

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابو سلمہ نے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہما نے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ شہر کے کام میں سے چاکر لے کر کاغذ سے جو ہے کہ اللہ کے سوا تو جو ہے ہے سب محروم و فنا ہونے والا ہے۔ امیر بن ابی اسلمہ شاعر تو قریب تھا کہ مسلمان ہو جائے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6147)

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Terrorism in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will be eliminated very soon: Faisal Karim Kundi

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa "KPK" Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the country cannot afford political confrontation at this time. Dialogue will take place only with those who believe in the Constitution of Pakistan. There will be no dialogue with the enemies of the country. (Details on Page 2)



Govt announces massive decrease in petrol prices

The government of Pakistan slashed petrol prices by more than Rs15, according to sources. The new prices of fuels are as follows: Diesel 274.08, Petrol 273.10. A notification for the prices has been issued by the federal government. The prices will be applicable from midnight on Wednesday for the next fortnight. Moreover, price of high speed diesel has also been slashed by Rs7.88 per litre from Rs281.96 to Rs274.08.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Public Private Partnership Authority on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

President Zardari lauds security forces for successful anti-terror operation in Zhob

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday lauded the security forces for conducting a successful anti-terror operation in Sambaza area of Balochistan's Zhob district.

The president paid tribute to Major Babar Khan Shaheed, who was martyred in line of his duty during the operation, and applauded his bravery, patriotism and services to the country.

Applauding the professional capabilities of the Pakistan Army, he reiterated the resolve to eliminate terrorism.



President Zardari prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyr's ranks in paradise and for patience to the bereaved family.

Pakistan Army successfully launches Fatah-II Guided Rocket System with range of 400 kilometres



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Today, Pakistan Army conducted successful training launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System with a range of 400 kilometres. The launch was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures. Equipped with state-of-the-art navigation system, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features, Fatah-II is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system. Fatah -II is being inducted in Pakistan's Artillery Divisions for stand-off,

precision engagement of deep targets. The rocket system will significantly upgrade the reach and lethality of Pakistan Army's conventional arsenal. Flight test was witnessed by Chief of the General Staff Pakistan Army, senior officers from the three services and dedicated scientists and engineers.

President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of Army Staff and all Services Chiefs congratulated participating troops and scientists on this excellent achievement.

Chinese vice premier meets Pakistani deputy PM

Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang met with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, in Beijing on Wednesday.

Noting China and Pakistan

are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and iron-clad brothers, Ding said China is willing to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, maintain high-level strategic communication, jointly build the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor with high quality, coordinate development and security, deepen people-to-people ties, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and bring more benefits to the two peoples.



Dar said Pakistan attaches great importance to developing relations with China, firmly supports China's core interests and major concerns, and is willing to comprehensively strengthen

practical cooperation with China, promote the upgrading of bilateral cooperation and deepen the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

PM Shehbaz Sharif committed to building country's climate resilience: Romina

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam has said that global warming is adversely affecting glaciers, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the people in mountain regions around the world.

However, addressing the challenges of rapidly melting glaciers, loss of ecosystem and protection of lives and livelihoods was not possible without the global community join hands to tackle the drivers of the global warming, particularly containing emissions of heat-trapping gases,

she added.

Chairing a meeting with Italian non-governmental organisation EvK2CNR here on Wednesday, the PM's Coordinator observed that soaring temperatures in the mountain regions including Pakistan were accompanied by changes in seasonal weather patterns, the melting of glaciers, the thawing of permafrost, and reductions in the extent and duration of snow cover.

As a result, she added, water flows and its availability for industrial, household and agricultural uses had been shrinking and becoming increasingly unreliable.

Continued on Page 8

Political stability, persistent policies imperative for growth, says Ahsan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday underscored the need for political stability and continuity of economic policies to put Pakistan on a sustained growth trajectory and attain social prosperity.

Addressing the Pakistan Development Summit, the minister said, "Pakistan is blessed with all natural resources and by mobilizing these resources, we can take the country on the path of rapid economic growth and social development within a ten-year time period."

The theme of the event was "5Es

Framework Road map to a Trillion Dollar Economy by 2035," which aimed to bring together stakeholders from industry, academia and sectoral professionals to shape the future of Pakistan's economic growth.

About nine key thematic sessions under the topic of 5Es Framework would gather expert feedback and prepare a comprehensive plan of action to attain sustainable economic development and social prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister stressed the need to form an economic charter, besides maintaining the continuity of these economic policies to turn around the national economy. He said that peace and

political stability in the country were the other prerequisite elements to put the country on a fast track to economic uplift.

Ahsan Iqbal also urged the need for an accelerated pace of economic growth and development not only to compete with the regional countries but to bring it at par with these economies.

Highlighting the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC), the minister said, "It was a game-changer project, which will help to transform local industrial and agriculture sectors."

He also called for mobilizing domestic resources to meet the

Continued on Page 8

Xi calls for greater efforts to promote, protect Great Wall

Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for efforts to let more people know about the Great Wall and engage more people in its protection to pass on the ancestors' precious heritage to future generations.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a reply letter sent Tuesday to

villagers living at the foot of the Badaling Great Wall in a northern suburb of Beijing.

Residents of Shixia Village in Yanqing District recently wrote to Xi, reporting their work in protecting the Great Wall and changes taking place in the village.

In the reply letter, Xi said he was pleased to learn that the villagers had taken the initiative over the years to protect the Great Wall, inherit the Great Wall culture, and rely on its

resources on their way to prosperity.

The Great Wall is a representative symbol of the Chinese nation and an important symbol of the Chinese civilization, Xi said. "It is our common responsibility to protect and pass on this historical and cultural heritage."

Xi voiced the hope that the villagers will continue protecting the Great Wall as they protect their homes, carry forward the Great Wall culture and tell stories about the Great Wall well.



The villagers are encouraged to contribute to building a strong socialist culture in China and promoting Chinese modernization.

The Great Wall is the largest-scale existing cultural heritage in China. Since 2012, Xi has

paid great attention to the work concerning tapping the cultural values and inheriting and protecting cultural relics of the Great Wall, and made multiple instructions on advancing the building of the Great Wall national cultural park.

ECC grants Rs. 23 billion for AJ&K government



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Wednesday approved the summary for "Provision of Rs. 23 billion as an additional grant for the Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJ&K) government. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

The ECC gave approval to the summary for "Provision of Rs. 23 Billion as Additional Grant to the AJ&K Government" through Technical Supplementary Grant as proposed by the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, said a press release issued here. Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Bal-

tistan briefed the Committee that during a high-level meeting held on Monday, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, had authorized an additional grant of Rs. 23 Billion to the Government of AJ&K, in the paramount national interest. The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Industries & Production Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan and concerned federal secretaries.

Terrorism in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will be eliminated very soon: Faisal Karim Kundi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa "KPK" Faisal Karim Kundi has said that the country cannot afford political confrontation at this time. Dialogue will take place only with those who believe in the Constitution of Pakistan. There will be no dialogue with the enemies of the country. I invite the Chief Minister of KPK to come to me and solve the problems of Milkhar KPK. We have not allowed anyone to become a political orphan. PPP has always played a key role in removing the deprivations of everyone, be it from Saraiki belt Punjab or KPK. Maulana's mandate was taken away from KPK and he is protesting in Sindh. When Maulana Fazlur Rehman was coming to us, it was said that the brightness is perfect, now what should be said about him going here. Protests do not solve problems. Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan. We must not leave the farmers alone. He expressed these views in a special meeting with journal-

ists in a program discussion at Multan Press Club yesterday. President Press Club Multan Shakeel Anjum, General Secretary Malik Nisar Awan were also present on this occasion. While PPP central leader Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Rao Sajid Ali, Chaudhry Yasin, Khawaja Imran, Malik Naseem Labar, and others also participated. The ceremony started with recitation of Holy Quran. Recitation was done by Malik Nisar Awan. On this occasion, Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi further said that I am very happy to come to Multan. When I became the governor, I first went to Karachi and visited Mazar Quaid. Then Garhi went away. And now I have come to the holy city of Multan. God willing, the politics of our party is the politics of dialogue. Asif Ali Zardari raised the slogan of Khape Pakistan. Even today, I invite my opponents to come to me at the Governor's House. We don't want to be biased. Let's solve the poor problems of the province. If we do it among ourselves, when will the problems of the people be solved? I

invite CM KPK through Multan Press Club to come to me. If they cannot come, call me. I can go everywhere to solve people's problems. The doors of my governor's house are always open to everyone. He further said that our province and especially Dera Ismail Khan is a victim of worst terrorism. We are also facing shortage of resources in the war against terrorists. Now we have to protect public interest together. In 2011, President Asif Ali Zardari had allocated 1 percent of the budget separately to deal with terrorism. Unfortunately, this allocated fund has been abolished in the past period. God willing, I will bring more funds from the center to the people of my province. He said that our politics is the politics of traditions. When Chief Minister KPK was incarcerated in Sukkur Jail, he used to give breakfast, lunch and dinner himself. We should speak so much that we do not face embarrassment if we meet later. He said that all the provinces should work more than each other for their people. KPK



people should work more than Punjab. People's problems are still like bread, clothes and houses. Our country is an agricultural country. We have to save agriculture. I say that the government should go ahead and hold the farmer's hand. During our time, wheat used to go abroad, then after us, wheat start-

ed to be imported. This is the incompetence of the previous government. He said that alliances are formed and broken in politics. When Maulana was coming to us, it was said that the perfection of brightness has been achieved. Now they are going to him, so are they reciting surah. Today, both sides look

at each other with suspicious eyes on the words spoken against each other. They can't even make eye contact with each other. He said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's mandate was taken away in KPK but he is still protesting in Balochistan and Sindh. Meetings and processions do not solve problems.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam held a meeting with Italian NGO EVK2 CNR on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Faisalabad Photojournalists Association congratulates newly elected body of FUJ

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Professional Photographers Association Registered Faisalabad delegation led by Chairman Syed Tanvir Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, General Secretary Qaswar Munir Sheikh and Senior Photojournalist Abdul Majid visited FUJ Secretariat Kachhari Bazar and Faisalabad Union of Journalists Dastur. On this occasion, senior leader Sajjad Haider Mana, President Zikerullah Hasani, General Secretary Shahroz Ibad, Vice President Asghar Munj, Finance Secretary Fateh ullah, Joint Secretary Muazzam Jut, Information Secretary Malik Jameel Siraj congratulated the officials who were successful in the recent elections. Executives and BDM members Imran Hameed, Dilbar Khattak, Mohammad Khalil Bazmi, Parvez Khan Khaskhari, Sadaqat Shah, Athar Naseem, Mubasher Butt, Rana Javed, Syed Usman, Haji Tanveer, Malik Abdul



Haffar Danish, Aftab Nawaz, Javed Khan, Mazhar Ali and Other members were also present. President Zikerullah Hasani gave a brief introduction to the newly elected body and said that we will try to use all our abilities to solve the problems of our members

and meet their expectations. "Journalists have always pointed out the issues effectively with their pen and camera," senior leader Sajjad Haider Manna said that FUJ works closely with the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and unites to solve collective problems

of journalists.

