



Russian economy grows stronger, more resilient amid global changes, rise of multipolar world, says Putin

The Russian economy is demonstrating resilience and adaptability amid changes in the global economic landscape and the rise of a new multipolar world, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday. (Details on Page 5)



Apollo 8 'Earthrise' astronaut dies in Washington plane crash

Apollo 8 astronaut William Anders, who captured one of the most popular photographs in outer space, has died in a plane crash at the age of 90. Into the sea off Washington state, a small aircraft that he was flying crashed as per the officials, according to BBC. Anders' son Greg confirmed on Friday afternoon that his father's body was recovered. "The family is devastated. He was a great pilot. He will be missed," a statement from the family read.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

Delegations of China and Pakistan during a meeting in Beijing on June 07, 2024.



Photo: via X/@XisMoments

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi calls on UN chief



Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's Interior Minister, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, who is on a visit to New York, called on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at UN headquarters on Friday. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the engagement of Pakistan police personnel with the UN peacekeeping operations, the world body's flagship activity, according to a press release of the Pakistan Mission. Pakistan is the 5th largest contributor of military and police personnel to UN peace operations with more than 3,800 now serving in Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Western Sahara. "The UN Secretary-General expressed his best wishes to the people and the government of Pakistan on the occasion," the press release added. Ambassador Munir Akram, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, was present at the meeting.

Pakistan urges Chinese companies to invest in '13 priority sectors'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has identified 13 priority sectors for enhancing export oriented industry and encouraged Chinese top companies in these sectors to make investments in Pakistan, according to the joint statement. It was issued at the culmination of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's five-day visit to China, Radio Pakistan reported. The Chinese side welcomed Pakistan to expand exports to China, it added. Both countries put "great emphasis" on industrial cooperation under the framework of

the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development and the two sides signed the action plan for a framework agreement on industrial cooperation under the corridor project. The two sides recognised that CPEC has been a "pioneering project" of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). After the first decade of CPEC, the two sides are committed to carrying out the "eight major steps" for supporting Belt and Road cooperation. It was reaffirmed that the "up-gradation of ML-I is an important project under the CPEC framework and is of strategic

significance" to Pakistan's socio-economic development. Both sides recognised that the Karakoram Highway (Raikot-Thakot) realignment project was of "great significance" for the smooth operation of the only land-based channel between the two countries. Pakistan and China agreed to advance the up-gradation of the inspection infrastructure of the Khunjerab-Sost pass so as to realise the all-year-round function of the pass at an early date. While recognising the significance of Gwadar Port, the two sides were satisfied that the New Gwadar International Airport would soon be finished, and

reiterated the need to speed up the development of the auxiliary infrastructure of the port in order to realise the potential of the coastal city, especially as a trans-shipment hub with a shipyard. China reiterated its commitment to Pakistan's industrialisation and added that it would encourage Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones following the market and commercial principles. The two sides expressed their willingness to actively encourage Chinese companies to invest in the mining industry of Pakistan and strengthen the plan-

ning of mining industrial parks, including downstream mineral processing. The Chinese side expressed its willingness to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in such areas as offshore oil and gas resources, and natural gas hydrate and Chinese companies to actively participate in the development of offshore oil and gas blocks of Pakistan. Pakistan and China signed 23 agreements and MOUs covering cooperation on CPEC, agriculture, infrastructure, industrial cooperation, inter-governmental development assistance, market regulation, surveying and mapping, media and film.

Imran defends his controversial X post about Hamoodur Rahman Commission report



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan defended his controversial tweets regarding the Hamood-ur-Rehman Commission. This law has been challenged. In response to a question by the FIA about a controversial tweet from his official

Twitter account, made after the hearing of the Al-Qadir Trust case at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan said that he owns the tweet. He stated that he could not post a video while in jail and that he had not seen the video referenced in the tweet. Therefore, he declined to comment further on the matter, Business Recorder reported. "The same is being repeated in the country, today," he said. An FIA team interrogated Khan in Adiala jail on Friday. According to Imran Khan, the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report had two main objectives. One of these

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Gwadar port reflects BRI's commitment to local socio-economic development: Ahsan Iqbal

News Desk

BELJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal said the high-quality development of Pakistan's Gwadar port under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a testimony that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is helping Gwadar evolve into a world-class port city brimming with opportunities. Located in the southwestern Balochistan province, the port presents significant opportunities for maritime trade in the region, including giving access to landlocked Central Asian country of Afghanistan, he told Xinhua in a recent interview. "The current development of



Gwadar is just the first step and the port has a long way to go... In partnership with China, we hope that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for the people of Pakistan," Iqbal added. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flag-

ship project under the BRI, is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands to the areas of agriculture and improving livelihoods, among others. Under CPEC, both China and Pakistan are dedicated to developing Gwadar into a model smart city port, and in this regard a comprehensive master plan has been designed, with infrastructure is being developed. Talking about the prospects for investment in the Gwadar free zone, Iqbal said that several Chinese companies have showed interest in investing in industrial plants both for domestic production and export to other countries.

Punjab's controversial defamation bill signed into law

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has signed the Defamation Bill that was passed by the provincial assembly to curb the dissemination of misleading and factually incorrect news reports. The defamation bill will

come into force after being officially published in the government gazette. The new law will apply to print, electronic, and social media. According to the bill, cases of defamation can be filed against the spread of false and inaccurate news stories. The provisions of this Defa-

mation Bill will also apply to the spread of fake news through platforms like YouTube and social media. It provides for action against news stories that harm a person's private life or public standing. According to the bill, specialized tribunals will be established to hear defamation cases.

These tribunals will be required to decide on the cases within 6 months. This bill provides for a compensation of up to 3 million rupees. Cases against individuals holding constitutional positions can be heard by a High Court bench. After being passed by the Punjab Assembly, Punjab

Governor Saleem Haider had expressed reservations about signing the bill. Haider, who is from the PPP, had assured a group of journalists that he would not sign the bill into law without taking into account all the factors. However, the bill was signed by the acting governor who is from the PMLN.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister meets with President Erdoğan of Türkiye



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar joined a collective call of D-8 Foreign Ministers on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan after the conclusion of the Extraordinary meeting of D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers on the Situation in Gaza. President Erdoğan was briefed on the proceedings of the Ministerial meeting. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister applauded Türkiye's initiative of hosting D-8 Ministerial meeting on Gaza. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister reiterated invitation to President Erdoğan for visiting Pakistan at the earliest convenience for the 7th High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC).

PTI founder's behaviour major hurdle in talks, says Nawaz Sharif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nawaz Sharif has called the PTI's founder as major hurdle in talks as details of the PML-N senators meeting with the party's leader surfaced. Sources said that the senate members of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz asked about the party's policy with regard to dialogue with the PTI. "When they are not serious, how could anyone hold talks with them," Nawaz said in his reply. Talking to PML-N Senate members Nawaz Sharif said, "Those who were taunting us have destroyed democracy." "I have called on him at his home to offer him to work together," former PM said. "I will send Nawaz Sharif in jail, will remove his AC, now you are in jail, I didn't even give heed to it," Nawaz said. "I have no objection if you get two ACs instead of one," PML-N chief said. He said the PML-N and the PPP even join hands to form a government, but his behaviour always remains like an estranged person. Nawaz Sharif said, "I was rewarded with jail sentence for conducting nuclear tests." "Musharraf has not been in the world, I have no grudge against him," Sharif said. "Those calling metro bus as

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AJK Legislative Assembly Speaker to address international conference on Shah Hamdan

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar, who sacrificed his life for the freedom movement of Kashmir from the international community, Yasin is imprisoned in the Indian jail through bogus cases to return the body of the national hero Maqbool Butt Shaheed Afzal Gaur to his heirs. The demand for the immediate release of the country and the proposal to establish a formal academy to promote the knowledge and technical services of Shah Hamdan in the new generation and to worry about the unjustified threats to the lives of the imprisoned leaders and innocent citizens of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Expressed and termed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's



coming to power for the third time as a threat to world peace, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar while addressing the one-day international Shah Hamdan Conference as a special guest, Chaudhry Latif Akbar expressed these views. While congratulating the organizers for organizing

the conference, he described the life of Amir Kabir Syed Ali Hamdani as a beacon of humanity around the world. The state of Pakistan and its brave forces pay tribute to the eternal sacrifices of Pakistan. Meanwhile, speaking to the media in his office chamber, Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif

Akbar said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have destroyed world peace. Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has crossed all limits to expose the latest situation of Kashmir issue and the atrocities of nine lakh occupying forces in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the world. In response to a question, Chaudhry Latif Akbar took the political leadership of both sides of the Hurriyat Conference into confidence and called the meeting of the Security Council to stop the bloodshed of innocent people. The parliamentarians who have access to it should be elected as its chairman. The entire nation agrees on the policies made in dignity. A strong, prosperous, stable, democratic Pakistan is the symbol of the eternal sacrifices of one and a half million Kashmiris.

Mansehra police took timely action and arrested the killer of the young man

Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: Timely action of Mansehra Police, the accused who killed a resident of Lasan Nawab on Kachhari Road was arrested on the spot, blockades were established to arrest the rest of the co-accused, DPO Mansehra.



According to the details, a person named Yasir son of Sabir Sultan, a resident of Lasan Nawab, has been arrested among the accused who shot and killed 22/23-year-old Aqib son of Abdul Rasheed, a resident of Lasan Nawab, on Kachhari Road in the limits of Police Station City.

During the initial investigation, the arrested accused has told the police that his Taya's daughter Musmat (S) was given a relationship in the mansion while the deceased Muhammad Aqib had slipped Taya's daughter and ran away from the house. A case was registered on 16.05.2024 in police station Lasan Nawab under the provisions of kidnapping, who had done BBA in this case and it was dated today according to the accused we have chased and killed the deceased Aqib in the district courts today.

According to DPO Mansehra Shafiqullah Gandapur, the process of checking has been started by setting up blockades in order to arrest the rest of the accused involved in the murder. Soon other involved accused will be arrested.

CTD Punjab arrested 15 terrorists from banned organizations

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab foiled a major terrorist plan and arrested 15 terrorists belonging to banned outfits during intelligence-based operations, according to the spokesman, CTD Punjab.

In order to effectively deal with any untoward incident, 180 secret operations were conducted in different districts of the province during which 181 suspects were interrogated and 15 terrorists belonging to banned organizations were arrested. The CTD recovered weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials from the possession of terrorists.

