

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے محمد اللہ بن یوسف نے بیان کیا ہے کہ انہوں نے کہا کہ میں نے اللہ سے دعا کی کہ تمہارا وطن ملک پاکستان بن جائے اور تمہارا ملک دنیا کا سب سے بڑا اور سچا اور نیک اور اللہ سے ڈرنے والا ملک بن جائے۔ (بخاری ص 6319)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Pakistan committed to deepen ties with African nations: Musadik Malik

Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik said that Africa, with its diverse cultures, vibrant traditions and spirit stands as a testament to the resilience of its people. From the struggle for independence to the pursuit of development, Africa has demonstrated its commitment to progress, prosperity and peace. (Details on Page 3)



Imad Wasim takes responsibility of run-chase debacle against India

Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim took responsibility for the failed run-chase against India in a blockbuster ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 clash. Imad, while addressing the pre-match press conference ahead of Pakistan's last fixture against Ireland, talked about what went wrong for the Green Shirts against fierce rivals. India set Pakistan to chase 120 on a tricky Nassau County International Cricket Stadium surface. (Details on Page 7)

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Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the nation on Saturday.

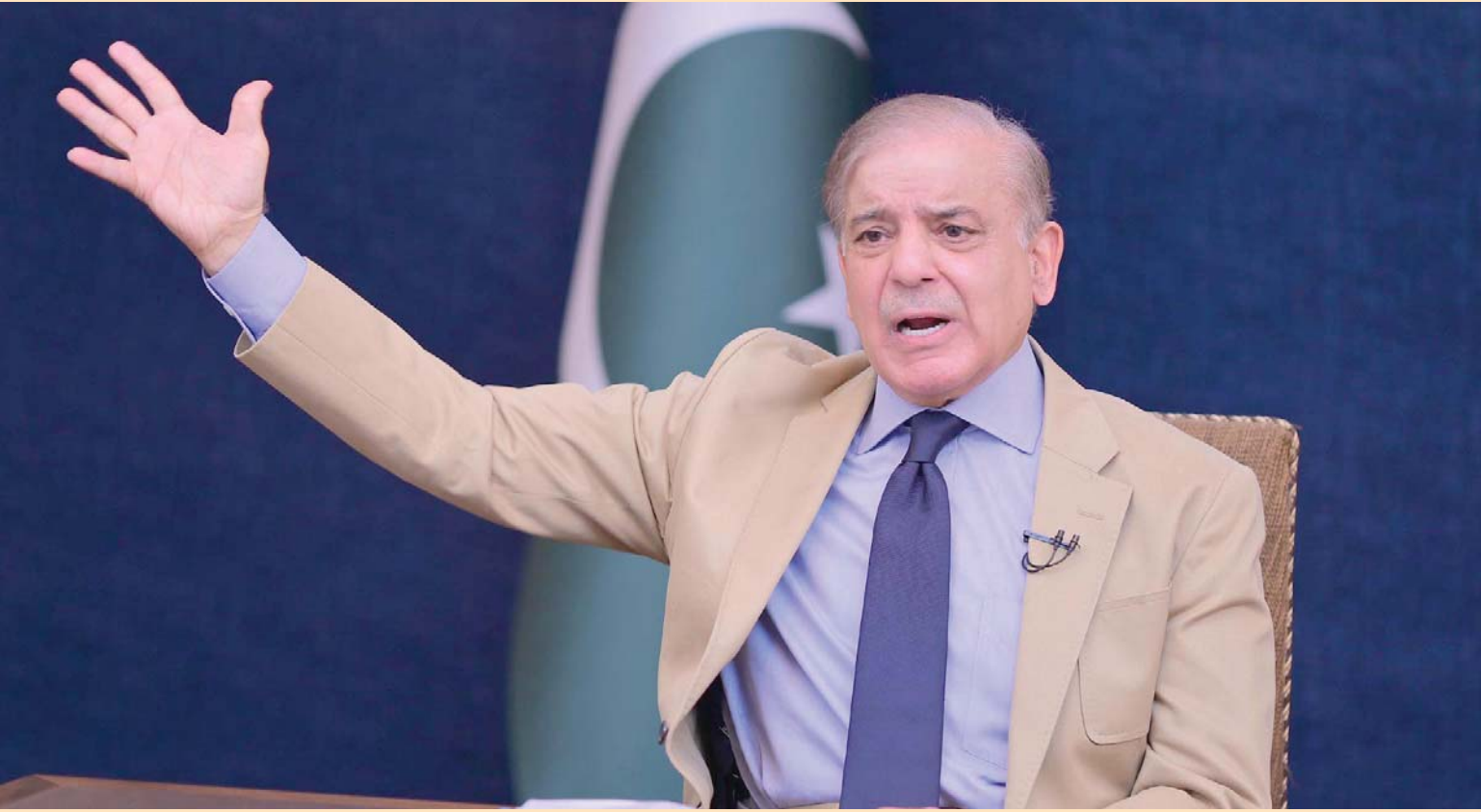


Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz hopes upcoming IMF programme will be last

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif vowed to take strict actions to achieve the country's economic targets, promising that this would be the last loan programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In his address to the nation, PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction over the revenue collection during the current fiscal year 2023-24, saying that the collection increased by 30 percent as compared to last year.

The prime minister said that new revenue collection targets have been set for the next financial year (2024-2025), saying that achieving these targets seem 'challenging'.

He assured that the federal government will make efforts to collect taxes and eliminate

'corrupt' practices. PM Shehbaz said that during his foreign official visits, he sought investment opportunities in Pakistan rather than asking for loans.

The prime minister assured that the government will facilitate the investments through the Special Investment Facilitation Council focusing on agriculture, energy, and other sectors.

He praised overseas Pakistanis for sending USD 3 billion in remittances last month, terming it their confidence in the government's policies.

Regarding long-term economic plans, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan begun implementing our economic agenda for the next five years and are committed to maintaining the success of our economic strategies.

PM Shehbaz said that the private sector would be encouraged to establish new industri-

al units.

"Tough decisions" to be taken PM Shehbaz also announced taking 'difficult' decisions to brighten the future of Pakistan.

