

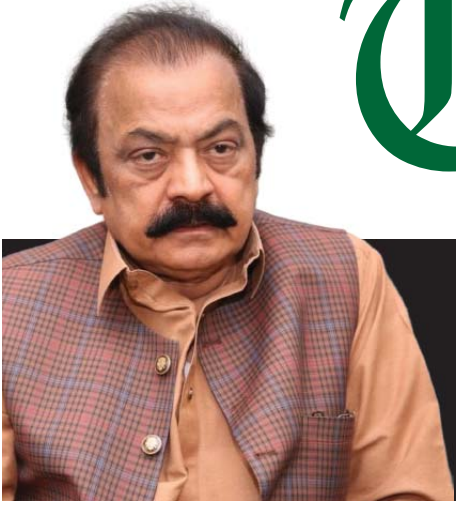
Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم کو شہید نے خبر دی، انہیں زہری نے کہا،
مجھ سے سعید بن مسیب نے بیان کیا، ان سے
ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ میں نے رسول
اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا، آپ صلی اللہ
علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ نبوت میں سے صرف
اب میراث باقی رہی ہے۔ صحابہ نے پوچھا
کہ میراث کیا ہیں؟ ہی کہ صلی اللہ علیہ
وسلم نے فرمایا کہ رقتہ خوراب۔
(بخاری ص ۶۹۹)

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Imran to face new cases in coming days: Sanullah

Two days after incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder got relief in the cipher case, Adviser to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanullah has said that new cases will be filed against Imran Khan in the coming days. Sanullah, the former security czar, said while talking to Geo News programme "Capital Talk".



Electricity bills' instalments to be allowed only once a year, notifies Nepra

The Nepra has amended the Consumer Service Manual, 2021, and imposed restrictions on power firms to allow multiple instalments of electricity bills. The consumers have lost another relief option to pay their electricity bills in multiple instalments following the new regulations approved by Nepra. The power regulatory authority modified the set of regulations creating room for power users to clear their dues with ease.

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Group Photo

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Chairman Huawei Mr. Liang Hua and Pakistani delegation in Shenzhen on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

President Zardari for building "technology highways" in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasized the need for building "technology highways" in the country by enhancing students' access to IT infrastructure, strengthening educational programmes, and equipping them with modern skills to help them fully benefit from the knowledge economy. He said that providing laptops to students would increase their access to education, bridge the digital divide, and equip them with technology skills to help them compete in the national and international job markets.

The President expressed these views while talking to Professor Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University

(QAU) Islamabad, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

The Vice Chancellor of QAU briefed the President about the role of QAU in providing quality education, its educational programmes, and other administrative affairs of the University.

Talking to the Vice Chancellor, the President said that Pakistan was blessed with abundant human resources, which needed to be converted into a strength by imparting the latest education and skills to them. He highlighted that Pakistan needed to train and educate its human resources, which could be exported to foreign countries facing a shortage of trained professionals to help Pakistan earn foreign exchange.

PM guarantees facilitation, security to Chinese investment; stresses B2B cooperation for a bright future

Spokesman Report

SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, assuring all-out facilitation to Chinese investors, and security of Chinese individuals, projects and investments in Pakistan, emphasised that mutually rewarding business-to-business cooperation was key to a bright future for the two people.

The prime minister, addressing the Pakistan-China Business Forum during his five-day China visit, highlighted bilateral trade and investment potential, especially in key sectors including transfer of Chinese technology,

industry and partnership in IT, agriculture, mining, steel, textiles and renewable energy.

The prime minister repeatedly lauded the Chinese model of development and economic transformation and vowed to replicate the same in Pakistan.

"I will go back to Pakistan with this resolve, come what may, we will follow this model of great economic transformation in Pakistan. This model is enough to copy and simulate if we are sincere to our purpose and people. By God, I can tell you this is difficult but not impossible," he told the gathering of hundreds of business leaders from Pakistan and China.

As the Business Forum also marked the B2B matchmaking, he urged the Pakistani businessmen to sit with their Chinese counterparts and find out ways to move Chinese textile industries to Pakistan and make joint collaborations in steel and other industries.

"Today is the opportunity, time and moment to capture. Sit down with Chinese friends to have serious discussions. I want to ensure you not as prime minister but as Chief Executive of Pakistan that I will give you the fullest support so that businessmen of Pakistan and China get benefits jointly," he remarked.

He informed the Forum that

Pakistan had mineral deposits of around \$10 trillion while the country's exports stood at \$30 billion. The minerals deposits offer huge potential to dig out and convert them into finished and semi-finished goods for exports, he added.

He assured the Chinese side that his government had already initiated structural changes in Pakistan to control corruption.

Prime Minister Shehbaz drew a comparison between the \$500 billion GDP of the 13-million city of Shenzhen and the \$380 billion GDP of Pakistan with 250 million population and called it

the "miracle of this century" and the "eighth wonder of the world", necessitating for others to learn the lesson from.

He appreciated Chinese President Xi Jinping's dynamic and visionary leadership which elevated his country to become the second-largest economy and military power within a short span of time and steered 700 million people out of poverty, despite pressures and challenges.

He also recalled that during the decades of 50s or 60s, Pakistan's economic indicators were better than those of China and called for a collective resolve to regain its stature.

Pak-China Business forum sign MoUs to boost bilateral trade: Aleem Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan, on Wednesday said that thirty two memorandum of understanding (MoUs) were signed at the Pakistan-China Business Forum held in Shenzhen, China which would help boost bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries.

He mentioned that 500 Chinese companies and 100 companies from Pakistan participated in the forum. Additionally, successful bilateral negotiations were conducted with Chinese companies, said a press release received here today.

The minister highlighted that during the Prime Minister's current visit to China, detailed discussions were held regarding the promotion of business activ-

ities between the two countries.

Ministers for the Board of Investment and Commerce also held meetings with chief executive officers of major Chinese companies.

Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that this was an excellent opportunity for the Pakistani business community to encourage Chinese investments, ultimately boosting exports. He indicated that this conference provided a platform for long-term business ties between the two sides.

In discussions with business entrepreneurs, Abdul Aleem Khan assured that Pakistan would fully support Chinese companies in establishing business activities. Moreover, the private sector will have complete freedom to invest in energy, infrastructure development, farming, engineering construction, and logistics sectors.

Maritime Minister Qaiser Shaikh visits BQATI

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday visited office of the "Bin Qasim Association of Trade and Industry" (BQATI).



Secretary Planning Awais Manzur, chairman Port Qasim Authority Admiral (R) Syed Hassan Nasir Shah and others were also present on the occasion.

The Minister was invited by BQATI President Abdul Rasheed Jan Mohammad and Patron in Chief Mian Muhammad Ahmed at working lunch.

The business community apprised Minister about problems such as tariffs and trade barriers, power issues, rising utilities cost and shortages, logistics, regulations and compliances.

The Minister and Chairman PQA Admiral (R) Syed Hassan Nasir Shah assured the business community of all possible assistance as other provincial and federal departments will be requested for approvals and cooperation.

The business community appreciated Chairman PQA Admiral (R) Syed Hassan Nasir Shah in particular for easing out

Continued on Page 8

Shaza discusses telecom infrastructure, innovation, ICT solutions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Hunan Sunwalk Group called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Shenzhen, China. During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on digitalisation, telecommunication infrastructure and fiberization said a news release received here on Wednesday.



The Sunwalk team briefed the Minister of State for IT about its National Optical Fiber Project in Pakistan initiated in the year 2021. Shaza Fatima appreciated the Sunwalk Group for its investment in Pakistan and its plans regarding this. She said that the optical fiber cable network is vital for digitalization in Pakistan adding that the present government is fully committed to the provision of quality telecom services in the country. She also ensured the government of Pakistan's full support to Sunwalk Group in its future initiatives. Meanwhile, the ZTE team called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima and discussed matters related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions, innovation and connectivity

Continued on Page 8

Justice Athar Minallah issues dissenting note in NAB law amendments case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's (SC) Justice Athar Minallah on Wednesday issued his dissenting note in a case regarding live streaming of the NAB law amendments case.

Justice Athar Minallah, in his 13-page dissenting note, wrote, "The proceedings during the previous hearings held on 31.10.2023 and 14.05.2024 were streamed live.

The questions raised through the application are; whether live streaming of the proceedings before us could have been discontinued and whether, by doing so, the principles enunciated by a larger Bench of this Court were breached and the people at large were deprived of their right, inter alia, guaranteed under Article 19-A of the Constitution.

"Live streaming (audio and video) of the court proceedings in cases heard by this Court on a petition or suo moto, under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, must be made available for the information of the public through a link on the official website of the Court, in conformance of the fundamental right of the public and for the fulfilment of the obligation of the Court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. xiv) The right to have access to court proceed.

Cases against NA-47, NA-48 election results adjourned

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday cancelled today's cause list for hearing into a case against election results of NA-47 Islamabad.

The court also cancelled the cause list regarding hearing of the case pertaining to the election results of NA-48, due to non-availability of the concern bench.

The court would hear the case regarding NA-47 on June 12, while hearing of NA-48 would be conducted on June 13.

It may be mentioned here that PTI's leader Ali Bokhari had challenged election's results of NA-48, and Barrister Shoaib Shaheen had filed the case regarding polls results in NA-47.

ECP once again delists PTI intra-party election case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday delisted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intra-party election case for the second time.

The case was initially scheduled to be heard on May 30 but the ECP delisted the same due to the unavailability of a bench. The hearing was rescheduled for June 6 and the notices were issued to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and spokesman Raouf Hassan to appear on Thursday.

In the recent development, the ECP once again delisted the case, citing the unavailability of the full bench for the hearing.

The ECP had earlier summoned PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Raouf Hasan on May 30 after raising further objections to recently held intra-party elections.

The notice sought PTI's

response to the commission's inquiry into the internal electoral process. The election commission had already sent a detailed questionnaire to PTI, seeking information about the party's intra-party elections.

In May, the ECP raised further objections to PTI intra-party elections, questioning the party's status after 'losing organisational structure'.

On December 22, 2023, the ECP stripped the PTI of its election symbol due to irregularities in its intra-party elections. The Supreme Court later upheld the ECP order, forcing the party to field its candidates as independents in the Feb 8 general elections.

After the general elections, the party once again conducted its intra-party elections on March 3. The party now demands that the ECP issue its notification.

