

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ایسویں نبی بشری رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا
کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے تاکر ایک
مجلس دو سرے شخص کی تعریف کر رہا ہے
اور تعریف میں بہت مبالغہ سے کام لے رہا
تو نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ تم
نے اسے ہلک کر دیلایا تو فرمایا کہ تم نے
اس شخص کی کو کوزہ دیا۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6060)

Barkat Rice Mills
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Donald Trump breaks silence on his VP pick, suggests candidates

As November is nearing with no official announcement of the Republican nomination of vice president, former US commander-in-chief Donald Trump dropped some hints Thursday about who could be his running mate in the 2024 elections. Trump, 78, told Fox News: "I have sort of a pretty good idea."



PM announces to reduce petrol price by Rs 10.20 per liter

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, following the reduction in electricity prices for industries, has announced a significant cut in petrol and diesel prices by Rs 10.20 per liter and Rs 2.33 per liter respectively. Earlier on June 1, the government had announced to cut the petrol price by Rs 4.74 per liter while that of High Speed Diesel (HSD) by Rs 3.86 per liter, a PM office press release said on Friday.

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Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of an International Consultancy Firm called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: PID

PM for consultation with renowned firms to realize investment agreements with friendly countries

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday instructed the relevant authorities to hold consultation with the globally reputed consultancy firms to realize the investment agreements with the friendly countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of an international consultancy firm headed by former State Bank Governor Raza Baqir, also directed for consultation with the reputed firms to reduce the volume of government infrastructure and enhance effectiveness of the governance system.

He told the delegation that there existed a huge potential for investment in minerals and energy sectors.

Appreciating the key role of the private sector in national economic development, the prime minister assured of all-out facilitation by the government for economic revival.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Dr Musaddik Malik, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Awais Ahmed Leghari, ministers of state Ali Pervaiz Malik and Shaza Fatima Khawaja and relevant senior officials attended the meeting.

Govt extended maximum relief to poor people: Ali Pervaiz



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Friday that the Federal Government had extended maximum relief to poor people in the budget 2024-25 despite limited resources. "Taxes have not changed, rather a noose has been tightened around non-filers to bring them into the tax net," he told a private news channel.

Ali Malik said the finance minister, in his budget speech, had stressed the need for reforms in the home-grown economic programme.

Highlighting the key features of the federal budget, the minister said the jump in the stock market was the result of prudent economic policies introduced by the incumbent government.

To a query, he dispelled the impression that the International Monetary Fund had compelled the government to increase taxes on the salaried class.

Sindh Budget 2024-25: Govt proposes hike in sales tax

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government proposed a two percent increase in the standard rate of Sindh Sales Tax (SST) as Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah who also holds finance portfolio presented Rs 3.056 trillion provincial budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Presenting the budget, the chief minister said that a 2 percent increase was proposed in the SST, however, the exemptions and reduced rates of SST, would remain effective.

"To promote digitalisation in the economy, it was proposed to reduce SST rate to 8 percent for the restaurant services involving



customers' payments through digital means like debit/credit card, mobile wallet, QR Scanning, etc. For promoting the Telecom services which pay high rate of 19.5 percent SST but utilize input items paying Federal Sales Tax of up to 18 percent (which

was previously 17 percent), it is proposed to allow them the input tax credit of up to 18 percent instead of 17 percent as at present," the chief minister said.

The Sindh government announced to provide solar panels to 2.6 million households

free of cost across the province.

The chief minister said that the allocation of Rs 25 billion over five years will be directed towards distributing solar home systems, and promoting clean energy access.

"We will provide free solar systems as per the of the Pakistan People's Party," he added.

Mazdoor Card

The chief minister said that a Rs. 5 billion has been earmarked for welfare program to provide support for labourers through the Mazdoor Card. He said that to ensure social upward mobility, the budget allocated Rs. 11 billion to agriculture, Rs. 12 billion for social protection, Rs. 3.2 billion for Universities & Board, Rs.

2 billion for Housing & Town Planning, and Rs. 1.5 billion for DEPD.

Increase in salaries

CM Murad Ali Shah proposed a 25 percent increase in salaries of employees in BPS-7 to BPS-16 and a 22 percent rise in salaries of officers in BPS-17 to BPS-22.

The chief minister also announced to increase pension of Sindh government's retired employees 15 percent.

He also proposed a 15 percent increase in pensions and the minimum wage from Rs35,550 to Rs37,000.

CM Murad Ali Shah said that the total outlay of the budget for the province is estimated at Rs3.056 trillion.

Maximum steps being taken for welfare of media community: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the government was taking all possible steps for welfare of the media community.

Addressing a ceremony regarding launch of the health insurance scheme for the journalists, the minister said the government had been playing its due role for the welfare of journalists community and he had personally requested the prime minister to take more initiatives in that regard.



The minister requested the All Pakistan News-

papers Society (APNS) to give due rights of the media workers and journalists. He had spoken to the owners of media organizations in that regard, and it was his desire cheques pertaining to outstanding dues should be distributed among the journalists directly instead of through the Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees (ITNE) platform.

He said after assuming charge as information minister, he ensured clearance of the outstanding dues of media organizations on priority.

He said former information minister Marri-

yum Aurangzeb had taken the initiative of health insurance scheme, and he was carrying forward it.

"Some 5,000 journalists will be provided will be provided medical cover in the first phase and 10,000 more in the second phase," he added.

Rs 1 billion, the minister said, had been allocated for the project in the budget.

He said he had requested the Principal Information Officer to add those who died of unnatural causes, in the insurance package so that financial assistance should be provided to their families as well.

FBR offices to remain open on June 22-23 for tax collection

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Friday said that all its offices would remain open on June 22-23 (Saturday and Sunday) for tax collection.

According to FBR notification, all its Large Taxpayers' Offices (LTOs), Medium Taxpayers' Office (MTO), Corporate Tax Offices (CTOs) and Regional Tax Offices (RTOs) would remain open to facilitate the collection of duties and taxes, ensuring a smooth and efficient process for taxpayers.

PTI backtracks on talks offer with ruling coalition

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has withdrawn its earlier offer to hold talks with the government coalition, which includes the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party, and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan.

At a press conference in Islamabad on

Friday, PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan clarified that Khan had told them that there was no situation like that.

Earlier this week, PTI Chairman Gohar Ali Khan stated that party founder Imran Khan had given the green light for the party to engage in dialogue with the government. This came after the Supreme Court had observed that the PTI should initiate talks with the government to

resolve its issues through parliamentary discussions.

But the PTI took a "U-turn" on its statement.

Hasan stated that Khan has demanded that the three coalition parties first provide a "letter of authorisation from their sponsors and patrons" to demonstrate their actual authority to negotiate with the PTI.

The PTI maintains its stance that the

incumbent government was a "mandate usurper" and that its members are mere "mummies and dummies" whose actions are controlled by external forces. He reiterated the former prime minister's directive that the party has "no intention to negotiate with these three political parties at any stage."

Opposition Leader in the National

Continued on Page 8

Saraikistan National Council protests against neglect of Wasib in federal, provincial budgets

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Saraikistan National Council protested against the neglect of Saraiki Wasib in the federal and provincial budgets, loud slogans were raised against the rulers, demand to share Saraiki Wasib according to the population. Protest in



Dharija Nagar Near Khanpur. Addressing the protest demonstration Chairman of the Saraikistan National Council, Zahoor Ahmed Dharija, said that in the federal and provincial budgets, nothing but lollipops was given to Saraiki Wasib, for the last 10 years, only two small projects have been given to satisfy the thirst of Wasib. has reserved everything for Lahore and Islamabad, he questioned whether only Lahore and Islamabad are named Pakistan?? He said that the budget should be withdrawn im-

mediately and a new budget should be made and a separate portion should be given to Saraiki Wasib, otherwise there will be a protest in the entire Wasib. Zahoor Dharija said that one Lolha Langra Civil Secret of Wasib is also being eliminated while five Chief Minister Houses have been built in

Lahore and billions are spent. He said that the biggest problem at the moment is lack of water and increase in population. No attention has been given to these problems in the federal and provincial budgets. Reject that no money has been allocated for Tax Free Industrial Zone Khanpuro Multan

Cadet Colleges, Universities and Wasib Shahrat, Saraiki Wasib needs half the budget according to the population. Zahoor Dharija said that people are dying of thirst in Cholistan, Maryam Nawaz has increased her discretionary fund by Rs. 45,000 posts have been eliminated, which is absolute cruelty. They will not take the province of Saraikistan and will not remain silent. In the protest, Amin Khan Jamali, Wazir Khan Jamali, Hoshu Sheedi, Latif Khan Jamali, Khurshid Dharija, Zafar Khan, Baba Hameed Hanif Dharija, Ghulam Abbas Khan Jamali, Asad Dharija, Usman Dharija, Saleem Dharija, Mianullah Rakha Khan, Rashid Shabbir Dharija, MP Dharija, Nasir Hassan Dharija, Zeeshan Dharija, Adnan Dharija, Kamran Dharija, Aslam Khan Jamali, Attaullah Dharija, Munir Khan Jamali and others participated.

Going to hometowns

KARACHI: Passengers carry their luggage as they arrive at the railway station before their departure for their hometowns to celebrate the Muslim festival Eid al-Adha.



Photo: Online

SECP officials visit Multan Chambers, discusses companies' regularization scheme

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Additional Joint Registrar Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan Kashif Islam along with Assistant Registrar Iqbal Ghous visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan and met President Mian Rashid Iqbal, Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh on this occasion. Former presidents Khawaja Muhammad Yousuf, Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, Khawaja Muhammad Ali, Naveed Iqbal Chughtai, senior members Muhammad Younis Ghazi,



Syed Saqib Ali, Khawaja Mansoor, Secretary General Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Muhammad Shafiq and others were present. Informed the Additional Joint Registrar and also gave suggestions while emphasizing

the need for their solution. The companies are registered, he said that the government has launched the Companies Regularization Scheme 2024, which will be effective from June 15 to September 15, 2024,

while under Section 424, if the company is not working, it can be inactive, for which a certificate is also required upon application. is issued whereas the company can be activated by submitting the documents to activate the

company again. Companies not submitting returns under the Companies Regularization Scheme can submit returns with a one-time fee. Speaker Mian Rashid Iqbal and Senior Vice President Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh while talking said that SECP is providing facilities to the business community. On behalf of the Multan Chamber, the business community and members of the Chamber will be informed to take advantage of the Companies Regularization Scheme 2024 and get their companies regularized before September 15 with a one-time fee.