"We (the government) will not tolerate any pressure and are ready to make any sacrifice for the country," he added.

"In the coming days, people will see what major changes are going to happen. This struggle is being started against the elite," the prime minister said while hoping that the nation would support him.

Economic revival agenda The prime minister also spelled out his five-year agenda of economics stability.

"We have defined the future course of action and we will pursue it with utmost honesty and strictness. We will spend every saved penny on public welfare. We will eliminate red

tapism. This journey is not only difficult and long but also demands sacrifice from the government authorities as well as the elite," PM Shehbaz said in his address.

100-day performance The prime minister said that Pakistan achieved several milestones since the government came into power including reducing inflation from 38 percent to 12 percent.

"Reducing interest rates on loans from 22 percent to 20 percent, increasing investment in the country, and providing relief to the public by reducing petrol prices by Rs 10.50 per litre are one of few measures taken by the government," the prime minister added.

PM Shehbaz said that the reduction in petroleum prices would surely benefit the common man. "Reducing the prices of

petrol and diesel will provide some relief to the people who are suffering from inflation," the prime minister said.

He said that the performance over the past three months has been commendable. "We are committed to putting the country on the path to progress," he added.

He extended felicitation to the Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah on the auspicious occasion of Hajj and Eid-ul-Adha.

Atrocities in IoJK, Gaza condemned The prime minister also condemned the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza, describing it as unprecedented in human history. He also expressed sorrow over the loss of thousands of innocent lives, including children, and prayed for the freedom of illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine.

Hajj sermon: Muslims urged to forge unity

Spokesman Report

MAKKAH: Sheikh Maher Al Muaiqly, an imam at the Grand Mosque in Makkah, delivered the Hajj sermon at Masjid-e-Nimra on Saturday, urging Ummah to forge unity and cohesion among their ranks. Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims from around the world converged at Maidan-e-Arafat on Saturday to perform the Rukn-e-Azam of Hajj "Waqoof-e-Arafat" which marks climax of the Hajj.

Worshippers from all over the world climbed the rocky, 70-metre (230-foot) hill, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Makkah, where the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) given his last sermon.

The desert summer heat is expected to hit 43 degrees Celsius (109.4 degrees Fahrenheit), creating challenges especially among the elderly during a day of prayer.

While delivering the sermon



at Masjid-e-Nimra today, Imam Sheikh Dr. Maher Al Muaiqly called Muslims to forge unity, saying it would "surely lead to salvation of the Ummah in addition to averting any discords or divisions".