Hoker raises voice and we are lucky that PFUJ Vice President Mian Salim Shahid and Assistant Secretary General Syed Naseem Shah are available to us all the time and raise our voice at the Centre,' said Faisal, Professional Photographers Association registered. President of Abad Muhammad Ahmed said that we have observed the elections of journalists several times but the transparent method of election of FUJ constitution makes this union unique and separate from others.

The officers were garlanded on this occasion by Deputy Presidents Asrar Ahmed, Muhammad Asif, Joint Secretary Shahram Raza, Media Secretary Rao Mubasher, Executive Members Muhammad Ramzan, Muhammad Afzal, Malik Sohail, Muhammad Tariq, Sheikh Nadeem, Muhammad Yaseen (Yaseen Camera Center), Mohammad Irfan, Mohammad Khizr, Mehboob Ahmed, Mohammad Shafiq and Idris Chaghatai were also present.

Receipt of complaints in the Regional Federal Ombudsman has increased by 22%: Mahmood Javed Bhatti



Khalid Chaudhry

MULTAN: Regional Head of Federal Ombudsman Mahmood Javed Bhatti and Senior Investigation Officer Dr. Zahid Malik Annual Report Submitted to Additional Chief Secretary Fawad Hashim Rabbani and Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan. Mahmood Javed Bhatti informed them on the occasion that the federal ombudsman has processed a record 194,099 complaints against the mismanagement of government departments during the year 2023. The number of complaints has increased by 18% in the total number of complaints processed during 2023 compared to 2022, during which 193,028 of the total complaints were resolved and the number of complaints received compared to 2022. 22 percent in 2023.

Senior Investigation Officer Dr. Zahid Malik informed more about the performance and actions of the Federal Ombudsman during this meeting and said that the complainants against the mismanagement of government departments are being provided immediate and free justice by the Federal Ombudsman. They said

On this occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary appreciated the prompt and free delivery of justice by the Federal Ombudsman and also offered to provide full support to increase the awareness of the institution and access to the people, while Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan said that the Local Government Department Highlight the role of federal ombudsman among the people of the province will So that people in backward areas can benefit from the facilities of Federal Ombudsman.

Risk Associates Certifies Meezan Bank as Pakistan's First PCI 3DS Standard Compliant Bank

PNP

KARACHI: Risk Associates, Pakistan's leading PCI Qualified Security Assessor (QSA), has recently announced Meezan Bank's certification with the PCI 3DS (Payment Card Industry Three Domain Secure) standard. This milestone positions Meezan Bank, the country's Premier Islamic bank, as the first in Pakistan to attain such an accreditation.

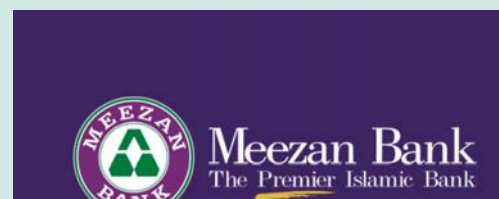
The certification ceremony was held at Meezan House, Karachi where Mr. Aziz A. Rahim – Chief Operating Officer at Risk Associates, presented the PCI 3DS Certificate of Compliance to Mr. Faiz Ur Rehman – Group Head Information Technology, Syed Fahd Azam – CISO & Head Information Security and Syed Iftikhar Ul Haq – Group Head Consumer Finance, from Meezan Bank.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Kashif Hassan – Managing Director of Risk Associates, applauds Meezan Bank as the first bank in Pakistan to achieve PCI 3DS certification at present. It signifies Meezan Bank's commitment to implementing robust security measures.

"We are pleased to certify Meezan Bank with the PCI 3DS standard," said Aziz A. Rahim – Chief Operating Officer at Risk Associates. "This achievement highlights Meezan Bank's dedication to ensuring the security and integrity of its digital transactions, setting a benchmark for other financial institutions in Pakistan."

Risk Associates congratulates Meezan Bank on this milestone and remains committed to promoting a secure digital ecosystem in Pakistan through its certification and compliance services.

While speaking at the occasion, Mr. Faiz Ur Rehman – Group Head, Information Technology at Meezan Bank said, "This achievement reflects our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our customers' financial well-being. As the first bank in the country to achieve PCI 3DS certification, Meezan Bank remains steadfast in providing our customers with the highest standards of security and reliable banking services."



PIDE Highlights Crisis: Pakistan's auto industry technologically decades behind global standards

PNP

KARACHI: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics hosted a round table discussion titled 'Revitalizing Pakistan's Automobile Industry: Moving towards Consumer Welfare, Global Integration & Sustainable Mobility' here in Karachi. The Round Table Conference was attended by representatives of Automobile Companies in Pakistan, Automobile parts manufacturers and academicians.

The conference focused primarily on three major themes. Localization Obsession and Supply Chain Constraints, Policy, Reforms and Industry Development, and Electrification and the Future of Mobility. The participants highlighted the major issues being faced by the industry as a whole and firms individually that

have kept the automobile sector from developing into a major industry in Pakistan, and in the global automobile industry as well.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in his opening address to the conference put forth a pertinent question for the stakeholders to ponder upon. He questioned why has Pakistan's automobile industry despite existing for many decades not been able to increase production numbers and quality to target export markets? Dr. Nadeem expressed his worry over the lack of technological adoption by Pakistan's automobile industry which is lagging decades behind the world.



Later, the PIDE team presented the findings of their ongoing research on the state of automobile industry in Pakistan and the future outlook. The Round Table Conference participants lauded PIDE's efforts to not only research the industry, but to involve all relevant stakeholders and initiating a necessary dialogue for course correction.

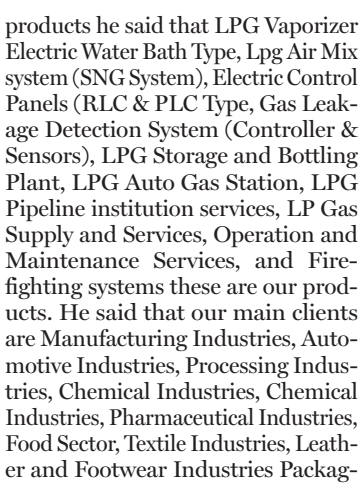
All participants wholeheartedly expressed their views on the issues and future way of action to Revitalizing Pakistan's automobile industry. While many differing opinions were shared, all members agreed that without transfer of technology and skills, the automobile industry cannot grow. Academia-industry linkages must also

be strengthened for any indigenous innovation in the automobile industry that we wish to see. Academia must also step forward to provide Research & Development Support to the industry, particularly by working on current areas of improvement but with a futuristic approach. The role of government is also essential for the flourishing of automobile industry in Pakistan. It must focus on developing facilitative policy environment and regulations, which at the moment are rather repressive.

Dr. Usman Qadir, Senior Research Economist at PIDE rounded off the conference with a vote of thanks to all the attendees for their participation and feedback on this pressing matter. He also expressed the desire to furthering such deliberations and collaboration with industry experts and other members of the academia as well.

We are providing best quality product in Market to meet client's 100% satisfaction: Engrt. M. Yasir Iqbal

Interview of Engrt. M. Yasir Iqbal, Managing Partner, Pak Engineering and Automation. Solution Provider for Mechanical and Electrical



Tahir Amin Malik

Engrt. M. Yasir Iqbal, Managing Partner, Pak Engineering and Automation said in an interview that I started my Career in business 2015, While Pak Engineering and Automation started work in fields since 2015. He said that the mission of Pak Engineering and Automation is to provide engineering and technical solution that are responsive to our clients' needs in an innovative, cost effective professional and quality service manner. He said we will accomplish this by utilizing our common values and in achieving our business objective of having you as a satisfied client. Talked about the

products he said that LPG Vaporizer Electric Water Bath Type, Lpg Air Mix system (SNG System), Electric Control Panels (RLC & PLC Type, Gas Leakage Detection System (Controller & Sensors), LPG Storage and Bottling Plant, LPG Auto Gas Station, LPG Pipeline institution services, LP Gas Supply and Services, Operation and Maintenance Services, and Fire-fighting systems these are our products. He said that our main clients are Manufacturing Industries, Automotive Industries, Processing Industries, Chemical Industries, Chemical Industries, Pharmaceutical Industries, Food Sector, Textile Industries, Leather and Footwear Industries Packaging Industries, Hotels and Restaurants, Apartments and Building Housing Societies. He said that we are providing our best quality product in market to meet client's 100% satisfaction. Moreover, We provide after sale services and give warranty of our product if customer find any trouble in our products, we sor out their issues by providing excellent customer service. So that our clients are satisfied with our products and services. He said that Electric Water Bath Lpg Vaporizer is device that converts liquid LPG into vapor form for safe use in various applications like heating or cooking. It allows to utilize 100% of LP-Gas in tank/cylinder, decreasing delivery frequency and overall costs of LPG. He said there are few features of

Electric Water Bath type LPG Vaporizer System are listed below. Talked about his team he said that our team is comprises of 15-20 staff includes Senior Management Team (Business Owner & Admin), Engineering Team and technical staff, Marketing team, Technicians and Operators, and Skilled Labour. He further said that we always committed to provide excellent customer service and ensuring the smooth operation of our products and never compromise on safety and reliability of our product and we look forward to serving our valuable clients through supplying our best quality, efficient and reliable products for growing best business relationship with our clients. We always follow this quote: A satisfied customer is the best business strategy of all.

Interview Founder of Passive Fire Technology in Pakistan, Dr. Muhammad Imran Taj, President Fire Industry of Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Imran Taj get Master's degree in passive fire technology and PhD from Selinus



Tahir Amin Malik

Q: Sir, how did you become famous around the world for Passive Fire Technology and become a founder in Pakistan?

A: Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. As the first person to qualify with NAPPIS UK about 15 years ago, this training center is world-famous for Passive Fire prevention technologies, including installation training. I was also fortunate enough to secure the distribution ship of passive fire product manufacturers, Envirograf UK, for Asia. So, the journey began from the UK to the UAE and then Pakistan. I introduced fire protection engineering to our nation and established the Passive Fire Prevention Technology market. This was during a time of terrorism in Pakistan, when people were scared and willing to safeguard their lives and property, especially at NADRA and the Security Printing Press Corporation, where records and materials are highly valuable and require two hours of fire protection. From that project to this day I've Protection many Buildings and Factories.

Q: What have you achieved so far in Pakistan, and was it worth returning to Pakistan after your remarkable journey of achievement in fire studies from the UK?

A: I went to England and upgraded my HSE Engineering to Fire Protection Engineering. I attended the Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh and completed courses in Fire Risk Assessment and Fire Safety Management, earning a European degree. I also completed the NAPPIS UK program, International Fire Safety from the National Examination Board in Occupational Health and Safety, UK. Additionally, I hold a Master's degree in Passive Fire Technology and finally, a PhD from Selinus University in Europe.

Q: What are the local standards for fire safety, and are they being practiced?