Among the arrested terrorists are Hafiz Abdul Malik, Noor Rahim, Noor Ul Amin, Manzar Aziz, Abdul Saboor Riaz, Noor Wali, Muhammad Ikram Khan, Muhammad Ejaz, Abdul Wahab Hussaini, Yar Gul, Asrar Ahmed, Ali Shah, Ali Zaman and Umar Rehman. He is related to the banned organizations Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Sipah Sahaba Pakistan and ISIS.

The arrest of these terrorists was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Multan, Toba Tek Singh, Muzaffargarh, Attock, Mianwali, Faisalabad and Chiniot.

The spokesperson further said that CTD Punjab conducted 714 combing operations during this week with the help of local police and security agencies and 70 recoveries have been made. He said that the CTD Punjab is diligently pursuing its goal of a safe Punjab and is determined to root out the scourge of terrorism and bring terrorists and anti-state elements behind bars.

Pakistan-China Friendship exhibition held at Hazara University Mansehra



Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: exhibition inaugurated by Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba Shah, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and attended by Mr. Zhu, a Chinese student from the Archaeology Department and the special Chinese guest of honor. Heads of various departments and Dr Amir from Abbottabad University also visited and highly appreciated the efforts of the students.

Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba Shah praised the efforts of the Head Department of Pakistan Studies Ayesha Alam active role in fostering relations with China. He emphasized the importance of understanding and learning through such activities China is Pakistan's closest neighbor and enhancing relations with China is essential.

Mr. Zhu appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Studies Department. The head of the department, Ayesha Alam, welcomed all the guests and highlighted the exhibition's objectives, emphasizing the close strategic and geopolitical relationship between China and Pakistan. She noted that this friendship, established over 73 years ago, has now evolved into a people-to-people connection, with China supporting Pakistan in various domains.

Models of the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet, a symbol of strong Pakistan-China ties, and K2 mountain were also displayed. Students highlighted how Pakistan, with China's cooperation, has fortified its defense and command systems, making it a responsible nuclear power in the region. The concept of caravanserai from the Silk Road era was also illustrated, showing its connection to the modern Silk Road that now connects China globally.

The primary objective of the exhibition by the Department of Pakistan Studies was to promote the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Traditional Artists performing

HYDERABAD: Traditional Artists performing during 2nd edition Exhibition of Handicrafts and Bangles, organized by Trade Development Authority Pakistan, at local hall.



Photo: Online

Muslim Conference invites Kashmiri workers to participate in Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/DHEERKOT/BAGH: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan received a warm welcome from the workers at Doura Bagh, organized by the Muslim Conference in Poonch Division on June 13 in Bagh, Municipal Corporation representatives in Bagh regarding the rally organized by the Muslim Conference will be Kashmir. met with and invited to participate in Kashmir will become Pakistan rally. Later on reaching Municipal Corporation Bagh, met Mayor Corporation Bagh Major Qayyum Baig, district councilors and ward councilors of the municipality and invited to participate in the rally. Muslim Conference in Poonch Division on June 13. Attended



and addressed the consultative meetings organized regarding the Kashmir Banega Pakistan rally organized by the. They have appealed to the Workers Muslim Conference to show their love for Pakistan by ensuring their participation in this rally.

The successful public communication campaign regarding the Kashmir Banega Pakistan Rally held in Poonch Division under the auspices of the Muslim Conference under the

auspices of Chairman Muslim Conference Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan, "Kashmir" to be held on June 13 in Khai Gula. Specially participated in the consultative meeting regarding "Banega Pakistan" rally. On this occasion, Muslim Conference District President Sardar Azhar Nazhar, District President Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Senior Muslim Conference leader Sardar Nazir Ahmad, Member of Majlis Ameela Khawaja Muham-

mad Javed., City Convenor Qazi Masood, District General Secretary Sohaib Zareen, Sardar Akhlaq Nazir, Sohaib Kamal, Saqib Sabir, Amjad Aslam, Muhammad Mushtaq, Syed and other colleagues were also present. Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Osman Ali Khan said that the people of Poonch on June 13 Kashmir. Ensure your participation in the Banega Pakistan rally. We are grateful to Sardar Tanvir Alias, the President of the Stability Pakistan Party, and former Prime Minister Sardar Yaqub Khan, the leader of the People's Party, for their support of the Kashmir Banega Pakistan Rally and their assurance of full participation. This rally is state history. I will be of utmost importance. On June 13, the people of Poonch should come out of their homes and show their love for Pakistan.

Turkish Embassy pledges support for University of Faisalabad cooperation with important universities of Turkey

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The cooperation of the University of Faisalabad with the important universities of Turkey is commendable and the Turkish Embassy will provide all possible support for the further development of this cooperation. We are very grateful for the services rendered by the ALFA team of the University under the leadership of Medina Foundation to help the earthquake victims

in Turkey last year. Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Mr. Dr. Mehmet Pachaji expressed his views during the meeting at the University.

The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Dr. Mehmet Pachaji visited the University of Faisalabad along with the delegation of the Turkish Embassy. The delegation included Consul General of Turkey Mr. Darmish Bastig, Commercial Counselor Nurtin Demir and Director of Turkish

Embassy Ghazanfar Mehmood. During the meeting with Vice Chairman Board of Governors Dr. Hamza Amin, Rector Prof. Dr. Amir Gilani, Registrar Miss Zahida Maqbool, Director and Professor Dr. Amanullah Malik, Head International Links Dr. Amna Javed, Heads of other departments and faculty members, Ms. Zahida Maqbool gave a detailed presentation to the Turkish delegation about the University, University Medi-

cal and Dental College, Madina Teaching Hospital and other welfare projects organized by Madina Foundation. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Dr. Mehmet highly appreciated the valuable services of Madina Foundation in the health and education sectors. All the Turks are very grateful for the services that Governor Muhammad Haider Amin himself did to help the Turkish brothers who were affected by the earthquake

in Turkey last year. The University of Faisalabad is making efforts to promote education for women and especially to empower them

through the Women Empowerment Program. He appreciated the efforts of the university management and faculty members for the high quality of education of the university and its excellent ranking at the global level.



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Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:14 am
Zohr 12:07 pm
Asr 5:07 pm
Maghrib 7:17 pm
Isha 9:00 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Pakistan achieved second place in KOPIST for sustainable tourism in South Korea

News Desk

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA: Pakistan has achieved a remarkable milestone by clinching the prestigious 2nd position in the global tourism competition KOPIST (Korea Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Tourism) held in Seoul, South Korea from April 20th to May 10th. The competition was held to develop a sustainable tourism proposal for the development of community-based tourism. This is Pakistan's grand debut on the global stage by securing 2nd ranking amongst developed tourism countries of the world.

Pakistan stood out in 14 participating countries from Central Asia, Latin America, East Asia and Europe.

Pakistan's strategic action plan & presentation focusing on the preservation and development of the Kalasha Valleys in Chitral was selected by the jury of Judges of the Korean Government. The winning project was designed by Pakistani Delegate Omair Khat-tak (GM KPCTA) and Mukhtar Ali (Manager TIC PTDC)

Bever-focusing on profits as Pakistan grapples with crisis of non-communicable diseases

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is grappling with a severe crisis of non-communicable diseases, with millions suffering from diabetes, obesity, heart disease, kidney ailments, and certain types of cancers. The consumption of sugary drinks, juices and ultra-processed foods is among the major contributing factor to this national health emergency. However, the beverage industry has skillfully omitted from its narrative is the devastating impact of its products on public health in term of increased hospital expenditure and social cost of premature deaths and diseases. The statistics from International Diabetes Federation suggests that over 1100 people are dying daily in Pakistan due to diabetes or its complications. The number of people living with diabetes increased to 33 million and are set to reach 62 million by 2045, if no immediate policy action taken. The annu-

al cost of diabetes management crossed USD 2640 million in 2021, putting a huge burden on import of raw material and medicine. Alarmingly, the consumption of sugary drinks has been linked to a 30% increased risk of developing this debilitating condition. The fact is that the beverage industry's myopic pursuit of profits has come at a staggering cost to the people of Pakistan.

Statistics suggest that the fruit juice industry procures only a fraction of the total fruit output in Pakistan for pulp making. Some statistics says, it is less than 2 percent of the total fruit production in the country. It is a blatant lie to claim that because of reduced pulp purchases by the juice industry, fruit farmers would descend into further poverty. In real sense, the beverage industry is convert healthy fruits into unhealthy substance like juices and nectars etc. The matter of the fact is that beverage industry is promoting their juices through misleading claims

of healthfulness to safeguard their profits. The research suggests the amount of sugar in these juices is as high as in the other sugary drinks. The World Health Organization recommends eating fruits in its original form instead of juices. The improved farming practices can help fruit farmers to increase the shelf life, dehydrate fruits through technological advancement and can make the entire supply chain a healthier for their consumers. There are significant opportunities to export fresh and dehydrated fruits to international markets.

Similarly, the claims for export of fruit juices are dubious. While Pakistan has already a low price and taxes on juices as compared to potential export markets. The beverage industry's claim about higher taxes is gross exaggeration designed to elicit public sympathy and sway policymakers. The matter of the fact is that beverage industry has low taxes as compared to many other coun-



tries. For example, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and UAE have imposed 50 % taxes on sugary drinks and 100 % on energy drinks. In addition, 5 % VAT is also applicable in Saudi Arabia. This has significantly helped cut down the consumption and reducing diseases burden, along with other measures. For example, Saudi Arabia once having much higher prevalence rate of diabe-

tes have now been able to reduce its prevalence, but in Pakistan, the number of people living with diabetes grown to five times in last 10 years.

Policymakers started realizing to mitigate the growing disease burden in Pakistan. Last year the coalition government increased FED on Juices and sugary drinks, which was a right step towards prioritizing public health over

corporate interest. Recently, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, the President of Pakistan, expressed his commitment to increase taxes on sugary drinks and ultra-processed products while talking to a delegation of 'Pakistan National Heart Association' (PANAHA) in Islamabad. The minutes of the meeting published clearly highlight the need for increasing taxes on sugary drinks and ultra-processed products, enacting regulations for front of pack warning labels through PSQCA and taking other policy measure to reduce consumption of these risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Many parliamentarians and public officials had also supported the call for more taxes on sugary drinks to reduce consumption for better health outcomes. The policy is also backed by the public support. A national opinion poll, conducted by Pakistan Health Research Council revealed that 78 % people supported increasing taxes on sugary drinks.