"The combination of the testimony that only Allah is to be worshipped, along with the testimony that Muhammad (PBUH) is Allah's messenger."

"Muslims should exhibit best of the manners as only those who will have good manners will be close to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) on the day of judgment," Imam Sheikh Dr. Maher said.

He said Allah has ordered Muslims to keep praying and paying zakat to the needy people.

Continue on Page 8

Finance Minister Aurangzeb removed from ECNEC

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has been removed from another crucial post of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif kept the chairmanship of ECNEC.

However, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar is also a being considered for the job.

The ECNEC committee consists of eight members total, with Jam Khan Shoro representing Sindh, Adviser to Chief Minister Muzamml Aslam representing Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan Finance Minister Shoaib Noshewari representing Balochistan as the provincial members.



The committee for an important economic decision-making body, which has been formed with eight members, comprises four members from the central government, and one member from each of the four provinces.

The council has the authority to approve construction projects worth 10 billion rupees or more. It is believed that important development projects related to communications will be undertaken under the supervision of the National Economic Council.

Govt striving hard to steer country out of crises: Awais Leghari

Correspondent

DG KHAN: Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari said on Saturday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government was making sincere efforts to steer the country out of crises.

He said this while speaking to journalists during the inauguration an uplift project. Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that there was a zero tolerance policy towards electricity theft. He affirmed the government's commitment to providing maximum relief to the public. He stated that the dualization of Indus Highway from Dera Ismail Khan and Rajanpur to Kashmir, including over 100 bypasses to facilitate smooth travel for residents.

These bypasses will intend to ease traffic congestion in the city's centers, he remarked. Leghari stressed that the construction of the dual carriageway would boost the economy and provide numerous employment opportunities for the local population. He also mentioned China's significant investment in the region, with ongoing surveys in Dera Ghazi Khan to transfer industry, which will open new avenues for development for educated youth, labourers, and other sectors.

GST imposed on wheat, pulses, rice, sugar, spices



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Amjad Zubair Tiwana has told a Senate panel that general sales tax at the rate of 18% will be imposed on the processed and packaged sale of wheat, pulses, rice, sugar, and spices.

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance was held under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla.

Tiwana stated that no additional tax has been levied on unprocessed items.

He recommended reducing the 8% GST currently imposed on formula milk. He said an 18% GST has been imposed on locally processed milk, which is not

the formula milk used by poor mothers for their children.

Tiwana said that he had never seen a poor person in the village buying expensive formula milk for their children. He added that the dealers and distributors selling this milk are also unregistered.

Senator Farooq Naek stated that the company selling this formula milk should be black-listed for tax evasion. Sales tax is an indirect tax that has to be paid by the consumer.

Mandviwalla stated that the majority of women in the country use formula milk for their children. The companies manufacturing packaged milk have been increasing prices for the past 3-4 years.

He said that if the company agrees to reduce the prices of packaged milk, they would consider reducing the tax on it.

The FBR Chairman stated that if the price of the packaged milk is reduced by 18% GST on a price of Rs. 600, the FBR will consider reducing the tax accordingly. The FBR will deliberate on reducing the tax in line with the reduced price.

K-Electric cuts off electricity supply to govt departments

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The K-Electric (KE) on Saturday cut off electricity supply to Sindh government departments for not paying the dues and clearing the bills.

According to details, the electricity supply to 25 town municipal corporations (TMC) in Karachi has been suspended, disrupting preparations for Eidul Adha celebrations.

The electricity cut-off is attributed to a dispute between K-Electric and the Energy Department. The towns are facing difficulties in preparing for Eidul Adha, including collecting sacrificial animal waste.

Earlier, K-Electric, city's solder power provider, warned Sindh government of electricity suspension in case of failure to pay the pending dues.

In a letter to Sindh chief secretary and secretary energy, K-Electric demanded payment of Rs1.7 billion withheld dues from the Sindh government.

The letter has a list of 64 defaulter departments of the Sindh government. The government has been urged to clear the dues else the electricity supply will be disconnected.

It is to be noted that Sindh government and K-Electric reached an agreement on the clearance of dues and current bills in 2019.

PM conveys Eid greetings, wishes to Sultan of Oman



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held a telephonic conversation with Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on the auspicious occasion of Eid ul Adha.