Read More: PTI seeks intra-party election certificate from ECP

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passes resolution in favor of Kashmiris in OIC

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: In the session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Small Industries Corporation and Travel and Trade Authority Prof. Kausar Taqdees Gilani presented a resolution in which it was said that this session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in Benjul, the capital of the Republic of Gambia, is an organization of Islamic cooperation. Thanks to OIC Secretary General Hussain Ibrahim Taha and Assistant Secretary General Yusuf Al Dubey and all brother member states for discussing the situation of Occupied Kashmir and passing the resolution in favor of Kashmiris in the 15th Summit of OIC. I appreciate the key role played by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Sudan, Turkmenistan and other Muslim countries and express the expectation that all



the OIC member countries, on their own, will discuss the Kashmir issue with other civilized countries, and will play an effective role in drawing their attention to this important issue. The meeting understands that the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

Mr. Ishaq Dar and his team have been active in this OIC forum, presented the issue of Kashmir in a manner in which Rakuma also got the honor of being a part of this diplomatic team of Pakistan and representing Kashmiris during the meeting. The resolution further said that the meeting understands that after a long time OIC Passing the resolution on Occupied Kashmir on behalf of Pakistan is a great diplomatic success of Pakistan. For a long time, the UN and the OIC have not been able to play an effective role with regard to Occupied Kashmir as they have been doing in the past. But in its rendition in Gambia, Kashmiris have achieved a major victory on the diplomatic front. This meeting of the Legislative Assembly appreciates the support of the Kashmiris from all Islamic brotherhood countries and hopes that the OIC will increase the pressure on the United Nations to resolve the Kash-

mir issue so that the Kashmiris can be brought to the United Nations. I can find the recognized right of self-determination. This meeting also pays tribute to the Prime Minister of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Chaudhry Anwarul Haque, that with his personal interest and efforts, I got the honor of participating in the conference as a member of this delegation on behalf of the Government of Azad Kashmir. happened On this occasion, it was mentioned that Israel and India not only have goodwill relations, but there is also a similarity in the strategies of the two countries regarding the issue of Kashmir and Palestine. Just as the Jews were settled in Palestine from outside and the Palestinians were made landless on their own land, in the same way, in the occupied Kashmir, non-state residents from India are being settled by the Modi government and the genocide of Kashmiris.

AJK Assembly congratulates Mian Nawaz Sharif for being elected as President of Muslim League (N)

Abdul Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD: In the meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Member of the Assembly Shah Ghulam Qadir presented a resolution in which it was said that this meeting congratulates Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for being elected as the President of the Muslim League (N). In his opinion Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has always supported the freedom movement of Kashmiris and he still expects that as the President of Muslim League (N) he will play his full role in the freedom movement of Kashmir. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, during his tenure as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has played a great role in the construction and development of Azad Kashmir, for which the entire Kashmiri nation is grateful to him. The resolution further said that this House also thanks Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for his voice for the freedom of Kashmiris at all international forums as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which is a manifestation of his deep commitment and commitment to Kashmir. Mr. Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan recently released a sum of 23 billion rupees to provide cheap electricity and cheap flour to the people of Azad Kashmir. For which this House thanks him and pays him full tribute. This House congratulates Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif as the Chief Minister of Punjab on being elected as the first woman Chief Minister and expects that Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif will play her full role for the development of Punjab. The resolution was unanimously approved by the House.

World Environment Day Celebrated at Women University Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: On the occasion of the World Environment Day, a ceremony, rally and poster-making competition were held at Matital campus the Women University Multan. According to the spokesperson the Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with Forest Department and PEPP organized an event to celebrate save the environment. The chief guest was Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, Commissioner Multan Ms. Maryam Khan and Deputy Commissioner Multan Wasim Sindhu. The focal person of the event was Chairperson Department of Environmental Sciences Dr. Saima Nasreen. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kalsoom Pracha speaking that the purpose of celebrating this day is to create awareness among the people about the improvement of the environment and elimination of pollution. This day was regularly celebrated every year since 1974 under the auspices of the United Nations. On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to combat environmental problems. The number and severity of droughts is increasing while water reserves are decreasing and crop production is becoming limited. Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan said that the Punjab government has banned the use of plastic to eliminate environmental pollution. The country has been most affected by environmental pollution and global warming. The use of plastic bags, cutlery, boxes, cups, glasses, bottles has been banned in the District upon the direction of CM of Punjab. The unnecessary use of plastic causes diseases. Plastic biodiversity, human health and climate. For the survival of the new generation, plantations should be done on a large scale. She appreciated zeal of students towards tree plantation and said that youths possess great potential and spirit to change society for development and prosperity of Pakistan. She said that the world has been facing environmental challenges and Pakistan has been ranked at 5th place on the list of most polluted countries. At the end, Commissioner Ms Maryam Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Mr. Wasim Sindhu and Vice-Chancellor distributed certificates and shields among the students those have secured positions in different competitions.

AKUH, Novartis Pakistan and PBS join forces to provide targeted therapy to cancer patients



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) and the Patients Behbud Society for AKUH (PBS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Novartis Pakistan to provide access to quality targeted therapy treatment to cancer patients without financial means and who come from humble background. Patients suffering from Breast Cancer, blood cancer like CML, MPNs & GvHD will benefit from the partnership. The announcement came during an official signing ceremony held at the University Hospital premises in Karachi. Every year, over 100,000 people in Pakistan are diagnosed with various types of cancers. Among these, breast, lung, and colorectal cancers are the most commonly diagnosed. Under an MOU, Novartis will provide free-of cost medicines to AKUH, covering partial treatment for needy patients. PBS will then cover the remaining treatment cost. This initiative offers hope for a cure and improved health, allowing patients to lead productive lives after treatment. Dr. Farhat Abbas, CEO, AKUH, Mr. Arif Tahir, CEO Novartis Pakistan and Mr. Abdul Qadir Memon, President of PBS signed and exchanged the MoU. Other senior officials from both sides were also present to witness the ceremony. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Farhat Abbas, CEO, AKUH, said: "AKUH endeavours to provide access to our health care services for needy patients who may not, on account of financial constraints, be able to afford our regular Hospital charges. Patients who receive financial support receive the same level of care as all other patients. Commenting on the partnership, Arif Tahir, Country President and CEO Novartis Pakistan said: "I am very excited about our partnership with the Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi and the impact it can create for patients. Novartis seeks to work with all stakeholders to improve access to medicines for patients. Development of and timely access to new medicines requires a strong innovation ecosystem. Mr. Abdul Qadir Memon, President, The Patients' Behbud Society for AKUH, appreciated Novartis Pakistan's support and said: "It is indeed heartening to see our partners like Novartis Pakistan coming forward to help mustehiq patients by donating expensive cancer drugs. Dr. Zehra Faddo, Departmental Head Oncology, AKUH, said: "Disparity in care is a major challenge across the world with the cost of treatment a major contributor in low middle-income countries like Pakistan."

World Environment Day

ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam in a group photo with Customs and Enforcement officers on Montreal Protocol and HCFC control on the eve of World Environment Day on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Faisalabad college, Punjab Probation Services sign MoU for internship opportunities

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: (Government College Women University) and Punjab Probation and Parole Services signed an MoU. According to the MoU, Punjab Probation and Parole Services will provide internship opportunities to the students of Government College Women University and Government College.

The teachers and students of the Department of Applied Psychology, Islamic Studies and Sociology of Women's University will be part of the social rehabilitation so that they can provide moral, social and religious training to the people there and they can become active citizens.



Both institutions should work according to strong public policy of research and publications, analysis, evidence. Provided an opportunity for the students which will be very useful for them during their education as well as in the near future. Professor Dr. Saima Akram Coordinator Science and Technology, Professor Dr. Ayesha Sameen Coordinator Arts

and Social Sciences, Dr. Rukhsana Bibi Coordinator Humanities and Languages, Registrar Asif A. Malik Dr. Nosheen Syed Treasurer, Dr. Salmi Shahid Director of Advanced Studies and In-charge of Sociology Department Dr. Sajda Parveen While from Government College Women University Assistant Director Faisalabad Division Tariq Mehmood Baloch, Director Probation Officer District Courts Faisalabad Raheel Khalid Wahla, Parole Officer Faisalabad Syed Mansoor Hussain were present in the ceremony while Director General Punjab Probation and Parole Services Shahid Iqbal participated in the ceremony through Zoom.

Climate change played a major role in the devastating floods of 2022

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Organization for Awareness of Women and Rural Development (Award) Pakistan organized a rally (walk) to create public awareness on World Environment Day. Which started from Award Office and ended at Thulak Church of Holy Rosy Warispura Faisalabad.

The rally was attended by the staff and students of Awards Pakistan, Emmer Center and Lok Vihar. Addressing the rally, Madam Christina Peter, Executive Director of Awards, said that climate change played a major role in the devastating floods of 2022, which was



The direct impact was on more than 25 million people in Pakistan, resulting in loss of life, damage to public infrastructure, and displacement. Shaheen Anthony, Dr. Azizur Rahman Emmins Center, Saecqa Rehmat Lug Vihar, Father Shakeel Michael Opie, and Mr. Peter Shahzad, Najam Rasheed, Parvez Paul highlighted the

importance of the day and highlighted the importance of the day to government and non-government organizations and partners in practice. Emphasized their role in taking collective and individual measures and preventing environmental pollution. At the end of the rally, the participants practically celebrated the World Environment Day by planting saplings and pledged to reduce the unnecessary and indiscriminate use of natural resources. He demanded that the government fulfill its responsibility regarding this matter, enact legislation and implement them.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:15 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	5:06 pm
Maghrib	7:16 pm
Isha	8:58 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	9270831-5
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

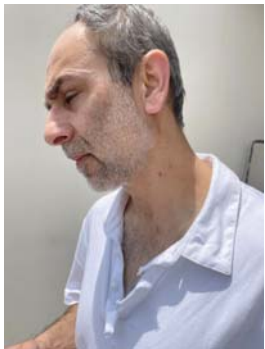
Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

Pakistan-born UK father and son attacked by ex-wife and accomplices at Islamabad airport



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan-born UK father and his minor son were attacked by his ex-wife along with over a dozen of her accomplices to illegally snatch his son at Islamabad International Airport on Monday.

Mr. Saif Ur Rehman and his son arrived in Pakistan on June 3 via British Airways flight No. 0261 to join the proceedings of a Dera Ismail Khan-based family court, which is seized with the petition to adjudicate the custody of his son. As soon as they came out of the airport building, his ex-wife Ms. Anam Sana along with 15-20 men unleashed a brazen assault on Saif and attempted to forcibly make away with Saif's son. The attack left Saif injured in the neck besides his shirt being torn while his son bled in the nose. The Airport Security Force (ASF) is its statement also mentioned that Ms. Anam Sana joined by his cousins and accomplices attempted to snatch the son from Saif. In his complaint lodged with the police, Saif ur Rehman sought protection for himself and his son of the state, adding the accused be tried under Anti Trafficking of Persons ACT as well as terrorism and abduction laws.

