increase in the price of electricity per unit by Rs 3.28 per unit as part of the quarterly adjustment.

NEPRA Okays another hike in power tariff

Commerce Desk

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Separately on October 3, the NEPRA approved an increase in the price of electricity per unit by Rs 3.28 per unit as part of the quarterly adjustment.

According to the notification issued by NEPRA, a rate of Rs 3.28 per kilowatt hour (kWh) shall be recovered from different consumers categories of power distribution companies (DISCOs) and K-Electric in a period of six (06) months ie October 2023 to March 2024.

PTI announces public rally in Lahore

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday announced to hold a public rally in Lahore on October 15, reported citing sources.

Sources privy to the matter told that PTI has submitted an application to the deputy commissioner seeking to hold a rally in Lahore at Liberty Chowk on October 15.

The development comes after Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) announced to hold a public rally in Lahore on October 21 to welcome party supremo Nawaz Sharif upon his return to Pakistan from United Kingdom, ending his roughly four-year exile.

Sources said that party leadership has decided to hold a 'massive' rally at Minar-e-Pakistan on October 21. The party supreme will reach Minar-e-Pakistan from airport in a bulletproof container via rally.

In this connection, the PML-N leadership has directed all party workers across the country to reach Lahore on October 21.

Former PM says Asif Zardari to issue policy statement on elections

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani while talking to the media said that Asif Ali Zardari will release the policy statement of the People's Party regarding the elections.

Everyone should be allowed except those involved in attacking the national interest and military installations.

Problems have arisen due to illegal Afghan immigrants, the decision is correct in this regard: the recent wave of terrorism is due to the policy of the Tehreek-e-Insaf era: PTI should stand on Usman Dar's allegations, I am not their spokesperson.

I will contest the election from my native constituency NA 148 and you will see a lot of hustle and bustle.

According to the details, former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza



Gillani, while talking to the media at the Multan Arts Council, said that the policy statement of the People's Party regarding the elections, Asif Ali Zardari will issue the policy.

Everyone should be allowed except those involved in attacking the national interest and military installations.

Problems have arisen due to illegal Afghan refugees, the decision is correct in this regard: the recent wave of terrorism is due to the policy of the Tehreek-e-Insaf era: October 31 is the deadline for foreigners to leave Pakistan.

Despite the decrease in the prices of dollar and gold, if there is no decrease in the essential commodities, then this answer should be given to the present government: PTI should be given a stand on Usman Dar's allegations, I am not their spokesperson.

DGIPR KP visits Radio Pakhtunkhwa, instructs for innovation in programs

Adam Khan Wazir

PESHAWAR: Director General Information and Public Relations KP Muhammad Imran visited Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 92.2 Peshawar for the first time following his appointment and made a detailed inspection of various sections of the Radio Station including the on-air and off-air studios. Deputy Director Admin Sahibzada Hasan Ali also accompanied him while Station Director of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Ghulam Hussain Ghazi briefed him about the line of action of the radio besides the news bulletins, current affairs and infotainment programs.

Mohammad Imran expressed his satisfaction over the performance of the radio programs and directed to bring more innovation in it. He said that Radio Pakhtunkhwa can play a key role in highlighting the developmental and people-friendly initiatives of the provincial government at the national and international level, for which the Radio staff will have to endeavor round the clock.



Mohammad Imran directed to activate news bulletins and programs in regional languages including Chitrali language Kahwar, Afgan language Dari and Hindko in addition to Urdu and Pashto so that all communities across the province can be connected to the radio infotainment network.

He asked for quick resolution of all its problems including lack of space in the radio station, installation of new transmitters, provision of new computers, live streaming of radio network, continuation of talent hunt, focus on research & inventions and lack of staff. He also issued instructions in this regard on the spot.

Meelad Mustafa (PBUH) held

Muhammad Iftikhar Memon

MATIARI: The Matiari Meelad Mustafa event was held, thousands of citizens participated, Naat Khwani and Qawwals were presented with salutations and salutations in the glory of the Lord of the Universe.

Meelad Mustafa mahfil was organized by Chairman Town Committee Syed Hasan Murtaza Shah Jamote till late last night in Matiari in which Chairman Town Committee Syed Hassan Murtaza Shah Jamot, former caretaker minister Syed Haji Jalal Shah Jamot, Functional league leader Naseer Memon, former Chairman Town Committee Matiari and well-known social personality Syed Sikandar Shah, senior journalist Muhammad Iftikhar Memon, thousands of citizens and social and political figures participated in the celebration.

Great homage was paid to the Lord of the Universe by reciting Naats, Mawlad and Qawwals.

MDA administration start crackdown against illegal constructions in Multan City: Dr Mohd Zahid

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: MDA administration has decided to tighten the clamp-down against illegal constructions in approved housing schemes. Constructions without map approval will not be tolerated in MDA approved housing schemes. GIS base survey has been started to identify unauthorized constructions in all approved housing schemes which will not only identify illegal constructions but also illegal alterations in approved constructions. Commercial activities should be marked in the construction of houses. These views were expressed by Director General MDA Dr. Muhammad Zahid Ikram during a meeting with the officers.

Director Urban Planning Kasur



Abbas, Director Town Planning Ali Raza, Director Enforcement Mohammad Imran, Director IT Mohammad Huzafa, Deputy Director GIS CF Ullah Khan participated in the meeting. Director General MDA instructed all the directors that there is a need for teamwork for increasing income and public welfare initiatives. All the direc-

torates should coordinate with each other to prevent illegal constructions. Survey of all plots and constructions in approved housing schemes should be completed and report submitted within one month. Strict action should be taken by targeting commercial activities in residential buildings. He further said that with the help of this survey

it will be possible to identify illegal constructions.

There, illegal changes in the area in excess of the approved area in the colony can also be marked. After the completion of the survey, strict action will be taken against the illegal constructions including demolition/sealing of the property as well as disconnection of the utility services of these constructions. The Director General MDA directed the Director Urban Planning to oblige the owners and developers of all the approved housing schemes to submit the building plan of the construction in their housing scheme to the MDA. He further said that strict action should be taken against the developers who alter the approved housing scheme and do not follow the rules of MDA.

International Teachers Day celebrated in Women's University Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Women University Multan celebrated International Teachers' Day enthusiastically. In this regard, a seminar and awareness walk was organized by Department of Education at Katchery Campus. The title of the seminar was "Teachers at the heart of education recovery 2023".

The chief guest of the seminar was Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha and guest of honor was Dr. Rana Dilshad (Chairperson, Department of Education BZU). The organizing team includes Dr. Hina Muneer (Chairperson, Department of Education), Dr. Fariha and Ms. Maryam Mehmood Addressing the seminar, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha said teachers are the real builders of the nation. She said devoted teachers always played critical role in students' character building. She said that teachers' services should be highly acknowledged by all the corners of the society and students must cooperate with teachers to build a strong and



prosperous nation. Teachers must be given their due status, respect and value, as they are producing learned people who are contributing towards the development of the country," the Vice Chancellor said and added that if we have to go shoulder to shoulder with the developed world then we have to give importance to a teacher and education. She said that teachers play vital role

in imparting quality education and they are the source of guarantee to a bright future. The guest speaker of the seminar, Dr. Rana Dilshad (Chairperson, Department of Education, BZU) said that teachers are game changers, hence they could change the destiny of a nation and shape a new civilized society through imparting quality education to young generations. Speaking on the occasion, Registrar Dr. Mamoona

Khan said that the destiny of the country and the nation depended on education, adding that the nations that valued teachers became prominent in the world. She said that the role of the teacher in the society needs to be made more effective. Dr. Maimona Khan said that this year Teachers' Day is celebrated under the theme "Teachers at the heart of education recovery". The United Nations (UNESCO) presented this theme for teachers' day in respect of their determined and diligent efforts in the crucial stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. She said that teachers play vital role in imparting quality education and they are the source of guarantee to a bright future. A cake cutting ceremony, was held by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha along with faculty members and students. At the end of the seminar, Vice Chancellor Dr. Kalsoom Pracha distributed appreciation certificates to all the teachers. A walk was held which was led by Vice Chancellor Dr. Kalsoom Pracha along with faculty members and students.

SWL bifurcation process slow, police without salaries for eight months

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The previous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government had announced the division of South Waziristan into two districts, but due to the slowness of the bifurcation process, the huge problems started to increase.

However, there was interest in speeding up the process of bifurcation, and due to which District Account Office staff are not ready to work in their own district SW Lower.

While, unfortunately, the District Accountant Officer of Lower South Waziristan Israr is preferring to work in Tank District, 160 km away, instead of Wana, SWL.

Where they are dealing with treasury and office affairs along with their staff.

Due to the absence of the District Accounts Officer, on the one hand, other government employees, including the police, are facing serious and huge difficulties in the payment of salaries, on the other hand, contractors and common people have also faced difficulties.

Apart from this, police department officials or any other government officials are forced to travel not only 160 km to the district tank to get their work done, and rather, they have to spend thousands of rupees every month.

In this regard, when the District Accounts Officer asked Israr why you are preferring to handle office affairs in Tank district instead of Lower South Waziristan district,

So, in reply, he said that due to the slowness of the bifurcation process, we are sitting here because we have not received the proper provision of the System Application and Products Program (SAP) from the office of the Accountant General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Women's are doing proud services in the development of the country



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha Said Pakistani educated women are doing proud services in the development of the country. She along with administrative responsibilities actively performing her duties as head of the Department. According to details, Prof. Dr Kalsoom Pracha has assumed the charge of Vice Chancellor, Women University two months earlier. She continued classes of new session of MPhil & PhD scholars at Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies. Dr. Kalsoom said that teaching is our first duty. Those in administrative positions should also give full time to their classes, because universities are known for academic quality and teachers plays a vital role in bringing educational reforms.