The PM extended warm greetings and best wishes to the Sultan, and the brotherly people of Qatar on behalf of the govt and people of Pakistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The two leaders exchanged views on the importance of Eid ul Adha, which symbolizes sacrifice, compassion, and unity. "At this joyous moment, both leaders also spoke about the plight of the brave and innocent people of Palestine and urged the intl community to redouble peace efforts and ensure an immediate end to violence and bloodshed in the region," it was further added.

PM extends Eid greetings to Qatari Amir



City Desk

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Al-Pakistan WAPDA Hydro workers to succeed in elections: Chaudhry Khalid

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Al-Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Workers Union Regional Vice Chairman Chaudhry Khalid has said that the sun of June 24 will be the victory of flag in the elections with the desperate efforts of WAPDA workers. We will continue to carry forward the vision of Central General Secretary of Hydro Union Khurshed Khan, which is to solve the problems of the workers and spread happiness in their lives. Addressing the meeting in connection with the election, Babar Malik, chairman of Kia New Multan Sub-Division, said that WAPDA is the biggest organization after the army, whose workers are happy and countless bonuses have been taken by the union and will continue to be given in the future. Chaudhry Khalid added that Chairman Babar Malik, Vice Chairman Nir Bashir Athangal, Secretary Nasir Abbas Baloch and Joint Secretary Chaudhry Tariq Mehmood understand the pain of the workers and know how to solve them. You should have full trust in them



and vote for them to succeed. On this occasion, Chairman Babar Malik and other officials said that we people are following the vision of Central Secretary Khurshid Khan Chaudhry Khalid and Zonal Chairman Rashid Yameen that workers And to serve the workers and bring prosperity to their homes because of the laborers Ajwapda is progressing

and MAPCO is number one in all of Pakistan. Our mission is to solve the problems of the workers and bring prosperity to their homes. Aslam Noonari, Malik Muhammad Imran, Zeeshan Nazir, Muhammad Akram Butt, John Muhammad, Asif Ali, Ali Tahir, Sarmad Jameel, Raja Tahir, Sheikh Shahid Amin, Ghafoor Ahmed, Sakhawat

Ali, Jamshed Ahmed, Muhammad Ramadan, Asghar Ali, Hassan Raza, Akmal Abbas, Muhammad Younis, Ihsan Warsi, Safdar Hussain Ali Sher, Shakir Muhammad, Zulfikar Ali, Zainul Abedin, Muhammad Imran, Haq Nawaz, Mazhar Abbas, Mirza Shahid Baig, Majid Riaz, Hanif Ahmed, Tanveer Hussain, Ayaz Ali, Muhammad Zubair, Muhammad Javed, Yasir Ali, Qaiser Lohter, Imran Niazi, Irfan Khan, Fayaz Ahmed, Muhammad Shawkat, Samiullah, Qaswar Hashmi, Hasan Hashmi, Ghayur Abbas, Shiraz Noor, Ali Imran, Ansar Dharala, Akbar Tahim, Asif Hussain, Sajid Bhatti, Zubair Zulfikar, Aamir Shabbir, Muhammad Nadeem, Abdul Sattar, Luqman Ahmed, Faiz Rasool, Asif Pahor, Babar Ali, Zubair Ahmed, Gujjar, Mehboob Ahmed, Malik Mazhar Chaon, Rana Saeed, Usman Ahmed, Mohsen Ali, Hafiz Manwar Hussain, Asif Shakoor, Mohammad Imran Hussain, Babar Malik Chairman, Nair Bashir Athangal Vice Chairman, Nasir Abbas Baloch Secretary, Chaudhry Tariq Mehmood Joint Secretary and others participated.

Nurses protest in front of Gillani House against arrest of nurse Aqsa Afaq



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Nurses staged a protest in front of Gillani House in Multan against the arrest of female nurse Aqsa Afaq in Khanewal. The protesting nurses raised slogans during Protest and Sit in and demanded the suspension of CEO Health Khanewal. During the protest sit-in, nurses have demanded Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Gillani to take notice of the matter. According to details, a nurse Aqsa Afaq was arrested for the death of children due to Expire injection in DHQ Hospital of Khanewal. Last day, the nurses of Multan protested. Many people including nurses and paramedical staff gathered in front of Gillani House after eight o'clock last night. In the meantime, the nurses protested on Ghouse-e-Azam Road and blocked the road from both sides. On the protest of the nurses, a heavy contingent of police also reached the spot. The nurses demanded that the arrested nurse Aqsa Afaq be released immediately, otherwise they will expand the scope of the protest sit-in District Headquarters Hospitals All Over The Punjab. Meanwhile, after the deaths of children in Khanewal, unknown persons set fire to the records in the pharmacy after Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz disposed of substandard and expired injections inquiries. After the pharmacy was set on fire, Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. According to the sources, the officials and management of Khanewal Teaching Hospital were using very irresponsible tactics to end the matter after the death of children in the hospital.