Saif said Ms. Anam Sana also obstructed the process of law by hampering his travel to Dikhan as he planned to attend the court hearing on the same matter the same day.

Historic agreement signed between Riphah Int'l University/IIMCT and NAVTTC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An agreement was signed between RIPHAAH and National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) at the NAVTTC Headquarters in Islamabad recently. IIMCT/ Riphah International University was represented by Mr. Ahmed Nauman Anees, CEO/Project Director, Riphah ExcelTech Institute and Group Director of Human Development Services and Strategy while the Director General/ Chairperson of Planning and Development signed on behalf of NAVTTC.

This agreement marks the largest collaboration regarding vocational training in recent memory. The project is funded by the Prime Minister of Pakistan's Office and is part of the prestigious SFIC forum at the national level. This collaboration aligns with Chancellor, Hassan Muhammad Khan's vision of bridging the gap between industry and academia by transferring essential skills to the youth.

The agreement aims to empower the Pakistani youth with the necessary tools to become proficient professionals through hands-on skills acquisition locally and globally. The project focuses on various aspects of Allied Health Sciences and is designed to equip teams and faculty with substantial practical experience, turning them into vocational training experts. The ongoing mission is to equip Pakistani youth with 21st-century skills, aiming not only to contribute locally but also to export trained manpower overseas thus bringing in precious foreign exchange to the nation.

As part of this initiative, a comprehensive, well-equipped micro-credentialing Academy is also being established. The Institute will be run by top industry experts and academicians having foreign exposure. RIPHAAH International University is known for consistently working for the development of Pakistani Youth in terms of knowledge and skills development.



Pleasant weather

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Faisal Jinnah after the first summer heavy rain in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Bakers Association demands end to single-use plastic ban

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: President of Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Chaudhry Muhammad Farooq said that they are ready to cooperate with all government institutions including the district administration. The government should have given an alternative to plastic before banning it. We cannot compromise on business of the business community at stake. Instead of just making rhetoric, practical steps should be taken. The results of which are far-reaching.

He said this while addressing a seminar organized by Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association on the occasion of World Environment Day on the topic of single-use plastic ban. The seminar started with the recitation of Holy Quran and Naat Rasool Maqbool. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Gen-



al Mujahid Abbas, Assistant Commissioner Rawalpindi City Hakeem Khan, Assistant Director Environment Department Anza Niazi participated as special guests. Association President Mohammad Chaudhry Farooq, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmad, Chief Superintendent Mohammad Naeem, Honorable members of the Core Committee including General Secretary Raja Adnan Mehmood, Vice Chairman Saleem Raza Butt, Senior Vice President Sheikh Mohammad Muneer, Vice President Huzaifa Ansari, Vice President Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood, Vice President Sardar Mahmood Hussain Niko,

chief Muhammad Naeem said that cleanliness is a part of religion and everyone should follow it. We are ready to cooperate with the district administration but we should be given an alternative which is our right. Assistant Commissioner City Rawalpindi Hakeem Khan said that I congratulate Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan for organizing a successful seminar.

We need the full cooperation of the business community. I am a government representative. I am here to listen to you. Assistant Director Environment Department Anza Niazi said that 46,000 tons of plastic waste is imported on a daily basis, which is not tested. Which is full of toxic substance. By the use of which our life is at stake. Despite the limited resources, we are working on it. Anza Niazi said that remember that a strong community is helpful in taking the society on the path of development.

Mansehra Police Raid and Arrested 6 Days Old Baby Boy Kidnaper Women: SP Shiraz Khan

Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: The abductor woman who abducted a 6-day-old baby Boy from Mansehra police station city was arrested, the baby Boy was recovered and handed over to her grandmother and father. Given (Press conference of SP Investigation Mansehra Shiraz Khan along with other Police officers Of Mansehra.



According to the details, Masmal (H) reported to the police a few days ago that I am a resident of Bypass Dara. During this time, an unknown woman told us that she works in Benazir Income Support Program and will also register your data in the office. From which you will get money every month. Superintendent Of Police Mansehra SP Investigation Shiraz Khan DSP City Sajjad Khan and Inspector Waris Khan said during the press conference that according to the grandmother of the child.

When we were discharged from the hospital, the above-mentioned unknown woman also came with us. When we reached the township, we got out of the car. The woman said that the baby is crying. Go ahead and get a feeder and milk for the baby from the bakery and took the baby from me. When I returned from the bakery for the child, the above-mentioned woman had run away with the child. In the press conference, the officers said. As soon as the incident was reported, Regional Police Officer Hazara Tahir Ayub Khan issued orders to DPO Mansehra Shafiqullah Gandapur to recover the innocent child as soon as possible. In order to recover the child, DPO Mansehra formed a special team consisting of DSP City, investigation staff and others under the leadership of SP Investigation Mansehra Shiraz Khan.

Local govt elections be held immediately in Punjab: Dr. Aslam Joia

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Civil Society of Punjab and Blue Bar Regional Network demands that local government elections be held immediately in Punjab. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Joia, Israr Ahmad Chaudhry, Syed Shahbaz Hussain Shah, Muhammad Abdullah Rana, Aamir Raza, Rana Shakeel Ahmed, Hammad Hasan, Muhammad Arsalan Officials Blue Bar Regional Network Multan Islamic Republic of Pakistan currently have elected governments but it is a pity that The process of formation of active local government in Punjab is very slow. The absence of elected local governments after 2017 has been a concern for various reasons. There have been 3 preliminary preparations for the elections, but each time the elections could not be held due to the new legislation. Despite the prohibition of the constitution and then in the presence of the continuity of elected governments in the three provinces of the country, Punjab continues to be deprived of it. Due to the absence of elected local governments, various developmental and welfare works cannot be applied better, because neither Priority or priority of local needs cannot be determined nor can participation or ownership of citizens be assigned in implementation nor is there any form of accountability and responsibility and then it is enshrined in the basic principles of state policy of our country. That our country will have local governments, in which there will be elected representatives of the area and the representation of women and workers can be ensured in these representatives. In the past years, the Supreme Court of the country has further interpreted Article 7 of the Constitution that after the Federation and Provinces, local bodies mean local governments and then Article 140-A of the Constitution obliges the provincial governments to act in accordance with such laws as local bodies. Establish governments.

And transfer administrative, financial and political powers to them. Despite such clear constitutional restrictions, absence of elected local governments in Punjab and continuous delay in elections is a concern. Now the present government has set up a committee to review the legislation in Punjab which is making progress in this regard.

All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union protest at Mepeco headquarters

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union CBA Central President Abdul Latif Nizamani, Central General Secretary Khurshid Ahmad led by Regional Chairman Mepeco Multan Chaudhry Ghulam Rasool Gujjar, a protest demonstration was held at Mepeco headquarters Khanewal road in favor of the demands. Rana Naveed started from the Holy Quran. Chaudhry Ghulam Rasool Gujjar said in his speech that the federal government should increase the salaries of MEPCO employees and the pension of retired employees by at least 50 percent. Privatization of national institutions. Instead, efficiency should be increased. Region-

al Secretary Chaudhry Mahmood Amjad asked the participants to end the unsafe conditions of the employees during duty and protect their lives and health completely. Regional Deputy Chairman Sajjad Baloch. Regional Vice Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Khalid said that the general unemployment, poverty and huge gap between rich and poor in the society should be eliminated in the dear country. Zonal Chairman GSC Rana Muhammad Anwar, Zonal Chairman Multan Rashid Yameen said that we are country. They demand the political parties to promote industry and technical education to remove unemployment in the dear country. Zonal Chairman Construction Rana Zahid Javed, Chairman Circle Multan Rana

Mazhar Latif while speaking said that the most in the world The government and the authority should fully protect the employees who perform dangerous work. During the protest, Secretary Information and Broadcasting Syed Atif Zaidi presented the resolution and said that they should implement progressive reforms to solve the economic and social problems of the employees and farmers. In the protest, Malik Tanveer, Tariq Siddiqui, Ishrat Alvi, Altaf Mahar, Chaudhry Shahid Iqbal, Ansar Abbas, Rana Khizr Hayat, Rana Imran, Chaudhry Azhar, Usman Liaquat Ran, Masood Alvi, Mian Aleem, Mudassar Bhatti, Mazhar Abbas, Ikram Arain, Shabab Khan, Ilyas Jat, Abdul Wahid Hashmi, Akbar Ali, Rana Amjad, Rao Amir



Jameel, Rao Javed, Asif Mumtaz, Rana Tayyab, Rao Aslam, Sulaiman Baloch, Chaudhry Zahid, Khalid Naeem, Akram Ghori, Rana Nawaz, Asif Sajjad, Rana Saleem Taj, Shehbaz

Ali, Naeem Shah, Azhar Bhatti, Khalid Bukhari, Rana Mansoor, Arif Ansari, Aarif Zaki, Rana Naeem, Bilal Ghori, Muntaz Gilani, Rana Atiq Anjum, Riyaz Bhatti, Fayaz Ran, Chaudhry

Shafaqat, Shaukat Baloch, Arshad Kheda, Chaudhry Mansha, Hafeezullah, Malik Yusuf Faridi, Imran Gujjar, Akmal Badr, Hafiz Anees, Chaudhry Faisal, Hafiz Asim, Rana Khalil,

Hafiz Khalid Dogar, Zafar Moula, Rana Shahid, Khalid Sahu, Anwar Gujjar, Faheem Khan, Waqas Bhatti, Amjad Dogar, Aqeel Zahid, Shahid Raza, Abdullah Basit, Muhammad Javed, Muhammad Sohail, Mukhtiar Ansari, Maqsood Ansari, Adeel Amir, Rana Arsalan, Muhammad Ramadani, Adil Malik, Muhammad Ashfaq, Safdar Abbas, Owais Bukhari, Asad Ran, Sadaqat Shah, Muhammad Irfan, Muhammad Hasnain, Waqar Ilyas, Muhammad Sajid, Yusuf Masih, Ahad Hassan, Muhammad Qamar and other officials and employees.