Hazara University students' Thesis Exhibition in Mansehra showcases their talents

Nasir Ali Tanoli

The three-day Thesis Exhibition organized by the Art and Design Department of Hazara University Mansehra has started. In the exhibition, interior design, communication design prepared by students studying in Bachelor of Design and Bachelor of Fine Arts programs of the said department., clothing, decoration and other works of art including photography are being presented for exhibition. This exhibition is part of the educational activities of the students of Art and Design Department. Hazara University Mansehra Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities Professor Dr. Mujtaba Shah inaugurated the grand exhibition. Professor Dr Ghulam Mujtaba Shah Said I am absolutely thrilled to see the incredible work of students of Haraza University Art & Design at their Thesis Exhibition! The level of creativity, skill, and dedication on display was truly remarkable.



I would also like to express my gratitude to our guests, including Dr. Imrana from Peshawar university and Dr. Zishan from Islamabad, for joining us and sharing their expertise with our students. This exhibition is not just a showcase of our students' work, but also a celebration of the dedication and passion of our faculty members who have guided them every step of the way. Well done, everyone!"

Regards Peshawar University Art and Design Department Chairperson Dr. Umrana and International Islamic University Islamabad Art and Design Department Head Zeeshan were also present on this occasion. More than 250 students of Art and Design Department participated in the exhibition through works of art and abstract art. Expressing their creative activities.

Nurses protest after arrest of staff nurse Aqsa in Khanewal



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Staff and Student Nurses Protest After The Arrest of staff nurse Aqsa in the District Headquarters Hospital of Khanewal, the nurses of Nishtar Hospital and Shabaz Sharif Hospitals Multan protested and Organize Protest Rally. Miss. Saima Yamin Leader Of Young Nurses Association Punjab Said patients faced severe problems, the patients were suffering in the wards, the nurses took out a protest rally at Nishtar Hospital Multan and Government Shehbaz Sharif Hospital and demanded the immediate release of Aqsa and the dismissal of CEO Health Khanival. It was said that staff nurse Aqsa was arrested like a terrorist from her hostel on the issue of the death of three children in Khanewal District Headquarter Hospital. Leader Of Young Nurses Association Punjab Saima Yamin Further Said which is a very despicable act. while the prescription is always written by the doctor and it is the job of the nurse to give the injection according to the prescription and if the injection which caused the death of the children was right, then why was it banned because the doctor who gave it The hospital pharmacist who prescribed the injection and the company that manufactured and supplied the injection was arrested without any guilt to save all the characters. Nurses Leader Saima Yamin said that nurses are Working For humanity.

Mian Bakhsh Urs Mubarak underway at Khari Shaheed Mirpur

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: The two-day celebrations of the annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Mian Muhammad Bakhsh, the great Sufi poet of the subcontinent and the author of Saiful Muluk, have started at Khari Shaheed Mirpur. On Thursday, after Maghrib prayers, Hazrat Mian Muhammad Bakhsh was bathed and chard poshi ceremony was held. Shah, Administrator Awqaf Sardar Muhammad Shafiq, Divisional Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik, Tehsildar Imran Yusuf, Deputy Administrator Awqaf Shafiqur Rahman Dar, Khatib Jama Masjid Qadar Sharif Allama Muhammad Zubair Ahmad Naqshbandi, Mian Muhammad Afzal of Darbar Qadar, Babu Muhammad Siddique, Raja Muhammad Arif, Assistant Administrator Awqaf Zaharuddin Babar, Councilor Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Councilor Javed Sanola, Radio News Editor Akhtar Saleem, Manager Awqaf Muhammad Idris Mughal, Energy Minister PRO Dr. Muhammad Maruf, SCO Media Advisor Chaudhry Jahangir. Apart from Shahzad, hundreds of people participated. Durbar Sharif was bathed with rose water. Flowers and wreaths were placed on the shrine and the seniors will pray for the elevation of the religious ranks, the stability of Pakistan, the security and the early liberation of Occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan's Begging Dilemma

The Print reported in 2024 that more than 4 lac beggars moved to Karachi merely during the Holy month of Ramzan. The beggary system, a phenomenon having deep socioeconomic and cultural roots, is an ongoing concern in Pakistan, it does not reflect the nation's economic inequalities and inefficiencies but also poses significant challenges to social welfare and urban administration.

Beggaring has a long history in South Asian societies, where charity was seen in both pre-Islamic and Islamic cultures as a noble deed. But what was formerly intermittent and accepted in culture has now become a widespread socioeconomic problem. Over the decades, rapid urbanization, population growth, and economic challenges have contributed to the proliferation of beggary in Pakistan, now it becomes a profession rather than a necessity for pickpocketing in the name of poverty and Muslim-brotherhood.

According to Dawn, there are an estimated 38 million beggars out of 245 million of Pakistan's population. On average, a beggar in Karachi collects around Rs2,000 per-day, compared to Rs1,400 in Lahore and Rs950 in Islamabad. The national daily average stands at Rs850 per beggar. Another recent report reveals that these beggars collectively extract Rs32 billion daily in the name of charitable donations from the public pocket. It amounts to a shocking Rs117 trillion annually, which is approximately \$42 billion. Additionally, the Overseas Ministry of Pakistan has reported that a significant number of beggars are moving abroad. In 2023, 90% of beggars arrested in foreign countries had identified as Pakistani origin.

The Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24 reported that the unemployment rate in Pakistan stands at 6.3% in 2024, with an unemployment population of 4.51 million that is significantly higher. Moreover, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), reported in May 2024

that the inflation rate soared to over 11.8%, however it is only documented but the real figure is extensively high. Similarly, this ratio was the highest recorded 29.18% in 2023 making it difficult for many households to survive. These economic conditions provide fertile ground for the enhancement of the beggary system in the country.

A survey conducted by the Punjab government in 2021 estimated that there are over 10,000 beggars in Lahore alone, with similar numbers reported in other major cities. This data highlights the extensive reach of the issue, affecting not just the individuals directly involved but the broader urban population as well.

Beggary system complicates urban management and planning. Public spaces like parks, markets, mosques, shrines, and transportation hubs often

become hotspots for beggars, affecting the usability and attractiveness of these areas. Beggars are frequently treated with a mixture of contempt and sympathy that lead them to be further marginalized. This humiliation impedes efforts



Analysis

Asadullah Mahesar

to integrate them into society and address their underlying issues, while beggary itself does not significantly strain the economy. Additionally, the presence of organized begging syndicates diverts potential economic contributions from more productive activities.

Various initiatives have been undertaken by the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address beggary. Pakistan Baitul Mal was established in 1992 to alleviate poverty through various initiatives, including providing support to the destitute, widows, orphans, individuals

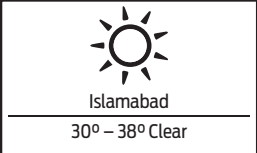
with disabilities, and other vulnerable members of society. Laws such as the Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance (1958) and the Sindh Children Act (1955) exist but are often inadequately enforced. Insincerity, corruption and lack of resources hinder effective implementation to prevent such activities. In Punjab, the government has established Child Protection Bureaus to rescue child beggars and provide them with education and psychological support. These institutions work in collaboration with law enforcement agencies to dismantle begging organizations that exploit children.

Similarly, the government has established rehabilitation centres and vocational training programs aimed at reintegrating beggars into society. However, these efforts are often unsuccessful due to inadequate funds and poor administration. Moreover, numerous NGOs work to provide food, shelter, education, and healthcare to beggars. But unfortunately, they are unsuccessful in eradicating the

course of the beggary system from society. It has been observed that the state does not have serious intention to eliminate such a curse from society because the state itself has benefited from such activities.

To address these challenges, a multi-faceted approach is required such as enhancing the capacity and integrity of law enforcement agencies to demolish organized begging networks and enforce existing laws. Implementing policies to reduce unemployment and inflation and expanding social safety gains to support vulnerable populations. Allocating more resources to rehabilitation programs and ensuring their proper management and accountability. Educating the public about the negative impacts of giving money directly to beggars and encouraging donations to reputable charities instead.

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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:08 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:20 pm
Isha	9:03 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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
DHO	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Convict sentenced to 9 years in prison for drugs peddling

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A Control of Narcotics Substance Court (CNS) sentenced nine-year imprisonment and imposed fine to an accused involved in a drug peddling case. The accused Muhammad Musthan son of Hakmat Khan was arrested by Rango Police in the case registered under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997 after recovery of hashish from his custody in 2023. The Judge after hearing the arguments of defense and prosecution counsels announced the verdict as the convicted was found guilty of having drugs, subsequently awarded nine-year imprisonment and fine worth Rs 80 thousand. During the proceedings, the public prosecutor for the state argued that the accused was caught red-handed while smuggling the contraband and the evidence on record fully connected him with the commission of the offence. He maintained that the accused was charged for a heinous offence and he did not deserve any leniency. #

FPCCI supports the Finance Minister's efforts to promote IT

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Convener of the FPCCI Standing Committee on IT, known IT exporter and Chief of Viper Group, Khushnood Aftab, has lauded the Federal Finance Minister for laying emphasis on the development of the IT sector.

He said that the Finance Minister recognizing the importance of the IT industry and focusing on digitizing Pakistan's economy is a very positive sign.

Speaking to the business community, he stated that the Finance Bill 2024 contains several measures that will affect Pakistan's IT sector that require correction.

Khushnood Aftab said that the tax burden has been increased on salaried employees, especially those earning Rs 50,000 or more per month. Such measures could lead to the migration of talent and skilled professionals to other countries.

He added that individuals will look for opportunities abroad to avoid high taxes, which will reduce the capacity for innovation and growth in the local IT sector.



He stated that the hike in the tax on IT hardware from 5 percent to 10 percent will raise the cost of technology in this industry, thereby driving up the production costs of IT companies.

Mr. Aftab emphasized that high business costs will hinder local companies' ability to compete both locally and internationally, and the current 18% tax on assembly parts discourages local assembly.

This decision will increase dependence on imported assembled products, decreasing local manufacturing and employment opportunities, he said.

He added that despite the budget's allocation of 79 billion rupees for government projects and IT parks, which is a good thing, these projects do not prioritize the private sector.