Naseer Yousuf Vohra meets Faisalabad Commissioner

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Central President Cloth Board Ethihad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra met Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed. In this meeting, one-to-one discussions were held on the construction of Sargodha Road and Allied Morr to Officer One Muslim Town, the problems of eight markets and the problems of traders at the division level. Briefing on while also told about the road next to Crescent Mills. He has said that WASA had completed its part of the work and gave the check to the Municipal Corporation for the construction of the stretch, but the Chief Officer was unable to complete it, on which Commissioner Faisalabad asked Naseer Yousuf Vohra to complete these roads. At the end of this meeting, Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, Candidate for Punjab Bar Council Sarwar Butt Advocate High Court, Mian Adil Khurshid Chief Executive Officer koha-e-Noor City, Arifbutt President Anjuman Tajran Chen One Road thanked Commissioner Silwat Saeed.

Railway Preme Union lambasts federal budget as 'enemy of employees'



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Chairman of Railway Preme Union Ziauddin Ansari, President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tunio, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry have termed the federal budget as an enemy of employees and said that instead of increasing salaries and pensions in proportion to inflation, more 75% on employees and salaried class. A tax burden of billions of rupees has been imposed. In the budget, 593 billion rupees have been set aside for Benazir Income Support Program and more than 3000 billion rupees for IPPs. And private employees have been included in the tax net. He said that the failure of important economic goals and the abundance of new taxes have left the performance pool of the rulers open. On the one hand, the government is announcing a smart increase in taxes, while on the other hand, annual tax exemptions have reached a record level of 3,900 billion. Among the people who are being exempted are judges, generals, bureaucrats, presidents and other important institutions. Includes individuals. The tax exemption given in the form of sales tax has increased by 27%. He said that railways are the largest institution in Pakistan to provide affordable travel facilities to the people. Previous governments have used this institution as a welfare institution for their political interests but deprived the railways of the financial support it needed from the government.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, giving souvenir to PPP vice president of social Gulf and Middle East Syed Matloob Hussain Shah during a Mehfil-e-Sama ceremony title Sufi Night at Gun Club in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Waste Management Company, district admin start Eid cleaning operation in Multan

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: On the instructions of the Punjab government, the district administration and the waste management company have started the Eid cleaning operation. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Saif and Chairman Waste Management Company Mian Rashid Iqbal presided while Chief Executive Officer Shahid Yaqub and Board Director Malik Muhammad



mad Sami also participated. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Saif said that Waste Management Company During Eid days, more than 10,000 tons of garbage will be disposed of

daily. In this regard, cooperate with the administration to keep the urban environment clean. The Additional Deputy Commissioner General said that all machinery and manpower will be kept in the

field during Eid days. Chairman Waste Management Company Mian Rashid Iqbal said that the Waste Management Company will keep the entire city clean in 3 days. In this regard, new machinery and loaders rickshaws will participate in the cleaning operation on Eid in all Union Councils. On this occasion, CEO Shahid Yaqub said that a special awareness campaign is being conducted among the citizens regarding cleanliness, while thorough cleaning operations will be conducted in the suburbs including 68 Union Councils. Shahid Yaqub said that people can register complaints regarding cleanliness on 1139. Shahid Yaqub appealed to the citizens to put the waste in the waste management company's specific shoppers and put them in the containers. Earlier in the seminar, biodegradable shoppers were also distributed among the media, civil society and businessmen.