Govt immediately Start the Process of Deporting illegal Afghan citizens: Dr Rubina



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women Political leader and candidate NA-155 Dr Rubina Akhtar said Government of Pakistan immediately Start the Process of Deporting illegal Afghan citizens. She said that the decision on the return of illegal, foreign migrants should have been taken long ago in the apex committee, but it is sad to say that the previous government, which included 13 parties, did not pay any attention to it, left the country at the mercy of the most difficult situations in the temptation of increasing their assets, the consequences of which innocent people are paying with their lives today.

24 explosions in a month are questionable she has expressed hope that the decision to evacuate 1.5 million foreign residents, who are a burden on the country's economy but also on the country's resources, will be implemented, after their departure, relief will be provided. It will be felt that this will not only reduce terrorism, but the resources can also be used for the benefit of the people, she also stressed that their return should be done in a legal and orderly manner. So that the outside world could not object to us, Dr Rubina Akhtar said these things while distributing food to the women of NA-155.

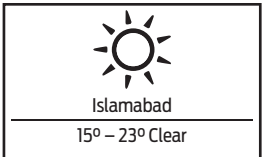
Azad Kashmir trade association thanks people for their role in fight for basic rights

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: On the call of the Azad Kashmir Central Joint Public Action Committee, protests were held throughout Azad Kashmir against the unjustified increase in electricity bills and non-supply of cheap flour. Central President Shaukat Nawaz Mir.

Secretary General All Azad Kashmir Central Trade Association, Core Member Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee, Chairman Central Trade Association Muzaaffarabad Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Mir expressed his special gratitude to the people of Azad Kashmir. It is that you proved to be a living nation by organizing a complete wheel jam and shutdown and successful meetings, processions and rallies on the arrest of those who came out for your rights. Kashmir is special, although all the cowardly attempts to sabotage this movement of basic people's rights have failed today with the support of the people.

The efforts of the leaders of Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee, traders, transporters, students, lawyers, elected local body representatives, civil society workers are worthy of appreciation. Now we will move towards the next phase of the movement. This is the first time in the history of Azad Kashmir that the people of the entire region are united and organized with a common charter of demand.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 4:42 am
 Zohr 11:57 am
 Asr 4:06 pm
 Maghrib 5:48 pm
 Isha 7:10 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
 CDA 9208301-04
 Met Office 9250360-6
 RDA 5555864
 TMA 5770886
 Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Air University, Bicas Consultancy sign collaboration accord

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Air University, Islamabad and Bicas Consultancy UK Limited sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a graceful ceremony here at the Islamabad campus. The MoU signifies a momentous collaboration that holds great promise for the future of education.

The MoU formalizes the commitment of Air University and Bicas Consultancy to work closely together to explore foreign universities' collaboration, students' exchange programs and to enhance academic excellence by jointly working for mutual growth. This strategic partnership is poised to usher benefits for students and educators.

Introducing Air University's fast-paced growth and acclaim at the national and international levels, Director ORIC, Air Commodore Afzaal Ahmed Khan (R) shared details of the University's facilities, programs, research facilities, and future projects. He said Air University offers a conducive learning environment to students and makes all-out efforts to



impart quality education. He said in a recent World University Rankings 2024 Air University secured 3rd position amongst 232 universities in Pakistan which endorses the university's resolve for continuous improvement.

Chief Executive Officer, Bicas Consultancy UK Limited, Mr. Muhammad Saqib Siddique shared the details of the company's services being offered within Pakistan and in the United Kingdom. He said being a British-Pakistani, he always connects himself with Pakistan and feels

honored to serve the country, particularly for the noble cause of education. He vowed to explore and provide new avenues of higher education to young scholars of Air University in renowned global institutions.

Director Academics, AVM Tariq Matin (R), Registrar, Air Commodore Abdul Wahab Motla (R), Director CPD, Air Commodore Zaheer Mirza (R), and Director QEC, Air Commodore Ahmed Hassan (R) also attended the MoU signing ceremony.

Proper use of artificial intelligence in agriculture sector will increase production: Dr. Malik

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan called on Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik at Islamabad. The



matters of mutual interest came under discussion during the meeting. Dr. Kausar Malik said that Artificial Intelligence is playing a crucial role in reshaping the landscape of agriculture and revolutionizing farming practices for a more efficient and sustainable future. By adopting the advanced farming techniques, we can improve production and storage which will ensure food security in the country. He sought cooperation from Higher Education of Pakistan to assist Ministry in use of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture sector. HEC offered Ministry to have joint project with agriculture universities, research organizations and SUPARCO for food security by utilizing artificial intelligence and super computers. The Ministry of National Food Security & Research would hold a joint conference with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan of agriculture universities to devise plan & strategies for utilizing these modern technologies in agriculture sector.

RTC on Pakistan's Education Reform and Inclusion Ahead of 2024 General Elections



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Despite the integral role of education in a country's development, Pakistan continues to face significant challenges in ensuring quality education for all. To highlight the pressing issues surrounding education before the country's political leadership ahead of the 2024 general elections, the Society for Access to Quality Education (SAQE), in collaboration with Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA), Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), and Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS), organized a high-level roundtable here in Islamabad.

Articulating the event's primary objective during her welcome address, Ms. Zehra Arshad, Executive Director of SAQE, said, "We aim to elevate education among the top points in the country's political agenda. Our aspiration is for education reform and improvement to persist as a top priority, regardless of whichever political party assumes power in next year's general elections." Reiterating the importance of the event, Executive Director PIPS, Mr. Muhammad Anwar said, "Today, we hope to set the stage for informed and focused discussions on education in the lead-up to the 2024 general elections."

Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive Director, CPDI shedding light on the political economy of education shared, "Pakistan needs structural and pro-people reforms, whereby sufficient resources are spared or raised to increase education budget to at least 5% of GDP. Without substantially raising the education budget, it wouldn't be possible to provide quality education to all of our children." Ms. Areebah Shahid, Executive Director of PYCA highlighting the plight of children with disabilities recommended, "Instead of investing in expensive special education complexes that can only cater to a very small number of students, mainstream schools need to be made inclusive and disability-friendly."

Former Senator Farhatullah Babar stressed the need for a nationally owned political agenda for education. "In line with the spirit of Article 25-A of the Constitution, the political parties need to come together and develop a joint charter to combat the state of education emergency confronting Pakistan." Reiterating this point, Senator Sana Jamali, Convenor of the Senate Education Caucus, said, "There is a need for joint political ownership and responsibility to address the issue of 25 million out-of-school children. A call to action to proactively tackle this critical educational challenge is urgently needed."

Senator Fauzia Arshad urged greater support for the private sector so it could support governmental efforts to make education more accessible, "Rather than creating hurdles for civil society organizations, the government should create ease for them so that they can play a more proactive role in education service delivery."

Lamenting the state of education in Pakistan former MNA Ms. Asiya Nasir of JUI-F candidly acknowledged, "Public representatives have fallen short in their duties to uplift Pakistan's education system. We will play our role to ensure that JUI-F's manifesto reflects the urgency of diverting 5% of the GDP for education." Former MNA Shahida Akhtar, also representing JUI-F at the round table pledged to have the agenda of inclusive and disability-friendly education included in their party manifestoes.

Former MNA Shizza Fatima of PML-N stressed the need for skills training at the school level. "The global economy is skills intensive right now and that is where our education policies and plans should also focus."

Bara Boned

ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in paintings during exhibition entitled "Bare Boned" at Sangrang Art Gallery in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Salute to teacher on World Teachers Day

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Malik Abrar Hussain, Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, said that on the occasion of World Teacher's Day, the teacher deserves his rightful place, honor and respect for standing shoulder to shoulder in the country's development, survival and community of nations. The teacher is the architect of the nation and plays an important role in the development of the nations, the nations that value the teacher can be able to live on an equal level in the world community.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at the Islamic International School of Excellence on the occasion of October 5 International Teachers' Day. Shields and certificates of appreciation were also given to the teachers of different branches on this occasion. Malik Abrar Hussain said that World Teachers' Day is celebrated on October 5 every year in Pakistan like in different countries of the world. On the occasion of this day, we have to pledge today that the teacher will be given his rightful place so that he can play an active role in the mental cultivation of the new generation. On this occasion, the teachers should also prepare the children for the development of the country and play a role in the mental cultivation of the new generation according to the requirements of the modern age.

Mercy Corps all out for preventing tuberculosis in Pakistan

City Desk

KARACHI: With the mission of preventing tuberculosis, a one-day advocacy and awareness seminar was organized by Mercy Corps with the title of 'Advocacy and Awareness Seminar on TB Preventive Treatment (TPT)' in collaboration with the Communicable Disease Control (CDC-Sindh), Bridge Consultants Foundation (BCF), and Greenstar Social Marketing (GSM).

As a part of the efforts to end TB in Pakistan, Mercy Corps and its partners are implementing a large-scale TB program, across the country in 120 districts, with the support of The Global Fund. Joining the National TB Control Program



towards the goal of Ending TB by 2035. Mercy Corps interventions include engagement with the private sector health system, enhancing community awareness, public outreach to remote areas in partnership with Provincial TB Programs, Health Departments, and implementing partners. Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT) is another initiative

under this program by Mercy Corps to curb the spread of the TB disease. The seminar began with a welcome address and opening remarks by Dr. Samreen Ashraf Qureshi, Deputy Director CDC III - Sindh. She praised the efforts of Mercy Corps Pakistan and its partners in rolling out the TPT programme across the country. After the opening

remarks, Dr. Adeel Tahir, Senior Program Manager, Mercy Corps shed light on the background and objectives of the seminar.