12th Tent pegging Championship

ISLAMABAD: Horsemen teams line up for the "Islamabad 12th Tent Pegging Championship 2024" under the auspices of Chief Organiser of the Program, Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, Ex Deputy Mayor Islamabad in the F-9 Park in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

CBD nsit city silicon block balloting draws massive investor interest

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Central Business District Punjab (CBD) Punjab has successfully conducted the balloting for plots in the Silicon Block of CBD NSIT City. The event, held at the CBD Punjab Complex, witnessed significant attendance from prominent IT companies, software houses, and a variety of other investors, underscoring the immense interest and confidence in the project.

Before the balloting event, the CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, undertook a visit to the Silicon Block to review the ongoing development projects. This visit also included a tour of the IT Tower Celestia site, where he inspected the progress. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Amin expressed his satisfaction with the level of investor interest and the enthu-



siastic response from the IT community. He said, "We will complete NSIT City in line with the visionary directives of the Chief Minister of Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif. NSIT City is envisioned to be a thriving hub for the economic and IT sector growth, playing a pivotal role in transforming Punjab into a major player in the global IT landscape.

The balloting process itself was a model of efficiency and

transparency, managed by specialized software developed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PTIB). This software ensured that the entire process was transparent and fair, bolstering the confidence of the participants in the integrity of the allotment process. Representatives from various IT companies who attended the event commended the software and the flawless execution of the balloting process, which

they viewed as a benchmark for future such events.

Among the key officials present at the balloting were Barrister Bilal Afzal Khokhar, Executive Director Legal, Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical, Ali Waqar Shah, Director Business Development, Waseem Siddique, Director Marketing, Asif Babar, Director Construction and Asif Iqbal, Director Project Management.

Attock DPO announces security arrangements for Guru Arjan Dev Jor Mela



Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: District Police Officer (DPO) Attock, Sardar Ghiyas Gul, has stated that providing security for any religious festival is a top priority for the police. He visited the security arrangements for the events of Guru Arjan Dev Ji's Shaheedi Jor Mela at Panja Sahib Hasan Abdal. During the visit, DPO Attock was accompanied by CSO Attock and other officials.

The DPO issued instructions to establish a control room and ensure that CCTV cameras are operational 24 hours a day. He emphasized that the police provide foolproof security for such events without regard to day or night. On this occasion, the President of the Sikh Sangat Committee, Sardar Santokh Singh, mentioned that Ramesh Singh Arora from the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee would also be present at the event. He further stated that approximately 900 Sikh pilgrims, including those from India, are participating in the ceremonies for Guru Arjan Dev Ji's shaheedi from June 8. After performing their religious rituals at Panja Sahib Hasan Abdal, the Sikh pilgrims will visit Nankana Sahib, Lahore, Kartarpur, and other religious Gurdwaras until June 16.

Four-day juicing training sessions ended in Lower Chitral



Adam Khan Wazir

LOWER CHITRAL: In a successful initiative to promote local products and empower youth in Lower Chitral, a four-day juice making training workshop in Garam Chashma Valley of Lower Chitral ended on Saturday.

The program was organized by the District Youth Office Chitral in collaboration with the District Administration Lower Chitral. Officials said, the aim of the program was to create economic opportunities for local youth by utilizing the widely available locally grown barberry fruit.

According to District Youth Office officials, the objective of the program was to equip young participants with essential skills in juice production, and by harnessing the economic potential of the burberry fruit, the initiative aims to promote local entrepreneurship and contribute to the economic development of the region.

Officials said the training sessions drew enthusiastic participation from local youth and women, who were eager to learn and contribute to the development of their community.

District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir added that during the training sessions, participants actively participated in practical workshops while getting expert guidance on various aspects of juice production.

Wazir said, these included picking and processing of the fruit as well as packaging and marketing of the final product, the comprehensive curriculum was designed to provide a thorough understanding of the juice making process, to ensure that participants can use their newly learned skills effectively.

He said the training sessions were led by experienced professionals in the field of juice production.

He provided participants with valuable insights and practical knowledge, and emphasized the importance of quality control and innovation in product development.

District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir said that participants were also given the opportunity to experiment with different flavors and techniques, which fostered creativity and entrepreneurial thinking.

On the last day of the training session, a closing ceremony was held to celebrate the achievements of the participants.

Official said the event was attended by local officials, community leaders and representatives of District Youth Office and District Administration Chitral.

Pakistan's Climate Crisis: A Looming Catastrophe

Eman Naveed

Introduction: Pakistan is facing an unprecedented climate crisis, with far-reaching consequences for its economy, infrastructure, and human capital. The country's vulnerability to climate change is exposed, and the need for urgent action is paramount.

Temperature Rise: Pakistan's temperatures are soaring, exceeding global averages and threatening agricultural productivity, water resources, and human health.

Water Scarcity: The country's water

crisis is intensifying, imperiling agriculture, industry, and human consumption. The Indus River, Pakistan's lifeline, is under threat from shrinking glaciers and changing precipitation patterns.

Agricultural Distress: Climate change is altering crop cycles, reducing yields, and increasing pest and disease prevalence, jeopardizing food security and the livelihoods of millions of farmers.

Urban Chaos: Pakistan's cities are struggling to cope with the influx of climate migrants, inadequate infrastructure, and strained resources, exac-

erbating heatwaves, floods, and other extreme weather events.

Energy Dilemma: The country's reliance on fossil fuels is unsustainable, and the transition to renewable energy sources is crucial to mitigate climate change and ensure energy security.

Humanitarian Crisis: Climate-related disasters have displaced millions, with women, children, and marginalized communities bearing the brunt of the impact. Mental health issues, malnutrition, and disease are on the rise, taxing Pakistan's healthcare system.

Margalla Hills Fires: The recent

spate of fires in the Margalla Hills serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of climate change, damaging the fragile ecosystem and threatening biodiversity.

Call to Action: Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive approach to address the climate crisis, prioritizing climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable agriculture practices, renewable energy transition, water conservation, climate education, and humanitarian preparedness.

The time for action is now, and the future of Pakistan depends on it.

Writer is student at NDU

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Digital Terrorism versus Hate Speech and Fake news

I have the privilege to teach the new batch of fifteen Information Probationers Officers of Information Group, the media laws at the Information Services Academy twice a week. During our last session before I could start the lecture one of the bright students interrupted and sought permission to ask a question. I always loved the questions and gladly asked him to shoot. He said that lately ISPR Press Release has used the term "digital terrorism", what is it? How does it impinge on the media freedom, the civilized societies guard so dearly.

To qualify for committing digital terrorism, individuals or groups typically need to demonstrate intent to spread fear, incite violence, or promote ideologies through digital means, using technologies like the internet. Their actions must be illegal under relevant laws, impactful in terms of harm or disruption caused, and motivated by political, religious, or ideological goals. In some cases, a pattern of such behavior may be required rather than a one-time occurrence. However, the specifics can vary between countries and legal systems.

as waging politically motivated and vested digital terrorism abetted by foreign cohorts to try to induce despondency in the Pakistani nation, to sow discord among national institutions and the people of Pakistan by peddling blatant lies, fake news, and propaganda".

Technically, the qualification of lies, fake news, and propaganda can be termed as digital terrorism if these are used with the intent to spread fear, incite violence, or promote ideologies that aim to achieve political, religious, or ideological goals through intimidation, coercion, or violence. However, the mere act of spreading lies, fake news, or propaganda may not always meet the threshold for digital terrorism.

Similarly, lies, fake news, and propaganda can contribute to hate speech, but they are not the same thing as they can be used for other purposes. It's important to distinguish between the two, as hate speech has specific legal implications and is often subject to regulation in many countries.

The strongly worded ISPR press release and subsequent media campaign around it in the digital and traditional media was successful in sending a clear position of the army against those who allegedly, were creating wedge between the army and the people of Pakistan.

But it was not free of risks either. It had the potential to reinforce perceptions of bias within the military against the PTI,

potentially deepening political divisions and eroding trust between the military and PTI supporters.

Additionally, such a narrative accusing critics of "digital terrorism" and foreign involvement could evoke strong emotional responses, which might rally some segments of the population around the military and government, while simultaneously causing skepticism and decreased confidence among those who feel targeted.

While aiming to preserve the noble cause of national unity, using such strong words risks alienating a large group of citizens, potentially undermining efforts to foster cohesive and inclusive national dialogue. Additionally, the military's visible stance against a popular political party may affect its reputation as a neutral and stabilizing force, leading to questions about its role and impartiality in democratic processes.

Alternatively, ISPR could have achieved the intended objective by emphasized the importance of responsible journalism, social media posts, and blogs, and the dangers of misinformation in fueling tensions and destabilizing society, besides highlighting the efforts of the Army in combating such misinformation and call on the public to verify information before sharing it and stressing the need for unity and understanding among different communities.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Protecting the oceans

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday called for a collective effort among governments, businesses, investors, scientists, and communities "to defend our oceans," as the world body celebrated World Oceans Day at UN Headquarters in New York. The activities marking the Day focused on "opening minds, igniting senses, and inspiring possibilities" to protect marine life worldwide.

A powerful video was shown echoing the theme, awaken new depths, warning of immediate protection needs and cautioning that there is no time for an "out of sight out of mind" sense of complacency. In a statement marking the occasion - which falls on Saturday - UN chief also said the ocean sustains life on Earth and the problems are essentially man-made. "Climate change is triggering rising seas and threatening the very existence of small island developing states and coastal populations", he said. Guterres also mentioned that ocean acidification is destroying coral reefs, with sea temperatures reaching record levels leading to extreme weather events. Overfishing and other factors are contributing to the destruction of the world's marine ecosystems. The President of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis, attended the event and voiced similar concerns about the current state of the ocean. "There is so much still to learn about oceans - and, importantly, to reverse the damage being caused to our precious lifeline resource." Francis said that the ocean is our strongest ally against climate change and therefore "it is our joint responsibility to course correct - and recommit to sustainably manage the ocean's precious resources - so as to ensure their availability intergenerationally." The Secretary-General and General Assembly President said they are expecting reflections on and actions toward ways to restore and protect our oceans as the Summit of the Future in September 2024 and next year's UN Oceans Conference approach. The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released a State of the Ocean report earlier in the week pushing policymakers to think about "the ocean we need for the future we want." The report detailed threats to the ocean and trends that could help identify drivers of change. It warned that the rate of ocean warming has doubled in 20 years and that coastal species are suffocating due to decreased oxygen levels in the ocean, among other things. One of its conclusions is that "ocean literacy practice and research is a strategic ally to optimize resources, accelerate behavioural change and improve the implementation of ocean conservation programmes and sustainability practices." Speakers at an event in UN Headquarters on Friday included marine biologist and oceanographer Sylvia Earle, who said finding ways to share the importance of protecting our ocean with the world can lead to vital action to also preserve coastal wildlife. "Now is the time for governments, businesses, investors, scientists and communities to come together in defence of our ocean," UN Secretary-General Guterres said. In a similar call to action, General Assembly President Francis said we should "redouble our efforts to support and advance ocean action, build much-needed capacity in [small island developing states]and other developing countries - and promote innovative financing solutions that drive transformation and scale up resilience."



