



Trump makes major statements after hush money conviction

Former US president Donald Trump has made major revelations about himself and the case after hush money conviction in which the 12-member jury found him guilty on Thursday. While speaking in an interview with Fox News Sunday, the 77-year-old Trump called himself opposite to what President Joe Biden and his Democrats call the former president a threat to US democracy.



Groundbreaking drug to re-grow teeth set for human trials this September

Less than a year after its success in animals, the world's first drug that can regenerate teeth will begin testing on humans in a few months, News Atlas reported. The report revealed that this opens the door for the medicine to be available commercially as early as 2030. Japan's Kyoto University Hospital is set to hold the trial from September 2024 to August 2025, treating 30 males, aged 30-64, who are missing at least one molar.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Stop the War

In an interview with Britain's Sunday Times, Ophir Falk, chief foreign policy adviser to Netanyahu, said Biden's proposal was "a deal we agreed to."

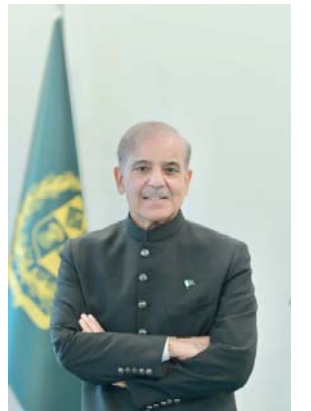


Photo: AP

PM congratulates Saudi Arabia on hosting boxing event, hails Pakistani origin on his victory

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his warm felicitation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on hosting a successful boxing event at the Kingdom Arena in Riyadh. "Congratulations to brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on hosting an impressive boxing bout at Kingdom Arena, Riyadh," the prime minister wrote on his official X timeline.



Expressing delight on the victory of Pakistani origin young superstar Sheeraz Hamza, he said "We are proud

of you and look forward to welcoming you soon as world champion," he commended".

Two Saudi Arabia's diplomats were looted in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: "We were walking in the Hill View Park when 30/35 years of men on two motorcycles came to us and robbed our two i-Phone 15 Pro," said the first information report registered at the federal capital's Margalla Police Station.

phones from the victims and fled the scene. "They kept asking us the passwords," it stated and added that the suspects ran away towards the Centarus Mall.

The case was registered on the complaint of Saudi Attaché Khalid bin Modhi Al Toom. Each mobile phone was worth Rs300,000.

The complaint invoked Section 392 (punishment for robbery) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

One of the suspects was carrying a dagger, while the other was armed. The suspects forcibly snatched two mobile

In reaction to the development, the inspector general of Islamabad Police has formed four special teams and "Digital surveillance, cellular technology and human intelligence are being used. The accused will be arrested soon," the police said in a post.

Biden's Gaza plan 'not a good deal' but Israel accepts it, says Netanyahu aide

Reuters

JERUSALEM: An aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed on Sunday that Israel had accepted a framework deal for winding down the Gaza war now being advanced by US President Joe Biden, though he described it as flawed and in need of much more work.

"There are a lot of details to be worked out," he said, adding that Israeli conditions, including "the release of the hostages and the destruction of Hamas as a genocidal terrorist organisation" have not changed.

In an interview with Britain's Sunday Times, Ophir Falk, chief foreign policy advisor to Netanyahu, said Biden's proposal was "a deal we agreed to — it's not a good deal but we dearly want the hostages released, all of them".

Biden, whose initial lockstep support for Israel's offensive has given way to open censure of the operation's high civilian death toll, on Friday aired what he described as a three-phase plan submitted by the Netanyahu government to end the war.

The first phase entails a truce and the return of some hostages held by Hamas, after which

the sides would negotiate on an open-ended cessation of hostilities for a second phase in which remaining live captives would go free, Biden said.

That sequencing appears to imply that Hamas would continue to play a role in incremental arrangements mediated by Egypt and Qatar—a potential clash with Israel's determination to resume the campaign to eliminate the Iranian-backed Islamist group.

Biden has hailed several ceasefire proposals over the past several months, each with similar frameworks to the one he outlined on Friday, all of which

collapsed. In February he said Israel had agreed to halt fighting by Ramazan that began on March 10. No such truce materialised.

The primary sticking point has been Israel's insistence that it would discuss only temporary pauses to fighting until Hamas is destroyed. Hamas, which shows no sign of stepping aside, says it will free hostages only under a path to a permanent end to the war.

In his speech, Biden said his latest proposal "creates a better 'day after' in Gaza without Hamas in power". He did not elaborate on how this would be achieved,

and acknowledged that "there are a number of details to negotiate to move from phase one to phase two".

Falk reiterated Netanyahu's position that "there will not be a permanent ceasefire until all our objectives are met".

Netanyahu is under pressure to keep his coalition government intact. Two far-right partners have threatened to bolt in protest at any deal they deem to spare Hamas. A centrist partner, ex-general Benny Gantz, wants the deal considered.

Hamas has provisionally welcomed the Biden initiative.

Pakistan, IMF at odds over exchange rate assumptions: Report

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The seal for the International Monetary Fund is seen near the World Bank headquarters (R) in Washington, DC on January 10, 2022.



In a notable departure from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) forecast, the government has decided to prepare its upcoming 2024-25 budget based on an exchange rate of Rs295 to the US dollar.

The finance ministry has issued an official directive setting the average exchange rate at Rs295 per dollar for the next fiscal year's budget calculations, The Express Tribune reported while quoting sources.

represents a depreciation of only 3.5% or Rs10 per dollar, in contrast to the IMF's projection of nearly a 16% fall in the value of the local currency.

The Rs295 rate would be used to estimate the costs of foreign debt repayments, services, and imports, including defence-related procurements. It merits here to mention that it is an average rate, implying the year-end exchange rate in June 2025 could be higher.

In comparison, the IMF's

Continued on Page 8

PTI's legal body to make final decision on controversial social media post

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI spokesperson Rauf Hasan addresses a press conference in Islamabad on May 21, 2024. Screenshot via YouTube/Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

A decision on whether to delete the controversial social media post from former prime minister Imran Khan's X account would be made after input from the PTI's legal committee, party spokesperson Rauf Hasan said.

"As per my information, he [Khan Sb] has not seen the final product [of the social media post]," he said in an interview with Sawal Yeh Hai aired on ARY News on Sunday.

He was asked about the thought process behind such a post. Hasan said that there was a "dominant feeling" in the party that the PTI did not get justice and there was not any hope for that.

According to Hasan, social

media has been the strongest avenue for the party. He added that people who want to meet the PTI founder are not allowed to take a pen or paper.

"Just because I don't control social media, I have known that he [Khan] had asked to promote the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report so that the people know and they get aware of the mistakes made in the past so that we learn to not repeat such mistakes again," he said and added that those who made the post made their interpretation of the message.

When asked if Khan had approved the video with the caption uploaded on X, Hasan said he would meet him on Thursday. He added that the core committee has owned up to that.

"There were two views in the core committee," he said and added that the dominant one was that the party should not do that. "The objectionable portion

has been forwarded to the legal committee and their input will come on whether to delete the controversial social media post.

"My personal opinion was to delete it as soon as possible."

In response to a query about whether social media was dominant in the party, he did not give an explicit answer and described it as an "important foundation" in PTI.

"It has been positive in PTI stature," Hasan said.

He admitted that there had been times when the party leaders forgot what Khan told them. "Then we six men gather and discuss what he said. In spite of that, there is always a possibility of miscommunication. We have many times asked court and jail to allow us to take pen and paper."

When asked how journalist Mehdi Hasan's interview with Khan was conducted, he described that it was all memorisation.

Suspects robbed goods worth Rs 50 mn from FIA office arrested

City Dekk

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab police reportedly apprehended two suspects involved in the robbery worth millions at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) head-

quarters. The police spokesperson in a statement claimed that the officials from Mandra police station recovered the stolen goods after the arrest of the two suspects, named Saad Anwar and Muhammad

Hamza. The spokesperson alleged that the former FIA employees are also involved in the theft of goods, worth Rs 50 million, including mobile phones, wireless sets, fake number plates, foreign cards, and identity cards from the FIA head-

quarter.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson disclosed that the domestic and foreign currency worth Rs 50 million also recovered during the operation.

However, the other accomplice,

Abdullah Khan, Mehtab, Ali and Hassan involved in the theft have already been arrested.

The accused in their confessional statement stated that the goods were stolen from the CBC office of FIA headquarters.

Pakistan may skip Ukraine peace summit amid efforts to maintain neutrality

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is unlikely to attend the Ukraine peace summit in Switzerland as the South Asian country carefully treads its way on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, The Express Tribune reported.

Despite being extended an invitation for the first time to such an international conference on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, sources told the news outlet that Pakistan is likely to skip the summit as part of its efforts to maintain "neutrality" on the issue.

The two-day summit, scheduled for June 15-16, will bring together various coun-



tries from the so-called Global South. However, Russia, a main party to the conflict, has not been invited to the event, raising questions about the credibility of the process.

While quoting a source, the newspaper reported that it might not be beneficial for Pakistan to attend the conference as Russia was not invited to it. The source added that a final decision on Pakistan's

Continued on Page 8

Overseas Pakistanis must be issued passports within seven days: Naqvi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A still from the PTV News video shows Interior Minister interacting with Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK Muhammad Faisal during his visit to passport and NADRA centers in London on June 02, 2024. S

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that overseas Pakistanis across the world should be issued passports

within seven days.

"Normal passport will be issued within 30 days and this policy will apply to all Pakistani missions abroad," he said during his visit to the Passport and NADRA centres in London, United Kingdom on Sunday. Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK Muhammad Faisal accompanied the minister.

He took notice of the delay in the issuance of passports to overseas Pakistanis, as normal passports were being issued in approximately four months while urgent in one and a half months.