Syed Saleem Hasan Kazmi, Senior Provincial Program Officer, CDC TB Sindh gave a comprehensive briefing on the topic of 'Burden of TB (Global Vs Pakistan), Programmatic Management of TPT'.

During the panel discussion, Dr. Sharaf Ali Shah, CEO, BCF, Dr. Zulfiqar Dharejo, Deputy Director General, CDC Sindh and Dr. Shaheena Qayyum, Program Manager, BCF emphasized the need for innovation to reduce the burden of TB in Pakistan, and discussed the misconceptions around TPT and the standard practices around TPT regimen.

Ultra processed foods

Health experts call for front of pack nutrition labels on ultra-processed foods

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ultra processed foods, often high in sugar, salt, saturated fats, transfats and additives have been linked to an increased risk of obesity, heart diseases, diabetes and other chronic health conditions. The alarming rise in consumption of these foods poses a grave threat to the public health and well-being of the Nation. Front of pack nutrition labels on food have been successfully implemented in other countries as a mean of guiding consumers towards making healthier food choices. We demand government to adopt effective regulations of front of pack nutrition labels and warning signs on all ultra-processed food. This was said by the health experts in an event with media organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) at a local hotel in Islamabad.

Hafeez ullah Khan assured the cooperation of PSACA in front of pack nutrition labels on ultra-processed foods.

Dr. Shakeel Mirza said that the rapid increase in non-communicable diseases in Pakistan is alarming. Pakistan has become the first country in the world with fastest growth of diabetes worldwide. Pakistan is among the countries in the world where the consumption of sugar, salt, trans fats and saturated fats is much higher than the limit set by WHO. Unhealthy foods such as sugar, salt, saturated fats, trans fats and fried foods leads to many non-communicable diseases including heart, diabetes, kidney and many types of cancers. He said that major part of our diet shall consist of seasonal vegetable and fruits.

Mr. Munawar Hussain said that front of pack nutrition labels on ultra-processed foods are a crucial step in helping consumers make informed choices

about the foods they purchase. Several countries in the world has already implemented front of pack nutrition labels on processed foods and the evidence is encouraging. Such measures are required to be implemented in Pakistan. He urged media to help mobilizing the policy support for enacting regulation on front of pack nutrition labels and warning signs on all ultra-processed foods.

Dr. Khawaja. Masood Ahmed said that ministry of health realizes that FOPWLs are a significant step to reduce the disease burden in the country. He indicated that the current regulatory pathway is complex and we are working with Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority in adopting a more efficient pathway to bring the policy change through a single regulation. He assured the support of MoH on such regulations and including those



on iTFA limits.

Sanaullah Ghumman said that the media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and influencing policy decisions. He said that media is strong supporter of PANAH in our campaigns to save its countrymen from heart and related disease. Media has always supported us in our life saving inter-

ventions including the increase in taxes on sugary drinks to reduce the disease burden. Now we are requesting your support on another lifesaving policy change and where we are working with Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority for front of pack nutrition labels and warning signs on all ultra-processed foods.

Abdul Hafeez thanked all the participants on behalf of PANAH. He said that we are thankful to civil society and media for their participation in the event.

Those who attended the event include Dr. Khawaja Masood Ahmed, National Coordinator Nutrition & NFA MoH, Consultant at Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) Mr. Munawar Hussain, Additional Vice President PANAH Col. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Morza. Ex-commissioner and member executive council of PANAH Mr. Abdul Hafeez, General Secretary Kidney Patient Welfare Association Mr. Ghulam Abbas, representatives of electronic and print media. Mr. Director General Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) was the chief guest of the occasion. Secretary General PANAH, Sanaullah Ghumman hosted the event.

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There is an uncompromising fight against criminality in Kyrgyzstan

Spokesman Report

The fight against organized crime in Kyrgyzstan during the 30 years of the country's independence has hardly ever been waged. Criminal bosses always lived well and even high-ranking officials visited them to bow to them, indicating that criminals were tightly tied to the authorities. As evidence, members of organized crime groups easily became deputies or occupied high positions.

Only with the advent of the current government has the situation begun to change dramatically. Kyrgyzstanis have witnessed numerous detentions of OCG members and associated officials and law enforcement officers in recent years.

"In Kyrgyzstan, tremendous work is being done to combat organized crime and this work will soon be completed. Now work has begun on reforms in the economic, social, judicial and law enforcement spheres.

During 30 years of independence, corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic has penetrated into all spheres of life, but we will make every effort to completely eradicate it. Undoubtedly, it will take time, but the results of this work will be in the very near future.

Much work is being done to combat organized crime. I can assure you that this work will soon be completed," SadyrZhaparov said back in 2020.

As a consequence, the GKNB bodies headed by Lieutenant General Kamchybek Tashiev started an active fight against organized crime and within 2 years the situation really changed. Members of organized crime together with the leaders began to be where they should be, i.e. on the benches. The reality is that now no official, as it was before, will risk to be even close to a criminal organization, let alone be photographed with it.

The head of the special services made it clear to all members of the organized crime group that he would not give them a quiet life in the country, and he kept his word.

"The President has given us a clear task—there should be no organized crime groups in the country. Therefore, I appeal to all members and leaders of organized crime groups. If you don't want to live peacefully, without breaking the law, you'd better leave the country. Otherwise, you will be held accountable to the full extent of the law," he said earlier at a Cabinet meeting. As practice shows, the general has once again kept his word.

The people of Kyrgyzstan all wholeheartedly support the political leadership of the republic to eradicate criminality from all spheres of life.

Fight against organized crime. How do the Kyrgyz authorities fulfill their promises?

This news quickly spread on social networks and did not leave many indifferent. But let's talk about everything in order. Toward midday, social networks

were full of posts about the special operation in Bishkek. People were speculating whether KamchyKolbaev was killed, wounded or alive. Toward evening, the State Committee for National Security put an end to the doubts of citizens by providing an official release on the liquidation of the country's main crime lord, the so-called "thief in law," who had been leading an organized crime group in Kyrgyzstan for many years.

Over the years, society has already gotten used to the fact that crime has an impact on many areas of people's lives, and entrepreneurs with the fact that one "beautiful day" and may lose their business.

However, the current authorities represented by the President of the country Sadyr Zhaparov and the head of the GKNB Kamchybek Tashiev categorically did not put up with this state of affairs in the country, as the previous leaders of the country did. Moreover, they decided to give a tough fight to criminals.

"No organized crime groups will operate in Kyrgyzstan," GKNB Chairman Kamchybek Tashiev told a Cabinet meeting in July this year.

He noted that all members of criminal groups will be brought to justice.

"Organized criminal groups will be completely destroyed. Now, my words are probably heard not only by ordinary citizens, but also by members of organized crime groups, bandits. I will warn you once again. The President has set a task before us to eradicate organized crime groups in Kyrgyzstan. OCG leaders, if you cannot live

peacefully in Kyrgyzstan, leave the country. If not, the OCG leader will be punished, he will not be left free. I can say this with all responsibility," Tashiyev warned.

He noted that the authorities will do everything possible to ensure that entrepreneurs and investors can freely conduct their activities in Kyrgyzstan.

"The fight against organized crime groups will continue. We will eliminate all groups. There will be no such groups in Kyrgyzstan, and no one will put pressure on business," said the head of the GKNB.

Well, we must admit that the authorities have kept their promise. One of the main crimauthorities has been liquidated. And apparently it won't stop there. The same fate awaits all those who have anything to do with the OCG.

Because, as Tashiyev noted, the national security agencies are constantly working to combat organized crime and take measures to eradicate the influence of criminals on various spheres of life in the republic.

As part of this work, a number of criminal cases are being investigated against active members of organized criminal groups and their leaders for the illegal seizure of property of entrepreneurs on a particularly large scale.

Well, we hope that if the National Security bodies work at this pace, in the coming years the organized crime group will be completely destroyed and Kyrgyz people will finally be able to breathe a full breath in a country where there is no crime and the rule of law.

U. N. warns global economic growth on verge of stalling

The United Nations has warned that the world economy is headed for a protracted slowdown without reform of the global financial architecture, better policies to combat inflation, inequality, sovereign debt and stronger market regulation. Economic growth is forecast to stall, slowing to 2.4% in 2023, from 3% in 2022, across most global regions with little prospect of a rebound in 2024, the U. N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report released on Wednesday. The UN trade body, which is based in Geneva, said that the global economy is at "a critical juncture", with some economies thriving and expanding, while others falter and slow down.

Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary-General, emphasized the need to avoid past policy errors. "We need a balanced policy mix of fiscal, monetary and supply-side measures to achieve financial sustainability, boost productive investment and create better jobs. Regulation needs to address the deepening asymmetries of the international trading and financial system," she said. According to UNCTAD, the global economy's recovery from the pandemic is marked by significant divergence, prompting concerns about the right path forward in the absence of policy coordination. In the United States, the report said, despite rising interest rates, the economy has defied pessimistic predictions by experiencing a controlled economic slowdown.

This "soft landing" can be attributed to robust consumer spending, the avoidance of fiscal austerity measures, and active monetary intervention earlier in the year. At the same time, lingering investment concerns remain, particularly due to extended high-interest rates, the report added. After the COVID-19 shock, profits of the top 2,000 multinational enterprises further increased while the global labour income share continued to shrink. Conversely, Europe teeters on the brink of a potential recession, grappling with a rapid tightening of monetary policy and strong economic headwinds.