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

Pak Army's Explicit Position on National Matters - IV

Acknowledging the gravity of this danger, numerous countries have enacted rigorous measures to combat anti-state propaganda and disinformation. China, for example, has implemented a comprehensive strategy to counter such propaganda, especially regarding national security and social stability. Through technological censorship, strict regulations, and extensive surveillance, the Chinese government manages information flow and quells dissenting voices. Platforms like WeChat and Weibo are closely monitored, with content deemed subversive or anti-state swiftly removed. Additionally, China has enacted laws criminalizing the dissemination of rumors or false information online, imposing severe penalties on offenders.

Similarly, Russia has been employing sophisticated propaganda tactics to further its geopolitical objectives and undermine perceived adversaries. Through entities such as the Internet Research Agency (IRA) and state-controlled media outlets like RT and Sputnik, the Russian government has been implicated in spreading disinformation and conspiracy theories aimed at sowing discord and undermining trust in democratic institutions. In response, nations like the United States and members of the European Union have imposed sanctions, expelled diplomats, and bolstered cybersecurity defenses to counter

Russian propaganda and interference in internal affairs.

Turkey faces challenges from both domestic and foreign sources of anti-state propaganda and misinformation. The Turkish government has taken a proactive stance in addressing perceived threats to national security, especially following the failed coup attempt in 2016. Authorities have implemented measures to suppress independent media outlets, social media users, and opposition figures accused of spreading false information or inciting unrest. Additionally, Turkey has introduced initiatives to regulate online content and combat digital platforms that resist government censorship requests. Likewise, Pakistan maintains the complete prerogative to counteract entities disseminating negative propaganda.

It is heartening to note that despite malicious endeavors by adversaries to undermine, tarnish, and destabilize the nation, Pakistan perseveres in advancing towards prosperity and advancement. Recent assessments from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), State Bank, and Bureau of Statistics indicate a favorable trend in Pakistan's economic performance. These reports underscore the initiatives undertaken by the State Bank of Pakistan to tackle poli-

cy challenges and guide the economy toward positive outcomes. Over the past nine months, Pakistan's economic outlook has improved compared to 2023, with projections indicating a potential decrease in the inflation rate to 15% by 2025. According to the Pakistan Economic Outlook report, the Pakistani Rupee has stabilized against the dollar, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange has shown a bullish trend. The State Bank forecasts GDP growth between 2 to 3 percent, attributing this to the agricultural sector's performance, especially in crops like wheat, rice, maize, and cotton during the fiscal year 2024. The agricultural sector saw significant growth, exceeding 7 percent. Additionally, an increase in remittances contributed to a \$619 million rise in the current account, as reported by the Central Bank.

The entire nation stands united in support of the Army chief's and the Pak Army's stance on national issues, and also supports the military's firm stance against anti-state elements. The nation unanimously demands punishment for the culprits of the May 9 incidents, who did what our enemies could not do in seven decades. The families and souls of our martyrs also seek strict punishment for the enemies of our homeland and armed forces. The nation unequivocally rejects negative propaganda and misinformation targeting the country and the Pakistan Army. Despite the nefarious intentions of internal and external adversaries, Pakistan remains steadfast in its pursuit of growth and development.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Protesting professors of Pakistan

Dr. Irfan Ahmad Gondal (TI)

In mid-December of last year, I attended a EU funded energy event in Ho Chi Minh city that focused on the market dynamics of Liquefied Natural Gas. The event was spearheaded by an Italian professor with a full-time position at the European University Institute. Renewable energy and its implications and applications in the different societal sectors form the core area of my interest and hence I often find myself travelling to national and international events to enable myself to be in full picture of the state-of-affairs of these two particular fields. I am currently in Beijing, to have an in-depth knowledge about the Electric vehicle industry of China. The EV industry of China that once challenged the US and European automakers are now giants and have now completely dwarfed the western competitors. The architect of Chinese E-mobility transition breakthrough is none other than a professor from Tsinghua university. These are just two examples of the current era that cite universities as the cradle of knowledge which form the basis of national policies and decisions.

Back home within the same era, Dec 2023 - May 2024, the Pakistani press carried reports of protesting professors of two categories, one with unpaid salaries and secondly those that are likely to join the first category with the impending budgetary axe falling on the usual suspect, the education sector. Simultaneously, a few national energy events were also held during this 5 - month period, that I attended or was obliged to address/attend. Unfortunately, the conduct and content of the national and International events are in stark contrast, similar to the contrast found in the professional environment of the foreign and local professors. Sadly, even the events covering the technical or policy matters are more of an opportunity for creating social media content rather than any serious discussions. No wonder, the catering businesses are growing and the professors worth is diminishing in our beloved homeland. Even the foreign qualified PhD professors have resorted to odd jobs. This million-dollar question has a very easy answer if anybody has the time and will to seek a good solution.

Its no wonder, there's a general complaint of non-implementation of policies, rules, and regulations in Pakistan. Policies are meant to be well-thought out, researched and even simulated before their launch. Its the universities and its professors' task to roll out policies. This is a norm all over the

world. Professors have the lead role in policy advice, strengthened by the graduate and undergraduate students, further cemented by the years of their literature survey and research in their particular area. An ecosystem of innovation exists in every growing economy stemming primarily from the universities. Professors were never just meant to calculate their credit hours and then left at the mercy of the recurring grants from Higher Education Commission or the number of admissions.

Universities all over the world are entrusted by governments to provide policy advice in all state matters be it the Economy, Science, Politics or even religion. Just one google reveals that all major US universities have a "Centre for Asian studies", including Harvard, Stanford, Boston and Pittsburgh university. Similarly, some might wonder why there's an Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in UK, paying salaries to half a dozen professors in British pound sterling. Mentioning randomly, Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain and Cambridge Centre for Climate Science UK are not staffed with salary-drawing professors. The complete hierarchy of faculty of these institutions are involved in Policy advice to their respective governments. It may be astonishing for some of the readers that faculty members of these institutions still are short of time and there is still room for more scholars to be absorbed.

So, the solution is as near as a stone throw from Pakistan, of course, in China. No re-inventing the wheel, no mid-night lamp burning by our esteemed bureaucracy, or the brain-storming sessions followed by Hi-tea in 5-star hotels. Its simple, empower the universities and let the professors do their job. Tsinghua University laid out the transition strategy for the transport sector of China in 2007. Just 15 years later, China holds 60% of the market share of E-vehicles of the world. In contrast, EV only remains a buzz word at home, we still have to figure out the transition phase (if at all there's an intent) and the technology roadmap to support this transition. The bottom line remains that Pakistan must make use of its talent available in the universities, incentivize their tasks and draw home-grown solutions for our own peculiar problems. One size doesn't fit all, China, US and other economies have their own environment, ambitions, and resources, however the methodology adopted is the same all over the world, use your brains.

The writer heads the Mechanical Engineering Department at the National Skills University, Islamabad and included in the top 2% scientists of the world.

Russian economy grows stronger, more resilient amid global changes, rise of multipolar world, says Putin

Xinhua

ST. PETERSBURG: The Russian economy is demonstrating resilience and adaptability amid changes in the global economic landscape and the rise of a new multipolar world, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

"The global economy has entered an era of serious, fundamental changes. A multipolar world is being formed with new centers of growth, new investment and financial ties between states and companies," Putin said in a speech at the plenary session of the 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

"The Russian economy is able to respond to these challenges and is also changing dynamically, gaining greater strength and stability," he noted.

Putin outlined several significant structural changes that will be taking place in the country's economy, one of which concerns changes in Russia's export and import structure. In this context, Russia's primary focus will be on strengthening economic ties with friendly countries, which will shape the future of the global economy, he noted. These countries currently make up three quarters of Russia's trade turnover.

"We will increase the use of national currencies in foreign trade settlements, and improve the safety and efficiency of such operations," the president said, adding that the BRICS countries are currently working on the development of an independent payment system, which will not be subject to external interference.

Putin said that Russia welcomes a further expansion of the BRICS association, and "supports the desire of interested partners on different continents to foster contacts with BRICS."

"We will continue to develop relations within BRICS not only in the field of economics and finance, but also in the field of security, humanitarian cooperation, and other sectors," Putin said, adding that the bloc will take into account global challenges and the rising prospects of national economies.

According to the president, by 2030, the volume of Russia's non-resource, non-energy exports must grow by at least two-thirds in comparison to 2023.

Russia will also focus on the development of transport infrastructure, and will aim to boost shipping capacity on the Arctic Sea Route and the Eastern railways, he said.

Putin pointed out that the country will strive to achieve "a new quality and content of economic growth," noting however that Russia's economic growth has already surpassed the global average, according to GDP data from last year and the first quarter of 2024.

The president said that other structural changes will focus on strengthening the role of small and medium-sized businesses in the Russian economy as well as bolstering the development of Russia's regions.

Putin noted that two other key structural changes for Russia will be the reduction of poverty and inequality, and improvement of the quality of life for families.

The 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum began here on Wednesday, featuring delegates from 139 countries and regions. The theme of this year's event is "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World."