"No delay will be tolerated

Continued

Khatnam-e-Nabuwat wa Tahfuz e Namos Rasalat conference held



Abdul Majeed Tahir

HATTIAN BALA/MUZAFFARABAD: In the Jhelum Valley, the grand ceremony of the Khatnam-e-Nabuwat wa Tahfuz e Namos Rasalat conference, attended by thousands of lovers of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from all over Azad Kashmir. Belief in the end of Prophethood is the fulfillment of our faith, the protection of the Prophethood is a duty for all Muslims, they cannot compromise on the end of Prophethood, they will sacrifice their youth for the sake of the Prophethood. In the case under hearing regarding the distortion of the Qur'an and Prophethood, the slaves of the Prophet (peace be upon him) will not be put to any trial. Declaration of the conference, the conference end of prophethood and protection

of the name of Prophet was held under the cover of Boys High School Hatian Bala under the auspices of Niazi Al-Qadri Youth Group. Under the patronage of Fayyaz Hussain Kazmi, Prof. Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chishti, the conference was organized by the Chairman of Niazi Al Qadri Group, Khalid Hussain Niazi. Azad Kashmir Education Minister Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Azad Kashmir PDO Minister Chaudhry Rasheed were also present in the conference. The Mashaikhs were represented by Sahibzada Hafiz Muhammad Shafi Bani Hafiz Sharif as Chief Guest. JC Kamran Khan, Abdul Khaliq, Ayaz Chaghtai, Scout leaders Syed Muhammad Abdul Mateen, district administration and officials were also present. Addressing the conference, the renowned religious scholar of Pakistan Allama Hanif

Qureshi said that the end of Prophethood is the foundation of Islam and its negation is outside of Islam, the Holy Prophet was sent as a messenger for the entire human race until the Day of Resurrection, the predecessors of the Sunnah practiced Jihad to suppress the temptation of Qadiyanism. There is a clear message for those who are in the corner. After believing in the end of Prophethood, it is necessary to boycott the products of those who deny the end of Prophethood, i.e. Qadianis and Ahmadis. Qadiyanism is such a cursed and abominable thing that it is love and obedience in the heart of a Muslim. It destroys the passions of the Prophet, the heart and brain are paralyzed and the signs of disfigurement appear on the face. Such a person loses the intercession of the Messenger of Allah. Yes, this is a cause of

heartache for the Muslims of Pakistan but also for the entire Muslim Ummah and it is a cause of secession for the stability, integrity and peace of Pakistan. This secession has caused immense damage especially to the Muslims of the subcontinent. On this occasion, the eminent religious scholar Allama Syed Muhammad Ishaq Naqvi presented various resolutions on the occasion of the Khatnam Nabubat conference. Thousands of participants in the venue supported the resolutions. In the resolutions presented by Syed Muhammad Ishaq Naqvi, it was said that books on the importance of the belief in the end of Prophethood should be included in the educational curriculum of all public schools of Azad Kashmir, and the resolution of end of Prophethood should also be published in the Azad Kashmir Assembly.

MEPCO to provide the best medical facilities to employees: Rana Ayoub Khan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Executive Officer Mepeco Engineer Rana Muhammad Ayub Khan has said that it is our responsibility to provide the best medical facilities to the employees and important steps are being taken in this regard. WAPDA Hospital Multan is being upgraded, modern machinery is also being provided for the convenience of the employees and Mepeco Dispensary is also being set up to enable the employees coming to the hospital to get check-up from the doctors as well as drug tests at one place. All services will be available. He expressed these views on the occasion of the inauguration of the "Sample Collection Center" of M/s Chughtai Lab Limited at WAPDA Hospital Multan. He said that WAPDA Hospital is going to contract with the doctors available in Multan as well as other reputed hospitals of Multan. A contract is in progress with Shaukat Khanum Hospital for the treatment of cancer patients. In the era of inflation, a counter has been set up in Wapda Hospital by contracting with M/s Chughtai Lab to provide affordable test facilities from laboratories where the employees will give their samples for the tests recommended by the doctors and the report will also be available to them from there. Director General HR & Admin Mapco Waqas Masood Chughtai signed the contract documents with M/s Chughtai Lab Pvt Ltd and appointed Director Admin Mapco Wajahat Buchha as Focal Person for upgradation of WAPDA Hospital Multan, establishment of machinery and dispensary and other services. He said that WAPDA Hospital is bringing online the sample collection center of M/s Chughtai Lab based in Multan so that the employees can get the reports online instead of coming from distant areas. Medical Superintendent WAPDA Hospital Multan Dr. Khawaja Muhammad Zubair said on the occasion that in the agreement made with Chughtai Lab, 40% discount on tests will be available to the employees and their families. Employees will be able to avail the services of Chughtai Lab located in any location/city across the country along with Green Slip of WAPDA Hospital. After the inauguration, CEO Mepeco also gave his blood samples for blood test. On this occasion, General Manager Technical Jam Gul Mohammad Zahid, Finance Director Mian Ansar Mehmood, Chief Engineer Development Saifullah Sarani, Chief Strategic Planner Malik Ashfaq Awan, Chief Engineer Planning Khalid Mehmood, Director Public Relations Jamshed Niazi, Deputy Director Admin and Services Haider Usman Athangal, Asst. Director General Section Muhammad Younis, WAPDA Hospital Multan doctors and representatives of M/s Chughtai Lab were also present.

Lawyers play an important role in the security and development of Pakistan: Ali Qasim Gillani



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Newly Elected Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Ali Qasim Gillani said. People's Lawyers Forum is the backbone of the Pakistan People's Party. Lawyers play an important role in the security and development of Pakistan that every front and backbone of Pakistan People's Party and PLF. People Lawyers Forum South Punjab President Sheikh Gayas Ul Haq has come to congratulate To The Ali Qasim Gillani House. Ali Qasim Gillani Elected As a MAN Of Pakistan People's Party NA 148 and all political parties, lawyers have an important role Ply in the Victory.

President of PLF South Punjab Sheikh Ghayas Ul Haque said that with reference to the education of the Gillani family, not only in Pakistan but also in South Punjab, there are important favors like providing historical development work and jobs which can never be forgotten. Rasool Labar, Chaudhry Arshad Gujjar, Malik Naseer Thiem, Syed Arslan Shah, Fayaz Bhutta, Nagina Muzaffar Hiraj, Firdous Jamal, Zille Fatima, Sheikh Atiqur Rehman, Ayesha Ali, Babar Hafeez, Rehan Ghazi participated

Peoples' violent protest against 18 to 20 hours of electricity load shedding in Mansehra



Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: Thousands of citizens came to Main road Of Mansehra against the unannounced loadshedding and low voltage on the Muradpur feeder in Mansehra district. Thousands of citizens protested against the current government and PESCO and WAPDA. thousands of people from Pochar and other areas participated. The protestors said that every month they submit thousands of rupees in bills. In our areas, there is 100% recovery, despite this, there is load shedding of electricity for 18 to 20 hours, while over-billing and less. Voltage is also a problem. The protestors shouted slogans against the Shabaz Sharif government and WAPDA and blocked the road by burning tires. UPS of Rs. has also been provided to them, while lakhs and crores of rupees are received from them, they do not get electricity.

The citizens said that now the WAPDA department should be privatized so that the people can get relief. said that it is a white elephant and is no less than an enemy for the people of Pakistan. If the power cut is not stopped for the whole day, they will surround the WAPDA offices as well as the houses of the officers of the WAPDA department. There is three rupees per unit of electricity and there is no load-shedding of electricity, while we take units for more than 70 rupees, despite this there is unannounced load-shedding of electricity and the electricity is turned off.

Enjoyment

LAHORE: Citizens taking bath in the canal on holiday during the rising heat in the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

No compromise is possible on defense of Pakistan: Sardar Attique

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that no compromise is possible on defense and solidarity with Pakistan. Residents of Poonch should actively participate in Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally on June 13. Our ideological program is not against anyone but for the fulfillment of national



goals. Despite thousands of disagreements with the slogan of independent Kashmir, there is no personal enmity with

those who raise the slogan. Civilization, decency and ethics have been given primary status in achieving national goals.

It is an honor for us to be called the facilitator of Ghazis, Shaheeds and Mujahideen. Thank God that we are not accused of facilitating Islam or any anti-Muslim forces. We are Amen to the thoughts of Raisul Ahrar Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Mujahid e Awwal Sardar

Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan. It is a matter of honor for one and a half million Kashmiri Muslims that Allah Almighty has entrusted us with the responsibility of defense and protection of Pakistan, a nuclear nation of 25 million. He said that the Muslim Conference is the heir of Pakistan's accession theory Pakistan is the last refuge and destination of Kashmiris. Kashmir will become the slogan of Pakistan, our destination. The people of Poonch

should fully participate in Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally on June 13. Syed Nazir Ahmed Shah was a loyal companion of Raisul Ahrar and Mujahid e Awwal Nazir Ahmad Shah Sahib and his family's sacrifices for Pakistan's accession are exemplary. In all the difficult times of the past, the late Shah Sahib and his family stood steadfastly with the Muslim Conference, the ideology of accession to Pakistan and their leadership.

Istehkam e Pakistan rally ends peacefully at Jhandi Chontra

Bureau Report

BHIMBAR/SAMAHANI: Istehkam e Pakistan rally was taken out from Peer Gally, which culminated peacefully at Jhandi Chontra here today.

Led by the AJK premier Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, the rally was attended by a large number of people hailing from different walks of life. The participants of the rally, while carrying the flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir in their hands, raised high pitched slogans in favour of Pakistan in a bid to express their allegiance with the state of Pakistan.

The participants of the rally, on their way to Jhandi Chontra, were accorded warm welcome by the locals at every place by showering flower petals on them.



Later, the Istehkam e Pakistan rally while traveling through Poona, Burjah, Jandala, Chadh, Ron Drauni, Chowki, Baroh Cross, Manana Sarsala, Chongi Pind, Jattan areas and finally reached Jundi Chontra via Chitti Matti, Bandala, Sandua Cross, where Chairman and members of District and Union Councils welcomed the Prime Minister Haq.

Addressing the reception campus, which were set up at different places, the Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq said, "Our relationship with Pakistan is like

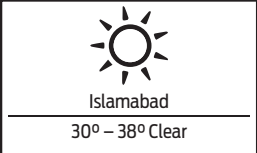
a body and soul".

The AJK premier, while referring to veteran liberation leader Syed Ali Gilani's famous slogan, said, "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours is the slogan the Kashmiri people have been proudly raising on both sides of the line of control".

He said that Kashmiris won't hesitate in sacrificing their lives to accomplish the mission of Takmeel e Pakistan. Highlighting the unprecedented struggle and sacrifices rendered by the

people of Kashmir, the AJK premier pointed out that millions of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives and properties for the sake of Pakistan.

The prime minister was accompanied by senior minister Col. (ret'd) Waqar Noor, Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, Government Ministers Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Arshad, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed and others.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:16 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	5:05 pm
Maghrib	7:14 pm
Isha	8:56 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

PTDC two-day int'l symposium to explore economic prospects

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in partnership with the World Bank Group has planned to organize a two-day Pakistan Travel and Tourism Symposium scheduled to be held at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) here from June 10 to 11.

Talking to APP on Sunday, the PTDC official said that the Tourism Symposium would be a two-day event focused on the theme of Building a National Economy through tourism.

