



Namira Salim becomes first Pakistani to conquer space

Namira Salim on board Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity space plane became the first Pakistani to reach space on Friday.



Pakistan begin World Cup campaign with bang in 81-run victory over Dutch

Pakistan began their campaign at the World Cup 2023 with a bang as they claimed a 82-run victory over Netherlands at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, India on Friday.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Apex committee meeting

COAS General Syed Asim Munir, while attending the provincial apex committee meeting, underscored the need for synergy among all relevant departments for gainful effects of the landmark initiatives.



Photo: ISPR

LEAs, Govt dept to continue enforcement actions against illegal activities with full force: COAS

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and other Government departments will continue the enforcement actions against a spectrum of illegal activities with full force to deny pilferage of resources and economic losses that the country suffers due to these activities.

Revised National Action Plan, Operation in the Kacha Area of Sindh, Security of Foreign Nationals employed on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Non-CPEC and Private Projects, Repatriation of illegal foreigners, Foreign Currency Regularization Measures, Karachi Transformation Plan, Progress on SIFC initiatives in Sindh and Green Sindh initiatives.

China-Pakistan relations maintaining sound momentum of development: Wang Yi

Spokesman Report

BELJING: China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad brothers, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said on Thursday, adding that bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and continued to maintain a sound momentum of development.



Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Nyingchi, southwest China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, CGTN reported.

the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Wang, noting the CPEC has brought tangible benefits to the economic development of Pakistan and to local people.

the foreign minister added. He also extended congratulations on the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Murtaza Solangi grieves over death of former PTV director MZ Sohail



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former PTV director MZ Sohail.

condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased PTV officer. Murtaza Solangi said he was saddened to hear the news of MZ Sohail's death who was an asset of the PTV.

Pakistan to 'revise' gas tariff for fertilizer sector on IMF's demand

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to 'revise' gas tariff from the ongoing month of October, for the fertilizer sector on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand.

Pakistan mulls banning Afghan SIMs near border

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday was mulling to block out signals of Afghan cellular networks near border areas in an effort to curtail terror and criminal activities in the country.

Mohsin Naqvi directs to make excellent arrangements, in connection with 'Lahore Lahore Hay' fair

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi while directing to make excellent arrangements along with holding unique programs in connection with "Lahore Lahore Hay" fair stated that maximum participation of citizens in the programs should be ensured.

Utility stores face sugar shortage

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sugar is in short supply in most Utility Stores across the country, with the citizens having little to no access to the subsidised stock at the state-run outlets.

Firing outside Sindh Governor's House, no casualty

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has taken notice of a firing incident that took place outside his residence on Wednesday night.

According to details, a firing incident occurred outside Gate No.4 of Sindh Governor's House on Wednesday night at 04:00 am.

Law enforcement agencies are investigating the incident with the help of CCTV. A first information report (FIR) of the firing incident has also been registered.

In a statement, Kamran Tessori said that he was in touch with the higher authorities regarding the incident.

"The ration distribution to the citizens is underway from Gate No.4," he said, claiming that the purpose of the incident is to grow fear among the employees.

Electricity tariff hiked for K-Electric consumers

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Power Division has notified a hike in electricity tariff by Rs4.45 per unit for Karachi consumers following NEPRA's decision, ARY News reported on Friday.

year. The additional payments will be received from K-Electric consumers in October and November. The electricity tariff for K-Electric consumers was increased from Rs1.49 per unit to Rs4.45 per unit.

Condolence

HYDERABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expresses condolence and pray for former MNA Syed Ameer Ali Shah on his sad demise with his son former MNA Syed Tariq Shah, at Jindal Kot distirct Matiari.



Photo: Online

President for expanding bilateral trade volume with Bahrain

Bureau Report

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday stressed the need to expand bilateral trade volume with Bahrain, besides exporting high number of skilled labour force to the country. Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bahrain Saqib Rauf who called on him at the Governor House, the president said demand for skilled labour force in different socio-economic related fields, especially information technology and artificial intelligence, was increasing in the interna-



tional market. Therefore, he said the ambassador-designate should be fully focused on capturing the market demand by exporting the required skilled workforce from Pakistan. President Alvi said Pakistan attached special importance to the brotherly relations with Bahrain. He stressed that economic, educational and cultural ties with Bahrain, should be strengthened. He said the Pakistan embassies abroad should play their due role in exporting skilled labour force from Pakistan and increasing foreign remittances for the country.

IHRA seals private blood bank on massive violations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a shocking revelation, the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) on Friday uncovered severe violations here at Ahmed Blood Bank in PWD during an inspection and directed to immediately cease all types of services.

According to an official of IHRA, in response to these grave blood banking violations, the authority instructed the blood bank to apply for registration with the Islamabad Healthcare Regulation Authority (IHRA) within 10 working days while non-compliance would result in strict actions.

It was the second visit of the IHRA team to Ahmed Blood Bank following a registration request.

Astonishingly, the blood bank was found to be operational, blatantly disregarding

IHRA's previous directives.

The In-charge or owner, Shahbaz Masih, was present on-site. Further investigations revealed expired blood bags in the refrigerator, tempered expiry dates on gel cards, and expired reagents also found.

Disturbingly, critical screening tests for diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, HIV, Syphilis, and Malaria were not being conducted for blood bags.

Cross-matching and grouping procedures were observed to be improperly executed, putting patients at serious risk.

Even more alarming were reports of expired and substandard blood bags being given to patients after altering collection and expiry dates.

Quality control measures, including the washing and refilling of used bags without proper checks, were found to be routine practices.



A visible microbial growth was detected in platelet bags (a crucial blood component), raising serious concerns about contamination risks.

During the investigation, it was revealed that 17 blood bags were stored in the refrigerator, with two of them found to be expired.

Additionally, a hidden stash of 15 blood bags, either expired or substandard, was discovered concealed in a cabinet, emphasizing the blood bank's blatant disregard for regulations.

Blood grouping was shockingly performed using urine sample containers, a practice

entirely inconsistent with standard medical procedures.

Furthermore, no qualified Hematologist or Medical Officer was available during the visit.

As a consequence of these grievous violations, the Ahmed Blood Bank has been sealed by the IHRA, pending further investigations.

The severity of these breaches raises questions about the safety and integrity of the blood supply.

The authority official said that the IHRA is committed to taking swift and decisive action against all blood banks in Islamabad found to be below the defined standards of care.

Previously, the authority visited this blood bank on August 03 and the inspection revealed a complete absence of qualified technical personnel at the time.

During the inspection,

Shahbaz Masih was identified as the sole operator of the blood bank.

Alarming, RCC and platelets were being separated, and whole blood was issued upon request without adherence to standard protocols.

Critical concerns emerged regarding storage practices, as blood bags were found stored in a domestic refrigerator lacking temperature control.

Moreover, a substantial number of blood bags were casually placed on benches or counters, posing a serious risk to the integrity of the blood supply.

Platelets, requiring specific storage conditions, were shockingly found in a domestic refrigerator instead of the mandated 22°C.

The reuse of blood bags, observed through washed and seemingly re-purposed bags, raised significant health and safety concerns.

Kazakhstan seeks to boost cooperation with Pakistan in combating transnational crime: Envoy



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, H. E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, met with the Director General (DG) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of Pakistan, Mr. Mohsin Hassan Butt.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the prospects for mutual cooperation in the spheres of combating illegal migration and transnational organized crime.

At the end of meeting, an agreement was reached to establish and develop collaboration on the level of law enforcement agencies of Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

Narges Mohammadi: Jailed Iran activist wins Nobel Peace Prize

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Iran's imprisoned women's rights advocate Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

The award-making committee said the prize honoured those behind recent unprecedented demonstrations in Iran and called for the release of Narges Mohammadi, 51, who has campaigned for three decades for women's rights and abolition of the death penalty.

"We hope to send the message to women all around the world that are living in conditions where they are systematically discriminated: 'have the courage, keep on going,'" Berit Reiss-Andersen, head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, told Reuters.



"We want to give the prize to encourage Narges Mohammadi and the hundreds of thousands of people who have been crying for exactly 'Woman, Life, Freedom' in Iran," she added, referring to the protest movement's main slogan.

There was no immediate official reaction from Tehran, which calls

the protests Western-led subversion.

But semi-official news agency Fars said Mohammadi had "received her prize from the Westerners" after making headlines "due to her acts against the national security."

Mohammadi is serving multiple sentences in Tehran's Evin Prison amounting to about 12 years imprisonment, one of the many periods she has been detained behind bars, according to the Front Line Defenders rights organisation.

Charges include spreading propaganda against the state.

She is the deputy head of the Defenders of Human Rights Center, a non-governmental organisation led by Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Italian Envoy calls on Sadiq Sanjrani



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andrea Ferrarese called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House on Friday.

The focus of the meeting encompassed mutual interests, notably the prevailing regional dynamics and energy matters.

Chairman Senate emphasized the amicable relations between the two nations and called for further cementing bilateral ties.

He advocated for diversifying energy sources beyond conventional means, accentuating the untapped potential in solar and wind energy within Pakistan.

Sadiq Sanjrani also highlighted the expertise of energy professionals in Italy, offering collaboration to explore alternative electricity generation in Pakistan.

In light of the escalating impacts

of climate change, the Chairman stressed the global imperative to shift towards clean energy generation.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to bolster trade and economic ties between Italy and Pakistan.

Furthermore, Sanjrani extended an invitation to Italian enterprises to capitalize on the investment prospects available in Pakistan.

He specifically pointed out opportunities within the mineral sector, especially in Balochistan, which could prove favourable for Italian investors.

Pakistan accords paramount importance to its relationship with Italy and aspires to enhance cooperation across various domains, particularly economic collaboration, he stated.

The meeting culminated with a mutual agreement to fortify parliamentary relations, aimed at fostering a deeper and more robust bilateral engagement.

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 5.16% in 2 months

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 5.16 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$350.297 million during July-August (2023-24) against exports of US \$333.077 million during July-August (2022-23), showing growth of 5.16 per cent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 25.09 per cent from \$159.021 million in August 2022, against the exports of \$198.932 million in August 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China rose by 31.42 per cent during August 2023 as compared to the exports of \$151.365 million in July 2023, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a decrease of 8.26 per cent in the first two months, from US \$ 4.951 billion to US \$ 4.541 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 1861.702 million against US \$2377.070 million last year, showing a decline of 21.68 per cent in July-August (2023-24).

On a year-on-year basis, the imports for China also witnessed a decrease of 28.17 per cent from US \$1251.219 million in August 2022, against the imports of US \$898.722 million in August 2023.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from China into the country dipped by 6.67 per cent during August 2023, as compared to the imports of US \$962.980 million during July 2023, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 26.01 per cent, from \$11.474 billion to US \$ 8.489 billion, according to the data.