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Election Amendment Ordinance 2024: Protecting the Vested Interests

The elections in Pakistan held on 8th February 2024 were conducted in a tightly controlled environment and were marred by allegations of rigging, malpractices, and altering of election results through manipulation of Form 47, which is crucial for declaring candidates' outcomes. The Election Amendment Act 2023 provides a remedy for aggrieved parties to seek redress from election tribunals constituted under Section 140 of the Election Act 2023. However, when the Lahore High Court provided judges to head the tribunals, the Election Commission initially employed delaying tactics and later introduced the Election Amendment Ordinance 2024. This ordinance empowered the Election Commission to appoint retired judges as presiding officers of the election tribunals, raising significant concerns.

The original Election Amendment Act 2023 stipulated that election tribunals should include sitting judges appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. This process ensured judicial oversight and impartiality in handling election disputes. By bypassing this consultation, the Election Commission's appointment of retired judges may compromise the tribunals' impartiality and undermine public confidence in the election dispute resolution process.

This could result in decisions that are biased towards the status quo, thereby legitimizing fraudulent election practices and denying justice to aggrieved parties. The mover of this ordinance most likely could be the election commission itself which may also be a defendant in election rigging allegations. By controlling the appointment of presiding officers to the election tribunals, the Election Commission can exert undue influence over the tribunal's outcomes. This undermines the fairness of the adjudication process and erodes public confidence in the electoral system.

This Ordinance also reflects the perceived conflicts of interest among its key stakeholders. Allegedly, those involved in drafting and approving the ordinance, including the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, and the Acting President, may also be the beneficiaries of the rigged elections. This presents a clear conflict of interest, as these individuals and entities may be directly implicated in election irregularities. Allegedly, they are the ones who stand to gain from the ordinance, which compromises the integrity of the electoral process and the principle of natural justice. For instance, candidates from the PTI, who claim their mandate was stolen, may file complaints against these very Public servants. The ordinance appears to shield these stakeholders from scrutiny by empowering the Election Commission to appoint retired judges to election tribunals without judicial consultation, potentially influencing the tribunal's decisions in their favor.

This Ordinance also seemed to have violated the principle of natural justice, which demands impartiality and fairness in legal proceedings. The conflict of interest inherent in the involvement of those accused of benefiting from electoral fraud in the drafting and approval of the ordinance contravenes fundamental legal principles. Natural justice requires that no one should be a judge in their

own cause (nemo iudex in causa sua) and that everyone should have the right to a fair hearing (audi alteram partem).

In a hypothetical scenario, if impartial presiding officers were appointed to the Election Tribunals, they would deliver verdicts without any fear or favor. This could potentially result in many complaints being decided in favor of appellants or complainants, thereby fundamentally altering the composition of the National Assembly, as well as the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. This scenario would necessitate the formation of new governments, effectively dismantling the current power structures and representing a significant blow to those accused of masterminding the election manipulations.

This led to visualization of another hypothetical scenario, if PTI were to form the government alone or in coalition with other parties at the center and in Punjab, it could lead to significant political shifts. In such a scenario, cases against PTI's founder, leadership, and workers might be quashed. The narrative surrounding the events of May 9 could shift to the opposite direction, effectively resetting the political chessboard with most power pieces in PTI's control.

The prospect of such a shift would undoubtedly lead to renewed political and economic instability. The current ruling coalition, facing the risk of losing power, might employ various tactics to maintain control, including further manipulation or delaying tactics. The opposition, empowered by favorable

tribunal decisions, would push for immediate changes, creating a volatile political environment. Such an outcome would be highly unacceptable to the entrenched power structures, as it would signify a dramatic loss of influence and control. Consequently, the stakes for controlling the decisions of the election tribunals become even higher, making it imperative for those in power to ensure that tribunal outcomes are favorable to them.

However, the argument's strength relies heavily on the assumption that independent tribunals would universally rule in favor of the complainants. While this is plausible given the allegations, it's not guaranteed. Additionally, the consequences of such rulings, while significant, are speculative and contingent on many variables, including the reactions of various political actors and the public.

The ordinance has already been challenged in the Lahore High Court on the grounds that appointing retired judges of the High Court and District Courts undermines the independence of the judiciary and attempts to control tribunal outcomes in favor of candidates who benefited from manipulated election results.

By compromising the integrity of election tribunals, the ordinance potentially deprives candidates and voters of the opportunity to seek genuine redress for electoral grievances. This situation calls for serious judicial review and possible legislative action to restore the original provisions of the Election Amendment Act 2023, thereby upholding the principles of judicial independence and democratic governance.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

CPEC upgrade to improve livelihoods

The development and upgrading of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has great prospects, especially in terms of providing more benefits to livelihoods and boosting regional connectivity, Chinese experts and corporate representatives said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif kicked off his visit to China on Tuesday, with a stop at Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong Province. The trip is his first to China since he started his second term as prime minister in March.

China and Pakistan are determined to take the upgraded version of the CPEC to new heights to advance regional connectivity, integration and common prosperity, thus forging a new era of growth and development for nations in the region and beyond, the prime minister wrote in an article in the Global Times on Wednesday.

Observers said that as China and Pakistan strive to further deepen trade and economic cooperation, more results could be anticipated in the next phase.

Based on the achievements of the CPEC's first phase, the second phase is expected to yield further economic benefits for Pakistan, they noted, noting that the prime minister's visit may involve topics such as more bilateral cooperation in areas including agriculture, economic zone development and beefing up security for Chinese personnel stationed at CPEC projects.

Upgraded CPEC development also stands to benefit various sectors including agriculture, mining, information technology, science and technology, big data, cloud computing, the Internet of Things, education and the medical sector, Muhammad

Zamir Assadi, a Pakistani political analyst and research fellow of the China International Press Communication Center, told the Global Times.

These are the sectors that can change the economic landscape of Pakistan and the region as well, and they can prove to be a job creation tool for Pakistani society, said the Pakistani scholar.

Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times that one of the key projects in the second phase would be the upgrading of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) which will connect Karachi, the country's largest port, with cities in northern Pakistan, bordering the countries of Central Asia.

The upgraded rail project will provide land-locked Afghanistan with access to the sea, boosting regional interconnectivity, Zhou said, noting that this could be the most significant project in Pakistan in the next decade with its practical benefits.

Major energy construction company Power Construction Corp of China said in a statement sent to the Global Times that its 49.5-megawatt Sapphire Wind Farm project off Karachi, with its high equipment utilization rate, has set multiple records in harnessing wind power in the country. CPEC connectivity has invigorated bilateral trade.

Pak Army's Explicit Position on National Matters - I

Presently, it's admirable to observe Pakistan under the guidance of an Army Chief who communicates directly and offers lucid direction on all fronts. In a world inundated with noise, clarity serves as a beacon amid chaos. Whether in personal, professional, or societal domains, the capacity to articulate messages clearly is paramount. It's reassuring to witness the clear stance of the Pakistani Army on national issues, as evidenced in the recent Corps Commanders Conference.

During this conference, presided over by Army Chief General Asim Munir, the commitment to pursue justice for the events of May 9 was reiterated. Stressing the imperative for swift and transparent legal proceedings against the perpetrators, it was emphasized that without such action, the nation would remain susceptible to conspiratorial elements. The Pakistan Army's Public Relations Department, ISPR, revealed that the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference, chaired by Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, saw attendance from Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers, and all formation commanders. The assembly paid tribute to the martyrs and acknowledged their sacrifices in safeguarding the nation. Deliberations spanned the geopolitical landscape, emerging security challenges, and strategies to counter multifaceted threats.

The forum affirmed the nation's recognition of the deceitful intentions of propagandists and assured their eventual defeat. It was underscored that these elements, backed by foreign-sponsored proxies, sought to disrupt peace and development in Balochistan. The Army Chief lauded the outstanding performance of personnel in anti-terrorist operations, attributing it to rigorous training and high morale. The importance of national support in countering security threats was emphasized, alongside appreciation for Pakistan's accomplishments on Takbeer Day.

Concerns were voiced regarding ongoing border violations from Afghanistan, particularly the exploitation of Afghan soil for terrorist activities targeting civilians within Pakistan. The sacrifices of individuals in newly merged districts against terrorism were acknowledged, underscoring development as pivotal for sustainable peace. The forum also addressed the situation on the eastern border, condemning extrajudicial killings of Kashmiris and expressing solidarity with their struggle for self-determination.

The rise of fascism in India and its repercussions on minority rights, especially Muslims, was denounced. Full solidarity with the Palestinian people was expressed, condemning human rights violations in Gaza and endorsing international efforts to cease mili-

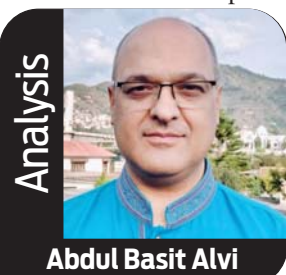
tary operations. The forum pledged support for government initiatives to combat illegal activities and foster economic development, including measures against smuggling and power theft. Commitment was reiterated to streamline administrative processes and ensure the dignified repatriation of illegal migrants.

Clear communication with explicit warnings to anti-state elements is laudable. Such clarity forms the cornerstone of effective interaction, nurturing comprehension, trust, and minimizing misunderstandings. Unfortunately, Pakistan currently contends with negative propaganda, a potent tool in shaping beliefs, influencing opinions, and molding behavior. Negative propaganda, in particular, is ubiquitous, disseminating false information, stoking fear, and eroding trust.

The primary goal of negative propaganda is to damage, discredit, or weaken individuals, organizations, or concepts. Utilizing diverse channels including mass media and social platforms, it frequently employs distortion and manipulation to fulfill its aims. This undermines confidence, promotes division, and suppresses open dialogue.

In the era of information, propaganda, particularly anti-state propaganda, represents a significant menace to stability, security, and cohesion. The intentional spread of false information and provocative language undermines the authority and unity of nations across various channels, including media platforms and extremist organizations.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

'Showcasing Pakistan through social media in an era of political uncertainty'

Ujala Akram

There is no doubt that diplomacy, peace talks, or negotiations, in accordance with what one might call them, is the most effective way of enhancing the image of a state and its people abroad and at home. It is well known that during the traditional era, this tool was mainly used by the governing bodies of different countries so that they could make important decisions in order to make an impact on foreign public opinion and have an effect on foreign affairs. It is important to mention, however, that with the emergence of globalization, which has undermined the concept of borders and traditional barriers, diplomatic relations have also evolved and changed in terms of how they are conducted, as citizens can now interact with state actors through social media to communicate the real issues influencing decision making structures.