He further said that the symposium would be organized to showcase Pakistan's rich tourism potential to create government-to-government (G2G), business-to-business (B2B) and G2B linkages among the industry stakeholders.

He said that PTDC intended to bring together more than 400 national and international tourism professionals, industry experts, and decision-makers to share their ideas for the development of a future road map for the sustainable growth of the tourism industry of the country.

Fostering an enabling environment for gender equality at workplace: Atif Ikram Shaikh

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Tuet Committee Mian Akbar Farid, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, International Labor Organization (ILO) And a training workshop was organized by the Employers' Federation of Pakistan on gender equality and elimination of workplace discrimination. M. Akram Farid while addressing said that gender equality is a basic human right which is essential for promoting sustainable economic development. He pointed out that compared to other regional countries, women's participation and contribution to economic development in Pakistan is very low. The main reason for this is women's lack of access to education, training and economic opportunities. M. Akram Farid added that it is the responsibility of business organizations to provide a conducive environment. The chief guest

of the training workshop was Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). EFP Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali said that EFP is at the forefront of promoting and advancing decent work for the sustainable development agenda. We are committed to promoting and ensuring gender equality, good working conditions, and empowering women by eliminating all forms of discrimination and harassment in the workplace. Vice President Roy FP Feroze Alam said recognizing the importance of women's participation in economic activities and promoting gender equality, EFP has developed gender equality guidelines. This workshop is organized to increase your capacity to better understand the concept of gender equality and the guidelines, so that you can apply these guidelines to your organizational business to promote gender equality within

your organization. Enables adoption in practices.

ILO Program Officer Sala Nawaz while speaking said that it is encouraging that it is being recognized among the stakeholders for the imperative need of women's empowerment and industrial equality. However, more concerted efforts are needed at the governmental and organizational level. Women's empowerment and gender equality is a priority agenda of the EFP and the revised gender equality policy will help promote gender inclusion and equality in the workplace. From the training workshop FPCCI Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Islamabad Industrial Association President Nasir M. Qureshi, Executive Member ICCI Manza Majid, Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail Hussain, Group Leader Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce Samina Fazil, Former President FPSCI Zubair Ahmed



Malik, Former Senior Vice President RICCI Fazema Azim, Board Member EFP Humayun Nazir, Syed Hasnain Mazhar, Athar Iqbal, Squad Leader Retired Ishtiaq Hussain Kayani and women and men Khizarat from various industries and organizations participated.

Republic Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada and PPP Senator Sherry Rehman cutting the cake on the 78th anniversary of Italy's Republic Day, alongwith Italian Ambassador Ms. Marilina Armellini at Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Tahir Farooq elected vice president of Islamabad City Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors

PPA



ISLAMABAD: Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) held its annual elections in Karachi on 31st May 2023. The elections witnessed active participation from the member editors of the council, highlighting the commitment to upholding journalistic standards and integrity in Pakistan.

In a significant development, Irshad Arif Editor in Chief of 92 News was elected as the President of CPNE & Aijaz Ul Haq Managing Editor of Express Group was elected as the Secretary General. Election in highest and esteemed body of editors of Pakistan is expected to strengthen the operational aspects of the CPNE, ensuring that the council remains a robust advocate for the rights and responsibilities of newspaper editors across the country.

Tahir Farooq Editor in Chief of Daily ITTEHAD Media Group & Pakistan Economic Net was elected unopposed as the Vice President of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter. A veteran journalist, Tahir Farooq has always stood up for the rights of media and journalists, earning respect and admiration from his peers for his unwavering dedication to the cause. Tahir Farooq was appreciated for his outstanding work in the year 2023/2024. Farooq held the chairmanship of Foreign Relations Committee, his efforts in connecting with international organizations various were widely lauded. His work has significantly contributed to strengthening the ties between the journalistic community and international representatives, promoting better understanding and cooperation. Farooq has contributed in different committees of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors. In capacity of Vice President of CPNE he filed petition in the honorable Peshawar High Court for the recovery of long out standing dues of newspapers of Pakistan.

Arts Council organized divisional level singing competition

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Divisional competitions of the first Punjab Music Competition were held at the Punjab Arts Council in Rawalpindi. Singers who secured first, second, and third positions from Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Murree, and Rawalpindi districts participated in the divisional level competitions. The event's special guests were Member of the Punjab Assembly Shazia Rizwan and President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Board of Management of Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi Mr. Saqib Rafiq, Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain, Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor, Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman, Assistant Director Sarfraz Khan, and Saqlain Mahmood were also present with the Chief guest. The district-level winners performed beautiful songs and received great applause from the audience. Member Punjab Assembly Shazia Rizwan stated that the promotion of arts and culture is a top priority of the government. She emphasized that parents should support their children in extracurricular activities along with their academic pursuits. She mentioned that the music competition has brought the hidden talent of the youth to the forefront. She praised the Arts Council team for organizing the music competition. President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Saqib Rafiq, stated that the purpose of the music competition is to promote the culture and music of Punjab.

He noted that showcasing cultural elements provides the audience with an awareness of different aspects of their culture. Director of the Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, mentioned that the Arts Council has selected the best talent from across the division, who will represent the division in the provincial competitions to be held in Lahore.

Emergency meeting on water crisis in Mazdoorabad area held

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI, Emergency meeting of Water Supply Moment regarding severe water shortage in Takht bhai, Mazdoorabad area.

An emergency meeting of Water Supply Moment was held under the chairmanship of Qari Nisar Al Badri regarding the acute shortage of water in Uc Daman Koh, Mazdoorabad area of Takht bhai. Committee members in the meeting.

Hussain Yousufzai, Umra Khan, Haji Zahir Shah, Haji Rafiq, Master Matiur Rehman, Jahangir Khan, Haji Mumir, Rawid Khan, Ibrahim, Master Mohiuddin, Sher Muhammad, etc.

And the local leaders participated in many occasions. In the meeting, consultations were held regarding solving the water crisis in Mazdoorabad



and a plan of action was decided for the future. It was unanimously decided in the meeting that if the problem is not solved immediately If the protest movement will be launched, the participants said that the MNA, MPA should take practical action on the water supply secum, otherwise the people of

the area will be forced to take the path of protest. There has been a severe shortage of water. Due to which the residents of the area are facing serious problems. People in mosques and houses are longing for a drop of water.

The participants demanded the MNA, MPA, Assistant

Commissioner and Administrator to immediately take practical steps for water supply scheme for Mazdoorabad China Kurona and adjoining areas which is a critical need for the area otherwise the poor people will come to the streets. will be forced to adopt the path of agitation.

Government should take immediate action to prevent smoking: Health experts

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: In Pakistan already a large number of people and especially youths were suffering from tobacco fatalities, the tobacco industry has brought more new destructive products into the market. We must do all we can to protect our young people from Tobacco from these tactics of the industry. The speakers said this while addressing a conference organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA) on the occasion of Anti-Tobacco Day, jointly organized by Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology (AFIC) and PANA. The chief guest of the event was Panah President Major General (Rtd) Masud

Ur Rehman Kiani. Among the people who addressed the ceremony were General Masud Ur Rehman Kiani, Major General Naeem Ahmed Samore, Colonel Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Mirza, Dr. Wajid Kayani, Dr. Wajiha Waqar. The event was hosted by PANA Secretary General Sana Ullah Ghumman.

Major General Naeem Ahmed Somore said that smoking is a major cause of NCDs. Smoking is also an increasing cause of heart disease in Pakistan. In addition to educating the general public about the dangers of smoking, I am working with policy makers to enact legislation that will allow them to stop smoking. I appreciate the increase in the prices of harmful

health products. He said that we all should work together so that we can eliminate this scourge from our country. General Masoodur Rahman Kayani said that Panah has been trying to save its countrymen from heart and related diseases for the last 40 years. Smoking is one of the leading causes of heart disease, cancer and many other diseases. Colonel Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Mirza while talking about the harms of tobacco said it is one of the major causes of heart and many other diseases. Dr. Wajiha Waqar said that we have to protect our children and youth who are the future of the nation from the ravages of tobacco. Panah is working for a great cause which every section of

the nation should stand with. Every day AFIC receives patients whose main cause of illness is smoking.

Sanaullah Ghumman said that Tobacco industry's biggest target is children. The industry pays special attention to educational institutions to acclimatize as many of their children as possible. In stores they are placed exclusively with items that interest children and young people. There is no warning sign on them that these products are harmful to health. He said that the industry claims that it pays taxes of Rs 114 billion annually while the annual expenditure on tobacco-related diseases is estimated at more than Rs 615 billion. This proves that the



revenue generated by the tobacco industry is negligible compared to the expenditure on diseases caused by it. Professor Dr. Wajid Ali said that according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), 4 out of every 5 people start smoking under the age of 18 years.

At the end of the ceremony, General Masud Ur Rehman Kiani presented a resolution urging

policy makers to prioritize the health of the nation. The resolution appealed to the government to prioritize public health and tax tobacco and other non-essential products like sugary drinks.

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‘Unpacking Alvi’s 7-Points’

After his retirement as President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Dr. Arif Alvi, following a brief period of hibernation, has proposed a 7-point plan as a starting point for all stakeholders currently at an impasse, unsure of their next moves. However, at this point, the plan is vague and may only gather weight and effectiveness as time passes.

Currently, it raises many questions. For example, while the plan suggests that all stakeholders should come to the table, it fails to specify who these stakeholders are. The biggest stakeholder is the supra-executive, which, although holds de facto power, lacks any legal or constitutional role in purely political matters.

The dilemma is that, de jure, this body is the most ardent, effective, influential, and powerful entity, exercising full control over election results and having the final say in domestic and foreign affairs, as well as business, finance, economy, and investment. Therefore, any political deal without its willing consent and agreement will be a farce, having no real consequence or impact.

His second point is more dramatic, literary and innovative. It says Zoom out, go to the balcony, have a bird's eye view of the problem, understand the gravity of the situation. It emphasizes the need for a broader perspective on the current political crisis. By advocating for this approach, Dr. Alvi wants stakeholders to gain perspective and move beyond immediate conflicts and narrow viewpoints. For instance, rather than focusing solely on recent disputes, they should consider the historical context and how past political maneuvers have led to the present situation. This broader understanding can help in identifying underlying issues that

need addressing, rather than just treating the symptoms of the crisis.

Additionally, Dr. Alvi encourages stakeholders to assess the gravity of the situation and understand the potential long-term consequences if the current trajectory continues. This involves recognizing the broader impact on political stability, governance, and national unity. For example, a failure to resolve the political deadlock could lead to economic instability and diminished public trust in government institutions. By appreciating the full scope of the crisis, stakeholders can better appreciate the urgency and importance of finding a sustainable resolution.