Pakistan supports Saudi Arabia's bid to host FIFA World Cup 2034

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday reaffirmed its support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after the country announced its intention to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034. "Following the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of its intention to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034, Pakistan affirms its support for the Saudi bid to host the tournament," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said Pakistan wished its Saudi brothers all success

in this endeavor and was certain that Saudi Arabia would host a most memorable FIFA World Cup.

According to the media reports, the Kingdom announced that it would bid to host the 2034 World Cup after FIFA invited countries from the Asia and Oceania regions to submit bids. Saudi Arabia's inaugural FIFA World Cup bid is supported by the country's increasing experience in hosting world-class football events, along with its forthcoming plans to host the 2023 FIFA Club World Cup and the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, welcoming fans from around the globe.

Pakistan advances towards accession of Hong Kong convention for ship recycling

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Maritime Affairs Vice Admiral (Retired) Mr. Iftikhar Rao presided over a meeting on accession of the "International Convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships 2009 (Hong Kong Convention). Secretary Ministry of Maritime Affairs Dr. Iram Anjum Khan and other senior officers from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs also attended the meeting. It was discussed in the

meeting that Pakistan has played a pioneering role in the international ship recycling industry since the 1980s, with Gaddani emerging as a prominent global ship breaking site. However, the industry has faced challenges related to environmental sustainability and worker safety over the years. Pakistan's accession to the Hong Kong Convention is seen as a crucial step to address these challenges and secure the industry's future. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs is spearheading the accession process, which is currently in its final stages.

All political parties and institutions will have to make a charter of economy: Mandviwala

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: People's Party leader and Senator Saleem Mandviwala has said that All political parties and institutions will have to make a charter of economy. The PDM government was doing fire fighting. The coming down of dollars and smuggling is the result of administrative measures. The stick is not absent but it is obvious to everyone because some things are not fixed by policies but by measures. Asif Ali Zardari and I are meeting with the business community for economic recovery. He expressed these views while giving a media talk at Multan Press Club, Haider Zaman Qureshi, Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Malik Naseem Labar, Chaudhry Yasin and other lead-

were with him.

Salim Mandviwala further said that Asif Ali Zardari and I are meeting with the business community for economic recovery. Efforts will be made to implement all the suggestions of the business community. If the elections are timely, there will be economic stability. The caretaker also want this. Economic policy and stability are very important.

No government wants to blame. PTI also has the right to elections. Elections should be fair and free. We did not claim that we are coming to the government, but we will fight the election vigorously and the election is always fought to win.

In response to a question, he said that what is Nawaz Sharif's plan after



coming to Pakistan, I don't know, but the Charter of Economy is beneficial for everyone, which everyone should

follow. Salim Mandviwala said that Bilawal Bhutto played the role of the best foreign minister in a short time. And the lost reputation of Pakistan has been restored in the whole world, the institutions have to decide about the important people who were involved in the long march of Tehreek-e-Insaaf and the events of May 9.

In this regard, Multan and Faisalabad Chambers have also presented suggestions and we would like to start implementing it from the caretaker government, however, due to timely elections, economic stability can be achieved in the country, he said. There is a problem of political parties, but the People's Party will contest the election from every constituency across the country.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Anwar ul Haq had a meeting with Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Sami Saeed on Friday. Secretary Ministry of Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, Member Infrastructure and senior officers of the Ministry participated in the meeting.



Photo: PID

Govt postpones college lecturer test interviews in AJK

Bureau Report

The government of Azad Kashmir has postponed scheduled test interviews for college lecturers without explanation, initially slated for October 9 to 14. This abrupt delay has significant implications for both education and broader societal issues in the region:

Educational Impact. The postponement disrupts the academic calendar, leaving teaching positions vacant, and threatens the quality of education for students, potentially harming their academic progress and future prospects.

High Unemployment Rate

Azad Kashmir faces a high unemployment rate, around 20 percent, leading to youth frustration, depression, and anxiety. The government's response to this crisis appears inadequate.

Desire to Leave the Region:

Over 44% of Azad Kashmir's youth express a strong desire to leave Pakistan, a figure higher than in four Pakistani provinces and Gilgit Baltistan. This trend points to underlying issues and dissatisfaction among the younger population. The unexplained postponement raises suspicions of nepotism and political favoritism, potentially delaying the process for personal gain. Such practices cast doubt on the transparency and efficiency of governance in Azad Kashmir.

This issue is not new, having persisted for decades. The absence of a public service commission in Azad Kashmir exacerbates the problem. Additionally, the region's proximity to the Line of Control with India makes addressing this discontent a security concern.

Police successfully rescue Christian priest from kidnappers' clutches: DPO

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock police on Friday managed to retrieve a priest of Christian community after using all possible technical resources while kidnappers are still at large. This was told by the district police officer Attock Dr ghyas Gul khan during a hurriedly called news conference here in his office on Friday. As per details Mr Pal Gul son of jaurge Gul reported to Hassanabdal police on October 04, 2023 that his brother Mr perosh Gul priest of Preston church Hassanabdal father of two children was going to receive his daughter from school near graveyard of Way Cantt at one o'clock when he rang up his brother at 2 o'clock that he was kidnapped by some Pushito speaking kidnappers. Meanwhile, the complainant has repeatedly called backed on the same cell phone but nothing was heard. However, soon after receiving the information Attock police cordoned off the entire territory which resulted the successful recovery of the victim from the clutches of the kidnappers. Responding different questions of the media, DPO Attock assured to find the clue of the absconders by the raiding party of the police and other agencies in the next 24 hours, DPO Attock added.

Talal Qureshi becomes the first Pakistani artist to be featured at FC Barcelona stadium

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spotify took another historical step towards showcasing Pakistani talents as renowned music producer and artist, Talal Qureshi, garnered global attention by being the first Pakistani Artist to be featured on the stadium LED boards during FCB's thrilling match against Sevilla at the Estadio Olimpico Lluís Companys.

The feature was part of the spectacular global promotions that are being organized by Spotify, both on and off the platform to support the launch of Talal Qureshi's latest album TURBO. Spotify's support for Talal Qureshi underscores its commitment to fostering local talent, pushing the boundaries of music promotion on the global scale and providing a unique push to the potential of Pakistani music. With this electrifying collaboration, Talal's music reaches new heights, promising an exciting journey for the listeners worldwide.

Known for seamlessly melding traditional Pakistani music with contemporary electronic sounds, Talal has become the first-ever Pakistani artist to have his album launch supported by Spotify on-ground, bringing his electrifying beats to a global audience.

Sholam Hospital employees protest against non-payment of salaries, all services stopped

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Sheikha Fatima binat Mubarak hospital sholam the most important hospital of South Waziristan Lower, went on protest due to non-payment of staff salaries by closing and stopped all its services on Friday.

Sheikha Fatima Binat Mubarak Hospital Sholam, which was running in collaboration with Trans Continental pharma (TCP),

About 66 employees of which have started a protest demonstration due to non-payment of salaries, and all the services of the hospital have been stopped, the protesters include doctors, paramedics staff, nurses and class IV employees.

Dr. Ikramullah Khan, MS of the hospital, says that doctors, paramedics, nurses and other employees who have



been performing duty in the hospital for the last 8 months are deprived of their salaries.

He said, that due to which they have

gone on protest, and all hospital services have been suspended.

On the other hand, the office bearer of DG Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

wa said, that a demand letter has been sent to the Finance Department and PND Department on September 21 to release the funds, for staff of the hospital but no action has been taken so far.

On this occasion tried to contact DG Health Services KP in this regard, but they do not attend calls.

It should be noted that this hospital given to Trans Continental Parma (TCP) by the previous government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PTI under Public Private Partnership was the main hospital providing health services to local patients.

Therefore staff of the hospital has gone on protest due to non-payment of salaries, and all the services have been stopped, due to which hundreds of patients have been deprived of health care, but the families of the patients are facing severe difficulties

Indian ban on JKDFP can't gag Kashmiris freedom voice: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan President Muslim Conference and ex-Premier has vehemently condemned Indian government's ban on Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) of renowned Kashmiris' rights leader Shabbir Ahmed Shah warning this terrorism can't gag the freedom voice of the Kashmiris. Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir are not Indian nationals or citizens under the relevant UN Security Council's Kashmir documents. Indian presence in IIOJK is that of an anti-humanity colonizer. J&K people have every right to fight out Indian illegal possession of Kashmir and its draconian laws and oppression. Indian govt has reached the conclusion that not a single Kashmiri is with it, therefore India has banned a pro-Kashmiris' rights political party, he argued in his statement here Friday.

JKDFP chief Shabbir Ahmed Shah is imprisoned by Indian govt for past one decade but could not erase his political influence in occupied Kashmir. RSS baptized Modi govt is using every dirty means of terror not only in occupied Kashmir but within India itself. Modi govt is by now known globally as worst human rights violator to the extent of killing its opponents abroad like Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. Whole diplomatic world is up against India as terrorist country starting from killing Mahatma Gandhi and onwards till today, Sardar Attique reminded in his condemnation statement.

He directed his party workers especially in Europe and North America to stage peaceful, well-disciplined protests against JKDFP ban as violation of human rights and against UN mandate in Kashmir he added.

DFP spokesman strongly condemns Indian notification declaring DFP as unlawful association

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) spokesman has strongly condemned the Indian Home Ministry's notification declaring the DFP as an unlawful association.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal, while terming Kashmir as an internationally recognized disputed territory, said that as per the international covenants, the Indian Home Ministry has no locus standi, whatsoever, to ban an organization or declare it as unlawful merely for raising voice for the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people and for waging a struggle to seek a peaceful settlement of the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

He said that given the disputed nature of the state, Indian laws don't apply in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to dozens of resolutions the UN had adopted from time to time on Kashmir, the spokesman said that it was quite unfortunate that India was trying to weave cobwebs of confusion around the Kashmir case by attributing baseless things like secessionists and separatists to Kashmiris. He said that it was very absurd and unreasonable that the Indian Home Ministry notification refers to the secessionist activities of the DFP and its members but fails to recognize the bitter reality that Kashmir has never been a part of India. "Since Kashmir has never been a part of the Indian dominion, then talking about secessionism aimlessly is nothing but madness", he said.

"The DFP is purely a political organization that has been striving for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions", the spokesman said, adding that the incarcerated party chairman Shabbir Ahmed Shah's life-long struggle and his indomitable role to seek an amicable settlement of the lingering dispute has been acknowledged by human rights organization of international repute like Amnesty International. He said that Shah had to spend 36 years of his life in Indian jails merely for raising his voice for the Kashmiris' legitimate rights.