Technology has taken centre stage in every single aspect of our new generation lives, and AI is taking center stage in every single aspect. There is a dire need for developing countries like Pakistan to take into consideration the soft power image of the country through the use of cultural diplomacy, which can be used as a tool for projecting a more positive picture of the country within the international community. Due to the current political turmoil in the country, which causes a constant downfall in the country's image and is constantly damaging its reputation, this is a necessary step. In Pakistan, one can find a wide variety of cultural diversity as well as several of the most majestic heritage sites that include archaeological sites such as the one of Mohenjo-daro as well as a wealth of ancient cultures dating back thousands of years. Taking advantage of this cultural richness can contribute to Pakistan and its people's positive image promotion and also increase tourism in Pakistan through easy visa policies, such as the E-Visa program for tourists, in the midst of the ongoing political crisis. Taking advantage of social media sites is one way in which a country can showcase its beautiful side because social media is one of the most powerful tools for shaping perceptions and mindsets in the contemporary era. To foster a high-quality image of its



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

Chairman PRCS meets Swiss Ambassador

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Swiss Ambassador to Pakistan, His Excellency George Steiner, commended the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) for its outstanding service during natural disasters and crises. He emphasized that while all countries have been affected by climate change, Pakistan has suffered particularly severe impacts. By aiding flood-affected families, PRCS has honored its mandate and fulfilled its duty to humanity. Ambassador Steiner expressed these sentiments during a meeting with PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari who visited the Swiss Embassy on Tuesday.

The meeting addressed various subjects such as Pak-Swiss relations, mutual cooperation, and the urgent humanitarian challenges brought about by climate change. Ambassador Steiner noted that Pakistan ranks seventh on the climate risk index, which is extremely concerning, and emphasized the need for active participation and stringent measures to combat global warming. He commended Chairman Laghari for



his efforts to modernize the PRCS and enhance diplomatic relations. Additionally, he acknowledged the significant actions taken by PRCS under Laghari's leadership, highlighting the

ongoing and future initiatives dedicated to serving humanity.

Furthermore, Ambassador Steiner assured new avenues of support for PRCS. The meeting concluded with

both parties exchanging commemorative souvenirs, marking the occasion as a step forward in fostering deeper collaboration between Pakistan and Switzerland.

FCEPL collaborates with University of Central Punjab for World Milk Day 2024



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: FCEPL celebrated World Milk Day 2024 in partnership with the Department of Food Science & Technology and the Food Junction Society at the University of Central Punjab on June 3, 2024.

Dr. Muhammad Nasir, Head of Corporate Affairs at FCEPL, engaged with students on the critical importance of safe and accessible dairy in Pakistan. He also participated in an awareness walk, underscoring the vital role of high-quality dairy products in daily diets across all age groups.

Reflecting on the event's success, Dr. Muhammad Nasir remarked, "I am delighted to be at the University of Central Punjab today and grateful to our collaborative partners for highlighting such an essential topic. In Pakistan, we face a formidable challenge against malnutrition and stunted growth, and dairy nutrition plays a pivotal role in this battle. At FCEPL, we are committed to raising awareness about the importance of milk in daily diets and employing the highest standards of the global dairy industry to ensure that nutritious dairy products are accessible throughout Pakistan."

This collaborative event is part of Friesland Campina Engro Pakistan's ongoing celebrations of World Milk Day, during which the company is engaging with educational institutions nationwide. These efforts aim to promote the consumption of safe milk and highlight its crucial role in combating malnutrition.

SBP Governor chairs implementation meeting of PBA's Priority Sectors Initiatives

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmed chaired the first Steering Committee Meeting for the implementation of priority sectors initiatives recommended by the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA). The meeting focused on enhancing support from the banking industry in three key sectors of Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Digital & Technology in Pakistan.

The meeting was in continuation of an earlier discussion chaired by the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb last month, where he urged the banking sector to extend its full support to the government in operationalizing its strategic economic priorities pertaining to these sectors.

Governor SBP said, "Our goal is to create a robust economic environment where businesses of all sizes can prosper. These measures are designed to stimulate growth, encourage innovation, and support sustainable development. We are committed to ensuring that our financial system provides the necessary support to drive economic recovery and long-term prosperity."

Zafar Masud, Chairman-PBA stated, "These measures, initiated by the banking sector as desired by the Finance Minister, come at a crucial time when businesses and consumers alike are seeking stability and growth opportunities. By targeting these essential sectors, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance are laying the groundwork for a resilient and dynamic economy going into the future."

The meeting was attended by Saleemullah, Deputy Governor-SBP, Syed Irfan Ali, Executive Director (Financial Inclusion Group)-SBP, Sheharyar Sultan, Additional Secretary-Ministry of Finance, and the PBA Steering Committee comprising of Zafar Masud, Chairman-PBA, Irfan Siddiqui, President & CEO Meezan Bank, Ltd., Yousaf Hussain, Senior Vice Chairman-PBA, and Ahmed Bozai, Vice Chairman-PBA. Other senior officials from the SBP and PBA were also present at the meeting.

Daraz adds on to the celebrations with its spectacular '6.6 Big Eid Sale'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the country prepares for the joyous Eid-ul-Adha festivities, Daraz, Pakistan's leading online marketplace, is giving more reasons to celebrate with its highly anticipated "6.6 Big Eid Sale". This exciting campaign, running from June 6 to 12, promises the best prices, mega vouchers worth PKR 20 crore, free delivery, discounts of up to 75% and further bank discounts of 10%. These offers ensure that customers can fulfill all their Eid shopping needs from the comfort of their homes.

"We are thrilled to launch the '6.6 Big Eid Sale' and bring incredible value to our customers during this festive season. Our goal is to make Eid shopping as convenient and enjoyable as possible, with unbeatable discounts, a wide range of products, and the assurance of the best prices. We hope our customers take full advantage of these offers and have a joyous and prosperous Eid," stated Arusha Imtiaz, Chief Commercial Officer at Daraz Pakistan.

Don't miss out on the "6.6 Big Eid Sale" at Daraz, where you can enjoy unparalleled savings and the convenience of online shopping during this festive season.

For more information, check out the Daraz Pakistan's Facebook page, or browse the Daraz app.

Welcome

BEIJING: Vice Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China H.E. Sun Weidong receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Beijing Capital International Airport on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

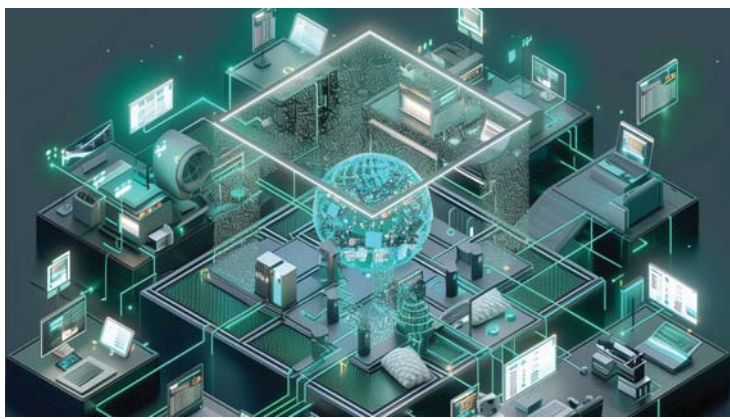
Information security key challenges for Geo-distributed businesses: Kaspersky Report

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: According to a new Kaspersky survey, over one-third (39%) of geographically distributed companies identify building and maintaining a cohesive IT infrastructure across multiple sites as their primary concern. At the same time, 23% of businesses consider ensuring comprehensive information protection of all their offices most significant challenge.

The recent Kaspersky's report 'Managing geographically distributed businesses: challenges and solutions' provides a deeper insight into the network and information security challenges faced by geo-distributed companies and highlights solutions organizations employ to overcome these difficulties.

When considering IT infrastructure and information security issues, it is notable that 40% of experts identify incident detection and response as a primary hurdle when addressing cybersecurity issues across multiple sites. More than one third struggle



with effectively implementing security measures (37%) and building a cohesive security policy (37%).

Among other technological problems respondents also mentioned were the set-up and integration of new sites into the existing network, the high costs of hiring IT personnel, a disparate suite of security management tools and longer recovery times after system failures, etc.

"The figures from our research show

that providing consistent network and information security across multiple geographically dispersed offices is a daunting task for distributed organizations. Local regulation and legislation, varying resources and expertise at corporate headquarters and branch offices, coupled with a lack of effective network and cybersecurity tools, can place a significant burden on those specialists trying to implement and maintain uniform security standards

and consistent network configuration. To address this challenge, companies should apply solutions that enable centralized and automated network management and provide comprehensive protection of all offices, regardless of their location", Maxim Kaminsky, Business Development Manager of Secure Access Service Edge at Kaspersky.

To protect geo-distributed companies from cyber threats and minimize the possibility of network problems, Kaspersky experts recommend using specialized solutions like Kaspersky SD-WAN, which manages the entire corporate network from a single console. This solution converges separate communication channels and network functions across companies, facilitating the construction of reliable networks and enabling connection of new branches with a zero-touch experience. Kaspersky also suggest to employ centralized and automated solutions such as Kaspersky Next XDR Expert to ensure comprehensive cyber protection of all company assets and processes both at HQ and local offices.

Pakistan Energy Conference held in Islamabad on 'Fueling the Future'

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Energy Conference 2024 was held on June 5th at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad, with the theme "Fueling the Future - Reliable & Affordable Energy for All". Organized by the Petroleum Institute of Pakistan (PIP), the conference brought together government officials, industry experts, academia, and international delegates to discuss and shape the future of energy in Pakistan. The Media was also present in large numbers.

The event kicked off with an exhibition tour, followed by opening remarks from the Chairman of PIP, Mr. Ali Murtaza Abbas. The Federal Minister of Petroleum delivered the keynote speech through a video message, which provided critical insights into the government's vision and policies for the energy sector. The Federal Secretary Petroleum Division, Mr. Momin Agha, who was the Guest of Honour informed the audience about the current scenario of the energy industry, the issues & challenges at hand,

and the initiatives being taken by the government to tackle these issues. The honourable secretary expressed optimism about making the energy sector affordable & reliable.

The keynote speeches in the E&P segment talked about the various Exploration challenges, policies, and innovations in the oil and gas sector. The speakers included Mr. Farrukh Saghir, ED-Exploration, Oil & Gas Development Company Limited, Mr. Abdul Rauf Khan, Director of Exploration at Mari Petroleum Company Limited, and Mr.