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Understanding The Intricacies of AI Governance

Advocate Zarbakht Ali Khan

It is no longer the talk of myth or science fiction. Artificial Intelligence has already woven itself into the fabric of human lives from facial recognition to self-driving cars. However, this exponential growth of artificial intelligence presents a unique and nouveau challenge: how do we govern this new and powerful technology? We cannot deny the potential benefits of AI. It can revolutionize healthcare, optimize resource allocation, and personalize education. Alongside these potential benefits, potential drawbacks and pitfalls can lurk. These potential drawbacks and downsides may include; biased embedded algorithms, which can perpetuate discrimination; unfettered automation, which could exacerbate unemployment; and the specter of anonymous weapons, which raises chilling questions about the future of warfare and the human race. The current state of AI governance resembles a warren, a complex network of stakeholders with conflicting interests. The National governments

always need help to keep pace with the rapidly growing and developing technology, lacking the expertise and regulatory frameworks needed for effective oversight.

The key driver of AI innovation is the private sector, which often ignores ethical or legal considerations and prioritizes speed and efficiency over them. Very few companies have established internal AI ethics boards which are self-regulatory and limited. The geopolitical tensions that hinder a collaboration towards the development of a unified approach towards AI governance is another pertinent challenge. So, where do we go from here? Can we develop a human-centric AI system, which prioritizes human well-being and societal good in its development and deployment? Algorithmic fairness and transparency are crucial to this end. The end itself is not lucrative and convenient for the think tanks of these AI companies but, a regulatory framework to this end is essential from a governance and humanitarian perspective. Given the potential risks, a precautionary approach is essential. Similarly, the establishment of common standards and principles are equally essential. To

this end—of effective AI governance; collaboration between governments, industry, academia, and civil society is required. Also, equally important, is a global dialogue among the stakeholders from different nations internationally.

Considering possible hazards, it is crucial to adopt a preventive strategy. It is imperative to develop shared norms and ideals by engaging in collaborative endeavors involving governments, industry, academia, and civil society. Inclusive and comprehensive conversation among all relevant parties on a global scale is essential. The road toward creating an effective and efficient AI governance system will not be easy. But by fostering open discourse, prioritizing human values, and embracing multi-stakeholder collaboration, we can navigate through this warren and ensure that this powerful technology serves humanity and not the other way around. Some of the steps that we can take in the march toward this complex journey are:

- Firstly, investments in explainable AI technology (XAI) are essential. XAI focuses on developing AI systems that can easily be understood and explained.

stood and explained. By understanding AI systems, we can easily identify the process, address potential biases, and ensure responsibility, impartiality, and transparency. So, an investment in XAI research, understanding, and awareness is essential.

- Secondly, establishing national and international AI ethics boards, comprised of technical, legal, ethical, and social experts, can provide crucial input and guidance on the development and deployment of AI. These boards will ensure best practices by serving as watchdogs, raising concerns and awareness, and making recommendations.
- Thirdly, standardizing the impact assessment of AI systems is also very essential. Standardization of AI impact assessment would require the developers to evaluate the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts and consequences of AI systems before deployment. This would promote and encourage proactive mitigation strategies and promote responsible innovation.

- Fourthly, the existing legal frameworks are not equipped to tackle the quantum and nature of challenges posed by AI, therefore a revamping of the existing legal frameworks is also very necessary. A collaboration between Legal and technical experts and the legislators and policymakers is very essential in this regard.
- Fifthly, building public trust through public engagement of government, and industry leaders, educational and awareness campaigns for promoting open and transparent communication about AI, fostering public understanding, and addressing concerns, is paramount towards building an AI governance.

The process of establishing effective AI governance must be done in stages, adjusting to the changing environment of AI technology. The entire potential of AI can only be harnessed for the betterment of humanity through communal actions and responsibility. The goal should be that of marching practically on the outlined principles, roadmaps, and frameworks, toward building an effective and efficient AI governance. The journey towards this goal is likely to be iterative. As AI is an ever-evolving technology, so too are its potential challenges, risks, and benefits. An adaptive approach, fostering a culture of continuous growth and learning can ensure that AI remains a technological force for good, shaping a future generation of technology that is both prosperous and just. This is like a two-way traffic—challenging not just for the governments but equally challenging for us, the public. Let's promote this discussion and demand for transparency, advocate for a principled approach, and hold all the stakeholders responsible and accountable for ensuring effective and efficient AI governance. Only through collective action can we build a system that will guide us through this labyrinth of technology and unlock its full potential for the betterment of humanity.