Terming the Indian government's move as totally unjustified and uncalled for, the DFP spokesman said that the move to ban political parties and imposing sanctions on political activities in a disputed territory was not only against the spirit of the UN charter but also a violation of the political and democratic rights of the Kashmiri people.

Orderly room held at DPO office regarding policemen's grievances

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the light of the vision of Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, District Police Officer Farmanullah Wardag listened carefully to the problems and grievances faced by the policemen.

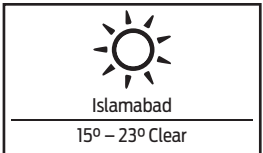
In this regard DPO an orderly room was organized at the DPO SWL office to gain awareness of the issues and to hear their views.

District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farmanullah Wardag listened to the policemen's problems and grievances very carefully on this occasion, while orders were issued on the spot to solve them.

During the orderly room, he made it clear that these young men are the real capital of the force. As a DPO, I am proud of them, solving the problems faced by police personnel is one of the top priorities.

He said that there are brave and exemplary policemen of South Waziristan Lower, and who have set an example of courage and bravery by fighting terrorism manfully.





SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:43 am
Zohr 11:56 am
Asr 4:05 pm
Maghrib 5:46 pm
Isha 7:09 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
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Beaconhouse Organises the 5th Beaconhouse National College Fair (BNCF)

City Desk

LAHORE: Beaconhouse School System recently held the 5th Beaconhouse National College Fair (BNCF) from 2nd to 5th October in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad, which was marked as one of the biggest and most prominent college fairs in Pakistan.

The 3-day event took place at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi on 2nd October, at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad on 4th October, and at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore on 5th October. The fair attracted an impressive turnout of over 10,000 students and hosted more than 50 universities from 12 countries including the UK, USA, Canada, Turkey, UAE, China, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

Amongst the prominent universities in attendance were Queen Mary University of London, University of Essex, University of Lincoln, City University of Hong Kong, Brunel University London, Bradford University, University of Waterloo, Arizona State University, LUMS, NUST, and others.

Privatisation minister, WB discuss sell-off plan for PIA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hassan Fawad on Thursday expressed the firm resolve of the government to privatise major loss-making state-owned enterprises to avoid a substantial financial drain of national resources.

During a meeting with the Country Head of the World Bank, Najy Benhassine, the minister discussed the caretaker government's strategic agenda for privatisation, with specific attention to privatizing Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and optimising the performance of power distribution companies.

He said that concerted efforts aimed to rectify substantial financial losses incurred by these entities and thereby alleviate the fiscal burden on national exchequer.



The minister expressed the government's intention to engage the WB and other financial institutions in the initial phases of privatising the national carrier. Fawad highlighted the intention to develop a comprehensive model for PIA, with the WB remaining a key partner for potential future support.

Encouragement

RAWALPINDI: A younger girl student is pulling her out of order motorcycle on her way after attending school in the city.



Photo: Online

A Central Corporate Governance Portal to be launched by PICG and CDC!

City Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central Depository Company (CDC) are launching a corporate governance portal, e-Go, to protect the rights of minority shareholders and to educate and engage shareholders in governance related issues.

The platform will be implemented as a joint venture of PICG and CDC, leveraging the domain expertise of PICG in the realm of corporate governance and the technical and operational expertise of CDC in implementing and operating state of the art national level digital platforms. The MoU Signing Ceremony was held at the CDC House, Karachi.

In this regard Pakistan Institute and Corporate Governance (PICG) and Central



Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCPL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development and implementation of e-Go platform, a groundbreaking digital initiative aimed to empower and facilitate investors/shareholders with the necessary knowledge of their shareholder rights and corporate governance practices. This signing also marked the occasion of the IOSCO World

Investor Week 2023 (2nd to 8th Oct 2023).

At the occasion, describing the features of the upcoming platform, CEO-CDC Mr. Badiuddin Akber said that "This platform aims to enrich the corporate governance practices in Pakistan by effecting their implementation in true letter and spirit while leveraging the power of technology to provide a convenient, informative and interactive medi-

um for shareholders to learn about and engage effectively in sound corporate governance practices.

Mr. Memosh Khawaja, President CEO PICG, applauded the efforts of CDC in its vision towards stakeholder facilitation and said that this joint initiative will pave the way for the much-needed active engagement of shareholders towards corporate governance decisions.

British MP Afzal Khan calls on Federal Minister Jamal Shah



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member British Parliament (MP) Afzal Khan called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah here on Friday to discuss issues of mutual interest, particularly cultural relations between Pakistan and United Kingdom. Federal Secretary National Heritage and Culture Humaira Ahmed and Adviser & Culture expert Muhammad Kashif Irshad were also present in the meeting. During their exchange, the minister highlighted the potential for collaboration in various artistic fields to further strengthen the robust people-to-people bonds between Pakistan and United Kingdom. He said that Art and Culture are the real face and introduction to any nation, adding that great nations always honour, value, preserve, promote and strengthen their art and culture. The minister apprised the visiting British MP of initiatives being taken, including establishing Islamabad Museum's own building and National Heritage Channel for promotion of regional folk literature and national heritage. The Minister said the second phase of CPEC Cultural Caravan would be organized and all the central Asian states would be specially invited to be part of it. British MP Afzal Khan agreed to pursue the cause to enhance cooperation in cultural exchanges and continue work on strengthening cultural ties. He praised Pakistan's archeological sites, saying that civilizations are like rivers which are inter-connected.

AKU celebrates World Teachers' Day 2023

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) celebrated World Teachers' Day with a focus on UNESCO's theme- 'The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage.'

The event included a panel discussion featuring experts from the field of education including: Dr Faisal Bari, Dean, School of Education, Lahore University of Management Sciences; Dr Ghazala Siddiqui, Founder and Principal, Generation's School; and Mr Afaq Ahmed, Lecturer, Government Elementary College for Education and Alumnus, Aga Khan University, moderated by Professor Farid Panjwani, Dean, AKU-IED.

In a message addressed to teachers on this special occasion, Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President AKU, recognised their invaluable contributions and reaffirmed AKU's commitment to building the capacity of teachers with the aim of supporting the development of a high-quality education system in Pakistan. He stated, "Through its teacher education programmes and professional development initiatives, AKU-IED is actively engaged in preparing and empowering teachers who have the potential to create a substantial positive impact in the lives of their students. To further this commitment, we, along with our partners, are training 1,000 education fellows for government schools in GB, with the goal of improving the education system in the region and addressing the shortage of quality school teachers."

The panelists focused on the causes and consequences of the teacher shortage, as well as potential solutions to the problem.

Dr Siddiqui highlighted that the teacher shortage is a global problem, and Pakistan is no exception. "We need to do more to attract and retain qualified teachers, and to invest in their professional development."

The celebration also included a musical performance and an ode to teachers, by the AKU-IED student body.

Top position in matric-Noman Bashir proves disability is not inability

City Desk

LAHORE: Noman Bashir is truly a success story for the differently-abled people. He cannot walk as he is disabled by birth.

But, he has not allowed his disability to be an impediment in his way. Apart from disability, Noman's family is also financially weak. He supports his father to run the household expenses and continue his studies.

Despite his disability and poor financial status, Noman has made history by clinching the top position in his matric examination.

A student of Government Special School of Hafizabad, Noman clinched first position in the province in the matric exam conducted by the Special Education Board.

He clinched first position by obtaining 758 out of 1,100 marks. Noman and his teacher Asma Batool were awarded medal and certificate by Special Education Secretary Saima Saeed and UNICEF's representative.

"I used to help my father in making shoes after coming back from the school to meet my expenses," he said after receiving the medal. He added that he wanted to study computer sciences in future.



Experts for credible scientific evidence to materialize Pakistan's claims for loss & damage reparations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Advisor World Bank remarked that Pakistan needs serious course correction and better comprehension of eligibility criteria for global loss and damage fund. This is crucial to overcome challenges hindering the country's access to global finances needed to boost resilience of the vulnerable countries against climate change.

He was speaking at a seminar titled "The Potential of Pakistan's Case for claiming reparation for Loss and Damage in the aftermath of floods 2022" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with Oxfam and partners. The seminar is fourth in the series held in collaboration with Oxfam-Pakistan.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh stressed establishing a clear definition of loss and damage in policy documents and build-

ing capacity of the bureaucrats about pledges made under NDCs so they can develop more competitive climate financing proposals. He elucidated that under the NDCs Pakistan committed to undertake assessment of loss and damage, costing of losses and augment data management and integration of evidence. The low progress in their achievement remains a key objection/criticism when climate finance projects are applied. He proposed developing a holistic and consistent definition of loss and damage to enable convergence of national and sub-national efforts.

Dr Shafiqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, highlighted that Pakistan is vulnerable to various kinds of climatic disasters, direct and indirect hazards, with macroeconomic imbalances further exacerbating current climatic disasters. He highlighted that 2022 floods submerged one-third of the country under water, displaced

around 8 million people, and affected 33 million people with Sindh being the worst affected province with close to 70% of total damages and losses. These significant losses revealed that the country has weak DRR capacity coupled with inaction in addressing climatic hazards. He pointed out that establishing a global climate induced loss and damage fund has been in discussion since early 1990's with Pakistan playing an instrumental role in the establishment of Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 in 2022 in the aftermath of 2022 floods. However, the operationalization of the fund at the global level is yet to be achieved. He highlighted that Pakistan's financing case is weakened due to unavailability of substantial evidence of the adverse impacts of climate change in lieu of loss and damage. He further stressed aligning the climate financing proposals with SDGs, adopting a whole of society approach for climate



action and connecting with finance with mid-term budgetary frameworks to bridge financing gaps.

Expert of Climate Finance Kashmala Kakakhl remarked that Pakistan pleaded a strong case at the international forums and the interim foreign minister also pleaded the country's stance on

loss and damage fund. However, the country needs to proactively build its loss and damage case around the five pressing questions debated in the transitional committee meetings held to work out the modalities of the fund. The pressing queries underscore the source of the fund, the financing streams, the

place of establishing the fund, eligibility of the countries, purpose, and mechanism of transferring the finances through the fund, she added.

Zainab Naeem, Associate Research Fellow, SDPI highlighted that while developing countries particularly Pakistan and Libya have very strongly advocated the case for Loss and Damage Fund. However, there is quite aggressive counter arguments conditioning the fund with fossil fuel-

based projects and economies. Developing countries are unjustifiably forced to adopt transformative pathways even though they are already bearing the burden of debt traps, economic and climate crisis, and geopolitical issues. She stressed that Pakistan must build a strong case by supporting it with data and evidence, demonstrating the interlinkages and indirect losses in the form of food security, heatwaves, urbanization etc.