A: The Pakistan Engineering Council has introduced the Building Code of Pakistan Fire Safety Provisions 2016, adopted from NFPA USA, which is now legislation. This means we are on par with the USA in terms of safety standards, and yes, they are being practiced. Export-oriented practices are being followed as per client requirements, while others are gradually adopting the standards, thanks to awareness campaigns by organizations like 1122 Rescue and the Federal Civil Defence Training School. Insurance companies are also supporting the legislation, which is helping the industry improve fire safety.

Q: Any message to the nation?

A: Practice safety as a culture, starting from your home. Talk about safety with your children, just like the mothers in London sang "London Bridge is Falling Down, Stones so strong will last so long, Last so long, Last so long, Stones so strong will last so long, My fair lady." after the great fire of 1666, and then rebuilt it with stones as the houses burn down due to heavy woods usage in old construction. Set an example from your home to keep Pakistan and the world safe by keeping up the safety culture.

Decent Technology is the Sales Partner and Distributor of Inverex Solar Energy

Exclusive Interview of Daniyal Rasheed CEO, Decent Solar & Decent Technology

Tahir Amin Malik.

Daniyal Rasheed, CEO of Decent Solar and Decent Technology Company in Lahore, said that according to the World Bank, Pakistan has a solar power potential of 40 GW and has set a goal to achieve 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025. Pakistan has introduced incentives to promote the use of solar energy, but he said a lot more needs to be done. He further aid that Pakistan is heavily dependent on fossil fuels for energy generation. However, due to the large population and current progress in industrialization, these sources are not fulfilling the existing energy needs. Therefore, he said, alternate energy sources need to be sought, and solar energy is the best renewable energy option for Pakistan in terms of price, lifespan, operation, and main tenance cost. In an interview with the Spokesman, he said the government should help the solar sector overcome barriers and utilize solar energy to the maximum extent possible in the country. In informing the Spokesman about his life, he said he is an electronic engineer. He started as a sales executive from 2012 to 2019 and was later promoted to sales manager. He served at Inverex Solar Energy to become the National Sales Manager and later started his business in 2020 with the names Decent Technology and Decent Solar. Daniyal Rasheed said the company's first outlet was at Mall Road, Lahore, while the second was at Cavalry Ground, Lahore. Later, we



expanded to Karachi. He said Pakistan suffers from an electricity crisis, and bills are increasing rapidly. Therefore, solar power is the solution to this problem. Considering the market conditions, we have decided to provide quality products to the people so that they can get value for their investment. He said we provide good domestic and commercial solutions to help people overcome the electricity crisis. He said that through our solar systems, people can save money and get a dependable power supply. The return of investment in the solar market is better than in some other sectors, but it is the best investment for them. With increasing climate change-related disasters occurring worldwide, every country has started focusing on climate change in its own way. Many developed countries have set goals for reducing the share of

fossil fuels in their resource mix for generating electricity and replacing them with renewable energy resources such as wind and solar. Daniyal Rasheed said that while electricity companies can use wind and solar energy on a large scale, this requires constructing long and expensive transmission lines. Unlike wind projects, solar panels can be deployed on a small scale on consumers properties, there by avoiding expensive transmission expenses. These panels can be mounted on the roofs of homes and business without large tracts of empty land because solar panels can be mounted on the roofs of homes and businesses. When paired with batteries, they can continue to provide electricity during power outages. According to many experts, solar energy has the highest potential for contributing to meeting the net zero emissions goals because falling costs for solar panels and storage batteries have made solar cost-comises. Pakistan should prioritize reducing the share of fossil fuels in electricity generation and increasing the share of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. Oddly enough, despite being located in a region severely affected by climate change, Pakistan continues to invest in environmentally unfriendly methods of power production. Solar Power can provide a lot of the electricity that Pakistan needs. Much of the land in dry and hot for the better part of the year. Today, Paki-



stan only generates around one percent of electricity through solar power. If fully utilized, solar and wind power could generate more than a third of the electricity required in Pakistan. In Sindh, rooftop solar panels of 20 MW were installed in some 30 hospitals under a World Bank finance project. He said the project demonstrated that rooftop solar panels could be installed in Pakistan in less than a year and at a relatively low cost while avoiding the need for additional transmission and distribution Infrastructure. High electric city rates are major drivers of solar's potential success in Pakistan. The low labour cost is another factor that can make solar more beneficial in developing countries such as Pakistan. Labour costs come into play in two ways- the cost of installing the panels and the cost of manufacturing panels. Pakistan's labour installation costs are far lower than in Australia and US. It would make sense to produce solar panels in Pakistan. In the near term, it may make sense to import them from China, a world leader in the production

metering- a billing mechanism that credits solar system owners for the electricity they add to the grid- is necessary for encouraging solar installations. It has been in place in Pakistan since 2015. Unfortunately, the regulatory body is considering modifying the export compensation rate, which would be a setback. Instead of decreasing compensation rates, the government needs to move in the opposite direction. It should subsidize the installation of solar panels through rebates. The key

is ensuring that the customer's investment in solar panels can be returned in five to seven years. In the US, those who install solar systems receives an income tax credit of 30. To address the concern that only the rich can afford to install solar panels, additional incentives, such as higher rebates and low-interest financing should be provided to low-income customers. Additionally, Pakistan should take steps to encourage the installation of batteries that are paired with solar panels.



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Dubai Leaks: Will Everyone Get Away?

The politicians, parliamentarians, and members of both civil and military bureaucracy create a formidable force to shield one another from the fallout of leaks like Wikileaks, the Panama Papers, or revelations concerning Dubai properties. This network safeguards those in positions of power through compliant Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and rubber nose accountability bodies to minimize or completely neutralize the adverse effects of such leaks. Notwithstanding the fact that serious concerns about the origins of these funds and potential illicit practices such as corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion not only undermine the integrity of financial systems but also deprive the government of essential revenue needed for public services and infrastructure.

Dubai starkly contrasts with the economic realities facing the nation. With foreign exchange reserves far below this figure and a significant portion of the population living below the poverty line, this vast wealth disparity underscores systemic challenges in income distribution, governance, and economic development. In a country where over 40% of the populace struggles amidst inflation rates exceeding 35%, the concentration of such immense wealth abroad not only widens the gap between the rich and the poor but also exacerbates socio-economic inequalities, hindering efforts to uplift marginalized communities and foster inclusive growth.

Any wealth beyond these modest means is likely obtained through illicit means or illegal sources of income as civil and public servants are prohibited from engaging in business activities during their service.

How they launder black money through an intricate web of financial transactions is intriguing. The illicit funds are injected into the financial system through depositing cash into third-party bank accounts, acquiring high-value assets, or establishing shell companies. These funds undergo a series of transactions to obscure their origins, including transfers between accounts, investments across different markets, and international wire transfers through multiple jurisdictions. Subsequently, laundered funds are reintroduced into the economy disguised as legitimate assets, often through the sale of initially purchased high-value assets at deflated prices followed by reinvestment in legitimate businesses or the acquisition of real estate and other valuable assets.

Moreover, politicians and civil servants frequently exploit their positions of authority and leverage legislative influence to create loopholes or favorable conditions for concealing illicit wealth. They may also utilize personal connections and influence to access offshore banking systems or establish intricate corporate structures, further complicating the tracing of asset ownership.

The parliament and the executive often collaborate to introduce 'Tax amnesty schemes. They declare previously undisclosed assets or income, often attributing them to gifts received from friends, relatives, or loyal party supporters. Through paying nominal taxes, which are often a

fraction of the true value of their assets, they effectively launder their illegal wealth freely, use or invest it without fear of legal repercussions.

Let us create a hypothetical scenario that individuals implicated in illegal asset acquisition were US citizens. They could have faced various legal ramifications under U. S. law. This includes potential charges for money laundering, stemming from transactions involving proceeds of corruption or bribery. This would have led to hefty fines and lengthy imprisonment upon conviction on two accounts, failing to report income or assets gained through illicit means, subjecting them to IRS prosecution and civil penalties and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) carrying fines and imprisonment and forfeiture to seize properties and assets acquired illegally.

Let us create another hypothetical scenario in which the politicians, bureaucrats, civil and military implicated in the Dubai leaks were US citizens and had acquired assets as gifts from friends, supporters or well wishers. They could face charges of bribery targeting both the giver and recipient for exchanging something of value for official favors. They could face honest services fraud charges for compromising their public duties. Failure to disclose the gift or avoid decisions benefiting the giver could lead to conflict of interest violations requiring to forfeit the gift, facing civil penalties and reputational damage with added consequences of legal risks, potentially tarnishing careers and undermining public trust.

But we all know with certainty that in Pakistan everyone will get away.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRB



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Drawing from my experience of working as Deputy Commissioner Income Tax for more than ten years (1994-2005) I can tell with certainty that the entire accountability framework, including the FBR, would already have started rectifying the gaps in the income tax and wealth tax records of prominent Pakistani figures including three children of President Asif Ali Zardari, Hussain Nawaz Sharif, the spouse of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Sharjeel Memon, Senator Faisal Vawda, Farah Gogi, Sher Afzal Marwat, several members of the Sindh and Balochistan assemblies, the late Gen Pervez Musharraf, former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, over a dozen retired generals, as well as a police chief, an ambassador, and a scientist.

For those individuals whose wealth statements are available in the public domain and who either failed to declare the mentioned properties or undervalued them, they and their income tax lawyers are likely scrambling to initiate damage control measures.