In his second point, Dr. Alvi calls for strategic thinking and inclusive solutions. He suggests that stakeholders metaphorically “go to the balcony” to step back from the fray, allowing for a more neutral and objective assessment of the situation. This can lead to more effective and impartial solutions. This collaborative approach is essential for addressing complex issues and finding a path forward that benefits the nation as a whole.

Dr. Alvi's third point emphasizes the necessity of reducing emotions, anger, and egos among the stakeholders involved in the political crisis. He advocates for a more composed and rational approach to problem-solving, where decisions are not driven by personal grievances or heated emotions. For instance, political leaders must set aside their personal animosities and focus on the greater good, engaging in constructive dialogue rather than confrontational rhetoric.

Dr. Alvi's fourth point is about looking

for and building a bridge to the other side underscores the importance of fostering reconciliation and collaboration among political stakeholders. He encourages all parties to view each other not as enemies but as partners in the pursuit of national stability and progress. By promoting a spirit of forgiveness and moving forward with mutual guarantees, stakeholders can overcome past grievances and work together constructively. This involves setting aside past conflicts and focusing on common goals, such as economic development, social welfare, and political stability.

Dr. Alvi's fifth suggestion is to talk about each other's fears and handle them and highlight the

importance of empathetic communication in resolving political conflicts. He advocates for an open dialogue where stakeholders can express their concerns and anxieties candidly, creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding. For instance, political parties might fear loss of power, public backlash, or economic instability. By openly discussing these fears, parties can better understand each other's perspectives and motivations, which can help in identifying common ground and developing strategies that address these concerns. This process not only builds trust but also allows for the creation of solutions that are sensitive to the fears and needs of all parties involved, paving the way for a more cooperative and less adversarial political environment.

The sixth point is even more important. The worst alternative to a negotiated settlement entails prolonged political deadlock, escalating tensions, and potential unrest. Without a willingness to engage

in constructive dialogue and compromise, parties may resort to extreme measures such as political sabotage, mass protests, or even violence, leading to further polarization and instability. This scenario not only undermines democratic principles but also poses significant risks to the nation's social cohesion, economic prosperity, and international reputation. Moreover, failure to reach a settlement prolongs uncertainty, exacerbating investor concerns and hindering much-needed reforms.

The last point concludes once the other six points are complied with. To effectively address the current political crisis, stakeholders must zoom in and focus on solving the underlying issues through proactive and collaborative efforts. This involves engaging in meaningful dialogue, identifying common goals, and exploring pragmatic solutions that address the root causes of the conflict. By prioritizing constructive engagement over partisan interests and ego-driven agendas, stakeholders can foster trust, build consensus, and pave the way for a sustainable resolution. Moreover, zooming in allows for a more nuanced understanding of the specific challenges at hand, enabling stakeholders to tailor solutions that are responsive to the needs and concerns of all parties involved.

The plan is both pragmatic and practical, offering a promising starting point to end the tumultuous period marked by unnecessary egoism and personal agendas. It encourages a shift towards prioritizing the greater national interest—a concept often mentioned but frequently overlooked.

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



Gwadar world-class port city

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people.

“We hope that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people,” he told Xinhua while applauding the development of Gwadar Port under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Terming Gwadar as a very important and strategic port in this region, he said that China has shown its remarkable contribution and the development of different regions of Pakistan including Gwadar under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

“In Gwadar, we have seen that China has not only developed the port facility but also has contributed towards socio economic development of the people,” he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that China has set up a state of the art modern hospital for the people of Gwadar who have as good facilities in that hospital as big cities like Karachi or Lahore.

Similarly, it has helped set up a technical training institution. It has also helped poor people with solar panels to provide them electricity and has also undertaken other initiatives to improve the lives of the local people.

“So, we really appreciate that China has contributed immensely to the uplift of Gwadar, but it is just the first steps go other port has a long way to go,” he added.

He remarked that in partnership with the Gwadar and in partnership with China, we hope that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people.

Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that China has also given scholarships for the youth of Gwadar who are studying in Chinese universities. “So, I think China’s contribution and Gwadar has been very valuable and uplifting the lives of people and region and we appreciate very much.

The minister also appreciated that China is sharing its success, not just with Pakistan, but with other countries also, to help them improve their infrastructure to help them improve their socio-economic development.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan’s Balochistan province with Kashgar in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands to the fields such as agriculture and livelihood, among others.



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

Responsibilities of State and People - I

Regrettably, there’s a prevalent belief that the State bears sole responsibility for serving us, with no reciprocal duties on our part. However, in any society, there exists a delicate equilibrium of responsibilities shared between the governing body and its citizens. This equilibrium is the bedrock of a functional and harmonious community. Recognizing and fulfilling these responsibilities are vital for the overall well-being and advancement of the nation.

One of the foremost duties of the state is to ensure the safety and security of its populace, encompassing protection from external threats and the maintenance of law and order domestically. Essential infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, and utilities must be provided to the citizens. Additionally, access to quality education, healthcare, transportation, and other public services is indispensable for societal progress and individual welfare.

A responsible state establishes and upholds laws and regulations that promote justice, equality, and the rights of its citizens, ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency in governance. Upholding the rule of law and democratic principles is paramount. Moreover, the state plays a pivotal role in fostering economic growth, employment opportunities, and equitable wealth distribution.

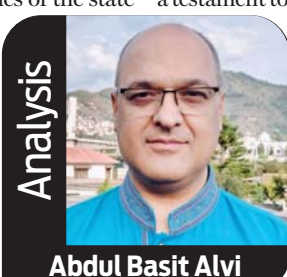
Preservation of the environment and natural resources is a shared responsibility, with the state tasked with implementing policies for sustainable development and conservation. Citizens, on the other hand, have a duty to actively participate in

the democratic process, respect the law, and contribute positively to their communities through engagement and environmental stewardship.

In the context of AJK, it’s noteworthy to observe that Pakistan, the Pakistani Army, and the State of AJK are effectively fulfilling their respective responsibilities, contributing physically and financially to the functioning of the state. In the stunning vistas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), celebrated for its rich cultural legacy and breathtaking natural beauty, stands a testament to the enduring unity between Pakistan and its northern regions. The manner in which the Pakistani government treats AJK showcases a strong alliance and a sincere commitment to the welfare of its people. Since its independence in 1947, AJK has maintained a unique bond with Pakistan, one that transcends mere administrative divisions. The Pakistani government has consistently demonstrated its dedication to the advancement of AJK through various means, including financial aid, infrastructure development, and political representation. Economically, Pakistan provides substantial support to enhance AJK’s infrastructure, healthcare, education, and social welfare initiatives, thus enhancing the quality of life and delivering essential services to its populace. Furthermore, the government actively promotes investment in AJK, fostering economic expansion and employment opportunities across diverse sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and energy. Infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, and communication networks have been given priority to improve connectivity and stimulate regional development. Additionally,

investments in healthcare and education highlight Pakistan’s acknowledgment of the importance of human capital in fostering sustainable progress. Politically, residents of AJK are represented in Pakistan’s institutions, ensuring their voices are heard nationally and reflecting Pakistan’s strong solidarity with the people of AJK. Pakistan’s commitment is further evidenced by ongoing investments across various sectors, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure, with the aim of raising living standards and promoting economic prosperity. Numerous educational institutions have been established in AJK, providing not just academic education but also serving as platforms for cultural exchange and the promotion of tolerance among students. Financial aid programs and scholarships are available to support students from underprivileged backgrounds. Access to quality healthcare is vital for community well-being, and Pakistan has established hospitals, clinics, and healthcare centers across AJK staffed by skilled professionals and equipped with modern facilities. Regular outreach programs and vaccination campaigns address public health concerns and prevent disease spread. Infrastructure development is crucial for economic growth, and Pakistan has initiated various projects in AJK, including road networks, bridges, and dams, creating job opportunities and stimulating economic activity. Reliable electricity is essential, and Pakistan has invested in energy projects, including hydroelectric power plants, to ensure a sustainable energy supply for residents. AJK’s natural beauty makes it a potential tourist destination, and Pakistan has launched initiatives to promote tourism, focusing on infrastructure development while preserving the region’s environment and cultural heritage.

To be continued



Pakistan Interior Secretary’s visit to Afghanistan ends in a diplomatic fiasco

During a recent visit to Afghanistan, Federal Interior Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha presented a comprehensive report accompanied by documentary evidence to Afghanistan’s Deputy Interior Minister, Muhammad Nabi Omari. The report implicated that the terrorists responsible for the attack on Chinese citizens in Bishaam, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had traveled from Afghanistan to Quetta before proceeding to Bishaam to execute the attack. The Pakistani side alleged that the Afghan government failed to control these terrorists at the border. The report detailed the movements of the terrorists, suggesting a significant security lapse on the Afghan side. However, the Afghan Deputy Interior Minister, Muhammad Nabi Omari, responded robustly, challenging the Pakistani claims and turning the accusations back on Pakistan. Nabi omari stated that while Afghanistan shares only one border with Pakistan, Pakistan has hundreds of checkpoints from Quetta to Bishaam. He questioned why the Pakistani authorities, with their numerous checkpoints and border controls, failed to intercept the terrorists. Omari further accused the Pakistani government of shifting the blame to Afghanistan to cover its own security failures. In a detailed rebuttal, Nabi Omari highlighted systemic issues within Pakistan’s border security and law enforcement. He claimed that there are varying bribe rates for crossing drugs, non-customs paid vehicles, vehicles loaded with weapons, and illegal Iranian oil at each Pakistani checkpoint. According to Nabi omari, the forces stationed at these checkpoints are well aware of these activities but failed to notice the presence of the suicide car involved in the attack. Nabi omari also pointed out that Pakistan has installed barbed wire along the Pakistan-Af-

ghanistan border, a measure that Afghanistan has not implemented. Despite this additional security measure, Pakistan continues to struggle with law and order issues, raising questions about the effectiveness of its border control. The Afghan Deputy Interior Minister emphasized that Afghanistan has been in a state of war for four decades and lacks the competent intelligence agencies, but Pakistan possesses, such as the Inter-Services Intelligence, Military Intelligence, and the Intelligence Bureau. He noted that Afghanistan is still in the process of establishing itself, whereas Pakistan boasts an organized army, police, Frontier Corps, Frontier Constabulary, Levies Force, Khasadar Force, and various other civil and military setups that have been in existence for 80 years. Despite these extensive resources, Nabi omari argued, Pakistan has failed to maintain peace within its borders, casting doubt on its ability to effectively control the border with Afghanistan. Following this heated exchange, the Pakistani government issued a declaration

that misrepresented the outcomes of the meeting. Contrary to the official statement, sources indicate that Federal Interior Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha returned from Afghanistan in disgrace, having failed to secure Afghan cooperation or address the underlying issues effectively. This diplomatic spat underscores the ongoing tension and mistrust between the two neighboring countries, complicating efforts to address cross-border terrorism and regional security concerns. The failed visit has raised serious questions about the efficacy of Pakistan’s border management and its broader strategy for countering terrorism within its borders.