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A Man as a Symbol of Protection

‘The essence of manliness is fearlessness, the readiness to defend one’s own pride and that of one’s family.’ Julian Pitt-Rivers, *The People of the Sierra*

The need to protect is unquestionably the cornerstone of the 3 Ps of manhood (Protection, Procreation, and Provision), which are an arch that a male must walk through in order to become a man. Since ancient times, manliness has been regarded as devoid of the attribute necessary for its fulfillment—courage. In our contemporary, supposedly gender-neutral environment, it is also the male imperative that has persisted the most; even in families where job and childcare responsibilities are equally shared by the husband and wife, if something strange happens in the night, it will almost always be the guy who is called to investigate.

their girlfriends’ bodies during the Aurora, which the performing arts attempted to shoot.

A man’s limits go beyond the realm of the physical to include the distinction between honor and shame, both for the sake of his personal reputation and that of his family and lineage. In the past, keeping one’s reputation for manhood required reacting to any affront to either; maintaining one’s good name was crucial.

“The Trukese burden of slugfest and hardness follows this protectiveness of women. Young Trukese males believe that fighting one another is the only way to display bravery and “vindicate manhood in physical combat.” A guy is not an individual at all if he takes insults lying down. A frequent challenge is to imply, “Come, were you not a man? I’m going to kill you right now.”

One of the fundamental principles underpinning all three of the Ps of masculinity is the belief that a man’s readiness for each responsibility has to be manifested in outward signs and deeds and has to be publicly acknowledged. A guy had to be “in the arena,” or out in the open air, to not be a social butterfly. As an example, in Cyprus, “a guy’s manhood will be questioned: ‘What type of man is he?’ if he spends too much time at home with his wife and kids. He enjoys loitering about the house with women. And according to the Algerian Kabyle, “A man who passes too many hours at home during the day looks suspicious or ridiculous; he is ‘a house man,’ who dwells at home like a chicken at roost.”

A self-respecting guy must put himself out there for people to see, continually engage them in conversation, and face them head-on. He stands out among the guys.

When it comes to playing the protector, this open display of physical prowess takes the form of confrontational, competitive activities like wrestling and fisticuffs. These competitions reveal who is the strongest among the tribe and form a pecking order. A man gains an image as a person who shouldn’t be trifled with after winning a battle. These fights also show which guys are battle-ready as well as who might constitute weak links if the tribe were to band together to face an outside foe. The reason being that each man adds to the group’s general reputation for strength, which can serve as a deterrent to keep foes from ever launching an

The most important thing, it appears, is to demonstrate a willingness to take blows and spill blood. An honorable defeat need not be a loss of face in and of itself. A man’s reputation as well as that of his ancestors are only enhanced by bruising and scarring.”

Without a doubt, the main question that will follow a discussion of the “3 Ps of Manhood” will be whether these ideals are still relevant in an era when drones have replaced men as killing machines, some believe the world is already overrun with people, and women make up half of the workforce (aside from how well you personally embody them). Does manliness really have a future?

In terms of being categories of recommended action, the imperatives themselves are neither particularly good nor harmful, as Gilmore makes clear. People object to the way that they are exclusively applied, enforced, and separated from the masculine sex. Some people who are really conventional will argue that we should very much keep these accusations going as is. Some may argue that they are completely out of date, disrespectful, and sexist and should no longer be used as indicators of manhood. Some people, like us, would argue that these macho chores still have value and that you ought to preserve the best aspects of them while getting rid of the rest in order to avoid throwing the baby into the water in the bathtub. In fact, I have greater respect for those who are going to take any of these viewpoints than for those who don’t want to talk about the topic at all because “manhood is meaningless.” At least engage in the dialogue. If you do, you are aware of where to begin.

Student of Law College, University of Sargodha.



Analysis

Zakaria Khan

No undocumented Alien will be allowed to stay in Punjab

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has asserted that all foreign nationals residing illegally in Punjab should voluntarily depart as the initial data of foreign residents has been compiled. He issued a stern warning that any foreigner staying unlawfully in the province would not be permitted to dwell. Mohsin Naqvi stressed the importance of self-eviction by illegal immigrants in Punjab, cautioning that a comprehensive crackdown would ensue if they failed to comply. However, the government will not abuse anyone, he maintained.

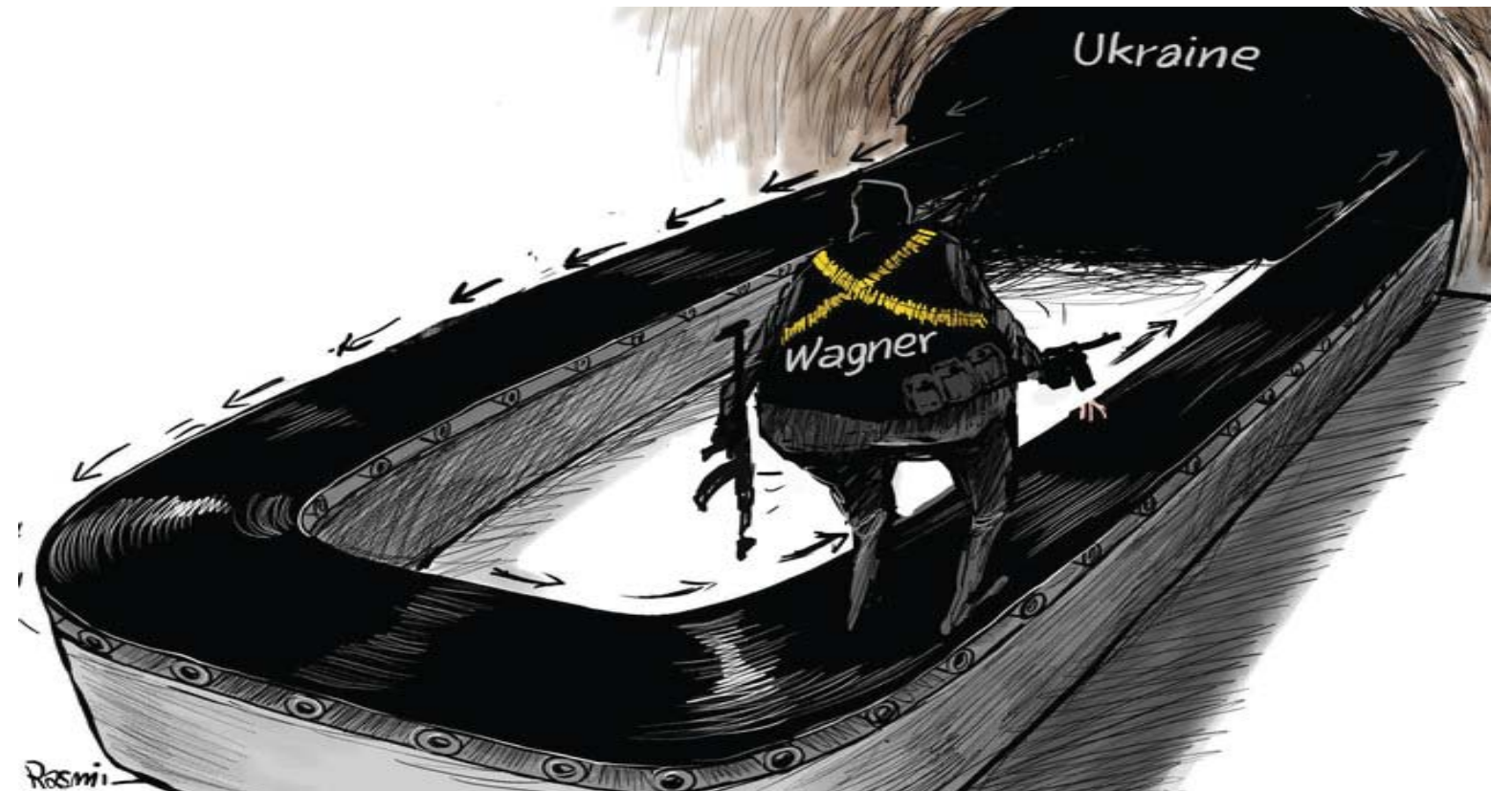
He made these remarks during a media interaction after inspecting the Shahdara flyovers and Bund Road controlled access corridor projects late at night.

The CM observed that the closure of schools had led to a noticeable decrease in pink eye cases. In response to a query about his health, he conveyed that he was feeling better. Mohsin Naqvi provided updates on the progress of the Shahdara flyovers project, highlighting the rapid completion of the bridge and ongoing activities. Anticipating that the flyovers would be open to traffic next month, he disclosed that 90% of the work had already been accomplished. Additionally, he informed that two construction companies were working tirelessly to complete the Bund Road project before 120 days.

Simultaneously, numerous pending projects in Rawalpindi, including the Ring Road and safe city authority, have been initiated. These projects are slated for completion within 90 to 180 days, with a portion of the Rawalpindi Ring Road nearing completion. Mohsin Naqvi also mentioned that safe city projects in Gujranwala, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi were scheduled for simultaneous completion within 150 days.

Before this, the chief minister inspected the Shahdara flyovers and Bund Road controlled access corridor projects, directing an expedited focus on asphalt and surrounding roads. He emphasized the acceleration of the new Ravi bridge project. The CM received updates on the nearing completion of both towers of the flyovers and the ongoing installation of electric poles.

Subsequently, CM inspected the Bund Road controlled access corridor project and underscored the necessity for timely project completion. He directed efforts to improve traffic flow during the construction period. The 7.3-KM long controlled access corridor on Bund Road is slated for completion in four months. The first package covers construction from Niazi Chowk to Sagian Interchange, and the second package spans from Sagian Interchange to Babu Sabu Interchange. Additionally, link roads around the controlled access corridor will also be constructed. Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, the commissioner, DC Lahore, and others were also present.



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

From Economic collapse to Economic stability - II

In a decisive move, the government cracked down on powerful foreign currency dealers who were shamelessly, ruthlessly, and criminally depleting the nation’s financial resources. These dealers were either selling Pakistan’s precious foreign currency reserves to foreigners or to those who had amassed ill-gotten wealth for hoarding, all under the impunity and protection of influential mafias. They have been apprehended, their ill-gotten and illicit currencies confiscated, and their businesses shuttered, ensuring that they can no longer operate with impunity.

Since our inception, we’ve witnessed a disheartening pattern: Over 80% of the Afghan Transit trade, once it reached Afghanistan, was illicitly funneled back into Pakistan. This nefarious operation occurred under the collusion and protection of law enforcement agencies. It inflicted grievous wounds upon our economy, decimating the local industry due to the influx of foreign, inexpensive, and substandard goods. Additionally, it deprived the national exchequer of crucial taxes and duties.