The properties worth \$11 billion in

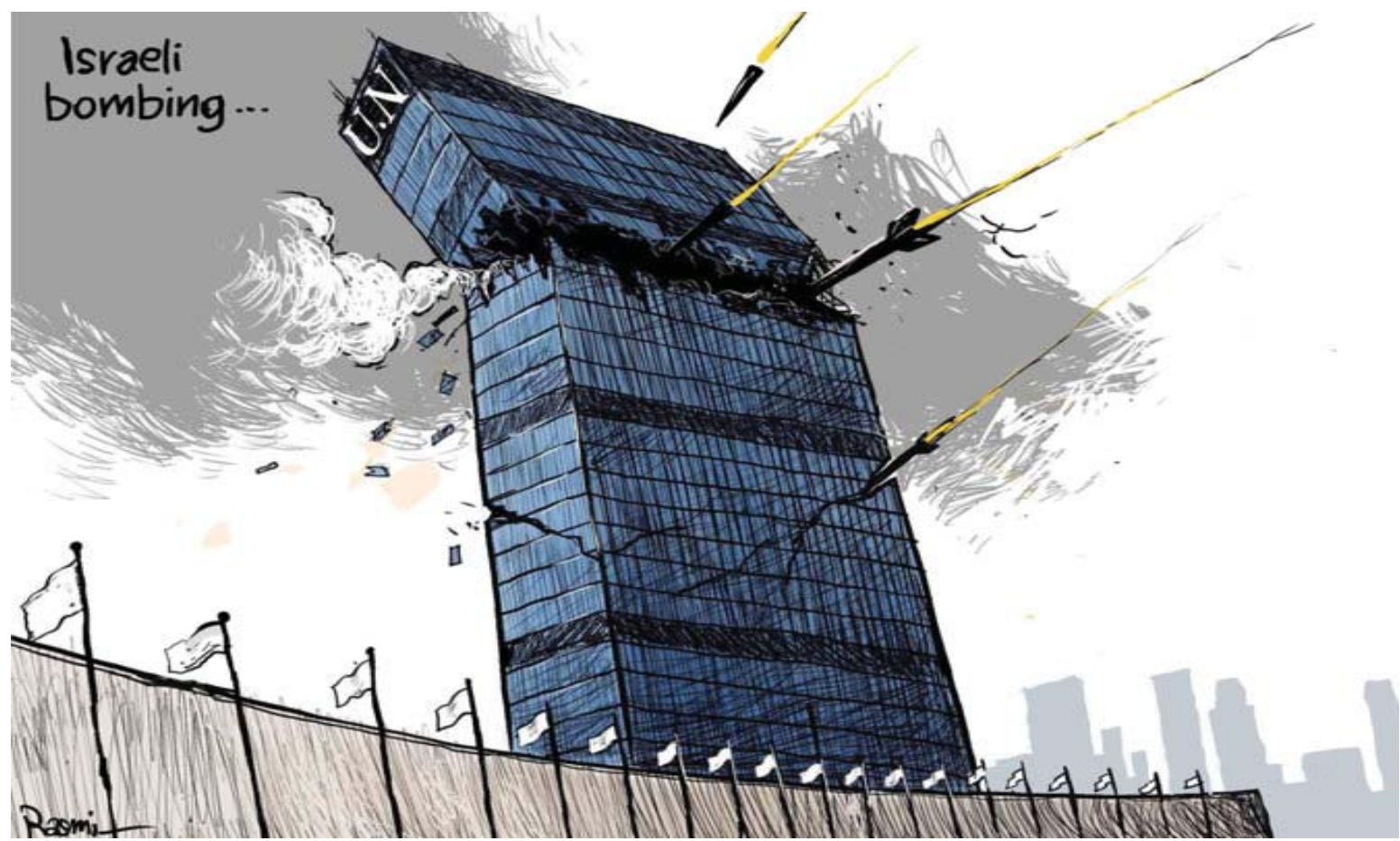
The \$11 billion worth of leaked properties is merely the tip of the iceberg. Countless other properties have been discreetly acquired and stashed away in various countries worldwide, potentially totaling billions upon billions of dollars. This rampant acquisition of assets abroad significantly contributes to the impoverishment of our nation. It's a stark representation of the systemic corruption and greed that plagues our society, draining resources that should be invested in uplifting our people and developing our nation.

As a senior civil servant who retired as the Press Secretary to the President in BS 21, I can attest to the fact that throughout their entire service, whether civilian or military, any bureaucrat can only afford a modest house and a middle-class car with their legal income. Similarly, my experience as Director General of the Minister's Office for four Federal Ministers confirms that politicians can barely sustain their household expenses with their legitimate earnings, let alone accumulate significant

UN chief calls for Rafah border crossing to be 'immediately' re-opened

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is appalled by the escalation of Israeli bombardments in and around Rafah in southern Gaza, his spokesperson said in a statement Tuesday. "These developments are further impeding humanitarian access and worsening an already dire situation. At the same time, Hamas goes on firing rockets indiscriminately," UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said.

Stressing that civilians must be respected and protected at all times, Guterres noted that "for people in Gaza, nowhere is safe now." The Secretary-General reiterated his longstanding urgent appeal for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for the release of all hostages. He also called for the Rafah crossing to be re-opened immediately and for unimpeded humanitarian access throughout Gaza. Large parts of Rafah have become "a ghost town", UN Palestine refugee agency UNRWA reported on Tuesday. Some 450,000 people have fled the area over the past week and are seeking shelter where they can, including in rubble and sand dunes. Farhan Haq said displaced families are arriving at sites that lack shelter, latrines and water points. "However, it is impossible to improve the situation at displacement sites if supplies can't enter Gaza and if we lack the fuel to transport them inside Gaza to the families who need them," he told journalists attending the daily media briefing at UN Headquarters. A senior official with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the escalation in Rafah and throughout Gaza has deepened the suffering of hundreds of thousands of boys and girls. "We cannot accept their plight being livestreamed as collateral damage in a conflict they never chose," Adele Khodr, UNICEF's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, said in a statement. She echoed the Secretary-General's call to swiftly open border crossings and provide safe humanitarian access so that aid can be delivered to children in Gaza. "Failure to do so will lead to a tragedy even greater than what we have already witnessed, an outcome we must urgently work to avoid," she warned. Meanwhile, efforts to deliver lifesaving assistance are ongoing amid insecurity and other obstacles. The UN humanitarian affairs agency, OCHA, said partners reported that work continues to restore health services at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, which is expected to formally re-open in the coming days. The hospital began providing dialysis treatment last week to patients who can no longer be treated at An Najjar Hospital in Rafah, which has ceased providing services. OCHA also reported that on Monday, Israeli settlers in the West Bank attacked aid trucks bound for Gaza. "The settlers offloaded and vandalized the vehicles at the Tarqumiya checkpoint and near the barrier by Beit 'Awwa," the agency said, noting that several trucks were damaged.



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

DG ISPR Delivers Remarkable, Elaborate, and Clear Press Briefing - I

Effective communication is pivotal in any nation's defense infrastructure, not only for upholding national security but also for shaping public perceptions. In Pakistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stands out as an exceptional institution proficient in both aspects. With a steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence, ISPR has become a cornerstone of Pakistan's defense mechanism, providing invaluable services that extend well beyond conventional military operations.

ISPR prioritizes the dissemination of accurate and timely information to the public, utilizing various channels such as press releases, briefings, and social media engagement. This ensures citizens are well-informed about national security developments, counterterrorism endeavors, and disaster response initiatives. By fostering an environment of openness and transparency, ISPR not only strengthens public trust but also encourages active citizen participation in defense-related discussions.

They are committed to taking all necessary measures to suppress terrorists and their supporters, underscoring Pakistan's relentless fight against terrorism and its successful eradication efforts. Despite the return of over 563,000 Afghan citizens, millions still reside in Pakistan. Terrorists are disrupting the peace, but Pakistan's forces stand resolute against them. The spokesperson for the Pakistan Army reported the martyrdom of soldiers in a terrorist attack on a checkpoint in North Waziristan. The thwarted terrorist attempts serve as evidence of the security forces' effectiveness in foiling the enemy's plans. A tragic incident occurred on March 26: the Dasu Dam attack, orchestrated from Afghanistan. The suicide bomber involved was of Afghan origin, and recent attackers also hold Afghan citizenship. Efforts are underway to apprehend these terrorists, as affirmed by statements from the Army Chief in Pakistan, who reiterated that there is no place for terrorists.

The relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is intricate, characterized by shared history, cultural bonds, and geopolitical factors. However, terrorism remains a pressing challenge that strains this relationship. Despite joint efforts to combat extremism, Afghanistan's role in sheltering and supporting terrorist groups operating in Pakistan remains a persistent source of tension. Pakistan has long grappled with terrorism, with various militant factions carrying out deadly attacks on civilians, security personnel, and infrastructure. While significant progress has been made in countering



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

detailed, addressing multiple issues openly and clearly. He emphasized Pakistan's significant role in combating terrorism in the region and reiterated the nation's commitment to eliminating terrorist networks entirely. He mentioned that the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is operating from Afghan territory, and recent terrorism incidents have links to Afghanistan. Pakistan has extended assistance to the interim government of Afghanistan at various levels, but the promises made by the Afghan interim government have not been fulfilled yet. There is solid evidence indicating that TTP militants are utilizing Afghan soil for their activities. Major General Ahmed Sharif emphasized that the Pakistan Army's foremost priority is to establish peace and order within the country.

Book Review: Pakistan Under Siege: Extremism, Society, and The State

The book, 'Pakistan Under Siege: Extremism, Society, and The State' is the culmination of several years of Madiha Afzal's research and writing on extremism, education, and politics in Pakistan. The first and the second chapters of the book deal with the genesis of radicalism, extremism, terrorism and the prevailing notion of jihad in Pakistan. Third chapter of the book discusses 'Pakistan's Legal Islamization'; fourth chapter discusses 'An Ideological Education'; fifth chapter discusses 'Islamists and Madrassas'; and the last chapter provides 'An Appraisal and a Way Forward'.

To Madiha Afzal, in the region, extremism and terrorism are the outcomes of Pakistan's geopolitics. War between capitalism and communism introduced the geography with TTP, Afghan Taliban, terrorism, extremism, Islamization, madrassa system and jihad. With the help of Pakistan, US and Saudi Arabia, capitalism won the war at the cost of defeating sanity and humanity in Pakistan and Afghanistan. "Both America and Saudi Arabia funded the so-called jihad, and America provided arms and technical advice. Pakistan (and its Inter-Services Intelligence, the ISI) trained the Afghan fighters as well as Pakistani volunteers who joined the jihad." Pakistan trained them both ideologically and militarily in new madrassas.

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), on the other hand, is Pakistan-based anti-India and pro-Kashmir militant group, formed in 1990s under the leadership of Hafiz Saeed. Jaish-e-Muhammad (JEM) and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JUD) are also such groups sponsored by Pakistan. Al Qaeda (AQ) is a global jihadist umbrella group, responsible for 9/11, and founded by Osama Bin Ladin and Aimamul Zawahiri. AQ is an anti-US and anti-West militant group. "For Al Qaeda, it is the West; for the Afghan Taliban, U. S. forces in Afghanistan and the Afghan government; for the Pakistan Taliban, the Pakistani state; and for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the target is India." 60pc Pakistanis do not like TTP, 47pc AQ and 36pc LeT.

TTP declares Pakistan's constitution and government 'un-Islamic', and wants Sharia to be imposed by hook or by crook. From 2007 to 2014, TTP killed 23700 civilians and security forces. Since the demands of the TTP were not workable; the Pak Army launched Zarb-e-Azb against them. Pakistan mili-

tary's duty has been to defend not only the territorial integrity of the country, but its ideological frontiers also. Pak Army's official motto is: 'Iman, Taqwa, Jihad fi Sabilillah'.

According to the author, Pakistan's legal Islamization and Shariatization began with the Objective Resolution of 1949. One of the clauses of the resolution pushed the country towards the demand of Sharia or Islamic state. The clause is: "..... enabling Muslims to live their lives according to Islam." This clause made Pakistan a radically-Islamized country. Zia's era dicivilized Pakistan, and made it completely theocratic state. In 1981, with the help of JUI-F, JUI-S and Jamat-e-Islami, Ziaul Haq made Islamiat and Pakistan Studies compulsory for school, college and university students aimed at imparting his personal religious and jihad-oriented views to the county's youngest minds. Afterwards, in schools, colleges and universities, every subject turned into 'Islamiat'. By doing so, Two Nation Theory, the creation of Pakistan and war against its enemies were justified. According to the

author, anti-Ahmadi legislations, blasphemy laws, Hudood laws and the formation of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) are the results of the Islamization of the state. The lack of civilian supremacy and emotionally-charged militant mindset led Pakistan to three wars with India. To him, KPK is still suffering from the Hameed Gull-engineered MMA's Shariatized era.