Major economies are slowing down and Germany is already in a state of contraction. Stagnant or falling real wages across the continent, compounded by fiscal austerity, are dragging down growth, UNCTAD said. China, while showing signs of recovery from last year, faces weak domestic consumer demand and private investment, the report noted.

However, it has more fiscal policy space compared to other major economies, which could be leveraged to address these challenges, the UN agency added. One of the key concerns is the persistence of economic inequality, especially in developing countries disproportionately affected by monetary tightening in more advanced economies. This widening wealth gap poses a threat to the fragile economic recovery and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Rising interest rates, weakening currencies and sluggish export growth have combined to squeeze the fiscal space for essential needs, transforming the growing debt service burden into an unfolding development crisis, UNCTAD warned.



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

From Economic collapse to Economic stability - I

In a recent interview, on a national TV channel Mr. Shabbar Zaidi underwent a striking transformation in his views on Pakistan's economy. Just days earlier, he had been painting a grim picture of impending economic challenges. However, in an unexpected shift, Mr. Shabbar exhibited a newfound optimism about Pakistan's economic prospects.

Initially, Mr. Shabbar had been attributing the failure to combat smuggling and tax evasion, especially within the real estate sector, to former Army Chief General Javid Qamar Bajwa and the corps commander of the southern command. However, he abruptly reversed course, now placing the blame for hoarding, smuggling, and tax evasion squarely on the shoulders of Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and the political elite.

Mr. Shabbar didn't hold back when he attributed a significant portion of Pakistan's current economic and financial challenges, specifically around 80%, to the policies of the PML(N) government, and the rest 20% on other political parties without qualifying his sweeping statement.

A few days ago, Mr. Shabbar strongly advocated that the solution to Pakistan's struggling economy lay in conducting free and fair elections and establishing a fully representative government. He saw this as the ultimate remedy for the financial challenges plaguing the nation. Now, Mr. Shabbar suggested that any political party assuming power in the future would likely reverse the positive measures implemented by the interim government, potentially plunging the country back into dire economic and financial straits.

This shift in his perspective added an intriguing dimension to the ongoing economic discourse. In a somewhat unconventional move, he suggested that, instead of holding elections, the country should consider forming a national government comprising patriotic, competent, and eminent individuals from all parties. However, he didn't elaborate on the constitutional, legal, or lawful means to achieve this objective.

Earlier, he has also been emphatic about the government's need to officially declare a technical default, a stance he has maintained consistently. However, now he took a surprisingly optimistic view regarding Pakistan's economic and financial prospects. He declared that the positive steps taken by the current government including cracking down on hoarders and mafias, enforcing stricter border controls, imposing a 10% processing fee on Afghan transit trade, and clamping down on illegal currency dealers, have addressed many fundamental economic and financial distortions.

Interestingly, he appeared to backtrack from his prior statement, once uttered with unwavering confidence, that there were no viable solutions to the country's present economic and financial woes. This shift in his perspective left many wondering why he had initially painted such a doomsday scenario.

It's possible that Mr. Shabbar's earlier assessment was based on the assumption that the establishment would maintain its existing posture, effectively supporting the status quo regarding issues such as smuggling, illegal arms dealing, and influential mafias.

However, to the surprise of not only Mr. Shabbar but perhaps the entire nation, a new

era seems to be dawning in Pakistan, a departure from the established norms and a potential shift towards addressing these long standing issues head on.

The leadership at the helm has showcased an unwavering resolve and a determination as unyielding as solid steel. Their resounding proclamation echoes clearly: "There is no choice but to rise." In a fearless and unequivocal message to the public, they have issued a stern warning: Anyone found engaged in illegal, unlawful, anti-state, criminal activities, or corruption, regardless of their stature, whether they hold the rank of a general, brigadier, colonel, or occupy high-ranking bureaucratic positions, or even if they are at the helm of the most influential mafias, politicians, real estate magnates, business titans, or foreign actors, will be met with the full force of the state's power, without exception or bias.

This unequivocal message seemed to be more than sufficient to instill discipline and order throughout the ranks. In response, the authorities conducted a relentless crackdown on water hydrants, which had been draining the lifeblood of the nation. Their facilities were dismantled, and their tankers confiscated.

They carried out unrelenting operations against electricity theft, disconnecting illicit connections, confiscating meters, imposing hefty fines, and placing offenders behind bars. This demonstrated an unwavering commitment to restoring law and order in the country.

The authorities have successfully identified all foreign nationals who were engaging in thriving illegal and legal businesses while fraudulently acquiring Pakistani National Identity Cards (NICs). Many of these individuals were leading comfortable lives even without proper documentation. They have been given a month to vacate the country.

To be continued

Pak Army Achieved the Highest Level of Public Approval - I

Public surveys play a crucial role in shaping policies, businesses, and the overall well-being of society. These tools of data collection are indispensable for understanding public opinions, needs, and preferences. Whether conducted by government agencies, non-profit organizations, or private companies, public surveys provide a valuable source of information that informs decision-making processes.

One of the fundamental principles of democratic governance is the representation of the people's will and interests. Public surveys are instrumental in this process. They allow governments to gauge public sentiment, understand citizen concerns, and prioritize policies accordingly. By giving citizens a platform to express their views, surveys help bridge the gap between elected officials and the electorate, enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of democratic systems. Public surveys provide invaluable insights into the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies. Governments can use survey data to identify pressing issues, allocate resources efficiently, and tailor policies to better suit the needs of their constituents. Additionally, surveys help assess the impact of existing policies, allowing for adjustments or improvements as necessary. This iterative process ensures that public policies are evidence-based and responsive to changing societal needs. In the private sector, public surveys are a cornerstone of market research and strategic planning. Companies use surveys to gather information about consumer preferences, market trends, and customer satisfaction. This data informs product development, marketing strategies, and customer

service improvements. Ultimately, businesses that leverage survey data are better positioned to meet consumer demands and remain competitive in an ever-evolving market. Surveys are critical tools in public health efforts, allowing authorities to track the spread of diseases, monitor vaccination rates, and assess the effectiveness of health interventions. During crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, surveys played a vital role in understanding public compliance with safety measures, vaccination hesitancy, and mental health impacts. This information is instrumental in crafting informed responses to protect public health. Public surveys are a cornerstone of social research and academic studies. Researchers use survey data to investigate a wide range of topics, from social attitudes and behaviors to environmental concerns. These studies contribute to our collective knowledge and drive innovations in various fields, including sociology, psychology, economics, and political science. Public surveys empower individuals and communities to have their voices heard on local issues. Whether it's a neighborhood association seeking input on development plans or a non-profit organization assessing community needs, surveys provide a structured way for residents to share their opinions and contribute to the betterment of their communities. Surveys foster transparency and accountability by allowing organizations and governments to demonstrate that they value public input. When decision-makers actively seek public opinions and use survey results to guide their actions, it builds trust and credibility with the people they serve. This, in turn, strengthens the social contract between institutions and the public.

To be continued



Qamar Bashir



Abdul Basit Alvi

Two-Day ISSI (CAMEA)–USIP International Conference

‘Navigating Peace & Security in the Region & Beyond: Pakistan’s Role’

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is hosting a two-day International Conference on “Navigating Peace & Security in the Region & Beyond: Pakistan’s Role.” The two-day international conference brings together an amalgamation of academics and practitioners from around the world. The Conference stretches over two days and has six diverse working sessions focusing on Afghanistan, the Middle East, Pakistan-US bilateral ties, counterterrorism, regional peace and security as well as non-traditional security challenges.

Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan’s Special Representative on Afghanistan was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Dr. Andrew Wilder, Vice President of Asia Centre, USIP, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI and Ms. Amina Khan also spoke in the inaugural session.

In her welcome remarks Director CAMEA, Amina Khan stated that the contemporary global landscape is witnessing profound shifts, in which Pakistan finds itself at a critical juncture amidst this transformative milieu. On a global scale, the pursuit of security, stability, and progress



is beset by a myriad of challenges, including conflicts, warfare, economic uncertainties, natural calamities, climate change, poverty and overpopulation.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, while expressing his views, elucidated that the world is currently facing an unprecedented level of fragility, polarization and conflict risks. Various security threats, including traditional and non-traditional, have increased global volatility and concerns about nuclear conflict are heightened, as symbolized by the “Doomsday Clock” being set at 90 seconds to midnight. In addition, the world is currently marred by major challenges including major-power competition, ongoing wars, terrorism, the pandemic’s effects,

economic downturn, and climate change. The outcome of these transformations is uncertain, with ongoing debates about the decline of the West, globalization’s fate, and the potential for a new Cold War. There is a shift in global power to the East, a growing desire for multipolarity, and a trend toward issue-based coalitions; while a semblance of stability and predictability are sought after by many nations.

Dr. Andrew Wilder, Vice President of Asia Centre, USIP, in his remarks, stated that a lot of time is spent on focusing and prioritizing security over peace. The world is going through rapidly changing and worrying times with many serious threats and challenges with weak and fractured multilateral systems. The world is

still reeling from the lingering effects of the Covid pandemic, the Russia and Ukraine crisis growing tensions between China and the US and the existential threats posed by climate change.

Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan’s Special Representative on Afghanistan during his address stated that Pakistan is at the crossroads of three major regions – South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East—this geographical setting has added to the challenges for Pakistan including its relations with India, and the changing dynamics in Afghanistan. In this regard Pakistan’s role becomes pivotal; Pakistan being at the front lines of the US War on Terror paid a tremendous cost in terms of lives – a cost completely ignored by the international community.