What is even more alarming is that this detrimental practice continued for decades, despite a clear understanding of its adverse consequences, with successive governments, politicians, establishments, and law enforcement agencies choosing to turn a blind eye to the issue.

They all were busy accumulating unimaginable wealth by letting this deplorable practice continue unabated, benefiting the Afghans and Afghan government and inflicting infectious and incurable wounds to the country’s economy and its financial wellbeing.

The Afghan government and its people, who were the primary beneficiaries of this deplorable illegal process, became increasingly audacious and confident. They believed that this practice would persist due to perceived political obligations, a notion that was, unfortunately, validated by Pakistan’s historical appeasement policy toward Afghanistan. Despite being fully aware

of the severe harm it caused to Pakistan’s interests, successive governments and establishments pursued this policy.

This complacency reached a point where it threatened the very existence of Pakistan. Afghanistan not only provided shelter to secessionists, separatists, and rebels from within Pakistan but also offered safe havens to groups like the TTP and Baloch insurgents. To date, they continue to refuse to take action against these elements and even enable them to launch terrorist attacks from Afghan soil into Pakistan. These attacks have resulted in the loss of numerous innocent lives, including law enforcement personnel, all with complete impunity.

When pressed to take measures against criminals and terrorists operating from its territory, Afghanistan not only sidestepped responsibility but also shifted the blame onto the government of Pakistan and its law enforcement agencies. They accused Pakistan of complacency and taunted them, insinuating an inability to control and restrain their own citizens, deflecting responsibility for addressing the pressing security concerns emanating from their soil.

Their audacity reached such levels that they even cultivated Afghans who had found shelter, sustenance, clothing, and business opportunities in Pakistan, turning them into facilitators, abettors, and accomplices for launching terrorist attacks within Pakistan. They seemed confident that Pakistan’s government, in an attempt to maintain favorable relations with the United Nations and adhere to its appeasement policy toward the Afghan government, would continue to turn a blind eye.

However, what they didn’t anticipate was the transformation in Pakistan’s stance. Under the leadership of the resolute Army Chief and a government determined to prioritize national interests above all else, Pakistan has adopted a different mindset. It is now prepared to take decisive steps in its own national interest, without hesitation, fear, favor, or discrimination, and

without showing mercy when required.

As someone who has witnessed numerous governments and establishments not only turning a blind eye to but also benefiting from a wide range of illegal activities and processes, including the Afghan transit trade, smuggling of petroleum products, goods, and foodstuffs from Iran, as well as the hoarding and smuggling of essential commodities such as wheat, sugar, oil, fertilizer, cement, and more to various countries, including those in Central Asia, it was disheartening.

The export of wheat and sugar when it was urgently needed domestically, followed by their expensive import, often accompanied by substantial government subsidies, reflects a troubling pattern. This, coupled with rampant corruption, widespread gas, water, and electricity theft, and the unchecked looting of state resources with impunity, paints a stark picture of the challenges Pakistan has faced in combating these longstanding issues.

The recent actions taken by the interim government and establishment are like a melodious tune to our ears. For a long time, we yearned to witness strong actions against these criminals. The failure of successive governments to address these issues had caused us countless sleepless nights and drained away much of our hope for progress and development, especially when we saw neighboring nations and countries worldwide advancing steadily.

Deep down, we always believed in the resilience of our nation and the strength of our institutions. We knew that we could achieve great things, provided we had the determination and will to do so. Thankfully, the current administration has demonstrated this much-needed resolve and commitment. We have begun to witness a shift in the right direction, a change that even someone like Mr. Shabbar Zaidi, known for his doomday scenarios, has applauded as life-saving measures taken by the interim government.

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

Pak Army Achieved the Highest Level of Public Approval - II

Public surveys are essential instruments for democracy, policy-making, business strategies, public health initiatives, research, community engagement, and accountability. They serve as a direct channel for individuals to voice their opinions and influence decisions that impact their lives. In a rapidly changing world, the importance of public surveys cannot be overstated, as they continue to guide our collective efforts towards a more informed, responsive, and equitable society. Therefore, fostering a culture of survey participation and promoting the responsible use of survey data is crucial for the betterment of our communities and the world at large.

As mentioned above, the public surveys are a powerful tool for gathering information, shaping policies, and making informed decisions. However, their credibility is paramount in ensuring that the data collected accurately represents public opinion and can be relied upon for decision-making. The credibility of a public survey begins with transparency in its methodology. A reputable survey should clearly explain how it was conducted, including details about sample selection, data collection methods (e.g., online surveys, telephone interviews, in-person interviews), and any potential biases that may exist. A lack of transparency can raise suspicions about the survey’s legitimacy. Random sampling is a cornerstone of credible surveys. It ensures that every member of the population has an equal chance of being included in the survey, reducing the risk of selection bias. Surveys that rely on non-random or self-selected samples may produce results that do not accurately reflect the broader population’s views. The size of the survey sample matters. A larger sample size generally provides more reliable results, as it reduces the margin of error. Smaller samples may be less representative and more susceptible to random variations. Researchers should strive for sample sizes that are statistically significant for the population being studied. The credibility of a public survey also depends on the rigor

of data collection and analysis. Surveys must be conducted by trained professionals who adhere to established survey research principles. The data should be cleaned, coded, and analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques. Any potential sources of error or bias should be addressed transparently in the survey report. The wording and design of survey questions can significantly impact the credibility of the results. Questions should be clear, unbiased, and avoid leading respondents toward a particular answer. Researchers should also consider the order of

questions, as the sequence can influence responses. No response bias occurs when certain groups of people are less likely to participate in a survey, leading to an unrepresentative sample. Efforts should be made to minimize no response bias through methods such as follow-up surveys, weighting, or adjusting the sample to match known population demographics. Credible surveys often undergo peer review or validation by independent experts or organizations. This process helps ensure that the survey methodology is sound and that the results are valid. The involvement of reputable institutions or scholars in the survey process enhances its credibility. The source of funding for a survey can influence its credibility. Transparency regarding funding sources is essential for assessing potential biases or conflicts of interest. Surveys funded by organizations with vested interests in particular outcomes may be viewed with skepticism. Credible surveys produce consistent results when replicated under similar conditions. Researchers should aim to replicate surveys to test the reliability of their findings. If a survey’s results cannot be reproduced, it raises questions about its credibility. Ethical considerations are paramount in maintaining the credibility of public surveys. Researchers should obtain informed consent from participants, protect respondent anonymity, and adhere to ethical guidelines throughout the survey process. Public surveys are valuable tools for understanding public opinion, shaping policies, and making informed decisions.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir



Analysis

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) hosted a two-day International Conference on “Navigating Peace & Security in the Region & Beyond: Pakistan’s Role.” The two-day International Conference brought together a group of eminent academics and practitioners from around the world. The second day of the Conference included sessions on non-traditional security challenges, regional peace and security, and counterterrorism.

The fourth working session, titled “Innovative Approaches to Non-Traditional Security Challenges,” was moderated by Dr. Adil Sultan, Dean of the Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies (FASS) at Air University, Islamabad. The session featured presentations by Dr. Flavius CABA-MARLA, President of the Middle East Political and Economic Institute, Romania (MEPEI); Mr. Oves Anwar, Director of the Research Society of International Law (RSIL); and Dr. Arshi Saleem Hashmi, Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies at the

National Defense University (NDU). The session addressed the nature of Non-Traditional Security, distinct from traditional security concerns, and emphasized its emergence in global discourse in the post-Cold War era. Discussion centered on the imperative of fostering international cooperation to address these challenges, with a notable reference to President Xi Jinping’s ‘Global Security Initiative’ promoting win-win collaboration. Additionally, the session explored the evolving Pakistan-Russia relationship, particularly their collaborative efforts to combat terrorism, with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) playing a pivotal role. Participants underscored the role of International Law as a tool to navigate Non-Traditional Security issues, facilitating problem-solving and consensus-building. Concerns were raised about the decline of International Treaties and Conventions in recent decades, leading to challenges to national sovereignty. Lastly, speakers emphasized the interdependence of states’ security and sovereignty, highlighting the multifaceted impact of Non-Traditional Security threats on political authority, border control, and autonomy, and advocated a people-centric approach



with early prevention measures in this evolving security paradigm.

The fifth working session, “Global Perspectives on Regional Peace and Security,” moderated by Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed of the Development Communications division at the Planning Commission of Pakistan, featured a distinguished panel including Yi Hailin, Deputy Director General, National Institute of International Strategy, Beijing, China; Dr. Kirill Likhachev, Associate Professor at

School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, Russia; Dr. Akram Umarov, Deputy Director, Institute for Advanced International Studies, Uzbekistan; and Dr. Hassan Abbas, Distinguished Professor of International Relations, Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies (NESA), Washington, DC. Discussions centered on the intricate challenges and threats to regional peace, particularly in the context of Afghanistan, where abrupt US withdrawal led

to concerns about the Taliban’s rise and the presence of terrorist groups.

The sixth working session, titled “Strategic Cooperation on Counterterrorism Efforts: The Way Forward,” was moderated by Mr. Salman Zaidi, Head of Programs at the Jinnah Institute, and included speakers such as Dr. Murat Aslan, Senior Researcher SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, Türkiye; Dr. Hashim Pashtun, Senior Research Fellow, Kabul Institute for Peace;

Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Chairperson of Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad; and Ms. Tamanna Salikuddin, Director South Asia Programs, USIP. The speakers noted Pakistan’s improved capacity to combat terrorism and its effective control over terrorism financing but highlighted the absence of robust counter-terrorism narratives.

The Key Takeaways of the Conference were presented by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, who said that the conference deliberations were rich and wide-ranging, presenting diverse viewpoints on a broad range of subjects. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood added that the Conference was a resounding success as it helped enhance better understanding of the profound transformations taking place at the global and regional levels, evaluated Pakistan’s role in peace and security, and offered clear ideas for an effective way forward.

Besides the distinguished speakers from Pakistan and abroad, the Conference was attended by a large number of scholars, academics, researchers, practitioners, students, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of the media.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Cuba called on Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan in his office on Friday.



MediaTek Reiterates Commitment to Drive 5G Adoption and Futuristic Technologies in MEA

News Desk

DUBAI: MediaTek, a leading global fabless semiconductor company, powering nearly 2 billion connected devices a year, reiterated its commitment towards expanding its footprint across the Smartphone and Smart Device ecosystem in the Middle East & Africa (MEA) regions. MediaTek is also looking at accelerating its collaboration with OEMs and telecom operators across the MEA region to increase digital adoption and promote growth across verticals. These initiatives were highlighted at MediaTek’s flagship interactive technology discussion series—MediaTek Technology Diaries in Dubai.