While the involvement of private sector will remain limited, it will also limit innovation and efficiency, he said, adding that private sector involvement is critical to developing a vibrant and competitive IT system.

The government should announce tax relief and incentives for professionals to benefit the best minds and talented youth in the country.

The government will establish IT parks through public-private partnerships, which will bring much-needed investment to this promising sector.

He emphasized that by making IT parks more dynamic and growth-friendly, we can compete in the global market by retaining talent.

Non filer

RAWALPINDI: A vendor is selling mango on his pushcart at Murree road in the city.



Photo: Online

AIOU celebrates outstanding achievements

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has secured first position among 91 universities in Pakistan and seventh position among 2175 universities worldwide in the SDG4 (Quality Education) impact ranking released by Times Higher Education for the year 2024.

This reflects our special focus on enhancing the quality of education," expressed the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, while addressing the ceremony celebrating the honor of ranking in educational quality. The Vice-Chancellor directed ORIC and other relevant departments to intensify efforts to advance in the SDG targets where we are lagging and to maintain the positions we have achieved.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood further emphasized that now the university will give



special attention to promoting a culture of research to achieve excellence in this field as well.

He instructed the heads of service departments to provide more facilities to students so that they do not face any issues in acquiring education.

Dr. Saima Nasir, Additional Director

Research, Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization, gave a detailed presentation on achieving positions in quality education, stating that last year the university ranked 25th among 1304 universities in the world in quality education, while this year it has secured the 7th position among 2175 universities.

Moving from 25th to 7th position in one year is the result of the efforts of the Office and the recent initiatives by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood to enhance the quality of education. The participants of the ceremony congratulated Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood and Dr. Saima Nasir on achieving first and seventh positions in the ranking of educational quality. The event was attended by all the four deans, professors, and principal officers of the university. At the end of the ceremony, a cake was cut to celebrate.

Al Khidmat Anwar Nazir Hospital weekly sugar camp inaugurated



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Al Khidmat Anwar Nazir Hospital Weekly Sugar Free Camp was inaugurated by Mr. Rashid Munir, Chief Executive of AA Chemicals. And Medical Superintendent Dr. Muhammad Rafiq was also present. He made a detailed visit to the hospital and reviewed all the facilities in the hospital and inquired about the well-being of the patients who came to the hospital. Speaking on this occasion, he appreciated the importance, quality and efficiency of this welfare project of Al-Khidmat Foundation. The chief guest was told that the hospital is prioritizing the free treatment of deserving and needy people through dozens of free campuses, in which specialist doctors see the patients, while in general, all the facilities of the hospital are being provided at a very low rate. are Rashid Munir appreciated the dedication of the hospital management and assured full cooperation from his institution.

Zindigi 2.0: introduces freelancers account with an option of foreign currency account

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Zindigi, the digital banking initiative of JS Bank, has launched its game changing Zindigi 2.0 upgrade. This major App design revamp is set to take a significant position in the world of financial management apps, reaffirming Zindigi's spot as the ultimate all-in-one finance app. The revamped interface offers a sleek, sophisticated design that enhances user engagement and simplifies interactions within the App. The redesign is attending to the changing needs & preferences of Zindigi's growing 5 million+ customer base. This customer-centric approach is a testament to Zindigi's commitment to provide best in class financial service experiences. Zindigi 2.0 offers a contemporary, minimalist, intuitive yet familiar App experience for Gen Z and Millennials.

Meena M. Khan, Chief Product Officer Stated, at Zindigi 'everything we do is to make things 'simple' for our customers. We have been researching, listening to our customers, and analyzing App data points to formulate our redesign strategy. We are now thrilled to share the outcome, Zindigi 2.0 is 'Simply Lit' making App navigation & product discovery easy & pleasant for our amazing set of customers'.

From freelancers to investors, Zindigi 2.0 provides tailored solutions that meet diverse financial needs. This upgrade reaffirms Zindigi's commitment to delivering a cutting-edge, all-in-one finance app that stands out in the market, making it the premier choice for digital banking in Pakistan. By seamlessly integrating innovative features and a user-centric design, Zindigi 2.0 continues to redefine digital banking, transforming the financial landscape of Pakistan and setting a new benchmark for the fintech industry.

Distt admin Attock warns of action against buses overcharging holidaymakers during Eid

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The district administration Attock on Friday has warned transporters against overcharging public transport fares from people going to their hometowns to celebrate Eid with their families.

It is a common feature that with the coming of Eid people go to their hometowns to celebrate the festival with their loved ones. According to the district administration, since drivers of public transport find such occasions like Eid as an opportunity to mint money by taking fares from passengers more than the officially notified fares lists, crackdown has been launched to prevent the exploitation of people who visit their native towns for celebration of Eid.

A team of district administration led by deputy commissioner Rao Atif Raza along with district Police officer (DPO) Sardar Ghias Gull Khan, secretary regional transport authority Zaheer Ahmed Khan, incharge traffic Police, assistant commissioner city Shagfuta Jabeen, Chief officer municipal committee Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan on Friday visited main bus stand on Thursday to ensure the availability of public transport on intercity and inter district routes, drinking water and shed facilities for passengers and ensure implementation of official fare list. On this occasion, the officials also interacted with passenger and inquired from them about fares charged by the transporters.

On this occasion deputy commissioner Rao Atif Razainstructed the transporters and the management of the bus terminals to ensure implementation of the orders in letter and spirit or else strict action would be taken against the violators without any discrimination.

Pakistan offers vast opportunities for foreign investment across multiple sectors: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan with a growing economy offers potential for attractive returns and long-term growth across various sectors to the Spanish corporate sector.

He said this while speaking to a delegation of a Spanish Company, G. M. DEFENSA, dealing in training activities, consulting services and exploring possibilities of business opportunities comprising FRANCISCO GALVAN PRADO, ELOY ARIZA DOMINGO, Shahbaz Muhammad Khatoon and Atif Muhammad Khatoon here at the

Chamber house.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Spain is the world's leading power in the olive oil and table olive sector, food processing and sharing of its expertise in solar and windrower sectors can be a great breakthrough for Pakistan.

He added that Pakistan is an excellent tourism destination, its textile industry and information technology sectors are equally important for Spain and that ICCI will be happy to connect the Spanish companies with Pakistan's premier defence production institution, Defense Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) for joint ventures.

He further said that Spanish investors can explore partnerships in pharmaceutical, sports

sectors by saying that Pakistan also wants to have access to the Latin American market via Spain to explore the business possibilities for the advantage of all the stakeholders.

Franciso Galvan Prado of GM DEFENSA said that an MoU between the Madrid Chamber of Commerce and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry will go a long way in enhancing the close collaboration between the business communities of the two countries and that their firm will play its role for the needful.

Shahbaz Muhammad Khatoon said that they have found Pakistan completely a peaceful, safe and secure country which is the best destination for

investment by saying that Spain is a potential market for Pakistani Rice and fertilizer and that the main objective of their visit is to offer this opportunity to the Pakistani business community.

Former President ICCI Akram Farid apprised the delegation about the investment friendly atmosphere in Pakistan including the tax exemption for ten years for investment in Economic Zones adding that Pakistan is the producer of the best quality rice in the world as well as the Pink Salt, Steel, Marble and Flowers and Spanish corporate sector can derive benefit by importing the products.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan has a lot



of good-will for Spain because both are connected through a shared history. He said that Pakistan is spending huge foreign exchange on the import of palm oil and that by producing olive

oil with the help of Spain will usher a revolution in its agriculture sector.

ICCI Vice President Azhar-ul-Islam Zafar, Khalid Chaudhry, Ch. Mohammad Ali, Rizwan

Chheena, Shaikh Mohammad Ejaz, Jamshaid Akhtar Shaikh, Malik Nadeem Akhtar and Nasir Mahmood, Javaid Malik of Star marketing were also present on the occasion.

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Politics of Captain - III

Clean politics also promotes fair representation of diverse voices and interests within society. By minimizing the influence of money, power, and vested interests, it allows for a level playing field where all citizens, regardless of their background or affiliations, have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and have their voices heard. Clean politics is essential for effective governance and policymaking. When politicians prioritize the common good over personal gain or party politics, they can focus on addressing pressing issues, formulating evidence-based policies, and delivering results that benefit society as a whole. A pristine political environment fosters social cohesion and harmony by mitigating polarization, divisiveness, and distrust within society. When political discussions are conducted with civility, respect, and integrity, it cultivates a sense of unity and shared objectives, facilitating collaborative efforts towards common aspirations. Clean politics bolsters a nation's standing on the international stage. Countries that uphold democratic principles, the rule of law, and transparency in their political frameworks are regarded more favorably by the global community, attracting investment, nurturing diplomatic ties, and fostering cooperation on global challenges.

Imran Khan and his associates exhibit scant regard for Pakistan's institutions, prioritizing their own brand of politics over the nation's welfare. Respecting these institutions is imperative for the functionality of a robust democracy. It signifies a dedication to the tenets of democratic governance, the rule of law, and constitutionalism. When both citizens and leaders honor the authority and independence of institutions, they play a pivotal

role in upholding democratic principles and ensuring the balance of power within the government. Imran Khan and his associates have a track record of refusing to accept defeat. In the high-stakes realm of politics, where victories are celebrated and losses are often met with disappointment and resentment, the ability to gracefully accept defeat is a rare and admirable trait. While experiencing defeat in an election or facing rejection at the polls can be humbling, it also presents an opportunity for politicians to demonstrate resilience, humility, and sportsmanship. Imran Khan frequently cites examples of the excellent systems in the West but disregards the positive examples set by Western politicians. There are numerous inspiring instances worldwide of politicians who have openly and wholeheartedly accepted defeat, serving as powerful examples for their peers and constituents alike.

In one of the most fiercely contested and controversial elections in recent American history, Al Gore narrowly lost the presidency to George W. Bush in the 2000 U.S. presidential election. Despite the contentious nature of the race and the prolonged legal disputes that ensued, Gore exhibited remarkable composure and statesmanship in conceding defeat. In his concession speech, Gore underscored the importance of national unity and respect for the democratic process, urging Americans to come together and support the incoming administration. His gracious acceptance of defeat garnered widespread admiration and solidified his reputation as a statesman.