Writer is Lecturer, Member, Researcher at Jinnah Law College Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, & Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation, respectively. He can be reached at zarbakhtalikhan7@gmail.com,

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:13 am
Zohr 12:08 pm
Asr 5:09 pm
Maghrib 7:20 pm
Isha 9:04 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
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

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

COMPLAINTS
Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883

Africa Day 2024 celebrated

Pakistan committed to deepen ties with African nations: Musadik Malik

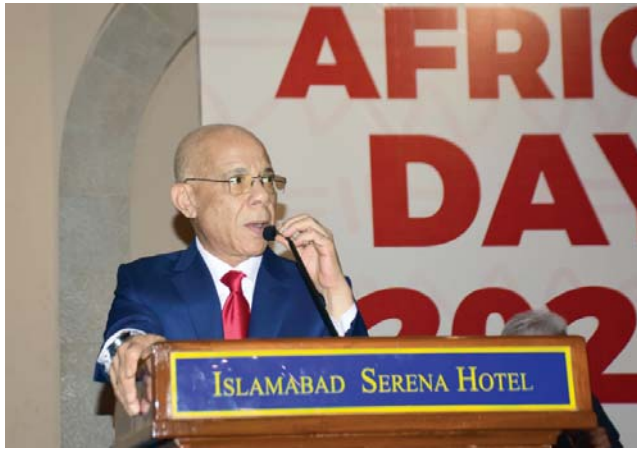
Naveed Ahmad Khan

Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik said that Africa, with its diverse cultures, vibrant traditions and spirit stands as a testament to the resilience of its people. From the struggle for independence to the pursuit of development, Africa has demonstrated its commitment to progress, prosperity and peace. He addressing to gathering on the occasion of Africa Day 2024 celebrations held here Islamabad in SERENA hotel

Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Petroleum was the chief guest, Mushid Hussain Syed, Shehryar Akbar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa), Ministry Foreign affairs Pakistan, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Atadjan Movlamov, Businessman, large number of High Commissioners, Ambassadors and media person were also attended the occasion/

Guests were warmly welcomed by Mohamed Karmoune, Dean of the African Group and Ambassador of Morocco, along with other heads of missions from African nations.

Dr. Musadik Malik said that Pakistan is committed to deepening its ties with the African nations and transforming it into meaningful partnerships and its proof is that in the last seven months, we have processed ten MoUs on establishing bilateral political consultations with various African countries.



Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that there is a massive potential for growing economic and trade ties between Pakistan and African countries. He said that prominent African national leaders in the post-colonial era had always acknowledged the overwhelming moral, diplomatic and material support their countries had received from Pakistan for ensuring their survival and growth soon after securing independence.



Ambassador of Mauritius H. E Rashid Ally Soobadar highlight the African Countries development journey

Ambassador of Morocco and Dean of African Corps H. E Mohammad Karmoune in his speech underlined the need for close cooperation between Pakistan and the African nations to overcome challenges of climate change which are badly impacting the economic development at global level. He said that both sides have to work closely to ensure food security, water management, high yield productivity, climate resilient

crofts to mitigate the negativity and ensure sustainable growth. He said that his country wants to develop strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to cooperate with each other in many areas. The event, aimed at fostering stronger ties between African nations and Pakistan, featured vibrant cultural shows, displays of African heritage, and a tantalizing array of cuisines from various African countries. The event not only celebrated Africa Day but also served as a testament to the power of food in uniting diverse cultures, fostering mutual appreciation, and creating lasting memories of shared culinary experiences.

Hashoo Group and Dr. Syed Imran Ali Shah Announce Strategic Partnership

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Hashoo Group, Pakistan's premier hospitality conglomerate, has announced a strategic partnership with Dr. Syed Imran Ali Shah, country's renowned orthopedic surgeon, to launch Skardu's first 4-star PC Legacy resort. The collaboration marks a significant milestone in Skardu's hospitality landscape, promising premium experiences and world-class service quality. The signing ceremony took place at the Pearl-Continental Hotel, Karachi, where senior officials from Hashoo Group and Dr. Syed Imran Ali Shah shared their collective vision for the new resort and emphasized their commitment to setting new standards in the region's hospitality sector. The property, set to open within the year, is poised to transform Skardu's tourism infrastructure, attracting both domestic and international tourists and driving significant economic growth.