MediaTek powers some of the biggest brands globally and is committed to delivering cutting-edge innova-



tion with its latest products & solutions across smartphones, smart devices, automotive, satellite connectivity solutions and next-gen wearables among others. The portfolio comprises of MediaTek Dimensity for 5G Smartphones, MediaTek Helio G series for 4G gaming smartphones, MediaTek Kompanio for arm-based Chromebooks, MediaTek Pentonic for Smart TV technologies, MediaTek Genio for Internet of Things, MediaTek Filogic for smart Wi-Fi 6/6E & Wi-Fi 7 solutions, and MediaTek Dimensity Auto for innovative auto-

motive technologies among others.

“MediaTek is a market leader in the global semiconductor industry with a leading position in Smartphones, 5G FWA, Wi-Fi, TV and AI-IoT. Here in MEA, we are working to bring these technologies to the local industry by collaborating with the regional technology and telecom players driven by three major focus areas in our strategy. In Connectivity, a combination of our T750 or T830 5G FWA CPE chipsets and Filogic Wi-Fi 6 or Wi-Fi 7 chipsets bring faster internet connectivity into homes and businesses and empower operators to entirely transform and elevate their fixed wireless access (FWA) services and enhance the consumer perception of these services. In the Smartphone space, we are the clear leaders in market

share, and our focus remains on bringing consumers better variety in the Premium and Flagship range while maintaining support to the migration initiatives from Feature-phones to Smartphones. Finally, in AI-IoT, new frontiers are being explored, new cellular technologies that serve the use cases better are being tested and we are already testing RedCap 5G and look forward to collaborating with regional satellite and telecom operators to bring the value of NTN to the AI-IoT ecosystem. We aim to unlock innovation in CE and Telecom industry verticals and invite everyone to be part of this journey as we continue to redefine the boundaries of brilliance,” said Rami Osman, Director for Business Development, MediaTek Middle East and Africa.

A Seminar Experience in Beijing, China

Empowering Young Media Professionals from Developing Countries

Adnan Hameed

In an era where the flow of information is ceaseless and the media wields an unparalleled influence on public opinion, the role of media professionals has become more pivotal than ever before. It is in this dynamic landscape that I had the privilege of participating in an enlightening seminar designed to nurture the talents of young media professionals from developing countries. This profound experience was made possible through the gracious support of the Ministry of Commerce, People’s Republic of China, Embassy of the PR of China in Pakistan and meticulously organized by the CICG Institute of International Studies & Advanced Training, spanning from September 13 to September 26, 2023. This seminar convened bright talents from diverse corners of the world (Bahamas, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname & Zimbabwe) in the bustling city of Beijing, China.

A Journey of Knowledge and Commitment: As an individual who has dedicated their career to the realms of journalism and media, I embarked on this unique opportunity with great enthusiasm. It was a platform not only to gain fresh insights but also to share my own knowledge and unwavering passion for responsible and impactful journalism. Throughout the course of this seminar, my commitment to empowering the next generation of media professionals became unmistakably evident.

The genesis of this seminar, conceived by the Ministry



of Commerce, aimed at bridging the significant gap between media professionals from developing countries and the ever-evolving sphere of international journalism. It underscored the paramount importance of nurturing diverse voices and perspectives to foster a more inclusive global media ecosystem.

A Haven for Cross-Cultural Exchange: The CICG Institute of International Studies & Advanced Training, renowned for facilitating cross-cultural learning and collaboration, played a pivotal role in orchestrating this enlightening experience. With its state-of-the-art facilities and a dedicated team, the institute ensured that participants received top-notch training and exposure to contemporary media practices.

Over the span of two enriching weeks, my fellow participants and I found ourselves immersed in a series of meticulously designed workshops, thought-provoking lectures, and interactive sessions that encompassed a wide array of topics. These ranged from digital journalism and ethical reporting to the art of multimedia storytelling and the pivotal role of media in shaping public opinion. The exchange of ideas and experiences

among participants hailing from various corners of the globe not only enriched the learning experience but also fostered a profound sense of unity and collaboration.

Witnessing the Dynamics of Chinese Media: One of the highlights of the seminar was a lecture series by the officials from relevant Chinese departments and experts and scholar’s to introduce us the social and economic development history, politics and measures of China, especially the achievements and lessons learned since China’s reform and opening up, as well as information on topics closely related to the theme of seminar. We were given opportunity to introduce our country’s journalism industry, economic development and to intentions in relevant fields and to discuss opportunities and ways to expand industrial cooperation to local officials and relevant experts in the seminars.

It was an eye-opening experience that significantly broadened our horizons and deepened our understanding of the global media landscape. Equipped to Make a Difference: As the seminar concluded on September 26, 2023, we returned to our respective coun-



tries, equipped not only with fresh insights but also with a newfound vigor and a broader perspective on the pivotal role of media in shaping societies. Armed with the knowledge gained during this transformative experience in Beijing, we are now poised to make a significant impact on the media landscapes of our nations.

My unwavering commitment to empowering young media professionals from developing countries resonates with my dedication to the principles of responsible journalism. I firmly believe that a free and diverse media is the cornerstone of a more just and equitable world. The impact of my participation in this seminar has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all those who had the privilege of learning alongside me.

Exploring China’s Rich Cultural Heritage

During our sojourn in China,

we had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the rich cultural and historical heritage of this remarkable nation. Our itinerary included visits to renowned sites such as the China National Film Museum, the awe-inspiring Great Wall of China, the historical city of Dunhuang in Gansu Province, the serene Mingsha Mountain Crescent Spring, the enlightening Dunhuang Museum, the mystical Magao Caves in Dunhuang City, the ancient Tanguan Site, the cutting-edge Dunhuang Optoelectronics Industrial Park, and a captivating live performance drama titled “Le Dong Dunhuang.” Additionally, we explored the enchanting Dunhuang Yardang National Geopark, the historic Yumen Pass, the ancient Great Wall of the Han Dynasty, the Hecangcheng Relief site, the bustling Beijing Hongqiao Market (Pearl Market), and the iconic Qianmen Street.

These interactions not only added a cultural dimension to our learning journey but also gave rise to enduring friendships and connections that transcend borders.

A Global Network of Comrades: Moreover, it was an honor to be part of a diverse and passionate group of participants hailing from countries such as Bahamas, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname & Zimbabwe. Our collective experiences, shared aspirations, and mutual respect forged bonds that transcend borders and have the potential to shape the future of journalism on a global scale.

In Conclusion: In conclusion, this seminar has been an extraordinary journey of growth, learning, and cultural exchange. It has reaffirmed my belief in the power of responsible journalism and the paramount importance

of nurturing the talents of young media professionals. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Commerce, People’s Republic of China in Beijing for their unwavering support, the CICG Institute for their dedication, and my fellow participants for their camaraderie.

I would like to express my appreciation to all who have taken the time to share in this remarkable experience with me. It serves as a poignant reminder of the profound impact of international collaboration and lifelong learning. As we continue our journeys in the ever-evolving world of media, let us remain steadfast in our pursuit of making a positive and enduring impact on the societies we are committed to serving.

The author is a Program and Media Officer at China Cultural Center in Pakistan. He can be reached at adnan.chinaculture.pk@gmail.com

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
47,493.57	47,452.38
Day's High	Day's Low
47,619.25	47,402.57
Index Value	Change
5,057,457,770	+41.19
Percentage	Time
+0.09%	6 Oct, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,494.58	+43.04
Percentage	Time
+0.58%	6 Oct, 1:12 pm GMT-4

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,376.98	+257.41
Percentage	Time
+0.78%	6 Oct, 12:51 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
30,994.67	-80.69
Percentage	Time
-0.26%	6 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.2	180.00
Bahrain Dinar	757.11	765.11
Canadian Dollar	210	212
China Yuan	39.1	39.5
Danish Krone	39.69	40.09
Euro	297	300
Hong Kong Dollar	36.35	36.7
Indian Rupee	3.46	3.57
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.62
Kuwaiti Dinar	920.53	929.53
Malaysian Ringgit	61.27	61.87
New Zealand \$	166.61	168.61
Norwegians Krone	26.92	27.22
Omani Riyal	739.41	747.41
Qatari Riyal	79.03	79.73
Saudi Riyal	74.3	75
Singapore Dollar	206.00	208
Swedish Korona	26.34	26.64
Swiss Franc	311.36	313.86
Thai Bhat	7.79	7.94
U.A.E Dirham	76.8	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	346.50	350
US Dollar	279.5	282.25

Economic recovery

Charter of economy necessary to overcome problems

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Friday that Pakistan needs a charter of economy so that all political forces can focus on economic recovery.

Economic matters should be in capable hands to improve the economy which will also provide relief to the masses and the business community, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as VP FPCCI, Chairman PVMA and President ICCI said in a statement issued here today that continuity of policies should be ensured so that investors can breathe a sigh of relief and stop withdrawing capital from Pakistan to safe destinations.



Speaking to the business community, he said

that important decisions should not be delayed; otherwise, they would severely affect the masses and the currency and lead to a sharp rise in inflation.

Atif Ikram said that agreements with the IMF and other institutions should be honoured, as breaching promises will result in displeasure with international institutions, which the country cannot afford at this critical juncture.

We want economic managers with good economic understanding, experience, and foresight to resolve the country's problems.

He demanded that the hike in electricity and gas tariffs be reversed and the infamous circular debt, which has become a threat to the economy, be reduced.

State-run corporations should be sold, the cost of doing business for industry and trade should be reduced, and the business community should be treated well, he said.

Higher policy rates are discouraging businesses and increasing government borrowing costs, driving higher financing needs. These financing needs are met through increased borrowing, he said.

The higher interest rate is a major contributor to our debt woes; a quicker growth in the debt stock is due to its failure to contain its expenditures and boost its income by broadening the tax base, he added.

He noted that production, exports, and remittances are going down, necessitating a strategy to reverse the trend.

Kitchen garden

ISLAMABAD: A street vendor is selling vegetables seeds along the road side at Khanna Bridge in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

ICCI urges pharma distributors to keep 3 months stock in hand to avoid shortage of medicines

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has conferred the Best Distributor Award on Muhammad Mehtab Hussain, General Manager, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited in recognition of his outstanding services and ensuring availability of needed medicines at pharmacies, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry gave the award to Muhammad Mehtab Hussain during a ceremony held at ICCI.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry paid tribute to Muhammad Mehtab Hussain for his best distribution services, especially during Covid-19 pandemic when many distributors and



pharmacies were facing supply chain issues. He said that the Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited has embraced modern distribution system, which is laudable. Muhammad Mehtab Hussain, General Manager, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Limited thanked ICCI for giving him Best Distributor Award, which is a great honor for him and his organization.

Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, Senior Inspector of Drugs, Islamabad congratulated Muhammad Mehtab Hussain

and Premier Sales (Pvt.) Ltd for receiving Best Distributor Award, which is a due recognition of their professional and positive approach in business.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman, D. Watson Group and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that Muhammad Mehtab Hussain is a role model for other distributors as he visits shop to shop to ensure availability of medicines for patients. He termed pharmacy business as a great service to ailing humanity and

stressed that patients should be treated as patients and not as customers.

Rafique Jakwani, CEO, Premier Sales (Pvt.) Ltd said that ICCI Best Distribution Award is an award for the whole team of his organization. He said that ICCI is the first Chamber that has acknowledged the services of a best distributor.

Qaiser Masood, Secretary General, Chemist and Drug Association Islamabad also lauded the initiative of ICCI for recognizing the services of a best distributor.

President Chemist and Drug Association Islamabad Tariq Saeed, Prof. Dr. Aurangzeb Dean Preston University and Director Ch. Waqar Ahmed, General Manager Drug Services Ata Muhammad, other dignitaries and a large number of pharma business community were present in the award ceremony.

Member Customs ops at FPCCI demand to discontinue upfront payments reiterated

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has reiterated upon his profound & long-standing concerns vis-à-vis continued implementation of the upfront payment system for import shipments by Pakistan Customs. We believe that this practice runs counter to the principles of transparency, fairness, efficiency and international-competitiveness as upheld in the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); a commitment to which Pakistan is a signatory, he added.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, maintained that, in addition to TFA, the upfront payment system poses several other challenges for importers in Pakistan.

Mr. Nadeem Qureshi, VP FPCCI & Regional Chairman, added that Article 7.1 of TFA explicitly stipulates that "Members shall not require the payment of duties and taxes prior to the release of goods."

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, Engr. M. A. Jabbar,

VP FPCCI, Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Maggo, Convener of FPCCI's and Mr. Khurram Ijaz, advisor on FBR affairs to President FPCCI demanded that all containers still stuck in customs clearance, due to the huge & unprecedented backlog of last year, should be cleared immediately after receipt of taxes through financial instruments.

Ms. Zeba Hai Azher, Member Customs Operations (FBR), agreed in principle that Pakistan needs to do away with upfront payments as Pakistan is a signatory of TFA – and, the customs will look into the matter in required detail to alleviate complaints & grievances.

My visit to the apex body signifies that the customs wants to upgrade and modernize its policies & systems in consultation with the business community; and, also aims to capitalize on FPCCI's unique position to represent all sectors, industries, chambers and trade bodies under one-roof as the apex body, Ms. Zeba Hai Azher added.

Master Changan Motors and Meezan Bank Collaborate to Revolutionize Car Financing



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Master Changan Motors Limited and Meezan Bank are thrilled to announce a game-changing partnership aimed at enhancing the automotive landscape in Pakistan. Through a recently inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the two industry leaders have joined forces to introduce an exclusive campaign for the Changan Alsvin, where customers can save up to PKR 475,000/- on their purchase of brand new Changan Alsvin.

Recent banking data has highlighted a remarkable surge in used car financing cases across Pakistan. This

shift from new car financing to used car financing is predominantly driven by the prevailing economic challenges, which have compelled consumers to compromise on original equipment manufacturer (OEM) warranties.

Under this groundbreaking collaboration, consumers in search of a used car financing option can now drive home a brand-new, latest-generation Changan Alsvin sedan. The vehicle comes with an impressive 5-year or 150,000 km warranty and is supported by readily available spare parts through our extensive network of 28 dealerships spanning 18 cities across the country.

Decisions should be made for people instead of energy traders: Mian Zahid

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that due to line losses, capacity payments, and thefts, electricity is becoming more expensive.

Forcing people to avoid alternatives and use expensive electricity is a violation of their fundamental rights, so this process should be stopped, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is important to attract consumers towards solar energy, make its equipment cheaper, and provide long-term interest-free loans to people, enabling them to use the solar energy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan is among the top countries in the world in terms of solar power potential. According to international experts, Pakistan can get 40% of its electricity requirement through



solar energy, but instead of using this sector for public welfare, it is being used as a source of profiteering.

If other sources of renewable energy are adopted along with solar energy, there will be no need to generate electricity from imported oil, gas, or coal, and the country will also be able to export electricity.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that people whose businesses are related to oil, gas, coal, and expensive electricity will never accept renewable energy.

The oil, gas, and coal mafias resisted solar power in dozens of countries, but the governments took decisions according to the public interest, which brought relief to the people and reduced environmental pollution, he informed.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the use of solar energy in Pakistan is less than 2%, while in India it is 16%. This sector cannot compete with other powerful energy sectors, nor can it flourish without the patronage of the government, but the rules for net metering of solar energy have been tightened.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that there is great potential in hydropower and wind power in Pakistan, but it is not being given proper attention. There are 3377 million metric tons of coal in the country, but despite this, this gift of God is not being used in the way it should be; otherwise, electricity would not be so expensive.

Standard Chartered and Karachi United launch the sixth edition of the SC KU Youth League

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank announced the launch of the sixth edition of the Standard Chartered Karachi United Youth League, a flagship community programme aimed at promoting sports amongst children.

The objective of the SC KU Youth League is to provide a platform for football teams from across the underserved areas of Karachi to come together, break barriers and inculcate the spirit and culture of sport and competition amongst children of the community. The Bank has been sponsoring this league since 2017, supporting over 5000 children through sports.

This year's league will see 1200+ boys compete in the age categories: Under 10 years, Under 12 years, Under 14 years and Under 16 years including a Government School competition as well. The format is that of a group system from which the top teams qualify directly for the quarter-finals and beyond. This year the League will also witness an increase in the participation of girls through a Girls tournament involving 180 girls.

A total of 206 matches will be played in six different locations including Khyber Muslim Ground Baldia Town, Old Gollimar Football Ground, Jam Eleven Ground Malir, Karachi United Clifton and Kakari Ground Lyari which promises to attract football fans from all over Karachi.

Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Pakistan said, "The Bank has had a long association with football and we are proud to be leading such a transformational initiative with Karachi United in Pakistan. Each year the league brings together children from across different communities and backgrounds onto a level playing field through friendly competition. Beyond the fact that this improves the skills and game of the children, football has proven to stimulate positive mental health and cognitive development. We have also seen it contributing considerably to the promotion of tolerance, respect, perseverance, resilience and equity of the youth engaged."

Optimistic accountants embrace AI as profession shows desire to learn and adapt

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: ACCA's Digital Horizons report reflects on how accountants see the role technology will play in their future financial professional share a sense of optimism about digital transformation including AI (artificial intelligence).

Pakistan: A survey among members of ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) sees a range of key organisational benefits in adopting digital technologies including flexibility/

adaptability, quality of products and services, sustainability performance, transparency and regulatory compliance (72%).

However, The Digital Horizons survey – which garnered 1,074 responses from ACCA members across the globe – noted that financial professionals still see the main benefit of technology as offering efficiency/process improvements: 52% ranked efficiency, internal process optimisation or cost savings in their top three objectives when adopting a new technology.

Commitment

PTCL 'SHOQ' to stream ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 with Ad Free Experience

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with its commitment to enhance user experience, PTCL is bringing advertisement-free live streaming of the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 on its OTT platform 'SHOQ'. Through this feature, Pakistani fans will be able to enjoy a high quality and uninterrupted viewing experience in full High Definition (HD).

PTCL SHOQ is transforming the match viewing experience for the passionate cricket fans by bringing an uninterrupted relay of the on-ground action and commentary without ads. Viewers will also be able to watch the side action, such as field placements and exchanges between players, that takes place during the ad breaks.

The platform is available to all data users with any smartphone or data network, so that everyone can enjoy an uninterrupted



ed ad-free cricket viewing experience on their android TVs or digital device of their choice for the first time in the country. SHOQ app is available on Google Play and App Store for mobile devices while it can also be accessed on the Web.

Users can simply download the SHOQ app or access it on the Web, subscribe to the service and start streaming. While SHOQ delivers high-quality content and streaming experience, its prices are rather affordable. Depending upon their

convenience, users may choose between Daily, Weekly and Monthly Lite packages, which cost PKR 08, PKR 42 and PKR 120 respectively. Payments can be made through multiple platforms including Ufone 4G recharge, Easypaisa and Visa cards. The subscription can also be availed as part of certain Ufone 4G Data Bundles & PTCL Quadplay bundles, which delivers added convenience for PTCL and Ufone 4G customers.

Apart from the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 matches, SHOQ provides access to a large and diverse assortment of media and entertainment content, blockbuster movies and seasons from major Hollywood studios such as Warner Bros, Paramount, and 20th Century FOX, amongst others. It also hosts one hundred most watched local and international live TV channels, Pakistani movies and originals to cater to the entertainment needs of the entire family.

Punjab organizes online training session for modern swimming rules



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab, on the instructions of Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail, organized an online training session for the awareness of the modern swimming rules at National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

All the senior and divisional coaches of the province participated in the important training session through video link. Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti delivered a lecture to coaches about the modern rules of swimming.

Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Tariq Khanzada, Deputy Director Sports Chand Parveen, Assistant Director Sports M Waseem and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Hafeez Bhatti informed the coaches that swimmers are usually disqualified by making a wrong start in their swimming heat due to lack of knowledge about the modern rules of swimming. He said it is the obligation of coaches to teach their players how to start and finish their swimming competition as per modern rules.

Hafeez Bhatti informed the coaches about how to avoid mistakes and violations of swimming rules during a competition and what are the modern requirements of the swimming game.

A. S. Natural Stone U-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to Brilliant Double Century by Huzaifa Ahsan 200 runs with the help of 27 four and 4 huge sixes and deadly bowling by S. M. Mohtashim 5/29 and Ahmed Ali 4/7 Zone-II Whites easily defeated Zone-V Blues by 275 runs in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament at Young Fighter Ground. The Tournament is being organised by Regional Cricket Association Karachi and Sponsors by A. S. Natural Stone.

Summarized Scores:
Zone-II Whites 337/7 in 45 overs. Huzaifa Ahsan 200 27x4 4x6 not out, Zain Ali 36, Sami Ullah 34, Muhammad Hassan 31. Abdullah Shahab (mf) 3/71.
Zone-V Blues 62 all out in 22.2 overs. Raheem Shah 19, S. M. Mohtashim (sla) 5/19, Ahmed Ali (rls) 4/7.