However, the most pivotal point is for the Afghans to understand that the key to the stability of Afghanistan is with them. Unless they do not bring normalcy to Afghanistan no outsider including Pakistan can do much. There are no governing spaces for the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Pakistan and any threat will be neutralized. At the moment security issues in Pakistan are feeding into the prevailing economic woes. However, despite challenges on multiple fronts Pakistan is sustaining the pace against terrorism and moving ahead with resilience and resolve.

Plaque Presentation



DUSHANBE: Majyd Aziz, President Global Compact Network Pakistan, presenting plaque to Jumakhonzoda Jamshed Jurakhon, Chairman Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan, at the Dushanbe International Investment Forum in Dushanbe Tajikistan. H. E. Ismatullo Nasredin, Ambassador of Tajikistan in Pakistan, and Irshad Kassim, Hon. The Consul General of Tajikistan in Karachi was also present.

Where there is unity, there is prosperity

Bulat Sarsenbayev

Today, the world is experiencing a new era of globalization. We are currently living in a complex period of human history, encompassing economic, social, environmental and humanitarian dimensions.

States, international organizations and religious communities need to embrace a common approach based on virtuous such a period. It will only be possible through political, religious mutual understanding, cooperation and peacemaking efforts among different countries and peoples. The countries, as well as world and traditional religions, can achieve success only through spiritual friendship, regardless of the complexity of the situation.

Without spirituality and commit-

ment to moral principles, it is impossible to establish order on global scale. We are proud to say that representatives of several nationalities and ethnic groups live peacefully in Kazakhstan. This is one of the brightest achievements of our country during the years of independence. If we take a brief look into history, we can observe that our ancestors, despite facing significant challenges, were able to maintain the unwavering unity of our country. The rich spiritual culture of our people, with its deep historical roots, served as the foundation for making important state decisions in the early days of our independence.

Today, Kazakhstan has managed to create a civilized mechanism to preserve national unity on the path of democratic development.

“We should foster a culture of civilized dialogue and mutual respect. Effective use of the country’s histori-

cal heritage and cultural potential is a crucial element in consolidating society and strengthening national identity. In this regard, Kazakhstan has many opportunities to position itself favorably in the international arena”, –says President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in his State of the Nation address to the people.

Kazakhstan is making a confident step into the future through spiritual revival. The role of our state in promoting public spiritual harmony is to maintain a balanced relationship between secular and religious spirituality. It also aims to preserve and strengthen the values of modern civilization.

Religion holds a significant place in human life, it plays a crucial role in the process of revitalization, and exhibits great diversity. Religion gives meaning to human life and provides moral and

spiritual education.

Leaders of religious communities play a special role in maintaining inter-ethnic and interfaith peace and harmony. Religious leaders can have a great influence in communicating decisions and concrete initiatives to their communities through dialogue.

With this goal in mind, Kazakhstan presented one of the most significant peacekeeping initiatives – the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. It has allowed Kazakhstan to become a platform for peaceful inter-civilizational dialogue. The forum offers a chance for religious leaders and politicians to discuss how to resolve international conflicts, address global threats and overcome hatred and intolerance.

Established in 2003 as a direct

response to the increase in inter-faith disagreements and extremism following the September 11 terrorist attack in the United States, the forum has enhanced interfaith dialogue by bringing together religious leaders”. Through the activities of this institute, Kazakhstan is promoting its national values to the global community and showing an example of spiritual unity.

In his published article in the Israeli “Jerusalem Post” President Tokayev proudly stated that Kazakhstan hosted the triennial Congress of Religious Leaders in Kazakhstan. Holding of the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan in September 2022 as well as the participation of esteemed guests serve a clear testament to Kazakhstan’s reputation within the international community. It also reflects the high level of trust in President Tokayev and the people of the country.

On October 11, 2023, the 21st meeting of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions will take place in Astana. The meeting will be chaired by Maulen Ashimbayev, the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan and Head of the Secretariat of the Congress. Participants from more than 20 countries are expected to arrive.

As a country that has always prioritized the integrity and unity, as well as peace and harmony, we believe that the humankind can prevent religious and national conflicts by actively following the principles of tolerance and fostering relationships between different ethnic groups and religious beliefs.

Writer is chairman of the Board of the Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Inter-civilizational Dialogue

China Diaries: Exploring Media and Heritage

Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan

Beijing—Where Modernity Meets Culture, Home to 21.76 Million Digital Media’s Impact on Traditional Media: Challenges in China

China’s Media Dominance: Millions of Websites, Thousands of Newspapers, and More
Discovering Profound Humanity in China: Unforgettable Lessons
Ancient Treasures Preserved: China’s Remarkable Archaeological Sites

In the whirlwind of recent days, I found myself on an exhilarating journey, one that transcended borders and promised to be a transformative experience. The Azad Kashmir government extended a generous recommendation for my participation in a seminar titled “Young Media Professionals of Developing Countries,” orchestrated by the People’s Republic of China. This captivating expedition unfolded between September 13 and 26, 2023, in the vibrant heart of China’s capital, Beijing.

Picture this: a diverse assembly of 44 media professionals from 12 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, all converging in the epicenter of global dialogue. This event, sponsored by China’s Ministry of Commerce and meticulously organized in collaboration with the China International Communication Group and the Institute of International Studies and Advanced Training, was nothing short of extraordinary.

Accompanying me on this incredible journey were five remarkable individuals from Pakistan, each with their unique contributions to our delegation. Among them were Mr. Zameer Abbas, Secretary Information, Gilgit-Baltistan; Mr. Syed Saad Ali, Deputy Director Information, Sindh; Mr. Hafeez Baloch, Publicity Officer, Gwadar Development Authority, Balochistan; Ms. Hafsa Dar, Information Officer, Press Information Department, Islamabad; and Mr. Adnan Hamid, representing the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

However, our Pakistani contingent was far from alone in this international symposium. Delegates from Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Bahamas, Palestine, Suriname, and South Sudan added their unique perspectives to the diverse mix.

Our journey began with a simple message and a digital ticket sent via WhatsApp from the Chinese Embassy on September 11. The next day, September 12, marked the stamping of passport visas at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, a symbolic gesture of welcome. And on September 13, at 9:40 AM local time, we embarked on our flight from Islamabad to the enchanting city of Urumqi, courtesy of China Southern Airlines. Urumqi served as our first stepping stone into the world of China.

As our plane descended over Beijing, we were welcomed by a city that seamlessly blended the ancient with the modern. The dynamic metropolis, adorned with its historic heritage and towering skyscrapers, beckoned us with open arms. Yet, a three-hour time difference between Beijing and Islamabad meant that we touched down in the early hours of the morning, local time.

Our gracious hosts from the China International Communication Group (CICG) awaited us at the airport, ready to guide us through the wonders of China. After a swift departure from the airport and a journey spanning approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, we finally arrived at our accommodation hotel around 2:30 AM.

Despite our late arrival, we found ourselves in the midst of an unfortunate twist of fate – we had missed the grand inaugural ceremony of the seminar, scheduled for September 13. However, our indefatigable spirit for knowledge prevailed. We were determined not to waste a moment of this extraordinary opportunity. Rest could wait, for we were here to learn, to soak in every experience. Consequently, myself and Hafeez Baloch made a swift decision. On

September 14, at 10:00 AM, we eagerly joined the seminar, ready to seize the day.

The training sessions that followed were held within the confines of our accommodation hotel, meticulously arranged for our enrichment. The front row, reserved for the Pakistani delegation, exemplified the warm hospitality of our hosts.

The first lecture, “China’s National Conditions and Culture,” was an eye-opener. Sun Liangying, an Assistant Research Fellow at the World Economic and Politics Institute of the China Academy of Social Sciences, offered a mesmerizing glimpse into China’s governance and administrative intricacies, unveiling the layers of China’s rich culture. As a token of their hospitality, we were gifted a comprehensive book detailing President Xi Jinping’s governance, a treasure trove of insights that I eagerly anticipated exploring in my free time.

The following day brought another enlightening lecture, this time by former Ambassador Sun Jiwen. Titled “The Concept and Common Interests of the Belt and Road Initiative,” it delved into China’s foreign policy, code of conduct, and contemporary challenges. The discourse expanded to various projects spanning different nations as part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative. It was a stark contrast, highlighting China’s commitment to global development against a backdrop of global instability.

September 15 promised two more thought-provoking lectures. The first, “The Development and Establishment of Online Media in China,” was presented by Wang Xiaohui, Chief Editor of China.com.cn. This lecture held a special resonance for us as media professionals. It offered deep insights into how online media had ascended in China, reshaping the media landscape and impacting the traditional print industry. It was a reflection of trends we were witnessing in our own homeland.

Wang Xiaohui shared that China.com.cn was a major online media platform in China, bask-

ing in widespread popularity. In response to my query, he revealed that China boasted a staggering 3.8 million news websites, and the digital revolution was posing significant challenges to traditional publishing houses.

Our second lecture on the same day, “Chinese Media in the Modern Era and Communication,” was presented by Li Yang, the Director of Editorial Duties at China Daily. Li divulged that China boasted a remarkable 1,810 newspapers, 120 TV stations, and 380 TV channels, all operating under the watchful eye of government supervision. The subsequent Q&A session unearthed the intricate dynamics of media in China, revealing the government’s thorough scrutiny and approval of all published content.