Following a turbulent tenure as Prime

Minister of the United Kingdom marked by political upheaval and deadlock over Brexit, Theresa May announced her resignation in May 2019. Despite facing criticism and confronting significant challenges during her time in office, May delivered a dignified resignation speech in which she acknowledged her shortcomings and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve her country. Despite the disappointment of relinquishing her position, May embraced the outcome with humility and committed to continue serving her constituents as a Member of Parliament.

In a remarkable upset during the 2016 U. S. presidential election, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee, was defeated by Donald Trump in a contest that defied poll predictions and conventional wisdom. Despite the disappointment of her loss, Clinton delivered a concession speech urging her supporters to accept the outcome and afford Trump the opportunity to lead. While acknowledging the pain and disillusionment experienced by her supporters, Clinton stressed the significance of respecting the democratic process and striving for a peaceful transition of power. Her graciousness and generosity in defeat garnered praise from across the political spectrum. In September 2014, Scotland held a referendum on independence from the United Kingdom, with then-First Minister Alex Salmond spearheading the campaign for Scottish independence. Despite an arduous campaign and fervent support for independence, the referendum ultimately ended in victory for the "No" campaign, with 55% of voters opting to remain part of the UK. In his

concession speech, Salmond accepted the referendum's outcome with dignity and urged his supporters to honor the Scottish people's verdict. While expressing disappointment at the result, Salmond underscored the importance of unity and collaboration in moving forward. These instances serve as poignant reminders of the significance of gracefully accepting defeat in politics. By demonstrating humility, resilience, and sportsmanship in the face of loss, politicians can set a positive example for their constituents and contribute to a culture of respect and civility in public life. In a world often marked by division and polarization, the ability to accept defeat graciously is a rare and commendable trait deserving of recognition and emulation.

Captain & Co seek respect while showing disrespect to others. Within the intricate fabric of human interactions, the principle of "give respect and take respect" stands as a timeless guideline for nurturing mutual understanding, cooperation, and harmony. Rooted in the belief that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and consideration, this principle serves as the foundation of healthy relationships, both interpersonal and societal. By embracing the reciprocity of respect, individuals can foster a culture of empathy, civility, and mutual regard, enriching society with kindness and understanding.

Indeed, Captain & Co have greatly disappointed the people of Pakistan. Their actions, offensive language, ego, and hostility towards the people and institutions of Pakistan have led to a decline in their popularity. The citizens of the country have discerned their ulterior motives and have rejected them. Captain & Co should reassess their attitudes and prioritize the state and its dignity over their politics.



Abdul Basit Alvi

Israel blocking Gaza food aid deliveries

Escalating Israeli attacks and the resulting fighting in the south and centre of Gaza makes it near-impossible for humanitarians to deliver desperately needed food aid, the deputy chief of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Carl Skau, said Friday at the end of a two-day mission to the enclave.

"Driving through Gaza City to Jabalia, the destruction is unbelievable. In the North of Gaza, I didn't see one single building intact and there was constant shelling with drones buzzing overhead," Skau, WFP's Deputy Executive Director, said.

"The people here are traumatized and exhausted. One woman who had lost her husband told me this war has been going on for 250 days - but to her it felt like 250 years."

"With lawlessness born out of desperation inside Gaza now hampering deliveries from the Kerem Shalom crossing, and active conflict spreading in the southern and middle areas, WFP staff are finding it close to impossible to deliver sufficient aid to meet the growing needs.

"It is getting harder to do our job," Skau said. "Staff spend five to eight hours waiting at checkpoints every day. Missiles hit our premises, despite being deconflicted. The breakdown of law and order means we also face looting and violence amid a large security vacuum."

WFP fears southern Gaza could soon see the same catastrophic levels of hunger recorded previously in the north.

Skau warned that the situation there was quickly deteriorating.

"A million people have been pushed out of Rafah and are trapped in a highly congested area along the beach in the burning summer heat. We drove through rivers of sewage," he said.

WFP reported that there has been improvement in assistance in northern Gaza, where partners have been delivering supplies through West Erez crossing.

The UN agency warned, however, that this assistance must be sustained and scaled-up. Access to clean water, healthcare, fuel for bakeries and medical supplies are also essential.

Skau stressed that "more than anything people want this war to end, and so do we."

He said WFP would now look at how to support the functioning of markets and also get cash to people so that they can begin to restore their lives.

"Emergency assistance is still critical, but we also need to start instilling some hope - by supporting bakeries and markets - and go beyond meeting food needs for survival to support water sanitation and basic health care needs," he added.

"Only this way can we help restore a more dignified form of assistance that goes beyond meeting basic food needs. On my previous visit in November, the people I met were angry. Now they are exhausted and just wanted this war to end."

Skau was in the region for three days in total. He also visited the West Bank and Jerusalem, in addition to Gaza, meeting with staff, partners and Palestinians.

In May, WFP assisted over a million people across the West Bank and Gaza, though rations were reduced due to access constraints and dwindling food stocks.

The UN agency said it continued to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and safe and sustained access to deliver life-saving aid.



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

Climate change—an important global issue for global action - I

Uzair Ahmad

Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges we face nowadays, an issue that has no region or country untouched. This is an additional factor that makes climate change such a puzzling issue with prospective impacts on the environment, world economies and societies. In this article, the author provides an overview of the effects, causes, and possible prevention plans of climate change where social change is deemed crucial.

The key factor that has been attributed to the current climate change is the elevation in the concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the Earth's atmosphere. These gases are the greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) which leads to the heat trap from energy of sun. People have contributed plateau to these gases especially after the industrial revolution age through thermal activities.

Emission of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere through use of fossil energy and as a fuel for vehicles is from burning of coal, oil and natural gas. Main sources of emissions are power plants, automobiles, airplanes, and industries where emissions are produced in large quantities as CO₂.

This paper notes that evergreen forests help in the absorption of carbon in the atmosphere through photosynthesis. However, large-scale deforestation for agriculture, logging and urban development degrades this capacity and, subsequently, the planet's ability of the earth to store CO₂ from the atmosphere decreases when it releases this gas through processes such as decomposition

of plant material. Soil management and use of fertilizer are some of the factors that influence the release of greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide.

That, livestock give out methane during digestion, and the use of synthetic fertilizers emit nitrous oxide in the air.

Improvements in some industries like cement industries and chemical industries display high emission of GHGs. Further, various industries emit chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other gases that have a long life cycle, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and have a high GWP.

Climate change impacts are detected and the observation indicates that they will become worst in the future. These are effects are varied, encompassing outcomes in ecosystems, human well-being, and the financial. The average planetary temperature has increased to what is estimated to be about 1. The globe has warmed by 1.96° since the pre-industrial period and causing more heatwaves. This warming trend impacts ecosystems, exposes people in habitation via increased vulnerability to heat, related illnesses, and deaths.

There are effects such as, hurricanes, floods, droughts and even wildfire which are related to climate change, since its occurrence is resultant of an influx in the intense of extreme weathers. These events lead to the destruction of infrastructure and displacement of major populations hence exposing individuals to the risk of being killed.

Oscillations in global temperatures, specially increased temperatures, lead to the melting of polar ice caps as well as glaciers and the rise in the temperature of sea water, all of which cause sea levels to rise. This poses challenges to coastal cities and small island nations and fosters enhanced flooding, shore-

line eroding, and intrusion of saltwater into freshwater systems. Species lost the ability to respond swiftly to alterations in climate; this led to new patterns of the geographical distribution of species, changes in migratory habits, and higher death rates among species. For instance, coral reefs are a very sensitive structure to temperature fluctuations and are sighted to be evenly experiencing bleaching.

Climate change is a major factor leading to deterioration of health standards through negative impacts such as; poor quality air, spread of diseases, lack of adequate provisions of food and water. Global warming further threatens the increase the spread of infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever as the temperatures rise.

It is the biggest threat regardless of the economic implications of climate change. Among the various challenges presented below, impacts on infrastructure, reduced efficiency of the workforce, and higher healthcare expenses affect countries' economies fundamentally. Population, agricultural and food securities are especially affected due to reduced crop production resulting from changes in the climatic conditions and harsh weathers.

Reduction and prevention is the general approach used in mitigation as it is focused on decreasing emissions of GHG. It is important for countries want to move from the use of fossil fuels to the use of renewable energy and sources and these include solar energy, wind power, and hydroelectric power. These technologies emit low or no GHG emissions and have improved on the cost aspect through learning curve. Heat conservation is key, but many also focus on improving efficiency of lights, machines, and vehicles in buildings, vehicles, and factories.

To be continued

World Blood Donors Day - 2024

On June 14th, the world unites to celebrate World Blood Donor Day, a crucial event organized by the World Health Organization (WHO). The theme for World Blood Donor Day 2024 is "Honoring the Heroes of Life: The Power of a Simple Act". This annual observance strategically placed in early summer when blood supplies typically dwindle, honors those who selflessly donate blood and underscores the importance of safe, accessible blood transfusions. The WHO emphasizes that the safest blood comes from voluntary, non-remunerated donors from low-risk groups. The day aims to inspire individuals, communities, and organizations to build a sustainable blood supply and enhance global healthcare services.

Safe blood transfusions are vital for patients with conditions such as thalassemia, hemophilia, cancer, and other chronic diseases. Properly screened blood prevents the transmission of fatal diseases like HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, and Malaria.

Despite the simplicity and safety of donating blood, only a small percentage of people do so regularly. The process takes no more than 30 minutes and offers several health benefits to donors, including a reduced risk of heart attacks and cancer due to lowered iron levels. Donors also receive a free health analysis. Recovery is quick: plasma is replenished within 24 hours, red blood cells within 3-4 weeks, and iron levels within 4-6 weeks. Men can donate blood every three months, and women every four months.

Pakistan, a low-income country, suffers significantly from a lack of blood donors, with only 28 out of 10,000 people donating blood. Few donors give voluntarily, and fewer still do so regularly. Voluntary donors are rare outside major cities, leaving smaller towns and rural areas with insufficient blood supplies. Most blood in Pakistan is collected through family replacement donations.

Many professional donors, often addicts, sell their blood, which is unhealthy. Additionally, there is a reliance on using whole blood rather than blood components. Other challenges include a lack of awareness, unscrupulous blood, untrained medical staff, and non-standard blood transfusion equipment. Most of the women, holding major portion of population, do not qualify to donate blood due to low hemoglobin levels or insufficient weight.