The writer is a senior Journalist. He tweets @SyedfawadAli303

IS Exclusive Interview

Every worker of our organization strives to provide better service to the public: Hussain Zafar

Kiran Asim / Syed Nadeem Kazmi

Sui Northern Gas Pipeline is such an institution of Pakistan that burns the stove of every house, not only for cooking, but the industry is very dependent on Sui gas. The Chief Engineer/General Manager is responsible for the smooth running of Sui Gas South Punjab. At present, the head of Multan region is Mr. Syed Hussain Zafar, who belongs to Muzaffargarh district. He did Mechanical Engineering in 2000, and joined Atomic Energy followed by Sui Gas Corporation in 2003 and has been Head of all Departments. This is the reason why the authorities assigned him the responsibility of Chief Engineer. Hussain Zafar is diligent in his work and is performing the responsibility of the entire region well.

Syed Hussain Zafar while talking about Multan region said that the area from Multan Division, Dera Ghazi Khan Division, Duniyapur, Karorpaka and Mian Chanu to Layyah is within the limits of our institution, apart from domestic connections in this entire region. There are also thermal power, commercial and industrial connections. There is still a huge load of new connections. And now there is ban on new connections.

Syed Hussain Zafar talking about ban, said that if there are 8



million connections today, there were not even 8 million in 1980. We should increase the country's resources at the same speed as the population is increasing. New wells should be dug. The old gas is running out. The population burden is increasing. New deposits must be discovered now. We also lack a team of experts. They don't use the resources well. People forgot to use matches. When the stove is burning, they leave it on.

Earlier the gas bill was 180 to 200 rupees which no one cared

about. As resources dwindled. Gas prices also increased. Now if people use gas only for cooking. So they can use this blessing for a long time. Thus can save both resources and money. It is a great blessing of Allah. It should not be used indiscriminately. The search for new resources (wells) continues. Nevertheless, the search for new resources continues. Even in summer, the gas bill used to reach 240 rupees and today it is 5000 rupees. The main reason for this is that there is a huge fuel prob-

lem all over the world. While we use it freely. Earlier it was being subsidized which is not anymore. RLNG is an expensive gas that our public and industry cannot afford. But still across Pakistan we have overcome the gas shortage through RLNG. If we get gas from Iran gas line, our industry will get a huge support. And we will get gas very cheap. PPL and OGDCL etc are working for new resources. But it will take some time. Gas is currently in short supply in our country. The government has created



a tariff for cooking only. So that people get gas only for cooking, don't use gas geyser in winter and don't use heater at all but wear warm clothes.

Regarding gas theft, he said that our task force teams have

been formed which are taking legal actions against gas thieves on a daily basis so that people can get gas. Don't use old fashioned geysers and old technology geysers and heaters in winter but use instant geysers and be sensi-

ble in using sui gas especially in winter season.

Regarding the network of old pipelines, he said that we are slowly replacing the old pipes and new pipelines will be installed in its place. Some of our NOCs are still pending but still our work is going on and processing at full speed. We have solved the problems of low pressure," he said. Regarding the crackdown on gas thieves, he added, "As the head of the organization, I have formed teams for this, which are working day and night and on a day-to-day basis. But they are also giving FIR against eight to ten gas thieves

Due to the high cost of gas, the tendency of people has increased towards gas theft, for this there is a need to run a regular campaign.

If this problem is not stopped, its situation will not be less than WAPDA. Talking about the new housing schemes, Syed Hussain Zafar added that the government has banned new connections for new customers, now we are giving RLNG gas connections in the new housing society. Now it comes to Fort Qasim from Qatar. Finally, he gave a message to the gas consumers that gas consumers should limit their usage, avoid compressors etc. as it affects the network badly and waste gas and also avoid gas theft. We have written a letter to the commissioner to crack down on the sellers of compressors and ban them completely so that the gas pressure can be maintained.

Human Rights at Stake in USA

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

The United States' human rights situation has plummeted into chaos, with the country's divisions reaching a critical juncture. A staggering 76% of Americans believe their nation is headed in the wrong direction, as a powerful minority exercises control, leaving the majority disenfranchised and excluded.

Political paralysis, governmental ineptitude, and a lack of accountability have created a perfect storm, enabling the erosion of fundamental rights and

freedoms. The longstanding impasse on gun control has led to a devastating surge in mass shootings, resulting in a staggering 43,000 lives lost to gun violence in 2023—a daily average of 117 deaths.

Law enforcement brutality persists, with at least 1,247 fatalities attributed to police violence, marking a grim milestone since 2013. Yet, the accountability mechanism remains woefully inadequate. The United States, with less than 5% of the global population, accounts for a staggering 25% of the world's prison population, earning the dubious distinction of a "carceral state."

Systemic racism has become a perva-

sive monster, perpetuating discrimination in law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and healthcare. The maternal mortality rate for African American women is a staggering three times that of their white counterparts. Asians face discrimination, with the "China Initiative" having far-reaching consequences.

Racist ideologies proliferate, spilling across borders, making the United States a major exporter of extreme racism. Wealth inequality has intensified, with the "working poor" phenomenon worsening. Long-standing income disparities have resulted in the most severe wealth

gap since the Great Depression. Low-income families struggle to afford basic necessities, leading to a 16-year high in homelessness.

Women and children's rights remain systematically violated, with constitutional provisions for gender equality conspicuous by their absence. The United States stands alone in not ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Immigration policies have become a political tool, with politicians disregarding individual rights and welfare.



The country's hegemonic pursuit, power politics, and abuse of force have led to regional tensions, armed conflicts, and

humanitarian crises. Guantanamo Bay prison remains a blight on the nation's conscience.

Lost educational future

Jalal uddin Kakar

26 million out-of-school children and unabated unemployment have forced people belonging to the middle financial stratum to question the worth of education in terms of securing a bright future in a country with a revolving-door democracy and a politically challenged economy.

On cue, it is the inevitable aftermath of social thought that conflates education with money. When bank balance becomes the sole yardstick to gauge success, education is achieved with a mistaken view to earn money, which is the by-product of education and a worryingly ill-attempt



of education to civilize the masses.

More strikingly, the current economic slump is the aftermath of this flawed mentality that prioritizes running small business shops over getting a higher and more skilled education. Given the lesser absorption of educated youth into commercial markets, parents are smug about setting up small shops for their children, who spend their whole lives without any branching out.

Concomitantly, all this ends up on the dearth of skilled human resources, a prerequisite for boosting the economy of a country. An education laced with professional and contemporary relevance never lets down its adherents. Thereby, 40% of Pakistanis are illiterate.

Moreover, the deprecating view of education is based on the so-called educated individuals who are degree-oriented. Literate individuals devoid of creativity and practical learning bring discredit to genuine education. Education being imparted in our part of the world does not impart any soft skills to the learners. To change the nature of education, campaigners stress the importance of ties between education and employers.

The all-encompassing concept is that our education system has not braced itself for the changing scenario where the growth of automation and artificial intelligence will make creative skills and adaptability all the more important. Qualified workers

are the backbone of an industry that guarantees high exports. Economists rue the increasing number of youth being self-employed in small shops. This would enhance imports, a dampener for the national economy. More imports nudge away indigenous products. It was its dependence on indigenous products that paved China's way to progress. Now China has become the largest exporter in the world.

To cap it all, only education engenders empathy for the countrymen and a patriotic spirit in the nation, which are pre-requisites for putting the country on the path to progress and development.

The writer, Jalal Uddin Kakar, is a student of public administration at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

School's Dilemma

When the current government came into power, a decision was made to terminate the pensions of several government departments in Punjab, including the education department. Following this decision, teachers across Punjab went on strikes, and the issue gradually faded into silence. Simultaneously, there were deliberations on privatizing schools. Now, teachers across Punjab are once again protesting.

I would like to discuss a few points regarding this matter today. In Punjab, many schools are already being run under public-private partnerships, and a significant number of government institutions have come under this umbrella. The government made this decision to improve the performance of these institutions, but instead of seeing any progress, the quality of these institutions has further deteriorated, and the educational standards have worsened significantly. The teachers in these institutions typically hold FA or BA degrees and are not aware of modern educational needs. Furthermore, the owners running these institutions focus more on their

profits rather than education.

If we look at government institutions, their educational standards are not exceptional but are relatively better. What is needed is attention, accountability, and investment. Additionally, teachers are assigned all sorts of duties; for instance, one year, teachers were tasked with checking wheat bags to prevent the transportation of wheat from one district to another. When teachers are entangled in such matters, how can they focus on education? Another reason is that our institutions lack an educational environment; they resemble a local leader's gathering place more than a school. Thus, it is essential to eliminate this culture from schools and simultaneously update the syllabus and provide modern resources to these institutions to improve the education system. Most importantly, accountability processes must be implemented, and these institutions should be free from unnecessary political and bureaucratic interference.

Regarding the privatization of schools, while this might reduce the government's burden, it will activate the private mafia, leading to a decline in educational standards and increased

societal stratification. Privatization may be suitable for other sectors, but it is not appropriate for education and healthcare. It is the state's responsibility to provide these two resources to its citizens to ensure they can start living a prosperous life. When these resources fall into the hands of capitalists and private mafias, it becomes impossible for people living in poverty or below the poverty line to access them.

In Punjab, the initiative to run schools under public-private partnerships was initially aimed at enhancing efficiency and educational outcomes. However, the reality has been starkly different. The decline in the quality of education provided by these institutions is a matter of grave concern. Teachers often lack the necessary training and qualifications to meet modern educational standards, holding only basic degrees like FA or BA. This inadequacy in teacher preparation directly impacts the students, who do not receive the level of education required to compete

in today's world.

Moreover, the profit-driven motives of the private entities managing these schools further exacerbate the situation. Education, which should be a noble endeavor aimed at nurturing young minds, has been reduced to a business. The focus on profit margins often leads to cost-cutting measures that directly affect the quality of education. Resources are limited, teacher salaries are kept low, and necessary investments in infrastructure and learning materials are neglected.