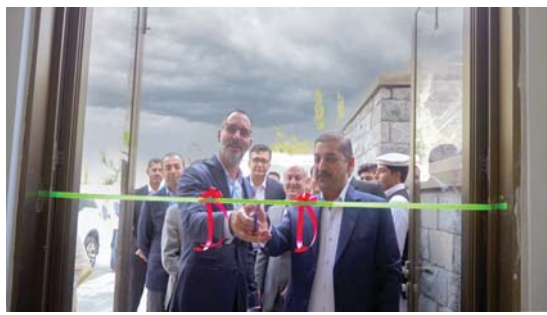
event is "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World."



Prince Rahim Aga Khan Inaugurates SCO-AKDN Software Technology Park in Nasirabad, Hunza GB

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim Aga Khan, Chairman of (AKDN) Executive Committee for Micro Finance, inaugurated the Software Technology Park (STP) Nasirabad, Hunza. The event was attended by Major General Umar Ahmad Shah, Director General Special Communications Organization (SCO), along with Director Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) and Chairman Habib Bank Limited, Mr. Sultan Ali Allana, President Ismaili Council for Pakistan, Mister Nizar Mewawalla, Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan.



Software Technology Park, Nasirabad, a joint effort by SCO and AKDN, marks a major step forward in the technological and economic development of the region. These modern facilities, equipped with high-speed internet, uninterrupted power supply and co-working spaces aim to

create a vibrant IT ecosystem in remote areas. These facilities are designed to encourage a maker culture among young entrepreneurs and start-ups, helping them develop innovative software products. This initiative is expected to increase IT exports from the region and provide both direct and

indirect job opportunities for local youth.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan emphasized the importance of this development, saying, "This facility is a significant step in using technology for economic growth and shows our commitment to empower the youth in the region. By providing access to advanced resources and support, we aim to inspire innovation and entrepreneurship, leading to sustainable growth and prosperity."

Major General Umar Ahmad Shah, DG SCO, thanked Aga Khan Development Network and remarked "SCO Vision-2025 focuses on youth empowerment through.

AKU unveils plans to establish CVD intervention centres in rural Sindh

City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Center for IMPACT for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Studies held an inception meeting where it laid out its research and development plans to combat the rising incidence of cardiovascular diseases, mostly in rural Sindh.

Prof Zainab Samad, Chair of the Department of Medicine at AKU, who presided over the meeting said, "While we may attribute the rising trends of CVDs in rural areas of Sindh to the increasing temperatures, lack of workplace safety, or dietary reasons, it's also true that we have the capability to design healthcare frameworks to counter these trends."

The Secretary Health for Sindh, Mr. Rehan Iqbal Baloch, shared his thoughts on the research and development plans saying, "These research initiatives are vital to enhance community relations, especially in areas with limited infrastructural access. We appreciate the Aga Khan University's efforts in reaching out to the marginalized communities across the board and raising awareness on intervention methods regarding cardiovascular diseases."

The meeting shed light on a detailed research and development strategy aimed at establishing affordable and timely healthcare intervention approaches to address the potential risks of CVDs. Besides this, the research also outlines the demographics that may be more vulnerable to CVD-inducing factors.

"School children are one area of the population with the highest risk of CVDs. Enabling timely healthcare access and public awareness may help curb these risks, and also stem the rise of other non-communicable diseases linked to cardiovascular health" said Prof Dr Salim Virani, Vice Provost Research at AKU.

The Centre for IMPACT work package at AKU, funded by NIHR in the United Kingdom, aims to identify the best multi-faceted approaches to eliminate cardiovascular emergencies in Sindh by combining previous research and healthcare intervention techniques.

DSP issues instructions to railway officers to work hard and dedicate their time

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent of Railways, Multan Division, Kashif Farooq Butt while giving instructions to all railway employees and officers to work with hard work and dedication, said that all officers and railway employees should solve all the problems of their respective departments. He presided over the meeting of the divisional officers in the committee room of the DS office while addressing the railway officers of all departments participated in the meeting held in the committee room. asked questions about the problems faced in their departments and issued necessary instructions while issuing instructions to the officers to work more hard and dedicated and said that all the legitimate problems of the employees are understood DS Railway Multan Kashif Farooq Butt. It was assured that passengers are VIP guests of Pakistan Railways and safety of their lives is the prime responsibility of Railways. DS Kashif Farooq Butt Said Prevention of accidents is the most important and for this everyone has to work together, from the train driver to the gang man standing at the gate, signal staff, engineering department, transport and all the officers and employees should pay full attention and fulfill their responsibilities.

On the instructions of Divisional Superintendent Railway Multan Kashif Farooq Butt, Divisional Commercial Officer Railway Multan has issued strict instructions to Commercial Inspectors, Traffic Inspectors, Group Inspectors and STE to take action against passengers traveling without tickets DCO Railway Multan In this regard, ticketless campaign has been released from June 10 to June 24. According to the schedule, Commercial Inspector, Traffic Inspector, Group Inspector and DCO Railway Multan will check ticketless passengers in different trains. Complaints will also be heard and resolved on the spot. In this regard, Divisional Commercial Officer Railway Multan said that traveling without a ticket is a crime. Passengers are requested not to travel without a ticket. Fare and fine are collected from the passenger from the starting point of the train.

US eyes increasing tactical nuclear weapons amid threats from Russia, China

The United States might need to deploy additional strategic nuclear weapons in the future to deter increasing threats from Russia, China, and other adversaries, according to a top White House official.

Pranay Vaddi, the top National Security Council arms control official, delivered a speech on Friday in which he discussed "a more competitive approach" to arms control.

He outlined a policy shift aimed at urging Moscow and Beijing to reconsider their rejections of United States' proposal for talks of limiting arsenals.

"Absent a change in adversary arsenals, we may reach a point in the coming years where an increase from current deployed numbers is required. We need to be fully prepared to execute if the president makes that decision," he told the Arms Control Association.

"If that day comes, it will result in a determination that more nuclear weapons are required to deter our adversaries and protect the American people and our allies and partners."

The US currently adheres to a limit of 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads as outlined in the 2010 New START treaty with Russia, Reuters reported.

Moscow "suspended" its participation in the treaty last year over US's support for Ukraine, a move that Washington deemed "legally invalid".

SITE Association Hosts Reception Honoring Younus Dagha

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: SITE Association of Industry hosted a Reception in honor of former Caretaker Minister for Revenue, Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Sindh, Muhammad Younus Dagha at the Association's office. The reception was hosted in recognition of his selfless & devoted services for promotion of industrialization in the Sindh Province.

Patron-in-Chief Zubair Motiwala, Chief Coordinator Saleem Parekh, Former President Jawed Bilwani, President Muhammad Kamran Arbi, SVP Muham-



mad Hanif Tawakkal, VP Muhammad Farhan Ashrafi, Abdul Rasheed, Abdul Kadir Bilwani, Hussain Moosani, Murtaza Ajaz Saya and members of the Executive Committee and general members were present on this occasion. Issues of industries briefly came under discussion on this occasion. Chief Guest Younus

Dagha while speaking on this occasion said that the caretaker government made efforts to improve performance of government departments despite limited time and set performance benchmarks. The system of e-services should continue and not be reversed. Karachi unfortunately has no say in policy making despite

contributing major revenue to the national exchequer. He advised to take up issues of industries with the high government officials backed by Research & Statistics.

Expressing views on freight charges, Younus Dagha stated that a comprehensive presentation will be given to the government soon as the country is paying 3-4 billion dollars per annum against freight charges. Political Uncertainty and High Energy cost are the two big challenges at this time. If we control these two issues, the country will be in a position of take-off, he concluded.

Health Initiatives as a Bridge in China-Pakistan Public Diplomacy

Laiba Ijaz

Public diplomacy is the art of interacting with audiences abroad in order to develop relationships, foster confidence, and encourage collaboration. It is a vital tool for helping countries develop constructive relationships and mutual trust, and it is now essential for creating a safe and secure international environment. One important facet of public diplomacy is health diplomacy which means working together on health related topics to foster international collaboration, goodwill, and trust. These initiatives improve a nation's standing and influence overseas by demonstrating dedication to global well being. As the world

grapples with unprecedented health challenges, the importance of health diplomacy has never been more evident. In the context of Sino-Pakistan relations, China's health initiatives have emerged as a powerful tool of public diplomacy. High as the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans are phrases commonly used to describe the bilateral relationship between China and Pakistan, which is now more than half a century old. Historical ties between China and Pakistan have always been robust, characterized by strategic, economic, and military cooperation. Health diplomacy has become a new pillar in their relationship, showcasing how nations can leverage healthcare to strengthen diplomatic bonds. China provided medical workers, medical equipment, and



millions of doses of vaccinations to Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic to help contain the outbreak. This not only addressed an immediate health need but also reinforced China's commitment to supporting Pakistan in times of crisis. The

vaccine donations were widely covered in Pakistani media, enhancing China's image as a reliable and compassionate ally and generated goodwill among the Pakistani public and government. Maintaining and growing health diplomacy partner-

ships between China and Pakistan is crucial to fostering mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries. Both nations can improve bilateral ties and advance the health and well-being of the world by building on their previous achievements and looking into new areas of cooperation. Both countries can explore partnerships to develop specialized medical facilities, such as research centers and hospitals, focused on addressing specific health challenges faced by the Pakistani population. Such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and antimicrobial resistance. This collaboration can lead to the development of innovative solutions and contribute to global health security. The concept of health diplomacy also aligns with the sustainable development goal 3, which

emphasizes the importance of good health and well-being. If we talk about the project of Health Silk Road under the CPEC, it has positive outcomes for Pakistan such as better healthcare facilities and stronger ties with china, but some of the concerns that needs to be addressed, it includes transparent and inclusive decision making processes and controlling financial risks to prevent unmanageable debts. It is crucial to establish clear guidelines and oversight mechanisms for health diplomacy projects. This could involve third-party audits, public reporting of project outcomes, and inclusive planning processes involving local stakeholders. It can also create opportunities for Chinese companies to expand their exports of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals,

and related services. So there is need for more sustainable long term health projects that could be more effective and helpful in building stronger ties between Pakistan and China. In conclusion, health diplomacy is an indispensable aspect of public diplomacy that enhances international collaboration and trust. The Sino-Pakistani partnership serves as a model, demonstrating how nations can work together to overcome health challenges and foster stronger diplomatic ties. By addressing transparency and financial sustainability, such initiatives can achieve even greater success and contribute to a more secure and healthy world.