The Safe Blood Transfusion Programme (SBTP) in Pakistan aims to create a safe and integrated blood transfusion system. Its goal is to mobilize voluntary blood donations to ensure a safe and efficient supply of blood and blood components for all patients. However, the government must take further measures to enhance the effectiveness of Regional Blood Centers. World Blood Donor Day highlights the critical role of voluntary blood donation in ensuring safe blood availability and saving lives. The Blood donor day greatly helps in raising awareness, promoting gratitude and combating misinformation. As stated in the Quran, "if anyone saves a life, it would be as if he has saved the whole of humanity" (Quran 5:32).

In our society the practice of unpaid blood donation is extremely poor. Various socio demographic factors influence the behavior of people towards voluntary donation. Identifying these factors which motivate a person to donate blood or create misconceptions is the need of today because of ever increasing demand of blood in blood banks. Policies should be developed to inspire and educate the non-donors to donate blood on regular basis.

Pakistan needs 2.5 to 3 million units of blood annually. Many lives, including those of children, women, and men, are lost due to insufficient blood donations. If just 1-3% of the population donates blood regularly, this need can be met. On this World Blood Donor Day, let's come forward, donate blood, and become heroes.

Writer is Director in Sundas Foundation



Air Vice Marshal (R) Aftab Hussain (M), Knight (H) (Geneva)

Chinese CG MExplores China's Expanding Role in Global and Regional Politics and its Benefits

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) Lahore, hosted His Excellency Zhao Shiren, the Consul General of the People's Republic of China, for an enlightening guest lecture titled "China's Growing Influence in Global and Regional Politics: Benefits for Pakistan" on 14 June 2024.

Mr Ameer Abdullah Khan, Senior Researcher, CASS Lahore, introduced the speaker. The distinguished guest highlighted the importance of global peace. He argued that multipolarity with inclusive stakeholder engagement is more favourable than unipolarity and bipolarity for the developing world. He elaborated China's major initiatives under President Xi Jinping: the BRI, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilisa-

tion Initiative, and proposed Global AI Governance Initiative as crucial steps in this regard. He praised the strong partnership between Pakistan and China and noted significant trade growth and investment opportunities under the CPEC. Emphasising Pakistan's future economic and social growth, he highlighted the importance of embracing global, green, and digital initiatives. He further highlighted China's mediation efforts in international security, and reaffirmed support for a two-state solution for Palestine and backed Pakistan's stance on Kashmir.

The talk was followed by an engaging and interactive session, during which the participants delved deeper into the various facets and dimensions of the enduring Pakistan-China friendship.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Air Marshal Asim Sul-

man (Retd), President, CASS Lahore, who amplified the significance of the enduring partnership between Pakistan and China in all spheres as a vital contributor to the former's economic development and infrastructure. He stated that this strategic partnership should focus on industrialising through SEZs, developing a long-term export strategy, modernising agriculture, and enhancing cooperation in science and technology, and security. He also acknowledged China's growing global influence and highlighted Pakistan's commitment as a strategic partner in the region and beyond.

The talk provided valuable perspectives on how Pakistan can leverage its strategic alliance with China to navigate the complexities of global politics and regional developments. This event also signified the enduring partnership between the two nations.



Precision Medicine Lab and IMSciences have launched a new Master's program in Data Science and Biomedicine.

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Precision Medicine Lab, a joint venture of RMI and CECOS University, have signed an agreement with IMSciences Peshawar on June 13, 2024, to launch a unique master's program focused on data sciences in the biomedical sector, marking a new dawn in higher education in Pakistan. The Precision Medicine Lab venture is funded by HEC (Higher education commission) that falls under the National Centre for Big Data and Cloud Computing.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Faisal Khan, Principal Investigator and Director of the Precision Medicine Lab, and Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani, Director of the prestigious Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar. The ceremony was also graced by Shafique Ur Rehman, CEO of Rehman Medical Institute, and Prof. Dr. Naseer Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of CECOS University. "This dynamic partnership is poised to harness the combined strengths of these institutions, nurturing



future leaders in biomedicine and data science, and catapulting Pakistan onto the global stage of healthcare innovation," said Prof. Naseer Ahmed.

Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani expressed his excitement about the collaboration, saying, "This is a unique program where we are combining the applied and the theoretical. The Precision Medicine Lab is a prestigious laboratory in the country, and they have been working tirelessly to develop novel datasets and capabilities which will be instrumental in training the next generation of leaders in this space."

Explaining the importance of this partnership, Dr. Faisal Khan said, "This partnership is an exciting embodiment of industry and academia coming together. The Lab works on real-world problems, like oral and breast cancer, in a clinical setting.

"This is an exciting and much-needed program in an area where not much has been done so far. This program is set to cover the cutting edge of technology, located right between biomedicine and computer sciences. I am very optimistic about the prospects for graduates," said Shafique Ur

Rehman, CEO of Rehman Medical Institute.

The partnership between the Precision Medicine Lab and IMSciences is far more than an academic agreement. It is a strategic alliance that sets the stage for Pakistan to become a global leader in healthcare innovation, especially in an age where AI surrounds us all. This collaboration will serve as a foundation for fostering a community of highly skilled talent, including students, researchers, and innovators, aimed at advancing research in biology and medicine and ultimately enhancing patient outcomes.

Sarsabz Dominates PDA with Triple Triumph, Setting New Standards in Digital Innovation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sarsabz, a leading brand in the fertilizer industry under Fatima Fertilizer, has achieved remarkable success at the prestigious Pakistan Digital Awards. This year, Sarsabz has been honored with three accolades:

Best Use of Generative AI in Content Creation for Salam Kissan, Best Innovated Mobile App for Sarsabz Content-HSE App and Best Web Series of the Year for Sarsabz Kahani - Dahani.

This winning spree at the Pakistan Digital Awards highlights Sarsabz's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology and creative strategies to engage with Pakistan's agricultural community.

The Pakistan Digital Awards platform is celebrated for its individuality and impartiality, recognizing and honoring the brilliance of digital platforms and talent. The awards shine a spotlight on outstanding websites, apps, and creators, reflecting the dynamic evolution of public, private, and third-sector organizations in trade and communication.



stan's first-ever agri-focused web-series platform introduced by Fatima Fertilizer, showcases inspiring true stories that embody the values of hope and determination. The latest episode features Shah Nawaz Dahani, a Pakistani cricket sensation from a farming family in Larkana, Sindh. Despite his humble background, Dahani's dedication and

tireless effort propelled him to success in cricket, where he played a crucial role in Multan Sultans' championship victory during the sixth season of the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Talking about the triple triumph at PDA, Rabel Sadozai, Director Sales and Marketing Fatima Fertilizer said, "We are incredibly proud of our achieve-

ments at the Pakistan Digital Awards. These accolades are a testament to our innovative approach and commitment to excellence. Our aim is to continuously push the boundaries and set new standards in the digital landscape, especially within the agricultural sector. We dedicate these awards to our hardworking farmers, who are the true heroes of Pakistan."

PTCL Group fraternity provides the gift of life to recipients through annual blood donation drive

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the world celebrates the 20th anniversary of World Blood Donor Day, Pakistan's largest telecommunication and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) perpetuates its compassionate legacy of saving lives and ensuring steady blood supply at hospitals and blood banks through its annual blood donation drive.

This year, PTCL Group joined forces with Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) for the drive, held at the Ufone Tower in Islamabad. PTCL & Ufone 4G management and employees, participated in the drive with remarkable enthusiasm and conviction in the significance of their contributions. The campaign is held every year under PTCL Group's Corporate Social Responsibility Program to create shared value for fellow citizens and society.

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding the significance of blood donations. The PTCL fraternity is conscious that blood is a non-replicable resource coming only from donors, and that, patients depend on the empathy of fellow citizens for essential medical treatments, surgeries, and emergencies, especially for patients with critical medical conditions like thalassemia, anemia, cancer,



trauma, and more.

The selfless contributions of blood donors save millions of lives each year, including those of children. That is why the World Health Organization (WHO) is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the day to recognize the love and humanity of blood donors worldwide, with the theme; '20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!'

Group Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Syed Atif Raza expressed his gratitude to PRCS for the collaboration and said, "Humanity and altruism are central to the religious and cultural ethos of our society, and shape PTCL Group's vision for

volunteering, corporate philanthropy, and CSR. We are grateful to be part of a campaign that aims to save the lives of fellow citizens, including children, and fosters mutual empathy, solidarity, and social good. PTCL Group remains committed to exploring ways to create shared value and promote social good for the communities we serve and society at large."

PTCL Group actively contributes to society, the economy, and the environment through its robust CSR and Volunteering programs, thereby anchoring it strongly as a conscious and responsible corporate citizen of the country.

Launch of Phase II of the Maritime Security Project - funded by the U. S. Government

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched 'Improved National Response against Drugs and Contraband Trafficking in the Maritime Domain (Phase II)'. This initiative funded by the U. S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) is a twelve-month endeavor aimed at enhancing Pakistan's maritime capabilities to combat drug and contraband trafficking. This project will be jointly implemented by UNODC Pakistan (COPAK) and UNODC's Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP).

The ceremony was co-chaired by Rear Admiral of Pakistan Navy Imtiaz Ali - Director General Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), and Chargé d'affaires (CDA) of the United States Mission in Pakistan Andrew Schofer who joined with other notable dignitaries from UNODC, INL, Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG), and the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF).

While warmly welcoming the participants, Dr. Jeremy Milsom, UNODC COPAK representative highlighted UNODC's collaboration with the Ministry of Narcotics Control during the design and implementation of the Phase I Project (October 2020 to March 2023). He noted, "UNODC is adopting a holistic approach to support the Government of Pakistan in addressing diverse drugs and crime challenges more effectively both domestically and by fostering Pakistan's partnership at various regional and international forums. While fully aligned with UNODC's global and country strate-



gies, this Phase II project would greatly complement the government's vision and ongoing efforts to strengthen Pakistan's border management, drug supply reduction, and the rule of law - aimed at creating a secure environment for the Pakistani people", said Dr. Milsom.