Huzaifa Ahsan Scored 200 for Zone-II Whites against Zone-V Blues in the A. S. Natural Stone Under-16 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

28 probables announced for Pakistan Women's Emerging Camp

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Women's National Selection Committee headed by Saleem Jaffar has named 28 probables for the upcoming bilateral series against West Indies emerging team and tri-series including Thailand as the third team to be held later this month. The schedule of the series and the tournament will be announced in due course.

Among the 28 probables, five players - Gull Feroza, Rameen Shamim, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Syeda Aroob Shah and Tuba Hassan have already played for Pakistan.

The selectors will announce the 15-player squad following the conclusion of the camp, which will run from 7 to 17 October at the Lahore Country Club in Muridke.

The selectors have included 12 batters, eight spinners, six fast bowlers, and two wicketkeeper-batters.

Probables:

Amber Kainat, Anoosha Nasir, Eymen Fatima, Farzana Farooq (wk), Fatima Khan, Fatima Shahid, Fatima Zahra, Gull Feroza, Gulruk, Humna Bilal, Khadija Chishti, Lubna Behram, Maham Manzoor, Mahnoor Qayyum, Syeda Masooma Zahra, Najila Alvi (wk), Noreen Yaqub, Rameen Shamim, Saima Malik, Saiga Riaz, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasnia Rubab, Tuba Hassan, Wajiba Muneer, Warda Yousaf, Yusra Amir and Zamash Abdul Sattar

Team management:

Aisha Jalil (manager), Mohsin Kamal (head coach), Kamran Hussain (assistant coach), Zulfiqar Babar (bowling coach), Wasim Yousafi (batting coach), Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist) and Muhammad Ramzan (strength and conditioning coach)

Zaka Ashraf honours Pakistan's Blind Cricket Team



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Mr Zaka Ashraf, Chairman Management Committee PCB, hosted Pakistan Blind Cricket team and their officials today at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore to honour the team winning Gold medal at the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023, held in Birmingham.

Pakistan Blind cricket team demonstrated skills and resilience in the IBSA World Games, emerging as the champions beating India twice in the tournament.

In the T20 format, in a five-team tournament, Pakistan remained unbeaten and defeated India, Bangladesh, Australia and England before clinching the medal by defeating India again by eight

wickets on 26 August 2023. In recognition of their remarkable success, Mr Zaka Ashraf, presented each player and official with a cheque of PKR three hundred thousand as a token of appreciation and encouragement for their continued dedication to the sport.

Chairman PCB Management Committee, Mr. Zaka Ashraf: "I want to express

my heartfelt admiration for the blind cricketers and their officials. The achievements of our Blind Cricket Team are a testament to the unwavering commitment of our athletes to overcome challenges and reach for excellence.

"The PCB will continue to support blind cricket, promoting diversity and inclusivity within the crick- eting community."

Inzamam-ul-Haq to head Senior and Junior Men's Cricket Selection Committees



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Inzamam-ul-Haq has been appointed as the Chairman of Junior Men's Cricket Selection Committee, while he continues to lead the senior selection committee.

The four-member senior selection committee comprises Tauseef Ahmed, Wajahatullah Wasti and Wasim Haid- er. The seven-member junior selection committee includes Aamer Nazir, Javed Hayat, Mahmood Hamid, Naveed Latif, Salman Ahmed and Sanaullah Baloch.

The first assignment for junior selection committee is to select Pakistan U19 squad for the forthcoming series against Sri Lanka U19. Sri Lanka U19 are scheduled to arrive in Karachi on 12 October to feature in one four-day and five 50-over matches.

Afghanistan beat Pakistan by four wickets to qualify for the final of 19th Asian Games

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Afghanistan beat Pakistan by four wickets in the 19th Asian Games Men's Cricket-2023 semi-final played at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field in Hangzhou, China on Friday.

After being put into bat first, Pakistan were bowled out for 115 in 18 overs. The target was achieved in 17.5 overs by Afghanistan.

Omar Yousuf (24, 19b, 2x4s, 1x6) was the highest scorer for Pakistan, followed by Taimur Jamal (14, 11b, 1x4, 1x6), Arafat Minhas (13, 14b, 1x4) and Rohail

Nazir (10, 15b, 1x6).

Pacer Fareed Ahmed returned with three wickets while giving 15 runs in the three overs he bowled. Spinners Qais Ahmed and Zahir Khan grabbed two wickets each.

In return, on the backs of Noor Ali Zadran (39, 33b, 4x4s, 2x6s) and Gulbadin Naib (26 not out, 19b, 1x4, 3x6s), Afghanistan secured the final berth at the 19th Asian Games. Pakistan spin attack gained much success during the innings; Qasim Akram and Sufiyan Muqem got a wicket each, while Usman Qadir and Arafat Minhas returned with two wickets each. Pakistan will now play against



Bangladesh in the bronze medal match at the same venue tomorrow. The match will begin at 0600 local time.

Scores in brief:

Afghanistan beat Pakistan by four wickets (13 balls remaining) Pakistan 115 all out in 18 overs (Omar Bin Yousuf 24, Aamer Jamal 14, Arafat Minhas 13; Fareed Ahmed 3-15, Qais Ahmed 2-11, Zahir Khan 2-20, Karim Janat 1-12, Gulbadin Naib 1-29) Afghanistan 116-6 in 17.5 overs (Noor Ali Zadran 39, Gulbadin Naib 26 not out, Afsar Zazai 13; Arafat Minhas 2-11, Usman Qadir 2-20, Qasim Akram 1-18, Sufiyan Muqem 1-18)

Peshawar's Kamran Ghulam and Sahibzada Farhan score centuries

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Centuries by Sahibzada Farhan and Kamran Ghulam take Peshawar to 330 runs on the third day of play for the fifth round of QeAT 2023-2024 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Multan, after batting through the day, have set the target of 432 for Karachi Whites to chase in the final innings at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. An undefeated century by Taimur Jamal steered Rawalpindi into a comfortable position against Lahore Blues at Pindi Stadium. At Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Faisalabad remain only two wickets away from securing a victory over FATA.

Lahore Whites v Peshawar at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore:

Peshawar resumed their innings from 76 for one at Gadda-

fi Stadium on the third day of play in the fifth round of the Quaid e Azam Trophy 2023-2024. Skipper Sahibzada Farhan (171, 311b, 7x4s, 1x6) and Kamran Ghulam (112, 249b, 7x4s, 1x6) steered their side to 330 runs. Peshawar only lost just one wicket in the day, courtesy of Ahmed Daniyal. At stumps, Peshawar were 330 for two after 102 overs. The two centuries, Sahibzada and Kamran, remained at the crease.

Multan v Karachi Whites at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi: At Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi, Multan resumed from 169 for three in the 59.1 overs they batted the previous day. On the backs of Sharoon Siraj (83, 180b, 10x4, 1x6), Mohammad Imran (75, 115b, 8x4, 1x6), Hamayun Altaf (73, 120b, 6x4s, 3x6s) and Imran

Rafiq (70, 147b, 12x4s), Multan got to 405 after batting for 134 overs.

Aaliyan Mehmood returned with four wickets while Asad Shafiq and Noman Ali got two wickets each, as Multan was bowled out.

Karachi Whites were tasked with chasing 432 in the final innings. In the seven overs they batted for, 19 runs were posted on the board.

Rawalpindi v Lahore Blues at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi: Rawalpindi, at Pindi Cricket Stadium, were 40 for no loss at the start of the third day after being enforced a follow-on from the previous day. Solid knocks by Hassan Raza (50, 106b, 5x4s) and Taimoor Khan (137 not out, 172b, 23x4s, 3x6s) stabilized Rawalpindi's innings and steered them to 302 runs in 93 overs.

They lost eight wickets in the process; three came courtesy of Hunain Shah while Ali Shafiq and Kashif Bhatti got two each.

FATA v Faisalabad at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium:

Faisalabad resumed their second innings from 128 for five

in the final innings. By stumps, they had managed to score 156, however, losing eight wickets in the process. Mohammad Sarwar Afridi (59, 143b, 8x4s) was the most prominent batter, followed by Samiullah who scored 48 from 97 balls including six boundaries.

Mohammad Abubakar Khan had three wickets while Shahzad Gul and Khurram Shahzad grabbed two each.

Scores in brief
Lahore Whites v Peshawar: Lahore Whites 568 all out in 161.2 overs (Ahmed Shahzad 253; Ali Zaryab Asif 141; Mehran Ibrahim 5-57, Sajid Khan 2-152) Peshawar 330-2 in 102 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 171 not out, Kamran Ghulam 112 not out; Asad Ullah 1-51, Ahmed Daniyal 1-62)

Multan v Karachi Whites: Multan 220 all out in 50.2

overs (Mohammad Basit 60, Ali Usman 57; Tabish Khan 3-40, Mir Hamza 3-54) and 405 all out in 134 overs (Sharoon Siraj 83, Mohammad Imran 75, Hamayun Altaf 73, Imran Rafiq 70; Aaliyan Mehmood 4-89, Asad Shafiq 2-29, Noman Ali 2-80) Karachi Whites 194 all out in 64.2 overs (Saim Ayub 40, Tabish Khan 38 not out, Mir Hamza 36; Zahid Mahmood 5-69, Ali Usman 4-50) and 19-0 in seven overs

Rawalpindi v Lahore Blues: Lahore Blues 396 all out 99.3 overs (Hussain Talat 104, Junaid Ali 102; Kashif Ali 6-86, Mohammad Awaiz Anwar 3-109) Rawalpindi 176 all out in 50.2 overs (Mehran Mumtaz 40, Mohammad Faizan 31; Nisar Ahmed 4-55, Ali Shafiq 3-55) and 40-0 in 14 overs (Abdul Faseeh 14 not out, Zeeshan Malik 9 not out)

and 302-8 in 93 overs (Taimur Jamal 137 not out, Sardar Hasan Raza 50; Hunain Shah 3-47, Ali Shafiq 2-59, Kashif Bhatti 2-63)

FATA v Faisalabad:

Faisalabad 215 all out in 79.5 overs (Faeem Ashraf 76, Mohammad Huraira 37; Asif Afridi 3-37, Aimal Khan 2-54, Arshad Ullah 2-57) and 220-9 in 62 overs (Irfan Khan Niazi 68 not out, Taimoor Sultan 52, Mohammad Abubakar Khan 37; Asif Afridi 4-49, Mohammad Irfan 2-26, Arshadullah 2-41)

FATA 128 all out in 43.4 overs (Mohammad Sarwar Afridi 35, Mohammad Nisar Afridi 32; Khurram Shahzad 6-23, Mohammad Ali 2-48) and 156-8 in 58 overs (Mohammad Sarwar Afridi 59, Samiullah 49; Mohammad Abubakar Khan 3-26, Khurram Shahzad 2-35, Shahzad Gul 2-37).