Writer is Final year Student at Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
73,754.01	73,862.93
Day's High	Day's Low
73,902.78	71,781.96
Index Value	Change
12,291,027,766	-108.92
Percentage	Time
-0.15%	7 Jun, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,245.37	-39.97
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	7 Jun, 4:50 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
38,969.25	+83.08
Percentage	Time
+0.21%	7 Jun, 1:54 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
38,683.93	-19.58
Percentage	Time
-0.051%	7 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	185
Bahrain Dinar	740.7	748.7
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.47	38.87
Danish Krone	40.63	41.03
Euro	301	304
Hong Kong Dollar	35.66	36.01
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.74	917.74
Malaysian Ringgit	59.2	59.8
New Zealand \$	172.53	174.53
Norwegians Krone	26.3	26.6
Omani Riyal	723.4	731.4
Qatari Riyal	76.51	77.21
Saudi Riyal	73.6	74.1
Singapore Dollar	203.5	205.5
Swedish Korona	26.63	26.93
Swiss Franc	312.79	315.29
Thai Bhat	7.64	7.79
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	76
UK Pound Sterling	354	357
US Dollar	277.75	280.5

onic Lights Up Times Square in Support of Pakistan for T20 World Cup 2024

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: onic, Pakistan's leading digital telco brand, proudly announced its unwavering support for the Pakistani cricket team in their highly anticipated T20 World Cup 2024 match against India. In a bold and symbolic gesture, onic showcased a powerful montage at One Times Square, New York, to rally behind the team.

Last year, our resilient Pakistani team stood alone in a sea of blue, with Indian supporters vastly outnumbering ours. This year, onic is determined to change that narrative by lighting up One Times Square with our message of solidarity and pride, demonstrating that our team is never alone, regardless of the match's outcome.

"This initiative highlights our commitment to standing by the Pakistani cricket team through every high and low," said Omer Bin Tariq—General Manager, onic. "By illuminating one of the world's most iconic landmarks, we aim to send a powerful message of unity and support that transcends borders."

The montage, premiered on June 8, 2024, a day before the match, features a visually stunning display celebrating the Pakistani spirit, symbolizing unity and strength. Displaying this montage in the heart of New York City, where cultures converge, symbolizes our collective strength and national pride.

onic's support extends beyond the realm of sports, aiming to foster a narrative of national pride and community spirit. This event is designed not just as a display of support but as a testament to the enduring bond between the team and its supporters.

We invite all cricket enthusiasts to join this celebration no matter where they are. Together, let's create a wave of green that echoes around the world, showcasing our unyielding support for the Pakistani cricket team. Share your support with the hashtag #SarUthaHaraa.



Budgets shouldn't be a punishment for the common man

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal, the Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, stated on Saturday that the budget should provide relief to the masses rather than burdening the average person more.

He added that since inflation has broken the backs of the people and they are no longer able to bear more burden, the process of collecting taxes from the elite should now begin.

Addressing the party workers, Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the present government has only increased the burden on the people to increase revenue.

To increase revenue, the government targets the masses, the salaried class, and pensioners, but without taxing the elites, the country will continue to struggle for survival and never achieve the desired results.

Hanif Mughal suggested to properly tax

the non-taxpayers and minor taxpayers. They include wholesalers, landlords, stock market brokers, the property mafia, and other sectors.

He claimed that despite the country's impending bankruptcy, the elites continue to enjoy privileges worth more than eighteen hundred billion rupees, which is astounding.

Statements cannot deceive the people, nor can authorities hide their weaknesses through promises, he observed.

He said the masses want a better budget, as the continuation of the old budget will not be acceptable to them.

In order to meet the budget deficit on the demand of the IMF, the government has to completely eliminate tax exemptions in many sectors; otherwise, it will not get more loans from the international organization.

At this time, the deficit in the energy sector alone has exceeded 2400 billion rupees. And in the first seven months of this financial year, it has increased by 325 billion rupees.



There is a proposal to collect advance tax from the auto sector which will be 10% on the value of the vehicle.

There is a proposal to eliminate the advance

tax for filers making external credit card payments, and non-filers are subjected to a 20% tax.

Withholding tax rate for non-filers on cash withdrawals can be to nine percent from the previous six percent, which will have an impact on both individuals and businesses.

The government has decided to raise the tax rate to 30 percent for non-filers with commercial or industrial electricity and gas connections, which will impede economic development.

He suggested increasing salaries in the budget to help people deal with the rising cost of living and strengthening the agriculture sector to ensure food security for the nation.

Hanif Mughal advocated for improving agriculture supply chain management to decrease post-harvest losses and boost market accessibility. He demanded improved access to credit and insurance facilities for farmers to mitigate risks and invest in their operations.

Visit

XI'AN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits Plant Production Factory in Yangling Agricultural Demonstration Base on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Country's economic growth is linked with success of business sector: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that resolving traders issues is of key importance for economic growth and that he will exhaust all options for the purpose to foster the business friendly environment in the capital city.

He said this while addressing a mammoth gathering of traders of Blue Area here at Chamber House.

He emphasized that nation's advancement is inextricably linked to the success of its business sector and that ICCI under his leadership is exploring every avenue for the smooth business operations.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that to curb robberies and purse snatching incidents, functionality of safe city cameras is vital and he is in contact with the concerned police officials for the purpose which in turn will boost the attraction of the area for the consumers.

He went on to say that under the campaign he has launched for the installation of water filtration plants in different business centres of Islamabad, a suitable site has also been earmarked in the Blue Area and the work on it would commence in next few days.

Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik while appreciating the pro-active role of the office bearers of the Traders Welfare Association Blue Area for the betterment of the community assured unwavering and continued ICCI support



for the cause.

Present on the occasion, member Sanitation CDA Mashooq Ali Shaikh by announcing that new Wash Rooms will also be built in Blue Area assured all possible cooperation to the traders' community for keeping the business centres clean, green and business friendly. He also assured that extra parking facility will be created in Blue Area by removing the waste material.

Group leader Blue Area, Yousuf Rajput by reiterating his and his colleagues complete support to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari warned that the community has to be vigilant of black sheep in its ranks hell bent to inflict loss to traders interest.

President Traders Welfare Association Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar expressed gratitude to ICCI team for addressing problems of his market.

President Traders' Welfare Association, F/7, Assad Aziz apprised the audi-

ence about the successes of the body for the betterment of the business community.

President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Ajmal Baloch said that creation of the Mediation Council in the ICCI for the settlement of rent matters is one of the main achievements of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as President ICCI.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized unity, honesty and brotherhood in the ranks of the community to attain due respect and honour by saying that ICCI's only agenda is to promote businesses through giving projection to business role models by making them brands at international level for the cause of the country.

Those spoke on the occasion include Chaudhry Mohammad Naem, Khalid Chaudhry, Abdur Rehman Siddiqui, Basharat Kakakhel, Ahmed Khan, Ch. Imtiaz and other.

Jubilee Life bags two accolades marking the sixth consecutive win at Pakistan Digital Awards 2024



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector insurance company, secured another win at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2024. The company was honored with the prestigious awards for Best Digital Marketing Communication Videos—Jubilee Life Micro-insurance and Best Digital Campaign—HBLPSL 8 Cricket, marking its sixth consecutive win at this event.

The awards were received on behalf of Jubilee Life Insurance by members of the brand and agency team.

Mr. Farhan Faridi, Group Head – Retail Operations, Marketing & Administration, expressed his delight at the recognition, stating,

"We are immensely honored to be recognized once again at the Pakistan Digital Awards. These awards are a testament to our unwavering dedication to revolutionizing the insurance industry through innovative digital solutions and creative marketing strategies. At Jubilee Life Insurance, we are committed to delivering excellence in all our endeavors, and this award reflects the hard work and passion of our entire team."

Jubilee Life Insurance's consistent success at the Pakistan Digital Awards underscores its position as a trailblazer in the insurance sector, continually setting new benchmarks in digital marketing and customer engagement.

Zero rated restored for industries, electricity rates, interest rates should be reduced: Atif Ikram

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh has said that in the budget, zero rated should be restored for industries, electricity rates, interest rates should be reduced. Inflation has reduced to 11.8%. 22% interest rate is unjustified. By reducing the interest rate, the government can save 3 trillion rupees in interest payments.

Talking about the textile sector, Atif Ikram said that for the last four months, cotton imports from the US and Brazil have been blocked at the port, which has led to significant financial burden due to the increase in demurrage charges, which are now Rs 50 million. has been exceed-



ed. These charges are being paid to foreign companies in dollars, which is increasing the economic pressure on the country. The government should take notice of this issue and resolve it immediately.

Federation President Atif Ikram said that we believe in the determination of the Prime Minister to promote a favorable environment for business and trade in Pakistan. It is very important to bring investment and business friendly policies.

CCP Signs First International MoU with Chinese Regulator of Markets

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) during the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China on Friday. The MoU aims to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of competition law and policy, marking a significant mile-

stone in Sino-Pakistani relations.

SAMR, a ministerial-level agency under China's State Council, is responsible for enforcing anti-monopoly laws and regulating markets. The MoU signifies a new era of collaboration in anti-trust activities between the two nations.

On October 19, 2023, a high-profile Chinese delegation led by Dr. Gan Lin, Vice Minister of SAMR visited the CCP. Discussions between CCP

Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu and Vice Minister Gan Lin highlighted the strategic importance of a partnership focusing on enhancing market regulations, providing training and capacity building, sharing expertise in cartel detection, and collaborating on research projects to improve regulatory efficiency.

China's substantial investments in Pakistan, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are expected to increase significantly with the second phase of CPEC. To accommodate this growth, the CCP is developing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework. The MoU outlines a framework for cooperation through bilateral meetings, training programs, workshops, research collaborations, and information exchange.

The MoU aims to ensure sound and effective enforcement of competi-

tion law, which is crucial for market efficiency and consumer welfare. By fostering technical collaboration and information sharing, this partnership will strengthen bilateral ties and create favourable conditions for economic development.

This is the first international MOU in the Commission's 16-year history. Moreover, CCP will soon be signing MOUs with competition agencies of Russia, Turkey, and Egypt.

Football Legend Michael Owen and Pakistan Football League Cipher Hope for School Sports

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Football League PFL and Roots Millennium Education Group under an MOU, unveiled the school football ecosystem for budding Pakistani footballers and enthusiasts at campuses. The Pakistan Football League is launched with a hovering CSR event and initiative at the flagship Roots Millennium Future World School & College, Gulberg Greens Campus Islamabad and Lahore.