Intriguingly, my question at this juncture seemed to strike a chord with our Chinese counterparts. I inquired about the concept of freedom of expression, deemed a fundamental human right. I posed the question of whether the stringent restrictions imposed on social media platforms in China infringed upon these fundamental rights. The response offered a unique perspective: in China, where basic necessities of life were ensured and government intervention promptly addressed any issues, the public was encouraged not to engage in futile online debates. It was a viewpoint that sparked contemplation, as we navigated the fine line between social connection and digital discourse.

September 16th heralded a new chapter with a lecture titled “Media Development and International Cooperation in China,” presented by Xu Qinduo, the Chief Editor of China.com.cn. This discourse held particular relevance as it explored the impact of digital media on traditional media,

a transition paralleling developments in Pakistan. It was revealed that digital media had indeed cast its spell in China, mirroring the transformation we were witnessing back home.

The same day unveiled another facet of China’s rich cultural tapestry as we visited the Beijing National Film Museum. The modern museum, a treasure trove of cinematic artifacts and human interests, provided a glimpse into the captivating world of film.

September 17th held an unparalleled experience as we embarked on a pilgrimage to the legendary Great Wall of China. A dream shared by travelers worldwide, it stood as a testament to human ingenuity and perseverance. We marveled at the architectural marvel, standing in awe of its grandeur. Interactions with fellow travelers from across the globe only enriched the experience. However, a sudden health setback on my return marred the day’s end, leading me to a local clinic where Dr. Hu’s professionalism and warmth left an indelible impression.

Dr. Hu’s continued care and friendly conversations offered a silver lining amidst health concerns. It was a testament to the efficiency and compassion of China’s healthcare system.

September 19th ushered in a change of scenery as we boarded a flight to Dunhuang, a charming city nestled in Gansu Province. A modest population of two hundred thousand belied the city’s international facilities, including an international airport, a testament to China’s commitment to connecting the world. The city’s state-of-the-art infrastructure left me in awe, setting the stage for an unforgettable journey.

Dunhuang, with its picturesque beauty, beckoned with open arms. Yet, my health woes persisted, rendering me unable to partake in the opening ceremony of the 13th China Digital Publishing Expo and its subsequent exhibition on September 20th. It was a regrettable missed opportunity, but the allure of Dunhuang still awaited.

The morning of September 21st

saw us embarking on a pilgrimage of a different kind, a visit to the historic Mogao Caves. These ancient caverns, over a thousand years old, stood as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, preserving a myriad of 1,004 interconnected caves housing sculptures of the Buddha and ancient human handprints. The sheer scale of this treasure trove, spanning 45,000 square feet, left us in awe.

Exploring the Singing Sand Mountains in Dunhuang proved a unique and enchanting experience. The undulating sand dunes conjured an otherworldly landscape, where tradition and modernity seamlessly blended. Traditional Tanghulu clothing, local culture, and a captivating musical night event added layers to this memorable journey.

As my health gradually improved, the transformative power of travel and the splendor of diverse landscapes began to rejuvenate my spirits. China’s kaleidoscope of experiences continued to unfold before me, each moment a new chapter waiting to be written. And I was eager to share more of this incredible voyage with all who cared to listen.

The historical significance of the Great Wall of Han Dynasty, Hecangcheng Relic Site, and Yumen Pass, spanning millennia, was awe-inspiring. These enduring structures stood as living testaments to ancient civilizations and their remarkable legacies.

Interactions with local students, their warm welcome, and shared experiences were heartwarming. In these moments of cultural exchange, I found the true essence of travel—the connections we forge with people from different walks of life.

Attending a Large-Scale Performance Drama in Dunhuang, a blend of modern technology and rich tradition, was nothing short of remarkable. The audience’s enthusiastic reception underscored the magic of preserving heritage in contemporary forms.

On September 23rd, our journey led us to Sub, a village in Dunhuang. Despite its sparse population, Sube boasted state-

of-the-art infrastructure for the arts, including a world-class stadium. Here, we embraced traditional attire, indulged in horseback riding and archery, and reveled in the rich tapestry of Mongolian culture. The warm reception and local performances left us feeling profoundly honored and privileged.

Our adventure took an environmentally conscious turn as we explored a solar project capable of generating a colossal 1,000 megawatts of electricity. This technological marvel, dedicated to green energy, showcased China’s commitment to a sustainable future. Witnessing how this project contributed to fulfilling fifty percent of Tang Hang’s electricity needs was nothing short of inspiring.

As we concluded our visit to Tang Hang, I reflected on the past four days. Despite the health challenges I faced, this short sojourn in Tang Hang had etched the most indelible memories of my journey. Its serene beauty and tranquil atmosphere had left an indelible mark on my heart.

On September 24th, our homeward journey to Beijing began. September 25th, our final day, unfolded as a shopping adventure at Beijing’s renowned Pearl Market. Here, we encountered a familiar narrative, where initial price quotes often bore little resemblance to the final bargain. Yet, in the bustling marketplace of haggling and commerce, we discovered yet another facet of China’s rich tapestry.

This voyage, with its unexpected twists and turns, had unfolded before me like a treasure chest of experiences. As I return home, I carry with me a trove of memories, lessons, and newfound insights. My journey through China had been a symphony of culture, history, and hospitality, one that I am eager to share with all those who have joined me on this odyssey. And as my travels continue, I look forward to unraveling more captivating stories from around the world.

Writer is District Information Officer, Muzaffarabad

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
47,452.38	47,079.83
Day's High	Day's Low
47,484.56	47,152.98
Index Value	Change
7,091,498,332	+372.55
Percentage	Time
+0.79%	5 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,451.54	+39.09
Percentage	Time
+0.53%	5 Oct, 1:12 pm GMT-4

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,976.59	-152.96
Percentage	Time
-0.46%	5 Oct, 1:12 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
31,075.36	+548.48
Percentage	Time
+1.80%	5 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.20	180.00
Bahrain Dinar	748.86	756.86
Canadian Dollar	210	212
China Yuan	39.1	39.5
Danish Krone	39.69	40.09
Euro	297	300
Hong Kong Dollar	36.74	37.09
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.62
Kuwaiti Dinar	911.58	920.58
Malaysian Ringgit	61.27	61.87
New Zealand \$	166.61	168.61
Norwegians Krone	26.92	27.22
Omani Riyal	745.47	743.47
Qatari Riyal	79.03	79.73
Saudi Riyal	75	75.75
Singapore Dollar	206.00	208
Swedish Korona	26.34	26.64
Swiss Franc	307.15	309.65
Thai Bhat	7.79	7.94
U.A.E Dirham	77.50	78.25
UK Pound Sterling	346.50	350
US Dollar	281.25	284

ICCI and ICSTSI call for promoting ease of doing business to revive the economy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI) called upon the government to focus on promoting ease of doing business in order to facilitate the growth of business activities and revive the economy. This demand was made during the visit of a delegation of President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries to ICCI. Tariq Khokhar Senior Vice President, Rana Ayaz & Saqib Abbasi former Presidents, Imran Sukhera Executive Member, Tahir Arain former Senior Vice President ICSTSI and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the small businesses are playing an important role in promoting the economic activities and stressed that the CDA should address their key issues to facilitate them in business development. He emphasized that the government should allot



plots to Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industries so that these trade bodies can play a more effective role in promoting small businesses to improve exports, generate jobs and help revive the economy. He said that due to the high transaction costs and tough collateral requirements, small businesses are facing great problems in getting loans from banks and empha-

sized that the government should address this issue to increase their share in the total credit of the private sector. It will enable businesses to play an enhanced role in the economic development of the country. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with ICSTSI in resolving the key issues of small traders and small industries to facilitate their better growth.

Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries said that close liaison and cooperation between ICCI and ICSTSI will prove effective in serving the cause of the business community. He said that the economy of Pakistan is passing through a difficult time and stressed that promoting the ease of doing business should be the top priority of the government to improve the economy. He emphasized that CDA should build parking plazas in markets to address the longstanding issues of traders and focus on better development of all markets. He said that small traders and small industries are making useful contributions towards the economy and urged that the government should focus on resolving their key issues to facilitate their better growth.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI demanded that FBR, CDA, ICT Administration and other business-related government departments should cooperate with the business community in promoting business activities that would help improve the economy.

JS Bank and Beaconhouse National University Sign MoU For Chair on Sustainability and Fintech

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: JS Bank, a leading financial institution renowned for its commitment to sustainable banking and fintech innovation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Beaconhouse National University (BNU), Pakistan's first not-for-profit liberal arts institution. The collaboration aims to establish a dedicated Chair in Sustainability and Fintech.

As a trailblazer in sustainable banking, JS Bank has consistently demonstrated its commitment to environmental responsibility and digital financial solutions. This alliance with BNU marks a significant milestone in advancing sustainability, climate resilience, and financial technology in Pakistan.

The Chair in Sustainability



and Fintech, funded by JS Bank, will serve as a hub for research, innovation, and thought leadership in sustainability and fintech. The Chair will focus on a range of activities, including Research & Development, Policy Advocacy, Green Leadership Initiatives, as well as Educational Workshops and

Training Programs. Basir Shamsie, President & CEO of JS Bank Limited, stated, "JS Bank has always been committed to advancing sustainability and innovation. Through this MoU, we aim to catalyze research, innovation, and sustainable practices, ultimately contributing to a green-

er and more sustainable future."

Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Vice-Chancellor of Beaconhouse National University, commented, "We are delighted to partner with JS Bank in establishing the Sustainability and Fintech Chair at BNU. This initiative aligns perfectly with our commitment to promoting knowledge, research, and societal betterment. We look forward to leveraging our joint expertise to create meaningful impact."