In contrast, although government institutions are not without their flaws, they still maintain a relatively better standard of education. What these institutions need is not privatization but a concerted effort to improve existing systems. This includes providing better training for teachers, ensuring regular accountability, and making necessary investments in educational infrastructure.

Teachers in government schools are often burdened with additional



Analysis

M Azam Tariq

Writer is student at University of Sargodha.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
75,878.47	74,836.30
Day's High	Day's Low
75,953.74	74,989.26
Index Value	Change
12,292,712,030	+1000.35
Percentage	Time
+1.34%	31 May, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,275.38	+44.33
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	31 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,376.95	+265.47
Percentage	Time
+0.70%	31 May, 2:13 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,487.90	+433.77
Percentage	Time
+1.14%	31 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.48	748.48
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.49	38.89
Danish Krone	40.39	40.79
Euro	299	302
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.01	917.01
Malaysian Ringgit	59.18	59.78
New Zealand \$	170.57	172.57
Norwegians Krone	26.34	26.64
Omani Riyal	723.28	731.28
Qatari Riyal	76.57	77.27
Saudi Riyal	73.5	74.2
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	26.13	26.43
Swiss Franc	305.12	307.62
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.3	76
UK Pound Sterling	348.5	352
US Dollar	277.25	280

Unresolved issues led to departure of foreign investors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that unresolved issues and tough business environment are driving international investors away, which is not good for the reputation of the country.

He stated that it is crucial to resolve the issues of foreign investors immediately to ensure their continued presence in Pakistan. How new investment will come to Pakistan when local and foreign investors are fleeing the country, he asked.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that many foreign companies working in oil, gas, pharmaceuticals, mining, telecom, transport, and many other



sectors have already left Pakistan. In contrast, dozens of companies have scaled down their operations while several companies have sold their shares in large numbers to reduce their presence in Paki-

stan, which discourages other investors while defaming the country.

He said that last year, Shell, which had been doing business in Pakistan for 75 years, decided to sell all its assets to a Saudi retailer. Now, British American Tobacco (BAT), an old multinational, has decided to leave Pakistan in case of a further increase in taxes.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the demand to increase the tax on cigarettes is getting stronger. Still, it is wrong to deal with everyone in the same way.

Authorities should spare companies that are not involved in tax evasion and should treat those known for tax evasion differently.

He said that the influential cigarette mafia has been creating problems for BAT, which provides financial support to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in difficult situ-

ations.

The company's management believes that they are in Pakistan to pay taxes as their profit margin is shrinking rapidly. If they leave, it will send a very negative message to investors around the world, and many will back off.

Nothing has been done to facilitate foreign investors, expand the tax net, catch tax evaders, or discourage smuggling, he said.

Electricity and gas prices, a 22 percent interest rate, political instability, smuggling, a law-and-order situation, and other problems are all increasing challenges for industrialists.

He warned that if the bureaucracy does not change its attitude and does not make decisions according to ground realities, investment in the country will decrease further.

Appreciation

FAISALABAD: Winners are awarded with certificates and cash during the 25th All Pakistan competition at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.



Photo: Online

Expressing views on the budget 2024-25

Bureau Report

MULTAN: Group Chairman of SM Food and Volka Food International and member of the National Development Export Board for Agro and Food Processed, Chaudhry Zulfikar Ali Anjum, while expressing his views on the Budget 2024-25 to the media, said that the budget is not merely a document of aggregated information on the federal government's revenues, capital, and external receipts along with the current and development expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. Rather, it is also an indicator of the economy and a country's future and growth.

A proposal to allocate 1221 billion rupees for development in this year's federal budget has been presented. Additionally, 877 billion rupees are proposed for infrastructure, 378 billion for energy, and 173 billion rupees for transport. These are very good proposals. My appeal to the current government is to provide maximum relief to the public in the upcoming budget.

According to details, the renowned industrialist stated that the growth rate for

the last fiscal year 2023-24 was barely 3%, the lowest in 77 years since independence. The federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 should focus on increasing income and reducing expenditures to lower the budget deficit. This is possible through better fiscal policies, such as broadening the tax base without imposing any new taxes or increasing the existing tax rates, and improving the tax-to-GDP ratio. The current government has proposed increasing tax duties on imported goods, eliminating sales tax exemptions on food items, withholding tax, and sales tax exemptions, and increasing customs duty rates. These are excellent proposals. This will lead to the establishment of factories in the country, increased exports, and the inflow of dollars.

We should reduce expenditures domestically and adopt austerity measures. Pakistan can achieve potential savings of 876 billion rupees from short-term expenditure measures and 458 billion rupees from reforms and privatization. Significant results can be achieved in reducing the deficit and improving accountability.

Haji Ghulam Ali visited, senior trade leader Ghulam Bilal Javed residence



Commerce desk

PESHAWAR: A high-level delegation led by the patron-in-chief of the Sarhad Business Alliance, former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, and Sharafat Ali Mubarak Haji Ishaq, including former provincial minister Malik Mehr Elahi, Haji Waheed, Nisar Khan, Haji Ishaq, Sirajuddin, Minhajuddin, and other group members, met with Ghulam Bilal Javed and his group

members. They discussed the challenges facing Peshawar's business community and sought support for their group and colleagues in the upcoming elections of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Senior trade leader Ghulam Bilal Javed, after consulting with his associates Babar-e-Tajir Amin Hussain Babar, Major Arshad Mahmood, Ghulam Hussain Chand Babar, Abiduddin, Haji Manzo-

or Elahi, Abdul Haseeb Chughtai, Dr. Anas Rashid, Basit Khan, Ammar Babar, Haji Ehsan, Bakht Mir Jan Durrani, Haji Mukhtiar, and others, announced joining the Sarhad Business Alliance. Malik Mehr Elahi, Sharafat Ali Mubarak, Haji Ishaq, and other members thanked Ghulam Bilal Javed and his distinguished members, expressing confidence that their inclusion and cooperation would ensure complete success.

RCCI and ICCI join hands to resolve business community issues of twin cities



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) have reiterated their firm resolve for collective efforts to resolve the issues of the business community of twin cities. It was reiterated to form a joint working team and organize joint events to promote industrial and commercial activities for the benefit of the region. It was agreed that the two chambers

would meet twice a month to resolve issues related to the business community.

This was stated by President RCCI Saqib Rafiq during a meeting with ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari during a delegation visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad and Member Executive Committee Ikram Ur Rehman were also included in the delegation.

Lawyer group condemns PLA privatization Ordinance

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Service Ordinance issued only for privatization of PIA has been implemented to weaken the movement of PIA workers. People's Lawyer Forum Center Punjab General Secretary Sajid Khan Tanoli Advocate said that People's Lawyer Forum PIA Strongly condemns the implementation of the I Service Ordinance and strongly opposes the privatization of PIA and strongly condemns the sale of a profitable and national institution like PIA to certain gurus of the ruling class. They want to sell IA and on the other hand they want to buy it themselves, but on the other hand they want to stop the resistance in the institution by implementing the Sessional Service Ordinance. If so, how can it be sold?

He also demanded the Pakistan People's Party to put pressure on the government to stop the privatization of PIA because the Pakistan People's Party is a party of workers and laborers and the party has never supported privatization. He expressed full solidarity with the workers of PIA and assured them of all.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari inaugurates water filtration plant in G-9 markaz

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has inaugurated a water filtration plant in G-9 markaz. It is noteworthy that he has initiated the task of installing water filtration plants from his own exchequer in different commercial centres of Islamabad and installation of this plant was also the part of the same series.

Addressing the ceremony Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that he will continue the masses' service with full zeal and zest and that along with the water filtration plants free medical camps will also be organized with checkup facilities and free medicines. He also announced that a 'Awami Dastarkhawan' will also be commenced in G-9 markaz so that no one is left

without meal. He went on to say that during our election campaign when we announced that we will establish educational institutions and hospitals for the business community, will provide residential facilities to needy traders and establish a TV centre at that time some of our colleagues resorted to our mockery but the time has proved that by the grace of Allah Almighty we are fulfilling our promises one by one and will continue to do so in future also.

He announced that after September 30, when his tenure as ICCI President will come to an end, he will work with renewed spirit and determination not only for the traders but the entire community of Islamabad.

President TWA, G-9 markaz Raja Javaid Iqbal by highlighting the social services of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said

that the water filtration plant gift given by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari is a great service to the humanity which is filtering 240000 liter water daily and all the residents of the area are getting benefit from it. He added that although this necessary work had to be done earlier by CDA but it was Almighty's will that Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari received this credit.

Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik said that ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's tirelessly work for the community is yielding fruit and its problems are being resolved one by one.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar bakhtawari said that credit for the installation of the water filtration plant also goes to Raja Javaid Iqbal who kept on reminding us about the task which has ultimately completed

today. He added that Pakistan is a country with full of potential and the traders' community has to exploit it honestly for their own benefit and for the economic development of the country. He also asserted that traders community should also be given equal respect and honour for the development of the country.

President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has given the traders an identity vowing that they will unitedly move forward for ease of business doing.

Group leader Blue Area Yousuf Rajput said that a water filtration plant will soon be installed in Blue Area and all the other problems concerning CDA, MCI, IESCO will be get resolved at the earliest.

President Traders' Welfare Associa-



tion G-11 markaz Naem Akhtar Awan said that traders as well as the residents of his area are fully enjoying filtered water owing to the efforts of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari.

Chairman Anjuman-e-Tajraan G-9 markaz Fida Hussain Abbasi, General Secretary Haji Zafar and President

Jinnah Super Market Abdur Rehman Siddiqui also addressed the ceremony.

Those attended among other included Ch. Mohammad Ali, Faizan Shahzad, Khalid Ch. Saif-ur-Rehman, Babar Ch. Waseem Ch. Zia Ch. Malik Nadeem, Ch. Irfan, Tehmas Butt, Shah Anwar, Ch Tahir, Malik Rafiq and other.

Punjab wins 1st PNSC Inter-Provincial Women's Softball Championship

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh was the chief guest of the closing ceremony

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Punjab won the first PNSC Inter-Provincial Women's Softball Championship, beating Balochistan in a sensational contest in the final of the championship organized under the supervision of Softball Federation of Pakistan and managed by Sindh Softball Association at the KPT Sports Complex ground.

After a thrilled competition, Balochistan faced defeat in the third innings by 14-13. The special guest of the final and closing ceremony was the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh. The chief guest along with Asif Azeem, President of Softball Federation of Pakistan, and

Chairman KPT Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi distributed trophies and medals to the players of the winning and runners-up teams.