Muhammad Zaheer Alam, Vice President-Technical at United Energy Pakistan. Mr. Adil Khattak, CEO/MD of Attock Refinery Limited, highlighted the challenges and opportunities within Pakistan's refining sector. Mr. Imran Maniar, MD of Sui Southern Gas Company, shared his perspective on the future of the gas sector. Dr Syed Nazir Abbas Zaidi, Secretary General Oil Companies Advisory Council, and Mr. Mubeen Awan, Advisor HSE, PARCO Refinery, were also among the speakers.

The conference also featured international speakers, beginning with Mr. Abdulrahman Bin Humaid Al Yahyaie, CEO of Oman Energy Association (OPAL), who spoke on the topic of "Driving Excellence in the Oil and Gas Sector: OPAL Oman's HSE Ecosystem." Mr. Tefvik Kaya, SLB Geothermal Business Manager, spoke on the "Role of geothermal energy in the energy transition," and Mr. Modhar Khan, MENA Artificial Intelligence Business Development Manager at SLB, presented "The accelerating value of data and AI

for the E&P industry." After the speakers, two panel sessions discussed critical issues facing the energy sector. The first panel explored investment opportunities and challenges in Pakistan's offshore energy exploration, featuring prominent figures such as Mr. Zaheer Alam VP Technical, UEP, Mr. Tauseef Ahmed Khan, Sr. Manager Productions at PPL, Mr. Farukh Saghir, E. D. Exploration, at OGDCL, and Mr. Zaurayze Tarique, MD&CEO Pakistan & Yemen at SLB. The second panel focused on

strategies for ensuring energy sustainability and affordability, with contributions from Dr. Fiaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director LUMS Energy Institute, Mr. Abdulrahman Bin Humaid Al Yahyaie, (CEO, OPAL), Mr. Abdus Sami, Chief Supply Chain Officer, at PSO, and Mr. Aamir Salim, ED-Petroserv at OGDCL. This event represented a unique platform for stakeholders across the energy sector to engage in meaningful dialogue, share knowledge, and offer recommendations on the issues of the energy sector.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
74,219.43	74,666.65
Day's High	Day's Low
74,758.11	74,136.52
Index Value	Change
7,932,343,828	-447.22
Percentage	Time
-0.6%	5 Jun, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,246.95	+14.91
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	5 Jun, 4:50 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,735.00	+23.71
Percentage	Time
+0.061%	5 Jun, 1:15 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,490.17	-347.29
Percentage	Time
-0.89%	5 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.55	748.55
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.44	38.84
Danish Krone	40.65	41.05
Euro	301	304
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.21	917.21
Malaysian Ringgit	59.15	59.75
New Zealand \$	172.16	174.16
Norwegians Krone	26.61	26.91
Omani Riyal	723.26	731.26
Qatari Riyal	76.5	77.2
Saudi Riyal	73.55	74.25
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	26.13	26.43
Swiss Franc	310.93	313.43
Thai Bhat	7.59	7.74
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	76
UK Pound Sterling	353.45	356.95
US Dollar	277.5	280

PSX stays bearish, losses 447 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 447.22 points, a negative change of 0.60 per cent, closing at 74,219.44 points against 74,666.66 points the previous day. A total of 348,549,582 shares valuing Rs16.389 billion were traded during the day as compared to 414,479,234 shares valuing Rs 18.311 billion the previous day. As many as 441 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 127 of them recorded gains and 246 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 68 companies remained unchanged. The top three trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 25,285,416 shares at Rs 4.86 per share, Amtex Limited with 23,587,783 shares at Rs 3.56 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 16,062,912 shares at Rs 1.32 per share. Excide Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 39.93 per share price, closing at Rs 539.06 whereas the runner-up was Sazgar Engineering Works Limited with a Rs 27.95 rise in its per share price to Rs 840.21.

Government should cut wasteful spending: Mian Zahid Hussain

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that an increase in tax revenue in proportion to the size of the economy and the restoration of the energy sector is necessary to run the economy. He said that Pakistan's economy has been shrinking for many years, investment is waning, and the tax system is not robust enough to support the country's operations. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the tax system must be modernized and automated, the concept of filer and non-filer should be eliminated, and everyone should be legally obliged to file tax returns. The veteran business leader spoke to the

business community and said the government should reduce its expenditures. Otherwise, all measures aimed at economic recovery will be ineffective. The business leader said useless ministries should be abolished, in which the most corrupt departments should be given priority. He added that the departments that could not be closed should be merged with other departments and that the practice of creating unnecessary ministries should be stopped. Ministries created to please politicians should be shut down, and the sale of failed state-owned companies should no longer be delayed. Mian Zahid Hussain said that more than twenty million youth are unemployed in the country. Still, there are Ministries of Youth Affairs doing nothing. The Civil Aviation Authority should be brought under the Ministry of Defense again;



otherwise, its fate will be like that of the PIA. He said the government's decision to abolish the Public Works Department is right. Still, the Ministries of Works should also be abolished.

After the 18th Amendment, there is no justification for keeping the ministries of the provinces in the center and spending billions of rupees on them, so they must also be abolished. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government is trying to bring economic stability to the country. The substantial decline in inflation, increase in exports and remittances, improvement in agricultural production, and current account surplus speak volumes about the improved performance of the government and SIFC. However, political instability is not ending. Improving the country's conditions is not only the government's responsibility but also the duty of all leaders. Therefore, the opposition should also play a positive role by abandoning the policy of increasing political instability in the country. They can only remain in politics if there is a country where they can play their politics.



Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain witnessing MOUs at Pakistan China Business Conference in Shenzhen on Wednesday.

Industrialists demand to end lawlessness in Karachi

Commerce desk

KARACHI: Industrialists demanded the security, law and order authorities to arrest the killers behind the assassination of industrialists and students within 72 hours, otherwise, they will initiate a movement of protest, sit, and strike until the peace is not restored in the city. In a press conference held on Wednesday at the secretariat of Federal B Area Trade and Industries (FBATI), representatives of seven industrial zones expressed their anger at the lawlessness situation of the city, which recently claimed the lives of 78 residents, including industrialist Asif Bilwani, and gold medalist students. They have decided to hold dialogues with IG Sindh and DG Rangers on security measures immediately and plan to approach Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir if the lawlessness issue is not resolved in Karachi. President Federal B Area Trade and Industries (FBATI) Syed Raza Hussain said that the poor law and order situation has taken a toll on the city's economic activities, leading to the closure of businesses and the flight of capital to different countries. CEO FITE Development and Management Company Babar Khan said the local



representation had been reduced in local police, which resulted in a lack of interest in curbing street crime in the city. He alleged that police officials are supporting street crimes and organized criminal activities in Karachi, however, key officials such as IG Sindh and DG Rangers are not taking any action against them. Faisal Moiz Khan, President North Karachi Association of Trade and Industries (NKATI) demanded that industrialists vow to take up the issue with higher authorities if the security situation is not improved in the city, including industri-

IHC upholds SECP penalties against Shaukat Marwat Group of Companies

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has upheld the decision of the Appellate Bench of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) against Shaukat Marwat Group of Companies (Private) Limited and Shaukat Marwat Estates & Builders (Private) Limited, wherein penalties of Rs. 50 million and Rs. 10 million were imposed respectively. By way of background, these companies were found to be involved in illegal deposit-taking activities and were conducting a social media campaign related to such unlawful activities. The SECP conducted a thorough investigation against these two companies for the alleged violations of the applicable laws. Show Cause Notices were issued against these companies on July 13, 2021 under Section 84 of the Companies Act, 2017, which culminated into penal orders dated March 18, 2022 along with direction to unwind the unlawful transactions of deposit taking. Shaukat Marwat Group of Companies (Private) Limited and Shaukat Marwat Estates & Builders (Private) Limited filed appeals against these penal orders before the Appellate Bench of the SECP, who, after due process of the law, decided the cases on merit on May 02, 2023 and upheld the penal orders of the Adjudication Division of the SECP. The SECP asserts and has clarified in the past through multiple press releases that mere registration of a company with the SECP does not authorize it to seek deposits from the general public. Deposit-taking by companies, other than banking companies and entities duly licensed by the SECP, is illegal under Section 84 of the Companies Act, 2017. The general public is advised, in their own interest, to exercise caution and avoid dealing with and investing in illegal schemes offered by companies involved in unauthorized deposit-taking, unauthorized investments, or multi-level marketing schemes.

Daycare Center inaugurated at NTDC TSG Training Center Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Under Women Empowerment Program, a state of the art Daycare center has been inaugurated at NTDC TSG Training Center, New Kot Lakhpat Lahore. General Manager (HR) NTDC, Engr. Taqiu-Din and General Manager TSG Engr. Ashar Ali were chief guests of this occasion. This Daycare center has been established to facilitate trainee female employees and staff of TSG Training Center. Daycare facilities would enhance the performance of working mothers. General Manager (HR) appreciated the efforts of officers and staff of the HR Directorate, who put in their tireless efforts for completion of the center. He also visited playground, nursery and kitchen and appreciated the standard of available facilities. It is pertinent to mention that this is 2nd Daycare Center in NTDC, 1st one was established at Shaheen Complex office. Daycare centers would also be established in NTDC offices located in Islamabad, Multan and Hyderabad, under this program.

ICCI Award Ceremony: Faisal Karim Kundi attends as Chief Guest

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi has said that political stability is urgent necessity for the economic prosperity and development of the country and that only way forward is a 'charter of prosperity' by taking out of the box decision for the wellbeing of the masses. He said this while addressing an award distribution ceremony held in honour of the business community leaders in recognition of their outstanding achievements in promotion of businesses especially in KPK and Islamabad held at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday evening. Highlighting the contribution of business community in the development of country Govern-

nor KPK said that the government has to facilitate business community and the agriculturists by providing cheaper electricity to both the sectors for overcoming the existing economic crisis. He asserted that by exploiting the tourism potential of KPK and Gilgit Baltistan, we can earn sufficient foreign exchange and for the purpose we have to encourage and facilitate the business community. He added that the doors of the Governor House are opened for the business community especially for the ICCI to jointly formulate an action plan to attract foreign tourists by developing tourism sites of the province. He also assured his fully cooperation for the development of an Industrial State at any of the

connecting point of the two provinces. Addressing the ceremony Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that in every society the business community is considered as the backbone of the economy and Pakistan's business community is also playing an important role in the development of its economy and creating employments for its youth. He termed the political stability as basic necessity for the economic stability by asserting Government's business friendly policies and across Pakistan level playing field to achieve the much needed goal. He said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is also working tirelessly for

the attainment of this objective by playing the role of a bridge between the government and the business community for ease of doing business. He added that business community fully favors the widening of tax net and opposes the tax evasion but seeks basic facilities for its businesses. By mentioning the ICCI initiatives for the promotion of country's tourism and exports he sought the assistance of Governor KPK for the provision of a suitable piece of land for an industrial estate for the cause. Commending the vibrant role being played by Faisal Karim Kundi as Governor KPK, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that the business community of Islamabad considers Mr. Kundi

as its Governor also and that it is confident that the relevant quarters will be acquainted about its problems for their quick resolution. He said that certain powers are hell bent to keep Pakistan's economy in Intensive Care Unit by remote control but we, through our collaborative efforts have to put it on road to progress and prosperity. He also promoted the idea of taking diplomats of friendly countries to Governor House Peshawar for showcasing the tourism potential of Swat and adjacent areas. Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed demanded that business community should be given representation in all the relevant departments throughout Pakistan to help resolve its



problems and getting a smooth sail for the betterment of the country. Vice President ICCI Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that if the business community is given due facilities, it can turn the tide for country's progress. Executive member Amir Hamza highlighted the success-

es of the ICCI under the leadership of its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. On this occasion 42 business leaders of Islamabad and KPK were graced with prestigious awards. A large number of people belonging to business community attended the ceremony.