This partnership serves as a testament to both institutions' unwavering commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and societal advancement. This collaboration is not just a milestone for the two organizations but also a significant step forward for Pakistan in aligning with global best practices.

ZONG 4G launches innovative International Direct Dialing package for ICC World Cup

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator, is ready to equip its subscribers with its exciting International Direct Dialing (IDD) package for the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup, titled "Call Global Pay Local." This innovative package promises to bring the experience of the ICC Cricket World Cup in India right to your fingertips!

As cricket fever sweeps across the nation in anticipation of the ICC World Cup, Zong 4G understands that fans need to stay connected, not just with the game but also with their loved ones. "Call Global Pay Local" is here to make international calls to India both affordable and effortless, ensuring that



cricket enthusiasts can share every thrilling moment of the World Cup with their friends and family across borders.

This IDD package isn't just for a select few; it's available for both prepaid and postpaid customers, offering a seamless experience for everyone in the Zong 4G family. The offer is available at an extremely affordable subscription price of PKR 0.5 + tax (Daily) and a rate of PKR 2 + tax/minute.

The official spokesperson for the company said, "We understand that staying connected during the ICC Cricket World Cup is important for our cricket fans.

Mobilink Bank launches 'MobilinkHER' Women Returnship Program, Revolutionizing D&I

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Committed to advancing the cause of gender equality and championing workplace diversity, Mobilink Bank launched MobilinkHER, its first Women Returnship Program. This inclusive effort strives to foster Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) by enabling women who have taken a career hiatus of six months or more to re-enter the workforce seamlessly. The initiative reaffirms the Bank's commitment to promoting equal opportunities for all, underlining its firm belief in the transformative potential of diversity to fuel innovation and propel growth.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank said, "Diversity is at the core of our business philosophy. With the launch of MobilinkHER, our first Women Returnship Program, we're not just breaking barriers; we're forging new pathways for women empowerment. The Bank is committed to fostering an environment where every woman thrives through tailored mentorship, upskilling opportunities and a supportive network. At Mobilink Bank, we champion equality and drive progress, empowering women to rise, lead and shape the future."

Also sharing his thoughts, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mobilink Bank said, "Mobilink Bank is diligently fostering an empowering ecosystem with the MobilinkHER initiative, dedicated to empowering women to resolutely reignite their careers and pursue their ambitions with unwavering confidence. We are dedicated to forging a path toward a more inclusive future, where the corporate landscape flourishes on the robust foundation of diverse talents. For us, MobilinkHER isn't just a return to the workforce; it's an extraordinary launchpad for success, propelling women towards the realization of their professional dreams."

"Our commitment to diversity, inclusivity and equal opportunities empowers women to act on their ambitions regardless of career breaks and other barriers that, traditionally, hinder growth," shared Aleena Tamvir, Chief People Officer (CPO) Mobilink Bank

Truck Art

ISLAMABAD: Painters are busy in making traditional truck art on the truck body at Pirwadhai area, as such art is world renowned.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Lucky Cement Limited awarded Map's Amir S. Chinoy - 38th Corporate Excellence Award

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited has won the Management Association of Pakistan's Top Corporate Excellence Award 2023 in the Industrial Category amongst all corporate sector organizations in Pakistan.

Mr. Noman Hasan, Executive Director of Lucky Cement Limited received the award at the 38th MAP Annual Corporate Excellence Award Ceremony held at a local hotel.

The Corporate Excellence Awards was instituted by MAP in 1982 with the sole aim to recognize and honor companies showing outstanding

performance and demonstrating progress and enlightened management practices.

Mr. Muhammad Ali Tabba, CEO Lucky Cement Limited, said "It is with great pride that we accept this award. We are extremely grateful to all our employees and stakeholders for helping us achieve repeated success over the years."

He further added, "We are committed to fostering growth and sustainable business practices as we strive to reach new heights. Our top priority remains meeting the needs of our stakeholders, while always keeping in mind the larger

objective of advancing Pakistan's economic growth."

Lucky Cement Limited received the award based on having the best corporate practices and governance in the Industrial sector.

The primary criteria for this award emanates from best Corporate and Management practices reflected by Leadership, Corporate Governance, Customer and Market Focus, HR, Strategic Planning and Communication, Social Responsibility, Risk Management, IT Infrastructure, Service Delivery and Security. About the company: Lucky

Cement Limited (LCL) is the flagship company of the Yunus Brothers Group, which has a solid history of exceptional growth performance since its inception in 1993. LCL is one of the largest producers and leading exporters of quality cement in Pakistan, with a production capacity of 15.3 million tons per annum. The Company is listed on the Pakistan stock exchange.

Lucky Cement Limited is having global presence in cement sector by venturing into Iraq and the DR Congo. The Company has diversified into various industries. This



includes LCI Pakistan Limited, Lucky Motor Corporation Limited (formerly KIA Lucky Motors), and mobile manufacturing in partnership with

Samsung Gulf Electronic Co. The company has also ventured into power generation through Lucky Electric Power Company Limited.

Emirates in full swing for 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

Sports Desk

KARACHI: As Global Partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Emirates is once again in full swing as Official Airline Partner of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, taking place across India and running from 5 October to 19 November.

Hosted across ten cities in India, the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will bring together ten teams from across cricket-playing nations, including 2019 defending champions, England, to battle it out for the coveted Cricket World Cup Trophy. The silver and gold trophy has already made its way to India ahead of the tournament.

Emirates and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

As Official Airline Partner of the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup, fans of the sport travelling onboard Emirates flights during the tournament can tune in to Sport 24 and Sport 24 Extra and never miss the action. At the 48 matches taking place across India, Emirates will



enjoy a strong presence at the stadiums, with hospitality and ticketing rights, in addition to select in-stadium activations to build on the excitement.

Cricket lovers can follow #CWC23 as well as the ICC's Instagram and Facebook pages to see a new and exciting Emirates

Fly Better Moment of the Day, capturing the best catches, hit and runs outs and more after each match.

The Men's Cricket World Cup is held every four years and is the most popular global cricket event on the sporting calendar. This edition will be the first to

be held solely in India and will feature Dinesh Karthik making his commentary debut in a World Cup.

Emirates has a long-standing association with the ICC and all its major events including the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, ICC Men's T20 World Cup, ICC Women's T20 World Cup and the ICC World Test Championship. The ICC partnership also sees Emirates featured on the official kit of the ICC Elite and International Panels of Umpires, having been the main sponsor of the Emirates Elite and International Panels of ICC Umpires since 2002, when the panels were formed to officiate Test Matches and One Day Internationals around the world. Alongside the Umpires, Emirates sponsors the Elite and International Panels of ICC Match Referees. Together with branding and media exposure to cricket fans around the world, Emirates also transports umpires and referees to international events as the Global Partner of the ICC.

Pepsi Pakistan launches new ICC World Cup 2023 anthem to support Pakistan cricket



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board is thrilled to announce a groundbreaking collaboration with Pepsi Pakistan for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup 2023. Central to this partnership is the launch of the official ICC World Cup 2023 anthem, which serves as an exhilarating celebration of cricket and unity. The anthem captures the profound passion and unity that cricket embodies in Pakistan and is designed to inspire fans, igniting their hearts and motivating them to stand firmly behind Team Pakistan.

This upbeat composition encapsulates the essence of the sport that unites a nation, using powerful lyrics, a catchy tune, and a deep emotional connection to create a symphony of fervor and enthusiasm.

The anthem is the rallying cry for fans to come together, pledging unwavering support for the Pakistan cricket team as they embark on their journey to the ICC World Cup.

Under the banner of #DattKePakistani and #JunoonKaRung, fans are encouraged to stand together, united in their unwavering support for Team Pakistan. These campaigns, launched collectively by the PCB and Pepsi, invite all cricket enthusiasts to pledge their unwavering support and demonstrate the true essence of being Pakistani through their passion for cricket.

Pepsi Pakistan's central theme, "Junoon Ka Rung" or "The Color of Passion," signifies their deep commitment to supporting and uplifting the Pakistan cricket team. As part of their involvement, Pepsi has also introduced a special Pakistan Cricket edition packaging, further emphasising their dedication to the sport.

These campaigns' collaborative efforts aim to create an atmosphere of enthusiasm and unity among fans, highlighting the significance of unwavering support for the Pakistan cricket team in the upcoming ICC World Cup.

Cricket enthusiasts are encouraged to visit the dedicated PCB corporate page at <https://www.pcb.com.pk/stand-with-team-pakistan.html> to make their pledges and be part of this extraordinary journey. Fans are also invited to share their messages and support for the Pakistan cricket team on social media using the hashtags #DattKePakistani, uniting the nation under the banner of unwavering support.

Let's come together to showcase our passion and love for cricket, with the resounding message that Pakistan is prepared to shine, with its people ready to stand tall with their team because we are all #DattKePakistani!

Sports Board Punjab launches training and coaching academies for under-16 athletes

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab is launching Sports Board Punjab Training and Coaching Academies to find fresh sports talent and improve the sports skills of players across the province.

The registration process for these training and coaching academies is underway throughout the province. The young athletes will be trained at the academies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4pm to 6pm.

The training process of U-8 and U-16 students at these academies will continue till January 27, 2024.

The training of 14 games including swimming, athletics, archery, badminton, cricket, karate, taekwondo, tennis, wushu and self-defence will be imparted at Nishtar Park Sports Complex while the training of five indoor games including table tennis, badminton, karate, taekwondo and gymnastic will be given at district level under the supervision of qualified coaches.