On this occasion Chairperson Softball Federation of Pakistan, Yasmin Haider, Chief Finance Officer PNSC Syed Jarrar Haider Kazmi, Vice President Tehmina Asif,

GM Comboxx Sports Zubair Macha, Director Marketing Palmolive Fatima Siddiqui, Assistant Manager Admin PNSC Ayesha Leena, Manager Sports KPT Major (R) Mahmood Riaz, Syed Waseem Hashmi and others were also present.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh was thrilled at the support extended by



both PNSC and KPT in promoting girls Softball Championship and assured to continue the support for the Pakistan Softball Team for the Olympic Games 2028.

He further said that I am very impressed with the game of softball. Players from all over Pakistan played well in the event. We will continue to cooperate with Softball Federation of Pakistan in the future to participate in international softball events.

President of Softball Federation of Pakistan Asif Azeem said that the special guest has won the hearts of softball players

by participating in the closing ceremony.

No sport can flourish without sponsorship, Softball Federation Pakistan is hopeful that PNSC will fully support our future national events as well as international events. We are thankful to Comboxx Sports, Essa Laboratories and Palmolive for their kind support.

Chairperson, Yasmin Haider praised the participation of the participating teams in the championship and said that the team will be prepared for international events from this championship. All the players should continue their practice, she also congratulated the winner and

runner-up teams.

Earlier in the final, Punjab won the event by defeating Balochistan 14-13 in the third innings. Iram and Hourina from Punjab scored three runs each, Fizza, Kiran and Mehek scored two runs each while Noor and Fahmida scored one run each.

Nayab scored three runs from Balochistan, Nida, Mubashira and Farzana scored two runs each while Zehra, Kaka, Nargis and Samia scored one run each.

Sindh was given the Fair Play Trophy in the closing ceremony.

T20 World Cup 2024 ambassador Yuvraj Singh predicts finalist teams

A Sports

LAHORE: Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh predicted his finalist teams for the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, being held in the United States of America (USA) and the West Indies.

Singh, who was a part of the Indian side that won the inaugural edition of the T20 World Cup in 2007, believes that the two of India, Pakistan or West Indies will make their way to the final. He also expressed his hope of not seeing Australia in the final.

"I'm hoping India, probably West Indies, Pakistan 3, and no Australians (laughs)," stated Yuvraj.

The all-rounder also backed India to win the T20 World Cup 2024 but advised the former champions to back themselves in believe in their abilities.

"I believe we have the self belief of winning big tournaments. I think if India believes and backs themselves and plays to their own strengths, I'm sure they'll go all the way. And that's what I believe in,"



Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Yuvraj. "I think that's the reason why we won. We focused on where, how we are good and the things that we need to do rather than thinking of where the opposition is going to harm us. We have the match winners," he added.

For the unversed, Yuvraj Singh was named the ambassador of the T20 World Cup 2024.

He will participate in the World Cup promotional events in the United States before and during the tournament.

He will also attend the much-anticipat-

ed match between archrivals India and Pakistan in New York on 9 June.

The former all-rounder expressed his excitement about being the ambassador of the T20 World Cup and shared his best memories from the tournament.

"Some of my fondest cricketing memories have come from playing at the T20 World Cup, including hitting six sixes in an over, so it's very exciting to be part of this edition, which is set to be the biggest one yet," Yuvraj said.

"The West Indies is a great place to play cricket with the fans coming to watch creating a vibe that is completely unique to that part of the world, while cricket is also expanding in the USA and I'm excited to be part of that growth through the T20 World Cup.

"India's clash against Pakistan in New York is going to be one of the biggest sporting fixtures in the world this year, so it's a privilege to be a part of and to witness the best players in the world playing in a new stadium."

Pakistan downs Kazakhstan in AVC Challenge Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Volleyball team kicked off their AVC Challenge Cup 2024 campaign with an impressive victory over Kazakhstan at Bahrain. According to details, in a dominant display of skill and teamwork, Pakistan secured a 3-0 win, with set scores of 25-19, 25-19, and 25-21.

The match, held as part of the Preliminary Round, saw the Pakistani team exhibit exceptional coordination and

resilience, laying a strong foundation for the rest of the tournament. This victory marks a significant achievement for the Pakistan Volleyball Federation and showcases the team's potential on the international stage. Head Coach Ruben Wolochin from Argentina expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance, saying, "The boys played with great determination and executed the strategies perfectly. This win is a testament to their hard work and dedication." Supporting Coach Wolochin is Brazilian Physical

Trainer Lucas Rodrigues, who has been instrumental in enhancing the team's physical conditioning. Assistant Coach Muhammad Ismail Khan and Analyst Juan Cobucci have also played crucial roles in preparing the team for this high-stakes tournament. Team management is headed by Manager Sardar Muhammad Nawaz, with Deputy Manager Mazhar Fareed assisting in ensuring smooth operations and support for the players. Chairman of Pakistan Volleyball Federation, Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob,



praised the team's performance and expressed optimism for the upcoming matches. "This victory against Kazakhstan is a significant morale booster. We are confident that the team will continue to perform at this high level," he said. Pakistan's next challenge is set for tomorrow, June 3 against Thailand at 4pm.

West Indies edge PNG to script triumphant start to T20 World Cup 2024

A Sports

GUYANA: Roston Chase played a blistering 42-run knock under pressure and led West Indies to a hard-fought five-wicket victory over Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the second match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 here on Sunday.

Chasing a modest total of 137, West Indies had to make hard yards to achieve the total. The hosts lost five wickets in the process but eventually chased down with an over to spare.

The hosts had a shaky start to the pursuit as they lost Johnson Charles (0) early with just eight runs on the board.

Following the early hiccup, wicketkeeper batter Nicholas Pooran joined Brandon King and they partnered to launch

recovery.

King and Pooran added 53 runs for the second wicket before both perished in quick succession, bringing West Indies down to 63/3 in 9.5 overs.

Pooran scored a run-a-ball 27 while King made a 29-ball 34.

Following the back-to-back dismissals, the hosts, despite batting cautiously in the middle overs, lost two more wickets and subsequently slipped to 97/5 in 16 overs.

West Indies then needed 40 runs off the last four overs and Andre Russell came out to join Roston Chase, who had batted sensibly amid the middle-order collapse.

The duo then turned the tide in West Indies' favour by clean hitting, the highlight of which was the 18th over which yielded

18 runs.

Chase and Russell's brilliant partnership led West Indies to a tough victory when Russell dug out a yorker towards long on for a single.

Roston Chase top-scored for West Indies with an unbeaten 42 off 27 deliveries, peppered with four fours and two sixes while Russell played a helping hand with 15 not out.

Asad Vala bagged two wickets for PNG while John Kariko, Chad Soper and Alei Nao struck out a batter apiece.

Put into bat first, PNG recovered from a disastrous start, courtesy of a fighting half-century from Sese Bau.

PNG were two down for just seven runs inside three overs as their opener Tony Ura (2) and Lega Siaka (1) perished cheaply.

Following the slump, Bau joined skipper Asad Vala at the crease and the duo batted sensibly in a bid to anchor the innings.

They added 27 runs for the third wicket before Vala perished on the final delivery of the power-play after scoring 21 off 22 deliveries. He hit two fours and a six.

Bau then put together a brief one-sided partnership with Hiri Hiri (2) before receiving subtle support at the other end in the form of Charles Amini.

Bau and Amini recorded PNG's most successful partnership which yielded 44 runs in 37 deliveries.

The fifth-wicket stand lasted with Amini's dismissal on the final delivery of the 15th over, who scored 12 off 14.

Sese Bau, on the other hand, perished an over later, just after



amassing his gritty half-century. He remained the top-scorer for PNG against West Indies with a 43-ball 50 which featured six fours and a six.

Following Bau's dismissal, wicketkeeper batter Kiplin

Saudi ambassador extends best wishes to Pakistan team for T20 CWC 2024



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Ahmed Al-Malki, has extended warm wishes to the Pakistan team for the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup 2024. In a video message, the ambassador expressed his confidence in Pakistan team's ability to win the tournament, saying, "My brothers (Pakistan team), God willing, you will win this tournament, and the Pakistani nation will celebrate your victory with joy."

He said, "I also pray for Pakistan's prosperity and progress. If Pakistan wins the T20 World Cup, the team will be hosted as royal guests for Hajj next year." The Pakistani team is set to play their first match against the USA on June 6 in Dallas, followed by matches against India, Canada, and Ireland on June 9, 11, and 16, respectively. The top two teams from the group stage would advance to the Super 8 round in the West Indies.

WAPDA wins Memorial Basketball Tournament

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: WAPDA emerged victorious in a nail-biting showdown against Pakistan Air Force, clinching the All Pakistan Muhammad Majid and Abdul Nasir Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sunday at Siddique Memon Sports Complex Karachi.

In a fiercely contested match, both teams displayed exceptional skills and tenacity, battling until the final moments.

Wapda, however, seized control in the last quarter, securing a thrilling 68-67 points victory, said a press release.

Zainul Hassan of Wapda emerged as the hero of the day, contributing a stellar performance with 34 points, while teammate Muhammad Israr added 10 points, respectively.

Despite a valiant effort from PAF, Wapda's dominance in the closing stages proved decisive. Umair Jan led the scoring for PAF with 26 points, followed by Umair Siddiqui with 12 points.

Managing Director of United Medical and Dental College Dr. Bilal Faiz who was the chief guest of concluding ceremony presented the winning trophy to the captain of the Pakistan Wapda team while Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) Secretary General Khalid Bashir, Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) President Muhammad Yaqoob, Tournament chief organiser Dr. Umer Daraz Khan, PBBF Associate Secretary Yaqoob Qadry and other dignitaries were also present during the concluding ceremony.

Earlier in the third position match, Punjab Rangers secured a convincing 72-61 points victory against Islamabad, claiming the third position.

Peshawar to host Games to celebrate World Organ Transplant Day on June 5

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: On World Organ Transplantation Day, once known as the city of flowers, Peshawar is going to host the Transplant Games to bring joy to organ transplant patients. This announcement was made by Dr. Asif Malik, an eminent physician and the administrator of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority (KPMTRA), during a meeting with sports organizers and players.