Pakistan ready to take on Saudi Arabia in FIFA World Cup qualifier

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan team is gearing up to face off against Saudi Arabia in a crucial match of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier Round 2 here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Thursday. Pakistani coach Stephen Constantine in a pre-match conference here, expressed his team's readiness to take on the Saudi Arabian team, saying, "We are prepared to give them a tough time and make the most of this opportunity."

Pakistani player Abdullah Iqbal echoed his coach's sentiments, stating, "We are fully prepared and will give our best performance. We want to win, regardless of the circumstances."

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian head coach Roberto Mancini,



acknowledged the challenges of playing against Pakistan, saying, "All matches are difficult, and we are not taking the match against Pakistan lightly." Saudi

Arabian player Mukhtar Ali who was excited about playing against Green-shirts in Pakistan, said, "We have received a warm welcome, and we are

eager to put on a good show." The match is expected to be a thrilling encounter, with both teams, determined to come out on top.

Pakistan will face Saudi Arabia on June 6 followed by an away fixture against Tajikistan on June 11 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with Diaspora (D) players already joined the team.

Pakistan squad- Goalkeepers: Yousuf Butt (D), Saqib Hanif and Hassan Ali. Defenders: Abdullah Iqbal (D), Mohammad Fazal (D), Haseeb Khan, Rao Omer Hayat, Mamoon Moosa, Mohammad Saddam, Waqar Ihtisham, Moin Ahmed and Abdul Rehman. Midfielders: Rahis Nabi (D), Otis Khan (D), Ali Uzair, Umair Ali, Toqeer ul Hassan, Alamgir Ghazi and Ali Zafar. Forwards: Imran Kayani (D), McKeal Abdulah, Fareed-ullah, Adeel Younas and Shayak Dost. Pakistan are placed in Group G with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Tajikistan.

Khailta Punjab Games to be organized under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal presided over an important meeting to review Khailta Punjab and Summer Games competitions here at National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday.

Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Ata ur Rehman and all Divisional Sports Officers participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the competitions of Khailta Punjab Games will be organized under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. "The events of Khailta Punjab Games will be conducted on a large scale from Union Council level to Inter-Division level," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal further said that new talented players are emerging from Summer Games 2024 competitions.

Summer Games 2024 and Summer Sports Camps and holding of Kohsar Sports Festival were also reviewed in the meeting.

Shayan of KP wins medals in South Asian Table Tennis Championship

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shayan Farooq warmly received here Wednesday soon after arrival at Peshawar Sports Complex after winning three medals; a silver medal and two bronze medals in the individual and team event in the recently concluded South Asian Table Tennis Championship played at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Provincial Sports Minister Syed Fakhar Jahan and Director Operation Sports Azizullah Khan welcomed Shayan Farooq, who is hailing from District Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Administrator Peshawar Sports Complex Syed Jaffar Shah, Table Tennis Association Central Vice President Kifayatullah Khan, table tennis coaches and players of the Table Tennis Academy Peshawar welcomed him.

Adviser to the Chief Minister on Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jahan congratulated Shayan Farooq by placing a garland around his neck and reiterated his commitment that the provincial government of Tehreek-e-Insaf will provide all kinds of facilities to the players and those who succeed in making it to the national team. The sports department will fully support them. He said that sports is one of the priorities of the current government. He stressed that they should work harder and make the name of their province known all over the world.

Ricky Ponting predicts bright future for Saim Ayub

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Australia great Ricky Ponting believes Pakistan look like a much more settled team with Babar Azam at the helm and has nominated a young batter at the top of the order who is ready to turn heads at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Babar was reinstated as Pakistan's white-ball captain earlier this year following a brief period where star fast bowler Shaheen Afridi was in charge in the shortest format of the game.

And Ponting thinks Pakistan's chances of going one better than their runner-up finish at the most recent edition of the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022 and matching their sole title success from 2009, appear much brighter with Babar in charge. "Captaincy just sits well with some people and it doesn't sit well with others," Ponting told The ICC Review. "We've seen it through the years that some of the best players that have ever played the game have not necessarily made the best captains and the thing that makes some of the very best players so good is how focused they are on what they need to do to get better and to be the best and find a way every day to get better. "And when you are captain, you can't do that. You've got to actually compartmentalise what you're doing, look after your own game, look after all the guys around you. So some guys can manage that better than others. "I reckon Babar, when he first started, I had that feeling that he... because if you look at his record, his numbers went down on the back of it. So I think he might have learned a bit from that." "Shaheen didn't set the world on fire as a leader either, so I think going back into a World Cup it just looks like a more settled team when you've got someone like Babar as captain rather than Afridi." While much of Pakistan's fortunes at the T20 World Cup will rest with Babar and reliable lieutenant Mohammad Rizwan, Ponting believes there is a young batter at the top of their batting order that might cause a surprise. Saim Ayub opened the batting alongside Rizwan during Pakistan's recent T20I series against Ireland and Ponting thinks the hard-hitting left-hander may be worth keeping an eye on at the T20 World Cup.



Summer Games 2024 Hockey Championship explodes into action at National Hockey Stadium Pitch-2

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Hockey Championship of Summer Games 2024 exploded into action at National Hockey Stadium Pitch-2 here on Tuesday evening. Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal was the chief guest of the matches.

All Divisional Sports Officers were also present on this occasion. The hockey teams of all the divisions of Punjab are participating in the Summer Games 2024 Hockey Championship.

On the first day of the Summer Games hockey event, five exciting matches were played. Four teams Lahore division, Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Sahiwal division hockey teams cruised into the semifinals of the grand event.

Lahore Division hockey team topped Dera Ghazi Khan division hockey team by 4-0 in the first match of Summer Games 2024 Hockey Championship. Lahore's Adeel Afzal struck two goals while Rizwan and Ahmed Raza netted one goal each.

The second match was played between Gujranwala and Sargodha division hockey teams. After a tough fight, Gujranwala emerged triumphant by 1-0 thanks to a beautiful goal scored by Hameed.

Sahiwal division trounced Bahawalpur by 5-2 in the third match of the event. M Usman scored two goals while M Talha, M Rizwan and Umar Akhtar



contributed one goal each for Sahiwal. M Nauman and Abdul Hanan scored one goal each for Bahawalpur hockey team.

The fourth match was played between Faisalabad division and Rawalpindi hockey teams. Faisalabad boys exhib-

ited a better game and won the match convincingly by 3-1. Hassan Shehbaz scored all the three goals from Faisalabad while Zeeshan Nawaz was the goal scorer for Rawalpindi.

Continuing their winning streak,

Lahore division hockey thrashed Multan team by 5-2 in the 5th match. Ahmad Raza scored two goals while the remaining three goals were shared by Asim Haider, Haseeb Masood and Adeel Afzal. Shamoos and Arsalan

Pakistan outplays Uzbekistan in CAVA U-18 Volleyball C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan team continued their impressive performance in the CAVA U-18 Volleyball Championship by defeating Uzbekistan in straight set Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

According to details, the match concluded with Pakistan winning by 3-0 sets, with scores of 25-17, 25-23, and 25-22.

Key players Muhtad Ali Shah, Talal Ahmed, and Khizar Hayat showcased exceptional skills and were instrumental



in securing the victory. The team is led by Team Manager Khalid Waqar, Treasurer of the Pakistan Volleyball Federation, along with Head Coach Saeed Ahmed Khan, Assistant Coach Muhammad Akram, and Analyst Muhammad Suleman.

The next challenge for the Pakistan Junior Team is against Iran, with the match scheduled for 12pm.

In other exciting news, the Pakistan Senior Men's Volleyball Team is set to face Vietnam in the Quarterfinal of the AVC Challenger Cup 2024 on June 6, 2024.

This marks a significant milestone as, for the first time in Pakistan's history, three international teams are competing abroad simultaneously. The Senior Men's Team is competing in the AVC Challenger Cup in Bahrain, the Junior Men's Team is participating in the CAVA U-18 Volleyball Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the Pakistan Women's Team is on a training tour in Italy.

The Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) is proud of these achievements and wishes all teams the best of luck in their respective competitions.

Pakistan's game against India is like our Super Bowl, Shahid Afridi

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Underling the traditional cricket rivalry between Pakistan and India, former captain Shahid Khan Afridi has told the USA sport fans that the ICC T20 World Cup match between the two countries is akin to the Super Bowl. Pakistan will go head-to-head with traditional rivals India on 9 June in New York, before taking on Canada at the same venue on 11 June. Their final first-round match will be against Ireland on 16 June in Florida. If Pakistan qualifies for the Super-Eight stage, their three matches will be in Antigua and Barbados from 19 to 23 June.

"This intense rivalry is considered one of the biggest in sports, with both teams boasting immense talent.

For those Americans discovering the tournament, they should know that Pakistan's game against India is like our Super Bowl," Afridi said in an exclusive column for International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday. "I used to absolutely love playing India and I really believe it is the biggest rivalry in sport. When I played in those games, I got a lot of love and respect from the Indian fans and it means so much to both sides.

"Against India, it is about handling the pressure of the occasion. There is so much talent in both teams, they just need to put it together on the day. That will be the case in that game and in the tournament overall. The team that can hold its nerve will come out on top," he wrote. According to Afridi T20 cricket is so unpredictable, and teams can bat so

deep now. "You can have a batter coming in at No 8 and smashing the ball at a strike rate of 150 to win a game.