Mr. David O'Connell, GMCP's Programme Coordinator, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the threat dynamics related to the smuggling of drugs and other items through Pakistan. He highlighted the achievements of the Phase I Project which aligned with the Government of Pakistan's strategic priorities for border management. Additionally, Mr. O'Connell provided an overview of the Phase II Project, detailing its intended outcomes such as 'Improvements to interagency coordination between Pakistan's maritime law enforcement agencies; enhancing cooperation between Pakistan's law enforcement agencies and their regional counterparts; and increasing the capability of Pakistan's law enforcement agencies in detecting, deterring, and disrupting drugs and contraband trafficking through coastal

areas and maritime domain.

In his remarks, Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ali elaborated that due to its geographical disposition, Pakistan has long been exposed to the negative impacts of illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from Afghanistan. He noted, "As a signatory to the three United Nations drug conventions, the Government of Pakistan envisions a healthier Pakistani nation - that is free from the menace of drug trafficking and the ill effects on health caused by using narcotics drugs.

The project launch was followed by a roundtable discussion hosted by CDA Andrew Schofer. It reviewed current and emerging threats, lessons learned, and recommendations for UNODC's capacity development in Pakistan. Ms. Lori Antolinez, Director of U. S. Embassy Islamabad's INL Program concluded the roundtable by thanking the senior leadership of Pakistani ministries and maritime law enforcement for their candid views and emphasized the U. S. Embassy's commitment to partnering with Pakistan's law enforcement and maritime security agencies.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
76,706.77	76,208.16
Day's High	Day's Low
77,310.45	76,103.56
Index Value	Change
13,535,876,813	+498.61
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	14 Jun, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,146.86	-16.81
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	14 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,496.07	-151.03
Percentage	Time
-0.39%	14 Jun, 1:59 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,814.56	+94.09
Percentage	Time
+0.24%	14 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	184
Bahrain Dinar	741.18	749.18
Canadian Dollar	204	206
China Yuan	38.43	38.83
Danish Krone	40.18	40.58
Euro	296	299
Hong Kong Dollar	35.66	36.01
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.9	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	909.34	918.34
Malaysian Ringgit	59.3	59.9
New Zealand \$	170.79	172.79
Norwegians Krone	25.97	26.27
Omani Riyal	723.88	731.88
Qatari Riyal	76.42	77.12
Saudi Riyal	72.8	73.55
Singapore Dollar	203.65	205.65
Swedish Korona	26.4	26.7
Swiss Franc	311.9	314.4
Thai Bhat	7.58	7.73
U.A.E Dirham	74.8	75.6
UK Pound Sterling	349.7	353.25
US Dollar	277.6	280.5

Budget Not Business Friendly, Rejects: Atif Ikram Shaikh

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI has said in a post budget press conference that the budget proposals are not business friendly which will discourage most sectors including exports. Regarding ease of doing business, nothing was seen in the budget, similarly, the revenue target seems unrealistic. We demand that the current budget proposals be changed into a business-friendly budget to boost the weak economy. These views were expressed by Senior Vice President Mian Saqib Fayaz Mago, Vice Presidents FPCCI Zaki Ejaz, Dr. Tariq Jadoun, Asif Sakhi, Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Convener Diplomatic Affairs Ahmed Waheed, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail Hussain, Advisers President FPCCI Dr. Afshan Malik, Zahid Maqbool, Pervez Sheikh, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Tariq Sadiq, Mian Shaukat Masood, Samina Fazil, Ahmed Chinoy, Rizwana Asif and others.



Federation President Atif Ikram said that the measures are good for the IT sector. Not levying tax on solar panels was among the

proposals of FPCCI which has been made a part of the budget, similarly the new ADR system will help in resolving tax disputes. Instead of bringing the exporters to the normal tax regime, one percent should be increased to one and a half percent, but they should be kept in the final tax regime, otherwise another way of corruption will be opened. Atif Ikram further said that the abolition of zero-rated exemption will increase the inflation and the cost of production will also increase. Sales tax refunds and income tax refunds are a big problem, no concrete steps have been taken in this regard in the budget. Like other sectors, no clear measures have been seen in the context of Green Pakistan Initiative to raise the agriculture sector in the budget. The current budget proposals are real estate-killing. The real estate sector can be promoted by bringing reforms in the construction sector. Imposing a withholding tax on the entire supply chain will discourage document economy initiatives. We demand that it not be included in the new Finance Act.

Fodder

LAHORE: Vendors preparing sacrificial animals feed for customers ahead of Eid al-Adha in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Fly Jinnah marks its first flight to Bahrain



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's low-cost carrier, has commenced non-stop flights between Islamabad and Bahrain, adding another destination to its rapidly expanding network after the launch of flights to the UAE and Oman. The carrier commemorated the start of its new route with a pre-departure inaugural ceremony at Islamabad International Airport attended by Fly Jinnah representatives and senior management representing Islamabad International Airport. The new route will initially start with a frequency of two weekly flights. "Fly Jinnah is proud to mark another milestone with the introduction of our fourth international route, linking

Islamabad and Bahrain. This strategic expansion underscores our dedication to offering our valued customers new options for affordable and value-driven air travel domestically and internationally. The new addition highlights our rapidly growing international network, bringing even more connectivity and convenience to our passengers." Fly Jinnah remains steadfast in offering convenient and affordable service to its passengers. With its modern fleet of five Airbus A320 aircraft, the airline serves five major cities in Pakistan: Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. This new route adds to Fly Jinnah's growing list of international destinations, complementing the existing flight route to Sharjah, UAE.

Taxpayers targeted again, FBR will aim exporters: Mian Zahid Hussain

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance Mian Zahid Hussain, and former provincial minister, said on Friday that the federal budget is inconsistent with the recent announcements of economic managers, the prime minister's promises, and public expectations. He said that the budget would harm the people and have disappointed the community. It needs to be made clear whether the government wants economic development or whether its priority is economic stability. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the burden on taxpayers has once again been increased by 3500 billion rupees, which is tantamount to encouraging tax evaders. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that tax defaulters have not been targeted in the budget, which is unfortunate. The revenue target has been greatly increased, but neither has there been any reduction in government expenditures,



nor have any of the concessions of 3.9 trillion been withdrawn. The deficit has been estimated at Rs 8500 billion. The business leader said that nothing has been done in the budget to collect tax from non-paying sectors, and instead of collecting tax directly from retailers, it was decided to collect withholding tax through manufacturers. Collecting taxes from manufacturers will hit them as well as the masses, as it will

increase inflation. Various types of penalties have been announced for those who do not pay taxes, but no effective plan for digitizing the economy has been announced. Mian Zahid Hussain said that for the last five years, the income of the salaried class has been continuously decreasing, but their tax has been increased, which will increase their problems. In this budget, instead of reducing the cost of doing business for exporters, taxes have been increased, and they have been left at the mercy of the FBR. Similarly, the export facilitation scheme has been eliminated for local supply, which will reduce exports. A cruel eight-per cent sales tax has been imposed on hundreds of health sector items. The government's commitment to economic reforms does not appear to be as it was claimed. Nothing has been done to increase the tax base, and reliance has been placed on sources of revenue growth that will fuel inflation. The problems of the industrial and agricultural sectors will also increase due to the budget, and the investment environment will be affected.

Mini-budget expected soon as Govt spending lavishly

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Samina Fazil, founder President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), said on Friday that the federal budget is a document devoid of vision. She said that the federal budget has nothing for the people and businesswomen and everything for the influential elite. Speaking to the businesswomen, Samina Fazil said that the budget has further increased the burden on the masses, the salaried class and the business community. She added that taxes have been increased on the vulnerable while the government is expanding its lavish spending instead of reducing it, which is regrettable. She said that the mini budget

would be introduced in a few months as there is no end to lavish spending by the government, and millions of people would be pushed below the poverty line. The record increase in taxes in the budget will also lead to a huge rise in inflation. The income from taxes will be spent on the luxuries of the elite, and our leaders will continue to beg to run the country. Samina Fazil said that if the FBR were doing its job, there would be no need to increase taxes on the people. However, since this institution wants to avoid receiving direct taxes, the government uses taxation as an option to break the people's backs. FBR has become a hub of corruption and incompetence, and its top officials always dance to the tune of the influential elite, she observed.



She said that the government will never include property tycoons, landlords, wholesalers, retailers, and the cigarette and broker mafia in the tax net and will never revise the cruel agreements made with IPPs that have bankrupted the

country. "The elite and the government stand on the one side, while the disappointed masses are on the other," she said. She added that the government says it is trying to increase exports, and at the same time, it is levying taxes on this sector, which indicates confusion. Samina Fazil said that increased taxes on the salaried class have made it impossible for lower-class employees to make a living. Taxes have been increased in all sectors, which will depress the economy. She said the deprivations of the weaker sections will continue to increase, claims against the ground realities will continue, and finance ministers will continue to be imported to solve local problems. E. U. partners to discuss Paki-

stan's investment climate during high-level session. The European Union hosted a private session focused on Pakistan's Investment Climate, with special emphasis on investments from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Pakistan's former Minister for Investment and Chairman of Nutshell Group, was the keynote speaker. The session was hosted at the residence of H. E. Dr. Riina Kionka, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan. The session was attended by 18 Ambassadors and High Commissioners from EU countries, including Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Romania, and Poland.

IT Exporters demand for reconsideration of IT budget

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's IT industry expressed dismay over the announcement for the sector in the financial bill, demanding reconsideration of the budget for the IT industry, which has the potential to earn foreign exchange in billions for the country without huge investments. IT exporters recommended that the government should allocate a budget for the promotion of IT exports on priority; on the other hand, the allocation of Rs. 79 billion for IT parks, digital transformation, and IT automation is appreciated as a good move for the local economy. Chairman PASHA Zohaib Khan said that Rs. 10 billion must be allocated to the federal budget to produce hundreds of IT professionals through skill development programs, including upskilling IT professionals with emerging technologies through bootcamps in different companies and universities. Noman Said, a leading IT businessman, appreciated the allocation of Rs 79 billion for IT and technology parks and digital transformation, terming it a productive investment for the local economy. The digital transformation will provide opportunities for local IT companies to transfer their expertise through global experience to the local governance system, said and added. The imposition of additional taxes on IT equipment may slow down the targets of achieving digital transformation. He added that the budget allocation must match the vision of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), hence, the government should do more to empower the IT industry to achieve more results from investment and export receipts. CEO SI Global added that the financial bill should be revised to make it more export-oriented for the IT industry, which is more important than the local market.

Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori visited Kharadar General Hospital and inaugurated the floor

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The education and health sector is of fundamental importance for the life of nations. Without development in the education and health sector, we cannot find our place in the world. Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori expressed these views while visiting Kharadar General Hospital and School of Nursing.

While inaugurating the Obs/Gynae wing on this occasion, he said that Kharadar General Hospital has played a very important role in saving the lives of mothers and new-born babies. It is a historic achievement to serve continuously for 100 years in any country. Kharadar General Hospital has been providing high quality medical

services at extremely subsidized rates to the residents of the old and underprivileged areas of Karachi for the past hundred years.

He appreciated the high educational performance of the School of Nursing of Kharadar General Hospital and congratulated the President of the hospital Muhammad Bashir Jan Muhammad and the Chairman Professor Abdul Ghaffar Billoo for their high human services. President of the hospital and well-known industrialist Muhammad Basheer Jan Muhammad said that sincerity, good intentions and constant tireless work are required to build institutions and run them continuously successfully.

The doctors, nurses, management and staff of Kharadar

General Hospital are performing the duty of humanitarian services in accordance with the professional principles.

He further said that every class has to play its role to solve the long-standing problems of Pakistan. Business philanthropists associated with Karachi have contributed to social services. But it needs to be increased further.

On this occasion, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the hospital, Dr. Khalid Iqbal, said that to ensure the achievement of medical challenges and national goals, we must be focus and effective. To control obesity, dengue, malaria, Chikungunya, typhoid, blood pressure, diabetes and other diseases, education, training and research trends will have to be developed.

Medical problems can be controlled only by aligning the manpower and talent with contemporary requirements. Director of School of Nursing, Mrs. Talat Parveen Shah said on this occasion that the nursing department is central in the medical system.

Kharadar General School of Nursing is not only providing manpower according to the needs of the country by providing high professional education and training. Rather, it is playing an important role in improving the precious human lives with high professional services.

Meanwhile, Hospital President Muhammad Bashir Jan Muhammad presented a special shield to the chief guest, Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Tessori. Governor



Sindh Kamran Tessori distributed laptops among the position holders of the School of Nursing Kharadar General Hospital for and congratulated the staff of their excellent medical services.

34th National Games winners honored with cash incentives

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: On the special directives of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, the Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the collaboration of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association, honoured the medal winners in 34th National Games held last year in Quetta and distributed Rs. 6.3 million among them.

A ceremony in this regard was held at Sports Arena here Friday in which Additional Director General Miss Rashida Ghaznavi was the chief guest who distributed cash incentives of Rs. 300,000 to gold medal winners, Rs. 200,000 to silver medalists and Rs. 100,000 to bronze medalists.

It is worth mentioning here that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa athletes, both male and female, got 49 medals



including four gold medals, one each in badminton and judo and two-gold medals in sailing.

Director Sports Azizullah, Secretary KP Badminton Association Amjad Khan, Assistant Director of Sports Amjad Iqbal, Coaches and other personalities were present on the occasion.

In the National Games 2023 which was held in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won four gold medals in badminton, judo

and sailing, while judo, karate, 6 silvers in wrestling, sailing, while browser won medals in badminton, bodybuilding, cycling, boxing, judo, karate, shooting, squash, taekwondo, tennis, weightlifting, wrestling, archery and Wushu.

Murad Khan in badminton, Sabir Shah in judo, and Amina Ajmal in sailing won gold medals, Malaika Noor in judo, Samad Afridi in wrestling, Najeebullah Khan, RD Khan, Tariqur Rehman, Kashif Saeed,

Taimur Iqbal, Hijab Ajmal in sailing, Rapail Javed won silver while in Badminton Iqra Ishaq, Noor, Tanu Zaman, Sapna, Khalid Khan in Body Building, Umar Farooq, Khizr Hayat, Faisal Khan Hasnain and Yusuf in Cycling, Muhammad Ijaz in Boxing, Kulsoom, Komal Henna in Judo, Iqra, and Sabir Shah, Abrar Khan, Murad Khan in Karate, Ehtsham, Umar Afridi, Shoding, Hara Aqeel, Zahra Abdullah, Umm Kulsoom, Nimra Aqeel, Taekwondo Irfan, Tariq Khan, Amina, Hadiya Naeem, Saeeda Hajra Shah in squash. Kainat, Tennis, Barkat Ullah, Saqib Hayat, Hamid Israr and Inam Gul, Weightlifting Nafesa, Wrestling Roozi Khan, Marjan Khan Shahab Din, Neemat Gul, Archery Israr, Wajahat Ali, Abdul Hahab and Wushom in Javed, Umar, Sana, Jawaria and Maria won browser medals in competitions.

Haidar Sultan grabs gold medal in Brics Games

Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: Haidar Sultan of Pakistan has bagged the first gold medal in the Weightlifting event of the Brics Games at the Kazan city of Russia. Sultan, who outclassed the Russian weightlifters

in a tough fight and won the first gold medal for Pakistan in the Games, said a press release.

He contested in the 61kg weight category and lifted a total weight of 261kg i.e. 115kg in Snatch and 146kg in the Clean & Jerk.

It was his outstanding performance at any national or international competition. Sultan was far behind his Russian competitors in the Snatch event, but his third and final lift of 146 kg in the clean & jerk event turned conclusive, for his maiden victory at the international BRICS Games. Sultan was accompanied by the seasoned and professional coach Shuja Ud Din Malik, who himself had been the Commonwealth Games 2006 Gold Medalist and Record holder. The motivation by Imdaullah Memon, the chef-de-mission, and the technical expertise of the coach Shuja ud Din Malik, maintained the fighting spirit of the Sultan, who was very happy about his victory.

Pakistan's tennis future bright: ITA President

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Tennis Association (ITA), Majid Bashir has expressed optimism that Pakistan will excel in international tennis competitions saying young talent needs to be nurtured, to produce future champions.

In an interview on Friday, he highlighted the abundance of young talent in the country, emphasizing the need to nurture and encourage them to produce future champions who can bring international acclaim to Pakistan.

To achieve this goal, he said ITA has planned a talent hunt program to identify and develop new players at school and college levels. The program will include tennis tournaments at various levels and an endowment fund will be established to support young players.

The ITA will also invite international tennis teams to play in Pakistan, providing local players with opportunities to compete against global talent, he said.

Bashir also praised the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) for its efforts in promoting tennis in the country, led by its president, Aisam ul Haq.

He assured that the ITA will supplement the PTF's efforts by taking concrete steps to popularize the game and provide a conducive environment for players to thrive.

The ITA aims to increase tennis training sessions, enabling young players to hone their skills and showcase their talents.

Athletics camp to start from June 23

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Athletics Federation (PAF), in collaboration with Punjab Athletics Association, will organize a Summer Athletics Camp from June 23-July 28 in Lahore.

According to PAF, President Brigadier (R) Wajahat Hussain, athletes from across the country are expected to participate in the camp.

Athletes and students interested in participating in the camp can register their names by June 20. During the camp, participants will be taught modern athletics techniques, rules, and regulations, and will also undergo practical training sessions.

The PAF has been hosting summer athletics camps every year to promote grassroots-level athletics and identify new talent.

Hussain said, "PAF is committed to promoting athletics in Pakistan and organizes training camps, coaching courses, and seminars to achieve this goal."

Pakistan knocked out of T20 World Cup as USA-Ireland clash washed out

FLORIDA: Former champions Pakistan have been knocked out of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 as the all-important fixture between co-host USA and Ireland was washed out due to the wet outfield here at Central Broward Regional Park.

As a result of a washout, the USA qualified for the Super 8s of the 20-team tournament for the first time.

On the contrary, Pakistan, in a first, are knocked out from the group stage of the mega event.

Besides Pakistan, Ireland have also been eliminated from the Super 8s stage.

The USA finished the group stage with five points in four matches. Whereas, Pakistan could attain a maximum of four points if they manage to beat Ireland in their last group fixture, scheduled on June 16.

Pakistan had a disastrous start to their



T20 World Cup 2024 campaign as they suffered a shocking defeat at the hands of the USA in the Super Over. The Green Shirts then succumbed

to a frustrating six-run defeat against arch-rivals India in a blockbuster clash, that took place at a jam-packed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on June 9.

The former champions then finally got on the winning track when they registered a hard-fought seven-wicket victory over Canada, who lost all three matches they have played thus far.

Meanwhile, India have already sealed their berth in the Super 8s of the T20 World Cup 2024 as the inaugural champions are currently unbeaten.

Pakistan Squad for T20 World Cup 2024: Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan.

'We can take on any one,' Jonathan Trott after Afghanistan's Super 8s qualification

A Sports

TAROUBA: Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott expressed confidence in his team's ability to excel in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

An all-round performance on Thursday led Afghanistan to thrash Papua New Guinea (PNG) by seven wickets and into the Super 8s stage of the 20-team tournament.

Afghanistan are currently unbeaten in the mega event, emerging victorious in all three of their fixtures thus far.

Meanwhile, their head coach Jonathan Trott highlighted the talent; his team possesses before claiming that the side has not played their best game.

"I believe we're very, very talented and when we play our best cricket, we can take on anyone. We've seen that," Trott said after Afghanistan's victory over PNG.



"I feel that we still haven't played our best game. There's still things we need to work on and we'll be working on those over the next few days to give ourselves the best chance to beat the major teams," he added.

Trott was delighted with Afghanistan's qualification for the Super 8s but acknowledged that the team has not won anything yet.

"We still have one game left, an important group game, and that's going to be a good gauge of where we are against a powerful West Indies side who won an incredible game last night (against New Zealand) from the position they were in," he added.

"So, it's nice to have won tonight and got qualification as such. To come to a World Cup and win three is a nice feeling, but also the realisation and reality that we haven't won anything yet."

"We only achieved the group stage and we've got some important cricket matches coming up which we're going to have to play well in."

It is worth mentioning here that Afghanistan lead Group C standings of the T20 World Cup 2024 with six points in three matches, closely followed by West Indies, who boasts a similar record but an inferior net run rate.

Mark Wood believes Australia 'will play hard and fair' against Scotland

A Sports

England's right-arm speedster Mark Wood expressed his hope that arch-rivals Australia would play "hard and fair" in their last ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 group-stage fixture against Scotland.