Pakistani text books do not discuss clearly the real cause of the separation of Bangla Dash, and the surge of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan. Madrassa and school curricula are unfamiliar with science and rationality, and teach students anti-women, anti-US, anti-West, anti-India and pro-jihad teachings. "These madrassas multiplied in number during the 1980s and, through them, the JUI became a major supplier of mujahideen for the Afghan jihad." Madrassas are resistant to reforms and considered 'the fortress of Islam'.

Finally, the author Madiha Afzal suggests schools, colleges, universities and Madrassas should have a curriculum based on science, critical thinking and moderate Islamic teachings; and, the Pakistani army will have to let go of religious justifications for wars.

Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin teaches at Government boys degree college Pishin.



Analysis

Prof. Fazal Tanha Gharshin

National Conference on Mevlana Rumi and Sultan Bahoo

Rediscovering Sufism for Modern Times holds at Islamabad

PPA

ISLAMABAD: MUSLIM Institute organizes a national conference "Mevlana Rumi and Hadrat Sultan Bahoo: Preachers of Human Friendship, Peace, Love and Harmony" celebrating the profound legacies of two great sufis, and their enduring relevance in contemporary times. The conference commences with great fervour at the National Language Promotion Department (National Language Authority) in Islamabad. Dignitaries, scholars, and intellectuals from various walks of life graced the event, adding their invaluable insights to the discourse on Sufism and its pivotal role in shaping societal norms and values.

Distinguished speakers include Prof. Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Director General, National Language Promotion Department, Chairman MUSLIM Institute, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Mr Anssi Kullberg, Deputy



Head of Mission, Embassy of Finland, Islamabad, Professor Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice-Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University, Senator Mushaid Hussain Syed, Dr Khalil Toqar, Country Director, Yunus Emre Institute, Islamabad.

The message of Sultan Bahoo is the message of love and friendship which require certain human attitudes such as politeness, courteousness, patience and

humility. The concept of Hoo in Sultan Bahoo's poetry is eternal. Earthly love we shower in the shape of love, peace and respect is actually a metaphor for divine love. The teachings of Sufi scholars shower the image of oneness. Sufi teachings taught us the lesson of divine reality which is manifested through our good behavior. The same thing is propagated by Mevlana Rumi, when he said, leave all the power at the

mercy of Almighty Allah and be kind-hearted and compassionate.

Speakers eloquently stated, "In a world grappling with dichotomies, the luminance of these Sufi luminaries serves as beacons, illuminating paths towards collective understanding and harmony." They further emphasized the contemporary relevance of Mevlana Rumi and Sultan Bahoo's teachings, asserting, "In today's complex world,

the essence of Sufism is indispensable. Respect for differing opinions, ethical conduct, and human dignity transcends superficialities like attire and beliefs." The core message of Sufism lies in the ethos of peace and love. Justice, as ordained by the Divine, forms the cornerstone of societal order, and the teachings of Sufis advocate for its unwavering implementation. Sufism is ingrained in the DNA of Pakistan.

The conference served as a poignant reminder of the timeless wisdom encapsulated in the teachings of Mevlana Rumi and Hadrat Sultan Bahoo. As intellectuals and leaders emphasized the need for respectful dialogue and adherence to Sufi principles, the imperative for the younger generation to embrace diversity of thought was underscored. Indeed, understanding the true essence of Rumi and Sultan Bahoo holds the key to unlock our authentic selves and fostering a more enlightened society.

NCHD and Natt Trust Hospital launch free eye screening camps

PPA

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark initiative to promote eye health and education, the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has partnered with Chaudhary Muhammad Hussain Natt Trust Hospital to provide free eye screening camps across 208 NCHD Alternative Learning Pathway (ALP) centers. This initiative, which began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 7, 2024, aims to screen the vision of 5,876 students in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Today, a team of experienced ophthalmologists from Natt Eye Trust conducted comprehensive eye examinations for 85 students at the ALP Minhaj ul Quran center in I-12/3 Islamabad. The camp revealed that 26 students suffered from vision-related problems that adversely affected their learning, confidence, and school attendance. On-site, 10 students received glasses and medications, while 16 were referred to Natt Eye Hospital for further screenings and necessary surgeries, including corrective procedures for squints and cataracts.

The event was honored by the presence of the NCHD Director General, who inaugurated the camp and provided milk to the ALP students. This gesture marks the start of a three-month campaign under the Zero Out-of-School Children (OOSC) initiative, ensuring nutritional support for all ALP students. The distribution of milk is intended to meet the dietary needs of these students, enhancing their overall health and academic performance.

Also in attendance were Director Coordination/Education Habib Ullah Khan, Director Admin Hussain Bukhari, and Chaudhary Rashid Natt, Director of Natt Hospital. Chaudhary Rashid Natt briefed Madrasa Mohtamim and NCHD staff about the detailed screening process and the ongoing support for the identified students.

The NCHD and Chaudhary Muhammad Hussain Natt Trust Hospital will continue to work closely to ensure the success of this program, aiming to replicate this model in other regions to serve even more students in need.

Punjab Council of the Arts Rawalpindi organized art exhibition to promote young painters



PPA

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Council of the Arts Rawalpindi organized an exhibition of art works of young painters in Rawalpindi, in which more than pieces of 100 calligraphy and painting were displayed. All the art pieces were created by female artists. The exhibition was inaugurated by Director Information Muhammad Awais and Director Punjab Council of Arts Rawalpindi Sajjad Ahmed. In the exhibition, the young artists used traditional techniques of calligraphy as well as modern trends, while in paintings symbolism, vintage art, miniature art and abstract techniques in addition to Sufism were used. Some of the paintings displayed themes of human inner conflict, loneliness, happiness and gender discrimination.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information Muhammad Awais said that the young artists have shown their talent to the fullest and there are many future big artists among them. He said that the expression of ancient, contemporary and modern trends of art is clearly present in these art samples. He congratulated director Sajjad Ahmed for taking charge of the post and said that he will play a role in the promotion of art while maintaining the traditions of former director Waqar Ahmed.

Director Sajjad Ahmed said that the young artists have shown their talent very skillfully and have added to the glory of the Arts Council. He said that the platform of the arts council is always there for all artists as it is their second home.

Later, certificates of appreciation were distributed to all the artists.

Habibmetro organizes a Roadshow On Economic Insights

PPA

KARACHI: HABIBMETRO organized its Economic Insights Treasury roadshow 'Changing Dynamics of Pakistan's Economy Amidst a Global Perspective' with informative sessions held in Faisalabad, Multan and Lahore.



"HABIBMETRO's role as a leading trade finance bank underscores our commitment to fostering financial intermediation, and catalyzing trade and economic growth in Pakistan. With this roadshow, we aim to equip our clients with expert insights, enrich their understanding of the evolving economic landscape, and foster constructive dialogue," said Khurram Shahzad Khan, President and CEO of HABIBMETRO.

Renowned economist Mr. Sakib Sherani shared his expert analysis on the economy and offered insights on the path to economic recovery, highlighting Pakistan's progress towards gradual macroeconomic stability. "An expected IMF arrangement in the coming months will unlock additional bilateral and multilateral financing opportunities, likely stabilizing the external account. This will support exchange rate stability and reinforce anticipated disinflationary trends in the economy," said Sherani.

Syed Ali Sultan, Group CEO of Global Financial Institutions at Habib Bank AG Zurich, shared his expert insights on the evolving global economic landscape. "The shifting global economic environment, marked by ongoing conflicts, presents new challenges. It is crucial for stakeholders at all levels to understand and adapt to these changes," said Sultan. Habib Bank AG Zurich (HBZ) has played a vital role in supporting Pakistan's trade during these difficult times. We believe Pakistan is moving towards gradual stability, and through HABIBMETRO, our franchise in Pakistan, HBZ will continue to serve as a responsible financial intermediary.

The HABIBMETRO Economic Insights Treasury Roadshow was well-received by key businessmen and decision-makers of the country, and concluded in Lahore on May 15, 2024.

As a trusted institution in Pakistan's financial landscape, HABIBMETRO serves millions of customers through a nationwide network of over 525 branches, including 208 dedicated Islamic Banking branches in more than 200 cities nationwide. HABIBMETRO is a subsidiary of Habib Bank AG Zurich, which operates in 11 countries across four continents.

Alghoza

ISLAMABAD: Alghoza nawaz Akbar Khamiso performs during SUFI & FOLK NIGHT under the auspices of a Welfare Trust in collaboration with LOK VIRSA at Shakkar Parian in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pearson Education Limited celebrates top performing education consultants

PPA

LAHORE: Pearson Education Limited, a global leader in education, organised its annual prize distribution ceremony to honour the outstanding achievements of education consultants across Pakistan. The ceremony, held to acknowledge the highest number of PTE Academic test bookings, welcomed esteemed guests including Ms. Premila Paulraj—Director Employability & Qualifications, Pearson South Asia, Ms Gayathrie Sivanathan—South Asia Marketing Manager, Mr. Waqar Shah -Deputy General Manager, along with Syed Ali Iqbal and Amir Sohail from Pearson Pakistan, alongside numerous eminent educationists.

During the ceremony, Ms. Premila Paulraj and Mr. Waqar Shah extended their heartfelt congratulations to the top-performing PTE partners. They lauded their dedication and unwavering commitment to PTE, emphasizing their pivotal role in helping thousands of test-takers achieve their aspirations of studying abroad and pursuing immigration opportunities. They expressed Pearson's gratitude for the steadfast partnership and commended the efforts of the Champion Partners in Pakistan.

In their remarks, Ms. Paulraj and Mr. Shah reassured the award winners of Pearson's unwavering support, emphasizing the company's dedication to fostering continued success and growth within the education consultancy landscape.

The partners' meet was concluded awarding the top 20 high achievers and top 3 performers which is Platinum, Gold and Silver from Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Swat, Peshawar, Chakwal, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Multan, Sargodha, Karachi, Faisalabad, Bhalwal and Wazirabad.

Sultan directs establishment of Kashmir Studies Institutes in AJK Varsities

Hameed Shaheen Alvi

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK President Barrister Sultan Mohammad Mehmood Chaudhry has ordered establishment of fully functional Kashmir Studies Institute in each university of Azad Kashmir to highlight various aspects of Kashmir culture and Kashmir dispute to the outside world. His direction came during a meeting with him by Secretary General of Kashmir-American Awareness Forum Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai the world renowned Kashmiris rights movement leader. Present on the occasion were Chairman High Education Commission of Pakistan Dr. Mukhar Ahmed and Vice-Chancellors of AJK



universities Dr Mohammad Kaleem Abbasi, Brig Rtd Dr Mohammad Yunis Javed, Dr Zakriya Zakir, Dr Abdul Hameed, Dr Rehmat Ali and other top educationists.

Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai recalling the Kashmir dispute projection at the international level by AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry paid him rich trib-

utes for his untiring role. Dr Fair reiterated implementation of Kashmir dispute UN resolutions to reconstitute Kashmiris self-determination right. He urged world human rights fora to take serious notice of massive human rights violations being resorted to by the Indian occupation forces. AJK President recounted

a wide range of atrocities being committed by India against the people of occupied Kashmir. In this connection he referred to the oppressive activities of over one million Indian occupation forces in IHK today and said that India was doing terrorism not only in Held Kashmir was allegedly involved in killing of a Sikh leader in Canada. This, he said, shows India has exported its home made terrorism abroad for revenge killings of its political opponents.

Other Kashmir movement leaders present on the occasion included Sardar Zilfikar Roshan, Dr Waleed Rasool, Presidential Adviser Sardar Imtiaz Khan, Presidential Affairs Secretary Sardar Idrees Abbasi and others.

BME successfully concludes 8-week internship programme for Balochistan graduates

PPA

KHUZZDAR: Bolan Mining Enterprises (BME), a pioneering mining joint venture between Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Government of Balochistan, has successfully concluded an intensive 8-week internship programme designed to nurture local talent and empower young graduates from the region. The programme, a testament to BME's longstanding commitment to community development and fostering skilled professionals for the mineral sector, saw 25 graduates' participation, including seven women, for the first time, marking a progressive step towards gender inclusivity and diversity within the



traditionally male-dominated field. The ceremony, held at BME's facil-

ity in Khuzdar, was graced by PPL's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Sikandar

Ali Memon. In his address, he underscored BME's unwavering dedication to nurturing young talent and equipping them with the requisite skills and knowledge to excel in the dynamic field of resource extraction and management through hands-on training and on-job experience. He also distributed certificates amongst graduating interns, comprising individuals from diverse educational backgrounds such as engineering, geology and management sciences.

BME's internship programme stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity for the youth of Balochistan, offering a platform for skills enhancement, professional growth and meaningful engagement with the mining sector experts.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
74,663.98	74,531.19
Day's High	Day's Low
75,115.32	74,440.87
Index Value	Change
16,251,400,778	+132.79
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	15 May, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,445.80	+17.67
Percentage	Time
+0.21%	15 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,848.06	+289.95
Percentage	Time
+0.73%	15 May, 1:05 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,385.73	+29.67
Percentage	Time
+0.077%	15 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.5	182.2
Bahrain Dinar	739.77	747.77
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.49	38.89
Danish Krone	40.25	40.65
Euro	296.25	299
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.28	913.28
Malaysian Ringgit	58.69	59.29
New Zealand \$	167.45	169.45
Norwegians Krone	25.67	25.97
Omani Riyal	722.59	730.59
Qatari Riyal	76.41	77.11
Saudi Riyal	73.5	74.2
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	25.67	25.97
Swiss Franc	306.51	309.01
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.15	75.9
UK Pound Sterling	344.5	348
US Dollar	277.25	279.8

Unnecessary departments should also be closed: Mian Zahid Hussain

PPA

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 Wednesday that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's determination to sell all government institutions except strategic institutions is laudable. The Prime Minister should ensure that a minimum number of white elephants are kept in the name of strategic institutions and that the proceeds from the sale of institutions are spent for debt relief and the welfare of the people.

Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that the government should not be involved in business because everyone knows the worst consequences when the government steps into the business.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that selling the failed government institutions is essential. Still, it is also important to keep a close watch on private institutions to protect the rights of the people because the black sheep in the private sector keep starting crises for profit.

The business leader said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif while addressing the meeting of the Ministry of Privatization and Privatization Commission, and that the government's job is not to do business but to improve the investment environment and provide facilities.



During the meeting, the Prime Minister clarified that all government institutions, whether profitable or loss-making, will be privatized. He has also directed all the federal ministries to fully cooperate with the Privatization Commission and take all necessary steps.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that privatization will save almost 1200 billion rupees annually and that private institutions will provide better facilities for the public.

Transparency needs to be prioritized in privatization, while the sale of PIA and steel mills should be preferred.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that, in addition to selling government institutions, the process of eliminating unnecessary departments should also be started.

Satto

LAHORE: A vendor is preparing traditional drink Satto for customers during hot weather in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

BankIslami launches exclusive priority banking lounge for freelancers and IT exporters

PPA

KARACHI: BankIslami, a leading financial institution, is proud to announce the opening of its exclusive Priority Banking lounge for Freelancers and IT Exporters as Free Workspace. This initiative aims to provide a pleasant environment for freelancers to work, collaborate, and network.

The event was attended by esteemed guests & individuals from BankIslami, PAFLA & SBP including; Mr. Aasim Salim (Group Head-Distribution), Mr. Saud Shahid (Head-Trade Finance), Mr. Sameel Noman (Head-Wealth Management) along with senior management from BankIslami. Additionally, Mr. Fahad

Sheikh (Co-Founder & CTO, PAFLA), along with top freelancers from Pakistan were also present. From the State Bank of Pakistan, Joint Director - Exchange Policy Department, Ms. Sundus Shayan and Mr. Imran Malik graced the event with their presence as the guests of honor.

Mr. Aasim Salim, Group Head Distribution at BankIslami, expressed his thoughts on this remarkable initiative, stating, "We recognize the vital role of freelancers & IT Exporters in Pakistan's economy."

Mr. Saud Shahid Khan, Head of Trade Finance, shared overall potential, growth and achievement of BankIslami in this service sector. Along with Centralized Foreign Remittance Team.

Faisal Bank has inaugurated its Regional office and Flagship Branch in Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Pakistan's Fastest Growing Islamic Bank, Faisal Bank Limited has inaugurated its regional headquarters in Multan. A flagship branch has also been set up in the new building of the regional office where priority customers will be served.

On this occasion, Yousuf Hussain, President and Chief Executive of Faisal Bank, also gave a reception in honor of important business personalities and leaders from South Punjab.

Yousuf Hussain said that it is an honor to expand the presence of Faisal Islamic in Multan region. The Bank will continue to strengthen its linkages with local industrial, commercial, SME agricultural, retail sector entrepreneurs. He thanked the customers and said that the support and patronage received by the customers has made Faisal Bank the leader of Islamic banking.

Yousuf Hussain added that Faisal Bank



will continue the process of rapid growth in its network. Inshallah, the number of branches will reach 1000 in the next two years. It is our commitment to expand Islam-

ic finance and banking in major cities of the country as well as rural areas where banking facilities are less available. So that financial inclusion can be achieved in Pakistan.

Bank of Punjab joins SME Finance Forum

PPA

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab, a key player in Pakistan's SME banking Segment, has joined hands with SME Finance Forum (SMEFF) managed by International Finance Corporation (IFC). SMEFF is a global membership network dedicated to expanding access to finance for small and medium businesses worldwide. Notably, BOP is the only commercial bank from Pakistan to attain membership status with SMEFF.

With approximately Rs. 2.2 trillion in assets and 815 branches across Pakistan, BOP has earned recognition for its excellence in SME banking. The bank has received prestigious awards such as the 'Best SME Bank in Pakistan' at

the 2024 Global SME Banking Innovation Awards, the AsiaMoney 2023 Awards, and the Pakistan Banking Awards in 2022 and 2023.

Mr. Zafar Masud, President & CEO of BOP, upon attaining the membership status, expressed his enthusiasm about the collaboration and said that we are excited to enhance our commitment to empowering small and medium enterprises through our partnership with the SME Finance Forum.

Mr. Qamar Saleem, Head of SMEFF, welcomed BOP to its network, as a key player in SME banking, Bank of Punjab's innovative practices in data usage, sustainability, digital solutions, and agriculture finance align perfectly with SMEFF's mission to drive impact in emerging markets, he added.

ICAP hosts CFO Conference 2024 at Islamabad



PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) organized CFO Conference 2024 on theme "Curating Responsible Growth: Innovate, Illuminate, and Integrate," at a local hotel.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, in his address, emphasized the critical role of responsible growth in shaping sustainable economic development. He highlighted the need for innovative strategies, illuminating insights, and integrated approaches to drive

progress while ensuring accountability, transparency, and inclusivity in the development agenda. He underscored that peace, political stability, and continuous reforms are indispensable cornerstones for Pakistan's success, with CFOs poised to play a vital role in driving this transformative agenda forward.

In his compelling address, Mr. Farrukh Rehman, President ICAP, underscored the imperative of curating growth with a conscientious approach. He emphasized that sustainable, ethical expansion, aligned with the organization's long-term vision, is paramount for enduring success. He highlighted the need for innovation in financial

management, urging CFOs to explore new technologies, strategies, and business models to drive growth while maintaining financial integrity and social responsibility.

In his presentation on "CA Pakistan and its Contribution," Muhammad Maqbool, Council Member ICAP, eloquently delineated the profound impact of chartered accountants on the socio-economic landscape. He emphasized how their expertise and ethical stewardship have not only facilitated business growth but also fostered financial stability and integrity within the nation.

The guests included Mr. Aneel Peter, Chairman NRC ICAP, Mr. Amin Rajput, Deputy Managing Director SSGC, Ms. Amna Zaidi, Transformation Specialist and Mr. Ali Imran Chaudhry, CEO, Engro Enfrashare.

The esteemed guests were Mr. Azfar Ahsan, Founder & Chairman, Nutshell Group and Mr. Zeeshan Ijaz, Vice President ICAP. In his address, Mr. Samiullah Siddiqui, Council Member ICAP, shared the conference objectives, vision, and ICAP's substantial contributions to the finance and economic sector of Pakistan.

PTCL launches SHOQ TV Box to revolutionize television viewing experience in Pakistan



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL has launched SHOQ TV Box powered by Android TV by Google, to revolutionize the TV viewing experience and is poised to raise the bar in news and entertainment offering.

The unveiling of the new product took place here in Islamabad at an intriguing event, attended by the leadership of PTCL Group and ZTE. Besides revolutionizing Pakistan's TV landscape, the development heralds new avenues for global collaborations to bring innovative digital solutions to the Pakistani market.

SHOQ TV is meticulously designed to provide a truly gratifying TV viewing experience for the entire family, empowering them to exercise their undeniable freedom of choice during leisure time. With an extensive selection of 200 Live Television channels with 60 channels in HD and a staggering 15,000 hours of on-demand content, SHOQ TV offers an enriched entertainment bouquet. The SHOQ TV Box puts control back into the hands of users with interactive rewind & play, catch features, on-demand content accessibility, voice-controlled convenience, and personalized content selection options.

Speaking at the launch event, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf said, "As we unveil SHOQ TV, I want to emphasize that we are not just introducing a product but ushering in a new era of entertainment empowerment. With SHOQ TV, we put the power of choice back into the hands of our customers by offering a seamless blend of innovation, convenience, and immersive viewing experiences. I would like to express my utmost gratitude to Google and ZTE for making this possible."