I hope that will be Pakistan this time around, but it is hard to pick a favourite." He said Pakistan had shown in recent ICC Men's T20 World Cups that they were capable of challenging anyone.

"Even though their form has been inconsistent in 2024, I believe they have all the ingredients to put it all together in the West Indies and USA. "Over the last two ICC Men's T20 World Cups, they have made one final and one semifinal and there is no question of the talent in the squad."

The former great also believed that the conditions in the Caribbean would suit Pakistan players. "There is so much talent in

the side, particularly when you look at the bowling attack which should thrive over there. The fast bowlers are as good as any team in the world and there is so much depth as well.

"That class is much more important than recent form. We have seen time and again that the landscape of the game can change in the space of a few overs in T20 cricket. "Part of the reason the results have been a bit up and down is that the selectors have been testing youngsters and giving them an opportunity to showcase their talent.

It was important to settle on the best combination for the World Cup. Once they get there, I am expecting them to target the powerplay, keeping the strike rate high, before building up until the 14th over.



"From there, the finish will be the key." He asked Pakistan team to keep a positive mindset adding that there must be total clarity on each player's role. "Teamwork makes the dream work and that can be the difference.

I am really excited to see the

players to acclimatise quickly. For the batters, shot selection is vital, while bowlers need to find their line and length.

Afridi said that the World Cup was a huge tournament for American cricket. "I have always had a great time when playing in the USA and for those who have not experienced it, the conditions are similar to playing in the West Indies.

People are going to love the support in the United States. There is a great expat community over there which absolutely loves cricket. And the Americans absolutely love their sport, whether it is American football, basketball or baseball. I really believe that cricket will hit the mainstream over there in the next few years, which is very exciting for up-and-coming cricketers," he reckoned.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, Dr. Maen Khreasat, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM invites Huawei to invest in Pakistan's safe city, taxation, e-governance sectors

Spokesman Report

SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Huawei headquarters here and invited the company to invest in Pakistan's taxation and e-governance sectors besides enhancing its presence in Pakistan's Safe City projects.

On his arrival at the headquarters, Huawei Chairman Liang Hua welcomed him which followed the playing of national anthems and his visit of the Exhibition Center.

The chairman briefed the prime minister about Huawei's operations worldwide, particularly in Pakistan and expressed keen interest in investing in the country's different sectors. He was also

briefed about different sectors including e-governance, digital banking, telecommunication and artificial intelligence.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is on a five-day visit to China, appreciated the innovative operations of Huawei and urged the company to increase its investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, who later held a bilateral meeting with Chairman Liang Hua along with his delegation, appreciated the Safe City projects executed by Huawei in Pakistan and invited the company to invest in the projects, particularly in the cities where the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects were being executed.



He apprised the company chairman of the steps taken by the government for the promotion of investment and ease of doing business in the country.

The prime minister, highlighting the government's priority measures for digiti-

zation of government offices, said there existed immense investment potential for giants like Huawei in the taxation system, e-governance, and artificial intelligence.

He also invited the Huawei chairman to invest in the introduction of modern tech-

nology in the agriculture sector and also invited the Huawei chairman to visit Pakistan.

Later, the prime minister also attended the signing ceremony of a framework agreement between Huawei and Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology under which the company would impart free of charge training to around 200,000 youngsters in information technology including artificial intelligence. Besides, the company would also extend its support to Pakistan in the establishment of Safe Cities, e-governance and digitisation of the economy.

The company chairman also hosted a luncheon reception for the prime minister and his delegation.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Visits Iranian Embassy to Offer Condolence on Demise of Iranian President, Other High Ranking Officials

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Wednesday, visited the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad to convey his deepest condolences on the sad demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and other high-ranking officials in the helicopter crash on May 19, 2024.



While speaking to the Ambassador of Iran, Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, the Speaker, on behalf of the parliament

and himself, extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the government of Iran, the families of the President, the Foreign Minister, and all others who lost their lives in the incident, as well as to the people of the brotherly nation of Iran over the martyrdom of Iranian leadership in the incident.

Speaker Sadiq assured that the government, parliament, and people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their Iranian

brethren in this time of grief and pledged full support and cooperation from Pakistan to overcome this loss.

Ambassador of Iran Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam expressed gratitude to the Speaker for his condolence message and visit to the embassy to offer condolence over the national tragedy.

The Speaker also inscribed his condolence message in the visitor's book at the Iranian embassy.

PTI leaders put responsibility for Sheikh Mujib video on social media team

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Barrister Gohar Khan and Information Secretary Raof Hassan appeared before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) today to record their statements in connection with the controversial tweet from former Prime Minister Imran Khan's personal X account.

The FIA had issued summons to three additional PTI leaders on June 1 following the upload of a controversial video from Imran Khan's X account. The PTI leadership subsequently challenged the summons and the complaint filed against them in the Islamabad High Court.

Barrister Gohar and Raof Hassan remained at the FIA office for several hours today.

Sources revealed that both individuals provided their statements.

According to sources, Raof Hassan was interrogated for four hours regarding the controversial video, while Barrister Gohar was questioned for approximately two hours.

During the interrogation, Barrister Gohar reportedly stated that he was unaware of who operates the social media account. When asked about his agreement with the content of the controversial video, he responded that the conflict should not escalate to such an extent and a peaceful resolution should be sought. He also denied uploading the video.

Sources further revealed that Barrister Gohar confirmed that Jibril Ilyas and Azhar, based abroad, operate the social media account.

PTA chairman meets delegation of 40th Mid-Career Management Course

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman Tuesday met with a delegation of officers and faculty members from the 40th Mid-Career Management Course.

During the visit, the delegation was welcomed by senior officers from PTA, said a news release.

The delegation was given a detailed presentation about the role and functioning of PTA, specifically focusing on cyber security initiatives for the telecom sector, consumer issues, and the Device Identification Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS).

AJK PM says problems in Neelum valley will be addressed on priority basis

Bureau Report

NEELUM: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq has said that the problems being faced by people settled in the areas adjacent to the LoC would be solved on a priority basis. The AJK premier said this while addressing a condolence reference held in commemoration of Mohammad Afzal Butt here today. Terming rural development as one of the incumbent government's top priorities, the PM said that the coalition government had ensured an unhindered release of funds for the development of the Neelum valley and other areas. To improve the standard and qual-

ity of education in the region, the PM said that deployment of local teachers in the educational institutions was imperative. Regarding the construction of Neelum valley road, the PM assured that the main road connecting the area with capital city and other parts of the state would be completed by the end of this year. He said that taxpayers' money would be utilized for the well being of the masses in a transparent manner. Paying tribute to Mohammad Afzal Butt, a prominent social and political figure of the area, the Prime Minister said that the deceased leader would be remembered for his unprecedented services for the people of Neelum Valley.

President Zardari stresses upon further strengthening of Pak-Jordan bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan and Jordan enjoyed close cordial relations and stressed upon further strengthening of these bilateral ties between the two countries.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan Dr Maen Khreasat who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The Jordanian envoy invited the

president to a conference being held in Jordan on human relief activities in Gaza on June 11.

The president assured him of Pakistan's participation in the scheduled conference.

The ambassador apprised the president that Jordan had signed MoU with Akhuwat Foundation for provision of relief assistance in Palestine.

The president lauded Jordan for its efforts to provide relief in Palestine.

The ambassador also conveyed a felicitation message from the Jordanian King to the President Zardari on assuming his office.

President summons NA, Senate sessions

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has summoned the sessions of National Assembly and Senate to be held separately on June 6 and June 7 respectively. The president has summoned the National Assembly session on June 6 (Thurs-

day) at 5:00pm while the Senate session is convened for Friday (June 7) at 10:30am, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Wednesday.

President Zardari summoned the sessions of both Houses of Parliament under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Sarim Burney arrested on return from the United States

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Social activist Sarim Burney has been arrested in Karachi reportedly on complaints made by the United States.

He was taken into custody as soon as he landed at Karachi on a return journey from the United States on Wednesday.

FIA sources told that Burney was arrested by Anti-Human Trafficking cell of the FIA. He faces serious allegations and was being monitored for a long time, said the sources.

Burney was arrested over charges of human trafficking after the US officials reported him to Pakistan, said the sources adding that Burney is accused of trading children in the United States.

Burney operates a Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International set up in



Karachi, Pakistan.

Meanwhile, a video statement of Sarim Burney that he recorded before the arrest surfaced on social media.

In the video, Burney could be seen claiming that many people were trying to "sling mud" at him and he remained tight lipped but now he was going to speak up.

Burney said he was going to reveal secrets after reaching Karachi from the United State. He said he only faces accusations but he has proofs against those defaming him.

Bilawal warns party leaders against in-fighting

Bureau Report

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged Sindh ministers to focus on their performance and address internal squabbles, warning that such infighting could harm the party and the government.

Addressing a parliamentary party meeting in Karachi, Bilawal expressed disappointment with the performance of Sindh assembly members, stating that he observed a lack of urgency among cabinet members. He also called for an end to the politics of transfers and postings. He also said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will fulfill his promises and issues will be solved before the budget is presented.

Highlighting the province's economic challenges, he emphasized the need to improve governance despite limited resources. He expressed concern over the lack of focus from some members, despite the passage of several months since the elections.

Ji announces sit-in outside CM House

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Karachi chapter of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has threatened to encircle the Chief Minister's House and hold a sit-in next week if the Sindh government fails to improve the city's security situation.

Addressing a press conference at the Idara Noor-e-Haq in Karachi, JI Karachi Emir, Munim Zafar, stated that while the party is in contact with the administration, they will proceed with the protest if the city's conditions don't improve.

"We have already launched the 'Haq Do Karachi' movement," Zafar said. "We will not leave Karachi alone in the future."

Zafar emphasized that protecting citizens is the responsibility of the administration and government and they must fulfill this duty.

Shaza discusses telecom...

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in the meeting. ZTE will propose the establishment of a device manufacturing factory, fiberization factory

and data centres in Pakistan within two months. The President of the Guangdong Hi-Tech Industry Chamber of Commerce also met with the Minister of State for IT & Telecom.

Qaiser Shaikh visits BQATI

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things for business community.

Moreover, BQATI appreciated the efforts of the Minister for understanding issues faced by business community as the minister also represents business community. Maqsood Ismail (Chairman

Candyland), Chela Ram Chairman REAP (Rice Exporter Association of Pakistan), Molvi Mehmood, Ashraf Bawani (Chairman Ghani Gases), CEO FAP Alina Jamil, CEO FOTCO Adnan Samdani, Anwar Mian Noor of Rice Industry and other officials of Port Qasim Authority and private sector