PFF commends U19 Football Team for historic achievement

PTCL Group signs Iconic Pakistani cricketers as brand ambassadors

Sport Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group signs Iconic Pakistani cricketers as brand ambassadors ahead of ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

Pakistan's largest telecom services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has signed Pakistani cricket icons, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah as brand ambassadors for the Group to celebrate the nation's roaring passion for cricket and to rally support for the Pakistan Cricket Team during its ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 campaign.

World's No. 01 batsman and Captain of the Pakistan Cricket Team, Babar Azam is Ufone 4G's current brand ambassador, who is featuring in Ufone 4G's brand new marketing campaign, "U Tou Babar Hai", implying that both Ufone 4G and its customers are as talented and motivated, and worthy of glory in their respective fields as the World No. 01 ODI batsman. The campaign comes at an important juncture where the entire nation is in the grip of cricket fever ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, where Babar Azam will lead the men in green.

The campaign is primarily a tribute to Babar Azam's unrelenting winning spir-



it and a call to every Pakistani to explore their inner 'unstoppable' Babar for ultimate success. The creative teams have masterfully crafted the TV Commercial (TVC) to capture Babar Azam's formidable on-screen presence, matchless cricketing prowess, and his 'unstoppable' pursuit of excellence. The enthralling anthem effectively disseminates the intended

message that anyone can be successful like Babar through a razor-sharp focus, strong commitment and consistent effort towards their goals.

<https://youtu.be/D6fPrRaTwbTVC> to be embedded.

The TVC is an acoustic and visual treat that will captivate the audience and rally massive support for the Pakistani Cricket

Team. 'Dahar Le' (Roar!) is an electrifying jingle that channels the nation's passion and the players' energy when it comes to facing opponents on the field. The campaign is poised to bolster the 'Pakistani' brand identity of Ufone 4G besides firmly imprinting Ufone 4G's constant presence during the nation's moments of joy, togetherness, and celebration.

PTCL TVC Link: <https://youtu.be/0Paq9sN5Qmg>

Likewise, the two key members of Pakistan's pace battery, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah have come aboard as the brand ambassadors of PTCL Flash Fiber. Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah are amongst the world's fastest and most feared bowlers. Both players are at the top of their game for their speed and are loved by millions of Pakistanis. Their passion resonates with PTCL Flash Fiber, which is not only the fastest internet in Pakistan, but also delivers a matchless user experience to its customers in terms of data connectivity.

PTCL Group wishes the Pakistan Cricket Team all the best for the tournament and hopes that the men in green will win the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 to provide the nation a great opportunity to celebrate.

Middlesex County Cricket Club, Pakistan Cricket Board sign MoU on T10 league

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer of Middlesex County Cricket Club, Mr Andrew Cornish, Director of Middlesex County Cricket Club, Mr Alan Coleman, and Middlesex County Cricket Club representative, Mr Mohsin Wariach, visited the Pakistan cricket headquarters in Lahore and signed a MoU with Pakistan Cricket Board today.

During the two-day visit, the delegation led by Mr Cornish met with Chair of the PCB Management Committee, Mr Zaka Ashraf, and other PCB officials, and discussed a wide range of matters of mutual interest related to cricket, including promotion, growth and development of the game. The Middlesex delegation also visited National Cricket Academy where they gave a presentation to PCB officials.



After further discussion, both parties signed an MoU. In the MoU, the parties expressed an interest in entering into a collaborative arrangement across a number of areas of

mutual interest.

Some of the key pointers from the MoU are:

Establishing a partnership between the parties to develop and jointly launch a T10 league.

Both parties will be equal equity partners in this league subject to mutually agreed concept, business plan, financial projections and management structure

Exploring the possibility of organising exhibition matches in Pakistan and the UK between HBL PSL teams and teams under the control of Middlesex County Cricket Club.

Organising training and educational programs, including but not limited to courses for coaches, analysts, umpires and curators/groundsmen with focus on the latest technologies in such training and education.

Middlesex will also work to develop and oversee training programs for women's cricket teams operating under PCB, including the Pakistan national women's team.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman Management Committee Mr Zaka Ashraf, PCB COO Salman Naseer, Director International Usman Wahla and PSL Commissioner Naila Bhatti were also in attendance.

Larkana v Quetta: Karachi Blues post 400 in Hanif Mohammad Trophy

Sports Desk

LAHORE: "Quetta batters inflicted heavy damage on the Larkana bowling unit, posting a solid 400 on the board at the Mirpur Cricket Stadium on the second day of the fifth round of Hanif Mohammad Trophy. Similarly, Islamabad batters displayed a convincing performance, effectively dominating the Sialkot bowlers at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium. Jawad Ali's six-fer brought Hyderabad back in the game after their underwhelming performance with the bat in the first innings the previous day. Half centuries by Saifullah Bangash and Akbar ur Rehman allowed Karachi Blues to put up an improved batting performance in their second attempt

in the game. **Larkana v Quetta at Mirpur Cricket Stadium:**

Quetta resumed their innings at the Mirpur Cricket Stadium from 142 runs, without having lost any wicket. Bismillah Khan hit a century (109, 131b, 13x4s). He was supported by Mohammad Ibrahim (82, 129b, 7x4s, 1x6) and Hazrat Wali (72, 116b, 7x4s, 1x6), allowing the side to post 400 on the board. Faraz Aziz and Amir Ali got three wickets apiece, making them the pick of the bowlers for Larkana.

At stumps, Larkana posted 37 runs, while losing two wickets in the process. Najeebullah got both wickets for Quetta. **Sialkot v Islamabad at Muzaffarabad Cricket Stadium:**

At Muzaffarabad Crick-

et Stadium, Sialkot started the day at 233 for eight. They got to 251 before losing the remaining two wickets. Naveed Sarwar (69, 160b, 11x4s) and Mohammad Waleed (66, 178b, 5x4s) were the high scorers for Sialkot. Mohammad Shayan Sheikh was the pick of the bowlers, grabbing seven wickets in the innings.

In return, on the back of a magnificent century by Hassan Nawaz (120, 225b, 13x4s, 2x6s), Islamabad got to 274, while losing three wickets. Sarmad Bhatti, getting an undefeated 86 (203b, 11x4s) was the other contributor with the bat. Bilal Asif, who got two wickets, was the most successful bowler for Sialkot.

Hyderabad v Abbottabad at Multan Cricket Stadium:

Abbottabad resumed their innings from 159 runs for the loss of five wickets at Multan Cricket Stadium. On the back of a half-century by Ahmed Khan (74, 136b, 6x4s, 2x4s) and a solid supporting knock by Khalid Usman (49, 73, 6x4s), they got to 269 before they were bowled out. Jawad Ali, who picked up a six-fer, was the pick of the bowlers for Hyderabad.

Hyderabad posted 130 runs for two lost wickets in the second batting innings. Haris Khan (68 not out, 163b, 7x4s, 1x6) and Mohammad Suleman (37 not out, 127b, 6x4s) were at the crease at the close of play. Yasir Shah got both the wickets for Abbottabad. **Bahawalpur v Karachi Blues at Sheikh Khalifa Sports Complex Rahim Yar Khan:**

At Sheikh Khalifa Sports Complex in Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur started the day at 110 for two. Aun Shahzad (62, 116b, 8x4s, 2x6s), who was the highest scorer for the side, was dismissed on the second ball bowled in the morning. Mohammad Ammar's (39, 88b, 4x4s) helped the side post 192 on the board before getting bowled out. For Karachi Blues, Ashiq Ali got five wickets while Saqib bagged three wickets.

Karachi Blues improved on their first innings performance and got to 213 runs in their second attempt, on the backs of half-centuries by Saifullah Bangash (56, 105b, 7x4) and Akbar ur Rehman (55, 140b, 4x4s, 1x6). Out of the eight wickets that fell in the innings,

Gulfam Aziz got five of them.

Scores in brief:

Larkana v Quetta: Larkana 89 in 40 overs (Sabir Ali 21; Najeeb Ullah 5-29, Gohar Faiz 2-15, Mohammad Ghous 2-30) and 37-2 in 11.4 overs (Sabir Ali 13 not out; Najeeb Ullah Jr 2-12)

Quetta 400 all out in 96 overs (Bismillah Khan 109, Mohammad Ibrahim 82, Hazrat Wali 72; Faraz Aziz 3-41, Amir Ali 3-97, Imtiaz Leghari 2-64)

Sialkot v Islamabad: Sialkot 251 all out in 106.5 overs (Naveed Sarwar 69; Mohammad Waleed 66; Mohammad Shayan Sheikh 7-57)

Islamabad 274-3 in 88 overs (Hassan Nawaz 120, Sarmad Bhatti 86 not out; Bilal Asif 2-87) Hyderabad v Abbottabad:

Hyderabad 77 all out in 37.5 overs (Daniyal Hussain Rajput 33 not out; Israr Hussain 5-14, Adil Naz 4-23) and 130-2 in 55 overs (Haris Khan 68 not out, Mohammad Suleman 37 not out; Yasir Shah 2-35)

Abbottabad 269 all out 73 overs (Ahmed Khan 74, Khalid Usman 49; Jawad Ali 6-96, Asim Ali 2-62)

Bahawalpur v Karachi Blues: Karachi Blues 178 all out in 50.4 overs (Saifullah Bangash 82; Shayan Khalil 3-48, Gulfam Aziz 3-49) and 213-8 in 64 overs (Saifullah Bangash 56, Akbar ur Rehman 55; Gulfam Aziz 5-31, Shayan Khalil 2-45)

Bahawalpur 192 all out in 62.3 overs (Aun Shahzad 62 not out, Mohammad Ammar 39; Ashiq Ali 5-56, Saqib 3-50)