Secretary KP Badminton Association Muhammad Amjad, Provincial Table Tennis Association President Kifayat Ullah Orakzai, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Coach Naem Khan, and various players were in attendance. Talking to APP, Dr. Asif Malik highlighted, "For the first time in Pakistan's history, sports competitions will be held to commemorate World Organ Transplantation Day. Events will include cricket, volleyball, dot games, table tennis, and badminton. Participants will be patients who have undergone liver, heart, lung, kidney, pancreas, or solid bone marrow transplants." The main objective of these competitions was to raise awareness about organ transplantation and help recovered patients rediscover the joys of life. Regular participation in sports was crucial for the well-being of transplant patients. Dr. Asif Malik stated, "The competitions will take place at Hayatabad Sports Complex on June 5, with support from the Directorate General Sports and Provincial Sports Associations. Special guests at the closing ceremony will include Syed Aqil Shah, President of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association, and squash legend Qamar Zaman, who will distribute prizes to the athletes." "These groundbreaking competitions are a first for Pakistan, inviting organ transplant patients from across the province to participate," Dr. Malik emphasized. He expressed confidence that the event would significantly raise awareness about organ diseases and transplantation.

Protest against Israeli Airstrikes on GAZA

KARACHI: Supporters of the religious and political party Jamaat-e-Islami attend a demonstration against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Minister Salik emphasises devotion, effective communication for Hajj welfare staff to enhance pilgrims experience

Bureau Report

MAKKAH: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Saturday urged the Hajj welfare staff (Moavineen-e-Hujjaj) to perform their responsibilities with devotion as serving the pilgrims is a sacred duty.

He said this on the occasion of orientation sessions held by the Hajj mission for supporting staff in Makkah

to make them aware of assisting pilgrims during the Hajj days. Emphasising the need for effective communication, the minister suggested that guides fluent in various Pakistani languages should be deployed to assist pilgrims visiting the Haram Sharif for Umrah or prayers. "This move would enhance the experience of pilgrims and help them navigate the area with comfort, given Pakistan's multicultural nature



with language diversity," he added. He urged the supporting staff to ensure that the

pilgrims should be provided with the best possible facilities and services during their stay for Hajj, showing compassion and empathy towards them in addition to their duties. The minister noted that properly marked and men-supported bus pick-up points could facilitate the transportation of pilgrims to and from their residences. He urged guides to be proactive in guiding pilgrims to the right ways towards their

destinations, ensuring they were readily available to assist those who may feel distracted or lost on their way to their residences.

It is important to note that over four hundred members of Hajj welfare staff currently performing duties in transport, accommodation, and food departments, have already received orientation sessions to prepare them for their roles during the Hajj days.

EU refuses to lift ban on Pakistani air carriers, PIA

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The European Union (EU) refused to lift the ban on Pakistani air carriers including PIA.

The European Union (EU) in its recent meeting found no grounds for amending the current list of air carriers banned from operating within the Union, including Pakistani airlines.

This decision comes after a comprehensive review by the EU Air Safety Committee, which involved an on-site evaluation of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and sample assessments of Pakistani air carriers Fly

Jinnah and Airblue Ltd. The on-site assessment, conducted between November 27 and 30, 2023, focused on the PCAA's role and responsibility in safety oversight.

Although the PCAA demonstrated adherence to international safety standards and was staffed by technically skilled professionals.

However, the on-site assessment team identified several shortcomings, including insufficient scrutiny in closing findings based on proposed corrective actions rather than actual evidence, deviations from established procedures, and a severe understaffing in the Flight Standards Directorate.

Despite these issues, no major safety concerns were identified in the airworthiness or personnel licensing and training organizations, which were found to be appropriately staffed.

Fly Jinnah, one of the air carriers assessed, was noted for needing improvement in record keeping and management of findings.

The PCAA presented a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) on May 6, 2024, and elaborated on the steps taken to address the identified issues during a hearing before the EU Air Safety Committee on May 14, 2024.

Notably, the PCAA increased the number of qualified inspec-

tors from one to nineteen in the Flight Standards Directorate, established a Quality Control section in each department, and created a central Quality Assurance department.

Fly Jinnah detailed its current operations and the measures taken to address quality management system flaws, including the use of software tools for various operational functions and outsourcing key activities to Air Arabia.

The EU Air Safety Committee in its report stated that continuous monitoring of the safety situation in Pakistan is essential.

"Regular technical meetings in Brussels and progress

reports from the PCAA will be part of this ongoing oversight," the EU report said.

The Committee also emphasized the need for the Pakistani government's continued support and leadership stability within the PCAA.

For now, the EU has decided not to lift the ban on Pakistani air carriers, urging Member States to continue verifying compliance through ramp inspections.

The Commission warned that any revelation of imminent safety risks could prompt further action, underscoring the critical nature of maintaining international safety standards.

Deputy PM, Iran's FM discuss situation in Gaza



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday received a telephone call from Acting Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Bagheri, discussing matters of mutual concern and the dire

situation in Gaza. The two sides discussed the situation in Gaza and unabated Israeli atrocities there, a Foreign Office statement said.

The deputy prime minister reiterated Pakistan's full support for all initiatives aimed at ending the genocide in Gaza and for humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people.

Palestine welcomes Chile's declaration of intervention in the genocide case against Israel before the ICJ

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine warmly welcomes the declaration of intervention by Chile in the case concerning the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel).

The Ministry affirms that this decision exemplifies Chile's stead-

fast commitment to justice and the international rule of law, and underscores the deep-rooted solidarity and historical friendship between our nations.

We call upon all states party to the Convention to actively engage in the proceedings before the Court. Ending the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people and combating Israel's impunity are responsibilities we must shoulder together in the interest of humanity and the law.

Govt to digitalize registration system of pesticides: Rana Tanveer

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain said Sunday that a comprehensive strategy would be formulated to improve the fumigation system and that the number of fumigation companies would be further expanded.

Talking to Director General of Plant Protection, Dr. Tariq Khan, he said, "The Plant Protection Department plays a significant role in the agriculture sector."

The Director General of Plant Protection briefed the minister on the department's functions, performance, and the challenges it faced.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer said, "Efforts will be made to develop a comprehensive strategy to further improve the performance of the department, and it will be brought up to high standards, ensuring its



operations meet top quality benchmarks."

"We have a strong commitment to promoting merit and transparency within the department. Corruption and inefficiency will not be tolerated in any form within the department," he added.

Rana Tanveer said, "The system will be digitalized to ensure transparency in operations."

The minister said, "DPP will be developed on modern lines to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, and all resources will be utilized to address staff shortages within the department."

Pakistan, IMF at odds over...

Continued from Page 1

latest report released in May had assumed a rupee-dollar parity of Rs328.4, a significantly weaker projection than the government's.

The IMF's exchange rate assumptions have not always aligned with the actual market conditions. For instance, the Fund had anticipated the rupee to trade at Rs300 per dollar for the current fiscal year, but the actual average rate has been Rs285.

The planning ministry has also acknowledged that the exchange rate and foreign exchange reserves are likely to remain under pressure in the next fiscal year due to scheduled external debt repayments.

The government's projections for foreign loan disbursements from multilateral and bilateral creditors, excluding any IMF borrowings, sovereign bonds, or foreign commercial loans, are around \$6 billion for the upcoming fiscal year.

Jl castigates Sindh govt over rising crime rate in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Munim Zafar has condemned the killing of a youth by the street criminals in Karachi on resisting robbery.

Speaking to the media on Sunday after offering the funeral prayers of the youth who was killed by street criminals a day earlier, the JI Karachi demanded the Sindh government to take action amid the worsening law and order situation in the city.

According to the JI Karachi chief, as many as 80 citizens have been killed in last five months by the criminals.

Munim Zafar said that no place in the province was safe as citizens in metropolitan and riverine areas continue to suffer due to the rising crime rate.

Celebrations to mark Pakistan-Denmark 75 years of diplomatic relations begin



Spokesman Report

COPENHAGEN: Thousands of Pakistanis turned up on Saturday (June 1) at Copenhagen Mela to kick-start 75 years of celebrations of Pakistan and Denmark diplomatic relations. Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Sophie H Andersen, Denmark's Ambassador in Pakistan Jakob Linulf, Pakistan's Ambassador in Denmark Shoaib Sarwar and Former Member of Danish Parliament Sikandar Siddique cut a cake on the occasion.

Pakistan and Denmark established their diplomatic relations in 1949 and there are more than 40,000 Pakistanis living in Denmark which are an important link between the two countries.

Historic Agreement: Oxford University to provide scholarships to Balochistan students



Bureau Report

QUETTA: In a landmark development, the University of Oxford has agreed to provide scholarships to students from Balochistan, Pakistan, under the Benazir Scholarship Program.

The agreement, in this connection, was signed between the Oxford University and the Government of Balochistan, with Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and Malala Yousafzai, the global ambassador for girls' education, in attendance.

Under this program, talented students from Balochistan will receive full scholarships to pursue higher education at Oxford University, one of the world's most prestigious institutions, said the handout issued by press secretary to chief minister Balochistan.

Pakistan Consul General meets President of Pakistan Social Centre Sharjah



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Counsel General of Pakistan Consulate Dubai Hussain Muhammad on Saturday met President Pakistan Social Centre Sharjah (PSCS) Khalid Hussain Chaudry along with his team members to acknowledge the organization's outstanding efforts in providing aid to Pakistani families affected by recent floods. The Consul General paid tributes to the President of Sharjah Social Center for the tireless efforts during the floods in provision of food and water to the stranded Pakistani families.

PSCS provided support to around 500 Pakistani families. The Consul General honored the president and his team members with appreciation certificates including Faraz Ahmed Siddiqui, Imran Aslam, Sajjad Khan, Abdul Majid and Mohammad Azam.

Pakistan may skip Ukraine...

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participation has yet to be made.

China, another key player, has already decided to stay away from the summit, with officials in Beijing questioning the credibility of the process.

Observers believe that while Pakistan usually takes cues from China on such international and region-

al issues, Western countries may be quietly persuading Islamabad to attend the conference.

The invitation to the Ukraine Peace Summit comes against the backdrop of Pakistan's diplomatic maneuvers during the early stages of the Russian invasion. In February 2022, then-Prime Minister Imran Khan was in Moscow, a visit that raised eyebrows, particularly in the West.

Overseas Pakistanis must be...

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anywhere and action will be taken against non-issuance of passport within the stipulated time," he said and established a monitoring cell to ensure delivery of passports within time.

ASP Shehbaz, the personal staff officer to the interior minister, would head the cell.

Overseas Pakistanis would be able to complain at the email address: passport@interior.gov.pk if they do not receive their passport within time.

Interior Minister Naqvi also interacted with Pakistanis present in the centres. They appreciated NADRA's performance and "no one complained" about it, upon which the minister congratulated the NADRA staff for their good performance.