The historic event marked its unprecedented eventuality in the presence of legendary English Footballers Michael Owen and Emile Heskey to elevate the morale of young fans, engage football enthusiasts and rising cohorts of millennials. The dynamic Chairman of PFL Farhan Junejo sparred the event along with French NFT Pascal Chimbonda and Spanish super star Raul Rodriguez. Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Chairman and CEO of the Roots Millennium Education and Executive Director Engr. Anna Faisal welcomed the visiting dignitaries and football legends at the campus.

The event induced Inspiring talks,



friendly football match witnessing, exuberant learner performances and entitling a day in history of Pakistani sports and with generous real-time interactions of the spectators and guests turned to be a pinnacle for the celebrity spanned event. The European football field legends and their presence in Pakistan brought home an unparalleled level of enthusiasm and inspiration for the spirit of the game and love for football among students and staff.

The Unwavering passion for football among local students, staff, coaches, teachers and community captivated the audience, providing a unique opportunity for students to engage with global sports icons at their campus and to be inspired by the legends themselves. The former players shared their journey, emphasizing the importance of passion, perseverance, and determination in achieving sporting excellence and wellbeing.

English football legend Michael Owen expressed his delight at being at Roots Millennium Future World School and meeting young budding Pakistani students. He was impressed by the energy and talent displayed by the young players of the school football club, highlighting the promising future of football in Pakistan. CEO Millennium Education, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq actualized with his reverberating impact for the need for football for young Pakistanis, he emphasized the need for an inclusive educational philosophy and core ethos of essential and extended learning at schools which not only individual change through sporting within communities. He further signified the importance of beyond the classrooms education and field sports that is now the passion for the rising youth cohorts across Pakistan.

In the field of nurturing sport, opportunity and skill development, the few like Dr. Faisal Mushtaq and Chairman PFL Farhan Junejo are playing pivotal role in unconventional ways of scaling tolerance, patience, acceptance, team building and co-existence for a better world through football and field education.

ITF -PTF Wheelchair Tennis Development Initiative Coaching Camp commenced



Sports Desk

KARACHI: ITF -PTF Wheelchair Tennis Development Initiative Coaching Camp commenced at the Tennis courts of KPT Sports Complex Karachi with the support of Maj Mahmood of Karachi Port Trust Sports Complex.

Month Long coaching Camp which is being held under the Auspices of Pakistan Tennis Federation and under the Umbrella of ITF Wheelchair Tennis department program attracted 17 Wheelchair players from various parts of city.

Ishrat Zehra, Associate Secretary KTA and Salman Karim Mughal are the Coordinators Incharge of KPT Camp 'Waseem Baloch and Zubair Raja is the Coach.

The Camp shall be held on weekends.

One Such Camp shall commence tomorrow at Citizen Gymkhana Mirpurkhas from Tomorrow Sunday 9th June under the supervision of Maj Masroor of Mirpurkhas Tennis Association and active support from Gulistan e Maazoooreen Mirpurkhas and one such Camp at Peshawar Sports Complex under the supervision of KP Tennis Association.

PTF has sent 4 Tennis Wheelchair each for KP and MPK centers beside Tennis rackets and balls.

Sheheryar Khan coach and Umer Ayaz Coordinator for KP and Nawab Muzaffar is the coaches and Mr Jamil rtn is the coordinator for MPK center.

PCB announces international cricketers registered for PSL 9 Draft



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have announced that a total of four hundred and eighty-five international players from 22 nations have registered for the PSL 9 Draft 2024 scheduled to take place on 13 December at the National Cricket Academy, Lahore.

There are 46 players registered in the Platinum category while 76 players have signed up in the Diamond category.

The foreign players roster for the PSL Draft is boosted by the presence of England's Dawid Malan and South Africa's Reeza Hendricks, both of whom feature in the top 10 of the ICC Men's T20I player rankings for batters.

World No. 5 T20I batter Rilee Rossouw was earlier traded to Quetta Gladiators from Multan Sultans.

Sri Lanka spinner Maheesh Theekshana, Afghanistan duo Fazalhaq Farooqi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman and West Indies left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, all ranked among the top 10 T20I bowlers, have made themselves available for the draft.

World No. 2 T20I all-rounder Mohammad Nabi is also a part of the draft. The maximum number of players to register from a foreign country are from England (158).

The next on the list – from full member countries – is West Indies (58), Sri Lanka (40), Afghanistan (36), South Africa (30), Bangladesh (21), New Zealand (18), Australia (16), Zimbabwe (11) and Ireland (nine).

A considerable number of players have also registered from associate member countries.

Some of the prominent players in the Platinum category include Daniel Sams, Ashton Agar (both Australia), Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (all Afghanistan), Ben Duckett, Chris Jordan, David Willey, Dawid Malan, Luke Wood, Reece Topley, Tom Curran, Tymal Mills (all England), Sandeep Lamichhane (Nepal), James Neesham (New Zealand), Rassie van der Dussen, Imran Tahir (both South Africa), Maheesh Theekshana, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Dasun Shanaka (all Sri Lanka), Kieron Pollard, Rovman Powell, Romario Shepherd, Brandon King and Kyle Mayers (all West Indies).

The notable players to feature in Diamond category include Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi (both Afghanistan), Ben McDermott (Australia), Litton Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mahmudullah (all Bangladesh), Dan Lawrence, Gus Atkinson, Jordan Cox, Liam Dawson, Matthew Potts, Ollie Pope, Richard Gleeson, Sam Hain (all England), Tim Seifert, Martin Gupthill, Chad Bowes (all New Zealand), George Linde, Lungi Ngidi, Reeza Hendricks, Wayne Parnell, Sisanda Magala (all South Africa), Dilshan Madushanka, Charith Asalanka, Dushmantha Chameera, Sadeera Samarawickrama (all Sri Lanka), Fabian Allen, Johnson Charles, Rahkeem Cornwall, Roston Chase, Shai Hope, Hayden Walsh (all West Indies)

T20 World Cup 2024: Batters star as Australia set England to chase 202

Sports Desk

BARBADOS: A combined batting effort powered Australia to a massive total of 201/7 against England in the 17th match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 here at Kensington Oval on Saturday.

Put into bat first, the former champions registered a formidable total on the board, courtesy of a flying start provided by their openers Travis Head and David Warner.

Head and Warner smashed the England bowlers from the word go and went on to record a blistering 70-run partnership, which ended on the last delivery of the fifth over when Moeen Ali cleaned up the latter.

Warner struck two fours and four sixes on his way to a 16-ball 39 and top-scored for Australia.

His opening partner Head soon followed him as he fell victim to Jofra Archer in the next over. He scored a quickfire 34 off 18 balls, laced up with



two fours and three sixes.

Skipper Mitchell Marsh then partnered with Glenn Maxwell and carried on the momentum.

The pair added 65 runs for the third

wicket at a brisk rate before both perished in quick succession, bringing Australia's total down to 141/4 in 14.2 overs.

Marsh scored a 25-ball 35 with the help of four boundaries including two

sixes while Maxwell scored an anchoring 28 off 25.

In-form Marcus Stonis then took the reigns of Australia's batting charge and stitched brief partnerships with Tim David (11) and Matthew Wade before walking back to the dugout in the final over.

Stoinis made a vital contribution with a quick 30 off 17 balls, hitting two fours and as many sixes.

Wicketkeeper batter Matthew Wade, however, carried his bat all the way through and returned unbeaten on 17 off 10 deliveries. Chris Jordan was the pick of the bowlers for England, picking up two wickets, while Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Moeen and Archer struck out a batter apiece.

For the unversed, Australia are second in Group B of the T20 World Cup 2024 with two points after one game while defending champions England are placed fourth with one point, owing to a wash-out against Scotland.

Imad Wasim fit and available for India clash: Pakistan head coach Kirsten

A Sports

NEW YORK: Pakistan's white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten shared that all-rounder Imad Wasim is fit and available for the team's blockbuster T20 World Cup 2024 clash against arch-rivals India, scheduled on June 9.

Kirsten addressed the pre-match conference on the eve of the highly-anticipated fixture between arch-rivals Pakistan and India and confirmed Imad Wasim's availability for the big game. He also expressed his hope for a turnaround for the Green Shirts in the tournament.

"Imad Wasim will be available for the match against India," Kirsten confirmed.

"We will make a comeback in tomorrow's match hopefully. I don't like to dwell on the past, we will forget the previous loss [against the USA] and focus on the match [against India] and play excellent cricket," he added.

Kirsten then discussed the nature of the T20s and emphasized the need to improve decision-making to excel in the format.

Just like Indian captain Rohit Sharma, Gary Kirsten asserted that playing



a couple of games at a venue would not benefit a team.

"Things change quickly in T20s, we have to move the decision-making," Kirsten said. "Nobody gets an advantage if a team plays two or four more games here."

Kirsten then went on to share that Pakistan's Playing XI has not been finalized as

of yet as the management is analyzing a few players' fitness.

"We are looking at the fitness of a couple of players so the playing XI has not been decided yet. The players know about [the game of] one another, we will have to play our best game according to the conditions."

For the unversed, Pakistan and India

will lock horns for the eighth time in a T20 World Cup when they square off at the newly-built Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on June 9.

Out of seven matches played thus far between the arch-rivals, India emerged victorious six times while Pakistan tasted triumph only once.

The two teams boast contrasting momentums as India eased past Ireland by eight wickets in the campaign opener while Pakistan succumbed to a humiliating defeat against the USA.

Pakistan squad for T20 World Cup 2024

Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Usman Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Azam Khan, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub.

India squad for T20 World Cup 2024

Rohit Sharma (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Hardik Pandya (vc), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj.

South Africa hold Nigeria for draw in FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier

Sports Desk

UYO: South Africa held Nigeria for a 1-1 draw on Friday at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium to keep the Super Eagles without a victory in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifier.

The stalemate saw Nigeria drop to fourth in Group C with three points from as many matches with South Africa third on four points.

Minnows Lesotho ranked 149th in the world, are top of the Group C standings with five points on the back of a 2-0 win

over Zimbabwe earlier on Friday.

Rwanda are second with four points and a better goal difference than both Benin and South Africa.

Friday's match in the southern Nigerian town of Uyo was a repeat of the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations semi-final in the Ivory Coast, which also ended 1-1 before Nigeria won on penalties.