سولہ ماہ کی سزا
گیس چوری کی سزا
بدنامی، حیرمانہ، جیل کی ہوا

10 برس قید اور 30 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ	14 برس قید اور 1 کروڑ روپے جرمانہ
14 برس قید اور 10 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ	10 برس قید اور 50 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ
6 ماہ قید اور 1 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ	7 برس قید اور 50 لاکھ روپے جرمانہ

گیس چور کی خرابی

خبردار!

گیس چھینٹ کنٹرول اینڈ ریکوری ایکٹ 2016 کے تحت گیس کے غیر قانونی استعمال، گیس تنصیبات کے ساتھ چھینٹ چھینٹ اور گیس فراہمی میں رکاوٹ پیدا کرنا قابل سزا جرم ہے

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National Sports Conference on Friday

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination and Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday announced to hold the National Sports Conference on May 17 in Islamabad.

This was decided in an important meeting between IPC Minister and Federal Secretary, Nadeem Irshad Kayani.

Speaking in the occasion, the Minister said the conference aims to bring together professionals, technical experts, athletes, provincial sports boards, sports federation presidents, and other stakeholders together to discuss the challenges faced in sports in Pakistan and propose recommendations for its revival, said a statement issued here.

The conference is part of the government's efforts to revitalize sports in the country, following the Prime Minister's vision to declare 2025 as the 'Year of



Sports.

Ahsan emphasized that the conference aims to create a constructive environment where athletes can be prepared for international competitions.

He also highlighted the importance of

sports in promoting mental and physical health and the government's commitment to upgrading sports infrastructure across the country.

"Our goal is clear, to bring our athletes to the standard of Olympic medals and

increase their performance in other international competitions," the Minister said.

"The federal government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, is taking steps for the development and improvement of sports across the country, which have started to have positive effects," he said.

The conference would feature discussions on the current state of sports in Pakistan, the challenges faced by athletes, and proposals for improvement.

The Minister also mentioned the recent success of the Pakistan hockey team, attributing it to the Prime Minister's special attention, merit-based selection of players, and the ministry's reform efforts.

This conference marks a significant step forward in the government's efforts to promote sports in Pakistan and provide a platform for athletes to excel in international competitions.

Misbah believes Amir's experience will be crucial in T20 World Cup 2024

A Sports

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has expressed his support for pace bowler Mohammad Amir, stating that his experience will be crucial for the Green Shirts in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, beginning on 1 June.

Amir made his return to international cricket last month during the home T20I series against New Zealand after taking back his retirement.

The left-arm pacer has taken four wickets in five matches during New Zealand and recently concluded Ireland series.

Misbah-ul-Haq acknowledged that Amir may not be as effective as he once was but emphasised his potential to contribute to Pakistan with his experience.

"Last time back in 2017 in the Champions Trophy, there is quite a difference between that Amir and today's Amir. Back then, there was more pace, more



swing, more zip in his bowling. But now these factors might have been slightly reduced, but there is an advantage. He has huge experience," Misbah-ul-Haq said while speaking during the Star Sports Press Room.

The former captain spoke highly of the fast bowler's skill in handling pressure and bowling in the final overs. He emphasized that Amir has demonstrat-

ed his ability to perform in high-pressure matches, especially against India.

"And his experience as a death bowler, how to bowl under pressure and use variations. These factors will be a crucial asset in Amir's forte this time.

"He might not be that effective with the new ball, but in the death, he will be crucial with his slower balls, aimed at outside the

off stump.

"And lastly, comes the major factor of pressure handling. In big games, where you have previously faced big teams and won games, it is more for Amir while facing India."

Notably, Amir was part of Pakistan sides that won the T20 World Cup in 2009 under Younis Khan and Champions Trophy in 2017 under Sarfaraz Ahmed

Pakistan wins bronze medal in the Poomsae event of the Asian Taekwondo Championship

Sports Desk

DA NANG, VIETNAM: In a superb display of talent and athleticism, Pakistan Poomsae team have won bronze medal in the over 30 event category of the Poomsae event of the Asian Taekwondo Championship here.

The national players comprising Shehbaz Ahmed, Mudassar Hussain and Muhammad Mumtaz reached the victory stand by showing excellent performance.

Iran won the gold medal with 8.182 points, Vietnam won the silver medal with 7.630, whereas Chinese Taipei & Pakistan got bronze medal with 7.583 and 7.533 points. Saudi Arabia was fifth with 7.299 points and the Indian team finished at sixth position with 6.949 points.

Master Seongoh Choi, the poomsae coach of the Pakistan national team, while appreciating the performance of the national athletes, said that our players have made a place on the victory stand by using their full potential against their competitors. Good results are expected in further competitions, he added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation President, Colonel (ret'd) Raja Wasim Ahmed, CEO Omar Saeed and Secretary General Murtaza Bangash congratulated the medal winners for their outstanding performance and winning a medal for the nation.

Pakistan outclass Ireland to clinch T20I series

Pakistan on Tuesday inflicted a six-wicket defeat on Ireland in yet another one-sided match to bag the three-match T20I series 2-1 at the Clontarf Cricket Club in Dublin.

After losing the first match by five wickets, the Babar Azam-led unit made an excellent comeback in the series as they won the remaining T20Is with dominant performances.

Chasing the 179-run target in the third T20I, Pakistan, once again, had a disappointing start as opener Saim Ayub departed for the pavilion after contributing just 14 runs.

However, the pair of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan rose to the occasion and formed a 139-run partnership which not only helped Pakistan steer to victory but also etched their names in the history books.

Babar and Rizwan became the first pair to score 3,000 partnership runs. While doing so, they also became just the first batting pair to have 10-century stands. The closest to them is India's pair of Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul with five-century partnerships.

Babar also smashed three sixes in a row and four in an over to Benjamin White, which was the first time in his career.

Erling Haaland tells Manchester City to 'relax' ahead of title race finale

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Erling Haaland has urged his Manchester City teammates to "relax" after they closed in on making English football history with a 2-0 win away to Tottenham Hotspur.

Tuesday's triumph in north London saw Manchester City, courtesy of two goals from Haaland, win their game in hand as they returned to the top of the table as they moved two points clear of Arsenal.

Victory at home to West Ham on Sunday's final day of the season will now assure City of a fourth successive Premier League title — an unprecedented feat in the top tier of English football.

"Yeah, fantastic mental-



ity," Haaland told City+. "Focus on game by game and now relax. We came here to try to win and we won."

Haaland opened the scoring six minutes into the second half when he tapped in from Kevin De Bruyne's pass before doubling City's lead from the penalty spot after Jeremy Doku was

brought down by Pedro Porro.

Spurs, however, had a chance to equalise but City reserve goalkeeper Stefan Ortega, who came on after Ederson was injured in a challenge with Cristian Romero, stood up well to deny Son Heung-min when one-on-one with the South

Korean.

"They're a fantastic team," Haaland said of Spurs. "You know everyone knows that they want to play all the time and all praise to them."

"It was really difficult, but yeah, we came here to try and win and we won. That's my only thing and I'm happy."

"I think we were a bit nervous. I think that's normal, there's a lot of emotions for everyone."

"Everyone knows the situation, but it's about not thinking too much. Try to focus on your things to do and try to win."

He added: "Ortega man of the match... What can I say? He's incredible and such a good guy as well, so I'm happy for him."

Babar Azam vows to keep momentum going against England

Sports Desk

DUBLIN: Pakistan's white-ball captain, Babar Azam, expressed satisfaction with the team's performance in the Ireland series and vowed to maintain the same momentum against England.

Pakistan defeated Ireland in the final T20I to clinch the three-match series 2-1, courtesy of Azam and Mohammad Rizwan's swashbuckling half-centuries.

Azam reflected on the team's performance after the game and appreciated the batters for showing responsibility after the shocking loss in the first match.

"Our team showed improve-

ment during the Ireland series, especially in the batting department," said the star batter.

He appreciated contributions by the top-order batters Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman, while also showing faith in lower-order batters Iftikhar Ahmed and Azam Khan.

"Rizwan and Fakhar stood out throughout the series, however, the performance by Iftikhar Ahmed and Azam Khan in the lower order has been promising," he added. The star-batter also heaped praise on bowlers, especially all-rounder Imad Wasim for his economical spells.

"If we talk more about bowl-



ing, Imad Wasim is bowling very well in difficult situations. Amir is playing a perfect role as a senior

bowler, while Shaheen Afridi once again proved himself as an outstanding bowler," he said.

He also expressed optimism for the upcoming four-match T20I series against England and vowed to maintain the same momentum as in the Ireland series. "You will continue to see positive intent from batters during the England series and we will try to maintain this momentum," he concluded.

Pakistan and England will square off in the first T20I on May 22 at Headingley, followed by the second match at Edgbaston on May 25. After the conclusion of the series, the Pakistan team will depart for the United States of America (USA) to participate in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Pakistan qualifies for Central Asian Volleyball League final



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan team has reached the final of the Central Asian Volleyball League here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday. Pakistan defeated Kyrgyzstan in the semifinals with a convincing 3-0 set victory, winning 25-18, 27-25, 27-25. This marks Pakistan's fourth consecutive win in the tournament.

The Pakistan Volleyball Federation is hosting the event, where Pakistan has continued its winning streak, defeating Kyrgyzstan with its aggressive gameplay. Pakistan has already defeated Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka in previous matches. In another match, Sri Lanka beat Iran by 3-0 with a score of 25-22, 25-17, 25-21. Meanwhile, Turkmenistan outplayed Afghanistan by 3-1 in sets, winning the match 18-25, 33-31, 25-17, 25-17. Pakistan would face Iran in the final round of matches on Thursday.

Hasaranga, Shakib share top-spot in ICC T20I All-Rounder Rankings



A Sports

DUBAI: Sri Lanka's T20I captain Waninda Hasaranga and Bangladesh's veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan are tied at the top of the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20I all-rounder rankings ahead of the T20 World Cup 2024.

Both players are set to enter the mega-event as top-ranked T20I all-rounders after Shakib Al Hasan lost two points due to his unimpressive performance in the T20I series against Zimbabwe.

Hasaranga, who was ranked second, joined the Bangladesh star on top, separated by 10 points from the third-ranked Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza played brilliantly against Bangladesh to jump two places, reaching the fourth spot, followed by the South African captain Aiden Markram at fifth.

After the conclusion of Pakistan's three-match T20I series against Ireland, star all-rounder Imad Wasim rose to the joint 16th position in the all-rounders' rankings. He also jumped 24 spots to equal 52nd in the T20I bowling rankings.

Pakistan's top-order batter Fakhar Zaman jumped four places to 57th in the ICC Men's T20I batting rankings on the back of his impressive showing against Ireland.

Meanwhile, Ireland's Andrew Balbirnie, who ended the series with 128 runs at 42.66, rose six places to 53rd in the batting rankings.

His teammate Harry Tector jumped 12 spots to 69th after scoring 98 runs against Pakistan at an average of 49 and a strike rate of 130.66.

There was not much movement in the T20I bowling rankings, other than Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed jumping three places to 23rd and Mustafizur Rahman gaining five spots to reach 25th.