Australia will face Scotland in their last group-stage fixture on Sunday which could decide England's fate in the T20 World Cup 2024 even if they manage to beat Namibia in their remaining group match. Scotland are currently second in Group B standings with five points in three matches while England climbed to the third with three points in as many matches.

The defending champions bolstered their net run rate by decimating Oman by eight wickets and 101 balls to spare.

Earlier, Australian pacer Josh



Hazlewood hinted at the possibility of exploiting England's difficulty in the tournament in the post-match press conference.

"In this tournament, you potentially come up against England at some stage again and they're probably one of the top few teams on their day," stated Hazlewood.

"We've had some real struggles against them in T20 cricket, so if we can get them out of the tournament, that's in our best interest as well as probably everyone else's I think."

"It will be interesting to see, never really been in this position before as a team I don't think. "Whether we have discussions or not, or we just try and play again the way we played tonight, that will be up to people, not me."

Reacting to Hazlewood's comments, Mark Wood insisted that Australia would not deliberately lose to Scotland.

"I'm absolutely confident Australia will play the game the hardest, that's the Australian way, that they'll play hard but fair and try and get the win," said Wood.

"I think that's part of being England and Australia, isn't it?" said Wood.

"I think actually I saw it more as a respect thing if I'm honest that he was saying that England have done well against Australia in the recent past and thinks we're a big threat and a big team so I have no problem with it."

Mina arrival

MAKKAH: Muslims arrive at the Mina tent camp during the annual Hajj pilgrimage near the holy city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia on Friday. AFP



Photo: AFP

Million-plus take part in Hajj under shadow of Gaza crisis

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Over one million Muslims packed the giant tented city of Mina near Makkah on Friday for the Hajj pilgrimage held in sweltering heat and against the grim backdrop of the Gaza crisis.

Robbed worshippers arrived on buses or on foot, many shaded by umbrellas, at the vast encampment in Mina after performing the "tawaf" — the circumambulation of the Kaaba, the large cubic

structure draped in black cloth with gold trimmings that millions of Muslims pray towards every day.

Chanting "God is great" and "God, we answer your call", many were awash with spiritual fervour as they followed in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet's (Peace Be Upon Him) final pilgrimage nearly 1,400 years ago.

Participants, who numbered 1.5 million by Monday, have travelled from all parts of the world for the

annual rites, this year held in intense heat with forecast daily highs of 44 degree Celsius.

"It's very, very hot," said Fahad Azmar, 31, from Pakistan. "But I thank God for the opportunity to be here."

They are spending the night at Mina, a rocky valley several kilometres outside Makkah, before climbing Mount Arafat for the Hajj's climax on Saturday.

Accommodation in Mina's air-conditioned tents is organised by nationality and price,

depending on how much each pilgrim paid for their Haj package.

Many worshippers were tightly packed inside as they sat and lay on narrow mattresses close to each other on the floor.

"There should be more space between the beds, and the air-conditioning doesn't work very well ... but the hajj is all about patience," said Intisham al-Ahi, a 44-year-old Pakistani who was sharing a tent with dozens of his

compatriots.

Elsewhere, a group of Moroccan pilgrims was growing angry, claiming to have been given a raw deal by the agent who booked their pilgrimage.

"There's more people than are allowed in the tents ... they're asking us to share tents with people who paid half of what we spent," fumed Hicham, who did not want to give his surname.

He said he paid about 17,000 euros for his trip.

Pakistan Embassy in The Hague hosts reception to celebrate National Day, Youm-e-Takbir

Spokesman Report

THE HAGUE: The Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague, Netherlands on Friday hosted a grand reception to celebrate Pakistan's National Day and Youm-e-Takbir.

The event was attended by senior Dutch officials, diplomats from other countries, international organization representatives, members of the Pakistani community, Dutch and Pakistani business leaders, intellectuals, and journalists, said a press release issued by the embassy.

Wouter Jurgens, Director of the Asia and Oceania Department at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the special guest of the event. Renowned photographer and visual storyteller, Jimmy Nelson, also graced the occasion with his



presence. In his address, Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar paid tribute to the founding father of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and the heroes of the

Pakistan Movement. He highlighted the successful cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands in various fields, including politics, trade, investment, agriculture, water management, climate change, technology, education, culture, and sports.

He also acknowledged the significant role of the Pakistani community in promoting friendly relations between the two countries.

Director Wouter Jurgens emphasized the importance of cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands, saying that their relations were built on friendship and mutual understanding. Jimmy Nelson presented a special presentation showcasing the vibrant culture of Pakistan and shared his experiences from his recent visit to the country.

Govt stands with police against terrorism for durable peace: Balochistan CM

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday said that the provincial government stood with the police in the fight against terrorism for maintaining durable peace in the province.

Addressing the 100th passing out parade ceremony of Balochistan Police, he said that police was a sacred profession.

He said Balochistan Police was working under difficult conditions. Many brave officers and jawans of the force have been martyred in the war against terrorism.

He reiterated his resolve to eliminate terrorists and condemned terrorism in any form.

Bugti said that the terrorists have the support of the Indian agency "RAW", which have targeted many innocent people in their nefarious activities.

The chief minister said that this fight against terrorism was not only for our forces but also for all of us and we would defeat terrorism with the power of the state and with the help of Allah.

On this occasion, Balochistan CM also announced Rs 05 million for ladies constable and Rs 05 million for best performers and position holders.

SECP launches Companies Regularization Scheme

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has launched a regularization scheme for companies grappling with defaults on annual filings.

The regularization window will remain open from June 15, 2024, to September 15, 2024, providing an opportunity for companies to file their overdue annual returns, documents and accounts by simply paying regular filing fees. There will be no additional charges, penalties, or late fees for filing overdue returns during the scheme period.

The Companies Regularization Scheme applies to a wide range of companies, including non-listed public companies, private companies, SMCs, foreign corporations, and nonprofit organizations established under Section 42 of the Companies Act. However, this regularization scheme is not applicable to listed companies. The scheme covers defaults committed up to October 28, 2023. To make the process simple and easy, companies are required to make physical filings so that returns for multiple years can be filed simultaneously.

SECP's Company Regularization Scheme aims to promote compliance and ease regulatory burden by allowing companies to regularize filing defaults without heavy penalties.

NDMA issues advisory on weather during Eid-ul-Azha

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday issued an advisory for public awareness regarding the weather on upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

"[This advisory is] in light of the forecast of a warmer than average temperature and chances of rain, wind and thunderstorms from June 15-19, which is likely to extend up to June 22," according to the advisory.

The national disaster management body emphasized proactive preparedness through enhanced vigilance and mass public awareness. The additional guidelines can be received from the already issued Tourist Guidelines & Checklist available on the NDMA Website.

Also, NDMA has released the 'Pak-NDMA Disaster Alert' application on Google Play Store and iOS Application Store to provide general public with up-to-date alerts, advisories and hazard specific guidelines, public service messages and more. The forecast indicated that due to this weather system, rain, wind and dust storm and thunderstorm are expected in most of country including Khyber Pakhtunkhawa, Gilgit, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, South Punjab and some parts of Sindh in stipulated period of time.

Establishment's interference in judiciary will end soon, says LHC CJ

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore High Court Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad has publicly condemned interference in judicial matters by "institutions," stating that he has received numerous complaints and letters, both written and verbal, alleging such interference.

Addressing an event in Rawalpindi, Justice Ahmad expressed confidence that this interference will soon end, citing both his faith and personal experience as evidence. He urged judges to face such pressure with bravery and courage, believing that justice will ultimately prevail.

The Chief Justice highlighted the specific case of a Sargodha Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) judge who had alleged interference by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). He quoted the judge as saying that he was unafraid of the alleged incidents and was prepared to make any sacrifice to uphold justice.

Addressing his fellow judges, Justice Ahmad encouraged them to stand firm against any attempts at



blackmail or intimidation, emphasizing the importance of resisting pressure and upholding their duty to justice.

He praised former LHC Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry for his courage in challenging a military dictator, recalling the lawyers' movement that led to his reinstatement. Justice Ahmad highlighted the significance of this movement in securing a long period of civilian rule and permanently closing the door on martial law.

The Chief Justice urged lawmakers to play their role in improving the country, reminding them that their positions are temporary and that they have a responsibility to serve the nation.

Govt committed for transforming Pakistan into digital economy: Minister IT

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: GSMA's Head of Asia Pacific Mr. Julian Gorman called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja here on Friday.

During the meeting matters related to digital transformation, and upcoming GSMA Digital Nation Summit were discussed.

Country Lead Digital Transformation, Pakistan, GSMA, Saira Faisal was also present in the meeting.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said that the government is committed for digitalization and transform Pakistan into Digital economy.

She said Ministry of IT will play pivotal role in GSMA Digital Nation Summit. Ministry of IT & Telecom



will extend full support and facilitation regarding GSMA Digital Nation Summit to be held on August 7.

Mr. Julian Gorman expressed his gratitude to MoITT for their support of the GSMA Digital Nation Summit in August and assured full support to the government in their digitization journey.

Pakistan High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq assumes charge in Singapore

Spokesman Report

SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore Rabia Shafiq arrived in Singapore and assumed responsibilities as Pakistan's High Commissioner on Friday.

Having joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 2001, Rabia Shafiq had worked at Headquarters in Political Divisions (Europe, Iran & Turkey, East Asia Pacific), protocol and administration.

She has held diplomatic assignments in Pakistan Missions in Paris, Ankara and Chicago.



Prior to joining as the high commissioner to Singapore, she was serving as Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan issues visas to pilgrims on Ranjeet Singh's death anniversary

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi issued 509 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to attend the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, scheduled to be held in Pakistan from June 21-30, 2024.

Extending his heartfelt felicitations to the pilgrims, Pakistan Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmad

Warrach underscored Pakistan's continued commitment to extend all possible facilitation to the pilgrims, said a press release received here Friday.

The issuance of visas is covered under the framework of Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, 1974.

Every year, a large number of Indian pilgrims visit Pakistan to observe various religious events.

PTI backtracks on talks offer ...

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Assembly Omar Ayub added that the PTI's precondition for any talks was the withdrawal of all cases against Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi, and other PTI leaders. He stated that the party's

focus remains on the 'Tehreek-i-Tahafuz-i-Aain-i-Pakistan' (Movement for the Protection of the Constitution) and that Mahmood Khan Achakzai, the president of the movement, would be welcome to hold negotiations on its behalf.