The hosts started brightly with Paul Onuachu, Ademola Lookman and Benjamin Tanimuh having shots at goal in the first half.

South Africa gradually settled

into the game. A Toboho Mokoena free kick brushed off the crossbar with Nigeria goalkeeper Stanley Nwabali beaten.

The visitors were rewarded in the 29th minute when Themba Zwane took on the Nigerian defence on his own before he fired home the opening goal.

Tanimu came to the rescue of the Super Eagles after 36 minutes, when goalkeeper Stanley Nwabali was beaten by a chipped effort, but the Tanzania-based defender headed to safety.

But Alex Iwobi teed up Fisayo

Dele-Bashiru for the equaliser after the break as Bafana Bafana often tore through the Nigerian defence.

Both sides had their chances to break the deadlock in the second half.

South Africa continued to pour forward, but Elias Mokwana failed to finish off another sleek attacking move while visiting goalkeeper Ronwen Williams cleared an Onuachu header.

And Williams denied Atalanta forward Lookman in stoppage time when he turned away a goal-bound effort for a corner.



Defence relations between Pakistan and Qatar

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Chief of Staff Qatari Armed Forces Lt Gen Salem Bin Hamad Bin Aqeel Al Nabit during official visit to Qatar.



CNS Naveed Ashraf and Qatari military leaders hold maritime security talks

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf engaged in pivotal discussions with Qatari military leaders during his visit to Qatar on Saturday, focusing on strengthening regional maritime security and bilateral naval cooperation.

During his visit, Admiral Ashraf met with the Qatari Forces Chief of Staff and the Commander of the Qatari Emiri Naval Forces (QENF). Their discussions encompassed a wide range of topics, including defence relations, bilateral naval cooperation, mutual interests, and regional maritime security.

Admiral Ashraf's itinerary included visits to key Qatari naval institutions such as the Mohammed bin Ghanim Al Ghanim Naval Acade-

my, the Umm Al Houal Naval Base, and several Qatari Emiri Navy ships. He received detailed briefings on the capabilities of the Qatari Navy, highlighting the advanced state of their maritime operations.

In these meetings, Admiral Ashraf underscored the critical role of the Pakistan Navy in maintaining regional maritime peace and stability, particularly through its active participation in the Combined Maritime Forces. The Qatari authorities expressed their appreciation for the Pakistan Navy's efforts in ensuring the security of the region's maritime domains.

The visit by the Chief of Naval Staff is expected to significantly bolster defence relations between Pakistan and Qatar, particularly in naval cooperation.

MNA Romina Khurshid Alam calls for global action to fight ocean pollution

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam said that as the world celebrates World Ocean Day, the present government has firmly reaffirmed its commitment to the global efforts for preserving and protecting marine ecosystems in the country and anywhere in the world.

In a press statement issued here on Saturday, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam said that this year's theme, "Ocean: Life and Livelihoods," very much resonates deeply with Pakistan's coastal communities, whose lives and livelihoods are intricately connected with the health and sustainability of the oceans.

She said that as a coastal nation, Pakistan is committed to playing its part in advancing marine conservation efforts.

"As a nation with a rich maritime heritage, we recognise the vital role that oceans play in supporting life on Earth, regulating our climate, and providing resources that sustain livelihoods," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

The initiatives of Mangroves restoration in Pakistan has resulted in 300% increase of mangroves since 1992, which drew global appreciation for the government's conser-



vation efforts, the PM's coordinator highlighted.

Through initiatives such as marine protected areas, community-based conservation projects such as national mangroves restoration initiative, and public awareness campaigns, the present government was striving to safeguard our oceans and promote their sustainable use, she highlighted.

She also said that the present government was very much aware of the national and global environmental and climate change-related challenges facing the oceans and efforts are being made to address marine pollution, promote sustainable fisheries management, and conserve marine biodiversity.

Pakistan is blessed with a resource-rich coastline of about 1,046 kilometers along the Arabia sea, which harbours a diverse array of marine life and ecosystems. From the bustling ports of Karachi to the tranquil shores of Gwadar, Pakistan's coastal areas are not only vital hubs of economic activity but also rich reservoirs of unique biodiversity of global repute.

PM visits historical Chinese Terracotta Warriors Museum in Xi'an

Spokesman Report

XI'AN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by the Pakistani delegation visited the historical site of China, Terracotta Warriors Museum on Saturday. The visit was part of an invitation extended by the Chinese President Xi Jinping to the prime minister to visit the museum in his hometown, Xi'an.

During the visit the prime minister and the delegation were briefed on the preservation and restoration of historical heritage and the promotion of tourism.

PM Shehbaz, who is on a five-day official visit to China, visited various sections of the museum and commended the beauty of ancient Chinese heritage and



the skill of Chinese artisans.

"Great nations protect and take care of their historical

assets like the Chinese do", he said adding that the skill of the Chinese craftsmen of 200 BC was admirable. The prime minister also appreciated the Chinese government's efforts in preserving and restoring the historical site saying that Pakistan was also rich in historical and cultural heritage.

He said the government would also restore and promote its own historical sites as tourist destinations. He also thanked the President Xi for inviting him to visit the museum. Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ataulah Tarar, Dr Musadik Malik, Sardar Awaiz Khan Leghari, Rana Tanveer Hussain also accompanied the prime minister during the visit.

China Invests In Artificial Intel. Science & Tech., Modern Agriculture

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The visit of the Prime Minister and Federal Ministers to China is going on for investment in various sectors and the promotion of bilateral trade activities. Federal Minister for Investment Board, Communications & Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Saturday held an important session with China's 60-year-old CZK Huarui Group. In these negotiations attended by the delegation from Pakistan it was decided by high

ups of China business group to invest in Pakistan in Artificial Intelligence, Science & Technology, Modern Agriculture, Healthcare, Logistics, Infrastructure while expertise will be made in supply chain market sectors. It was also on the main agenda to enhance E Commerce in Pakistan through cooperation of China which is the dire need of the hour. Federal Minister of Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan assured the Chinese Authorities of providing a favorable and congenial environment in Pakistan and



said that as neighbors' trade relations like China and Pakistan are of great importance in the region which has posi-

Beijing also held a meeting with the Federal Minister of Investment Board, Communications and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed with him the investment opportunities in various sectors. Pakistan Steel Mills and field of Iron came under discussion in this meeting. Senior Advisor to Chairman Donghua Group Ms. Luo Shu briefed Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan on the possibilities of investment in Pakistan by her organization and discussed bilateral trade issues.

Journalists' body to 'approach' UN against Defamation law

News Desk

LAHORE: The Joint Action Committee announced a joint struggle against the 'controversial' Defamation Bill, hinting at approaching human rights organizations including the United Nations (UN) against the law, ARY News reported.

All journalist organisations including the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Broadcasting Agency (PBA), and Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) attended the meeting.

In the meeting, it was decided to take various protest measures, including boycotting government events, national and provincial assembly sessions, and budget coverage.

The joint action committee also decided to consult with human rights organisations including the UN, bar councils, and other political parties to take effective legal action against what it called the controversial law.

Including Israel on the "blacklist" is a step in the right direction towards achieving long-awaited justice for our people: Palestine

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates welcomes the United Nations decision to include Israel, the occupying power, on the "blacklist" of children's rights violators, and considers it a step in the right direction towards holding the occupation accountable for its crimes against our people and achieving long-awaited justice.

The Ministry affirms that the absence of international accountability for Israel and its continued impunity over the past years has encouraged it to persist in committing more violations and crimes against the Palestinian people, including the systematic and widespread targeting of children, and has also provided it

with the appropriate environment to disavow all international laws and resolutions.

The Ministry affirms that the time has come for international efforts to join forces to provide protection for the children of Palestine and stop their deliberate targeting by the occupation authorities, and stresses in this regard that raising the voice of international justice and ending the abhorrent double standards in applying international law and international legitimacy resolutions, and putting an end to the crime of genocide committed by The occupying authority has the right to the Palestinian people, achieving their aspirations for freedom, independence, and self-determination, and embodying their independent state with East

Jerusalem as its capital, is the only way to enable the children of Palestine to live in security and peace on their land.

In this context, the Ministry calls on all countries to assume their responsibilities and review their relations with the occupation authorities, linking them to the extent of their commitment to international law, international legitimacy resolutions and human rights principles, and to exert real pressure on them to stop their destructive war on the Gaza Strip and their attacks and their colonizers' militias on citizens in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and raising its positions to the level of the heinous crimes against which Palestinian civilians are exposed.

US envoy to move to Karachi after having 'mazydar' food

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A combination of three photos show US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome having food at a restaurant in Karachi's famous Burns Road. Pictures via Facebook/US Consulate General Karachi

United States Ambassador Donald Blome has decided to move to Karachi from Islamabad after having his best food in Pakistan.

"So far the best meal, I've had in Pakistan, honestly. I have made a decision. This is I didn't know about this before, but I've decided I'm going to move to Karachi. Yeah, I'm coming down here, and I am going to stay," he said in the video uploaded on the US Consulate General Karachi page on Saturday.

He had visited the city's famous food street, the Burns Road.

Blome had a barbecue, nihari,



in the main course at the famous Waheed House. The delicious taste prompted him to say: Mazydar Hai.

He cannot resist saying karak tea after having tea from a local hotel. After the spicy food, he had rabri and falooda at the Delhi Rabri House.

Karachi is known for its wide variety of foods.

Last year, the city hosted the first International Burns Road Food Festival. The area was developed into a food street by the city government owing to its rich food menu.

IPTI founder's behaviour major ...

Continued from Page 1

jangla bus, destroyed the country. We said farewell to the IMF, they brought it back again," Nawaz Sharif said.

Imran defends his controversial ...

Continued from Page 1

objectives was to prevent the repetition of the mistakes that led to the 1971 war and the creation of Bangladesh.

Khan stated that the commission held former President Yahya Khan responsible for actions taken to extend his own rule, which contributed to the catastrophic events.

Khan acknowledged that in the past, he had compared Nawaz Sharif

to Mujibur Rahman when referring to the Hamoodur Rahman Commission report. However, he explained that he had not read the report at that time. Khan stated that he has now read the report while in jail.

He praised the members of the PTI's social media team, calling them "heroes". He stated that he would only answer questions from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) team regarding the controversial tweet in the presence of his legal team.