India's potential T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final venue unveiled



A Sports

LAHORE: India will play the second semi-final of the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled on June 27 at Providence Stadium in Guyana, if they manage to reach the final four stage.

The playing conditions for the T20 World Cup, as revealed by the ICC, state that the second semi-final in Guyana will be a day game, starting at 10:30 AM local time. This translates to 8:00 PM in India.

Consequently, if team India qualifies for the semi-final, they will play in Guyana to cater to the audience back home.

Meanwhile, the first semi-final is scheduled to take place at Tarouba in Trinidad on June 26, which will be a night game, starting at 8:30 PM local time and 6:00 AM in India.

The final of the mega-event is scheduled at Bridgetown in Barbados on June 29. This will also be a day game, which will start at 10:00 AM local time (7:30 PM in India).

Moreover, the playing conditions have also confirmed that there will be no reserve day for the second semi-final. Instead, 250 minutes of extra time will be allotted to the match, compared to the 190 minutes allotted to the first semi-final and the final, which have reserve days.

The T20 World Cup 2024 will commence on 1 June with co-hosts USA taking on arch-rival Canada, while fellow hosts the West Indies will play Papua New Guinea in Guyana on the second day of group play.

A total of three venues in the USA and six in the Caribbean will host the elusive event, featuring 20 teams for the first time.

Ten of the 20 teams will play their first match of the 29-day tournament in the USA, with 16 contests to be held in Lauderdale Hill, Dallas and New York and the blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan scheduled for the new Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Long Island on 9 June.

Fatihaa

MIANWALI: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi offering Fatihaa at the residence of Shaheed Major Babar Khan on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistani politicians acknowledge Dubai properties revealed in data leak, say all assets duly declared

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Top Pakistani politicians have dismissed a new leak of records that has revealed residential properties worth around \$11 billion owned by the country's political, military and business elite in Dubai, saying all mentioned assets had been legally declared. Arab News reported

Dubai Unlocked, an investigative project involving more than 70 media outlets around the globe, has revealed the ownership of properties in the Emirate of prominent global figures, including alleged money launderers and drug lords, political figures accused of corruption and their associates, and businessmen sanctioned for financing terrorism, among others.

The data spans 2020 and 2022 and only includes residential properties.

Pakistanis listed in leaks include President Asif Ali Zardari's three children, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's son Hussain Nawaz Sharif, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's wife, Sindh



provincial minister Sharjeel Memon and family members, Senator Faisal Vawda, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmaker Sher Afzal Marwat, and half a dozen lawmakers from the Sindh and Balochistan assemblies.

The Pakistani list also features the late Gen (retired) Pervez Musharraf, former prime minister Shaukat Aziz, former army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa's son, and more than a dozen retired army generals as well as a police chief, an ambassador and a scientist, all of whom owned properties either directly or through their spouses and children.

Pakistani politicians and

others were last named in the 2016 Panama Papers, leaked documents that showed how the rich exploit secretive offshore tax regimes.

"What is the new thing here," Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said on X, dismissing the leaks and saying all those named in the data were already known to have properties abroad.

Explaining his position on the issue, Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqvi said the Dubai property bought in his wife's name in 2017 was fully declared and listed in tax returns.

"It was also declared in returns submitted to the Election Commission as caretaker

er CM [chief minister] of Punjab," he said in an X post. "The property was sold a year ago, and a new property was purchased recently with the proceeds."

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmaker and ex-PM Imran Khan aide, Sher Afzal Marwat, admitted he owned an apartment in Dubai, but had declared it with authorities in Pakistan, including the Federal Board of Revenue and the Election Commission of Pakistan.

"It can be confirmed with both the FBR and as well as ECP," he said.

President Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party also said the properties of its leaders in Dubai had been duly declared in tax returns.

The property records at the heart of the Dubai Unlocked project come from multiple data leaks, mostly from the Dubai Land Department, as well as publicly owned utility companies. Taken together, the data provides a detailed overview of hundreds of thousands of properties in Dubai and information about their ownership or usage.

The data was obtained by the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS), a non-profit organization based in Washington that researches international crime and conflict. It was then shared with Norwegian financial outlet E24 and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which coordinated an investigative project with dozens of media outlets from around the world.

The UAE was dealt a major reputational blow in March 2022 when it was flagged by global watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), for "deficiencies" in its systems to combat money laundering and terror financing.

The move, which threatened to tarnish Dubai's reputation as a premier center of finance, sparked a concerted effort by UAE authorities to tighten legislation and increase cooperation with foreign law enforcement on extradition.

Several prominent Pakistanis have been named in the latest leaks containing details of individuals who own properties in the upscale areas of Dubai.

Palestine foreign ministry condemns Israel's mass arbitrary detention of Palestinians in Gaza Strip

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the policy of mass arbitrary detention followed by Israel, the occupying power, against the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip,

and considers it an additional war crime and an integral part of the system of persecution and oppression it practices to perpetuate its colonial regime in Palestine, especially since the court system is one of the arms of the occupation that contributes to consolidating the colonial occupation of

the Palestinian land.

It also considers with great seriousness what a large number of children, women and men who were forcibly kidnapped from the Gaza Strip during the past months are exposed to as a result of the systematic torture policy that Israel uses against them,

including sexual violence, rape, starvation and deprivation of medical care, as the continuing brutal occupation policies have reached unprecedented levels, which led to the death of dozens of Palestinian prisoners under torture in illegal Israeli detention centers. The Ministry expresses its fear that this

fate is facing and threatening thousands of those who were recently forcibly kidnapped in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem, without determining their fate. This has been confirmed by numerous reports and press investigations from Israeli and international media.

PM Shehbaz Sharif committed...

Continued from Page 1

"Initiatives, which can help slow down global warming, are direly needed to overcome devastating impacts of climate change on glaciers, mountains, ecosystems, water flows, agriculture, public health and education," Romina stressed.

She said since the early 1900s, many glaciers around the world had been rapidly melting.

"Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land."

Pakistan, US agree to boost cooperation in IT, Telecom field

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Donald Blome called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in her office on Wednesday.

Matters of mutual interest and related to IT and Telecommunication, digitalization of Pakistan's judicial system and promotion of gaming industry were discussed in the meeting.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in IT and Telecommunication sector.

While talking to US Ambassador, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said that the IT and Telecom sector of Pakistan is progressing. She said that Pakistan wanted to enhance its relations with US in the field of



IT and Telecom.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan wanted to work on promotion of gaming industry with the collaboration of United States.

She also emphasised upon increasing business to business relations between Pakistan and US.

Pakistan aspired to benefit

from the experiences of America in the field of technology, and exchange of IT experts between the two countries.

Minister of State for IT said that present government is focusing on digitalization in the country. Economy, governance and society are being digitalised under Prime Minister's National Digitalization Plan, she maintained.

Shaza Fatima noted that the connectivity is the foundation of digitalization, adding that steps are on for provision of connectivity and quality broadband services in the country.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said that private sector has very important role in the uplift of economy, adding that private sector is being fully supported under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

US Ambassador Donald Blome said that US will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Secretary MoIT, Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim.

Fazl demands fresh election, without 'establishment's interference'

Bureau Report

MULTAN: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday demanded the incumbent government to resign and holding of fresh general elections without the 'interference of establishment'.

Addressing a press conference here, Maulana Fazl said that his party will fully support the environment for negotiations 'if created, noting that it is not possible for the establishment to be both the "servant and the ruler".

He emphasised that the mindset that nothing can happen without the establishment's consent needs to be changed, demanding that the government resign and fresh elections be held, with the establishment staying away from the electoral process.

He claimed that the incumbent government is 'weak' as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is not part of the cabinet, noting that his party had already launched a movement against the regime. "They [the government] cannot delivered in



current circumstances."

Fazlur Rehman also expressed concern over the country's economic situation, stating that Pakistan's budget is in the hands of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

The JUI-F chief claimed that the government is not a democratic entity, but rather a group of individuals who have been handed power. Casting the recently-held general elections, he alleged that candidates have been bribed, assemblies have been sold, and the system is corrupt.

He also lamented the political culture of seeking power and positions, stating that this is not politics. Expressed confidence in the people's support, he said they will vote for him and he will become the President, Prime Minister or Chief Minister.

No plans for taxation on solar net metering: Power minister

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for power Division Awaiz Leghari on Wednesday ruled out any plans of the government to impose taxation on the solar net metering.

The government will not withdraw its regulations related to net metering for the already installed solar systems, he told a local television channel. However, the minister said, the matter could come under consideration in next few years as the net metering could lead to fiscal losses and increase in circular debt.

Net metering is a billing tool that allows the consumers to send excess energy generated by solar panels to the local grid in exchange of credits to the monthly electric bills. Leghari

mentioned that capacity payments were a big challenge for the government and said reforms had been chalked out to bring improvement in the transmission system in next four years. He urged the general public to resort to solar power to reduce load on system of power generation. The minister said steps were being taken to improve customer care at distribution companies, check power theft and ensure crackdown against pilferage. He vowed ensuring zero tolerance against service delivery. Leghari also hinted at privatization of departments, for which, he said long-term agreements for award of operational management contracts were in pipeline. This way, the privatization can be carried out after value-addition, he added.

PTI founder gets bail in £190m case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) settlement reference.

A two-member bench, comprising IHC CJ Aamer Farooq and Justice

Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, reserved the verdict a day ago after the completion of arguments. In its short order today, the IHC ordered the authorities to release the PTI founder against the surety bond of Rs1 million.

However, Imran Khan will stay remain in jail as the PTI founder was currently facing trail in cipher and Nikkah cases.

Bilawal Bhutto slams PTI for 'double standards' over dialogue remark

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari slammed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for their 'double standards' over remarks regarding dialogue with the establishment.

During his speech in the National Assembly, Bilawal said that PTI only care about their personal issues and not about the problems faced by the common man.

He said that the PPP believes in democracy and wants to solve the problems faced by the people, but PTI is only interested in its personal agenda.

Ambassador Amna highlights Pakistani women's role in economic development

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Amna Baloch on Wednesday highlighted the role and contribution of Pakistani women in the economic development of the country. She had participated in a panel discussion on 'Global Leadership and Women Empowerment in Emerging Economies' at ICHC Brussels Management School, Pakistan Embassy in Brussels posted on X account.



Political stability, persistent ...

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financial requirements and reducing the reliance on borrowing.

The minister said that the income of the government was Rs7,000 billion and debt repayment was Rs8,000 billion, adding that it was borrowing 1,000 billion per annum to bridge the gap between income and expenditure.

Meanwhile, the minister said, "More than half of the country's population does not pay the electricity bill, besides large businesses and traders are not paying their due taxes."

He stressed the need to promote tax compliance culture to generate resources to meet expenses.

The Planning Minister also stressed the need to strengthen the foreign exchange reserve of the country to ensure the timely payments of all international commitments.

Addressing the event, Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Owais Samra said that Pakistan was facing economic difficulties, adding that the government was following a comprehensive policy to revive the economy.