PC Legacy Skardu, located a few kilometers from the Skardu International Airport, will stand as the area's premier 4-star resort, offering enhanced hospitality services, exceptional cuisines, top-notch amenities, and a serene atmosphere. Its convenient location will allow guests to easily explore the majestic landscapes surrounding the hotel while enjoying luxury accommodation and best-



in-class services. Addressing this exciting partnership, Bastien Blanc, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality Division-Hashoo Group, remarked, "We are thrilled to embark on this journey with Dr. Syed Imran Ali Shah, who shares our vision for a thriving tourism and hospitality landscape in Pakistan. We look forward to working closely to ensure that PC Legacy Skardu becomes a resounding success for both local and international visitors."

Dr. Syed Imran Ali Shah shared his valuable thoughts and ambitions for the project: "Hashoo Group's longstanding reputation as a premium hospitality company will add

great value and expertise to this new venture, enhancing the region's tourism landscape significantly. I am excited to see where this partnership leads."

Operated by Hashoo Group, PC Legacy serves as a bridge between its 5-star luxury brand and its select-service brand, Hotel One. The 4-star PC Legacy hotels offer premium services designed to encourage relaxation, comfort, and exploration across various breathtaking locations in Pakistan. This new destination in Skardu will further contribute to the growing legacy of gold-star services and unmatched hospitality under the Hashoo Group umbrella.

Hashoo Group is Pakistan's premium conglomerate with a diversified business portfolio spanning national and international markets. The Group owns and operates the Pearl-Continental Hotels & Resorts, PC Legacy, Hotel One, and Pearl Residences brands and has business interests encompassing the information technology, education, investment, travel, tourism, and real estate sectors. Complementing its corporate initiatives, Hashoo Group also gives back to the communities through the Hashoo Foundation, its sustainability arm, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development.

FIA Cyber Crime Wing officers train in artificial intelligence after receiving 92,000 complaints

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Officers of the FIA Cyber Crime Wing Islamabad are continuously active in enhancing the capacity building of their team. Despite receiving approximately 92,000 complaints annually and having limited resources and staff, the department is diligently performing its duties to the best of its ability.



Recently, Waqar Ud Din Syed, Additional Director General of the FIA Cyber Crime Wing Islamabad, enrolled a number of officers from all over Pakistan in a training program on artificial intelligence conducted by Digital Waseb and NUST University Islamabad.

In a recent meeting with Dr. Usman Khan, CEO of Digital Waseb, Deputy Director Mehmood-ul-Hassan mentioned that processing the large number of complaints received from across the country and prioritizing them based on merit for prompt action is a challenging task. He stated that the cyber crime wing is going to launch a project to utilize artificial intelligence to ensure that urgent and important complaints are processed efficiently. This will also facilitate the screening of irrelevant complaints.

In the accompanying image, the officers of the FIA Cyber Crime Wing Islamabad are seen with Dr. Usman Khan, CEO of Digital Waseb, holding a commemorative shield award of appreciation.

'Celebrating Together: Strengthening Community Bonds on Eid Fest': Haroon Naseer

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital celebrated Eid fest with a vibrant event for staff and their families, showcasing stalls with diverse offerings from food to cultural items. CEO Haroon Naseer expressed gratitude for fostering unity and community spirit through this celebration.



The event featured a variety of stalls, provided complimentary to the staff, each offering variety of fun, food, games & masti. The Business Development Team placed a stall with traditional Chana Chaat and Dahi Bhalay, sold at subsidized rates. The Medical Staff Affairs Dept. featured fun filled games, gift hampers for the winners, henna & food, as well. The Gynecology Department showcased a variety stall, including bangles, khussas, jewelry, accessories for children & eatables. The Early Intervention Therapy Unit offered delicious Golgappas and Chaat. Additionally, the Radiology Department had a stall filled with various eatables. Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit exhibited festive clothing stall. The Research Dept. had a colorful setup with henna, Eid cards, bangles, and games. Whereas, the HR Dept. placed homemade fancy candle stall.

The employees, along with their families, attended and thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Haroon Naseer, CEO of MIH, and his family, who mingled with the attendees and participated in the celebrations.

Mr. Naseer expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thank you for organizing and participating in the festivities. Celebrating Eid together not only allowed us to enjoy this festive time but also strengthened our professional relationships and fostered a greater sense of community within the hospital. Special thanks to the organizing committee and all departments that participated. Your efforts in making the event a success are truly commendable."

It was a wonderful opportunity for staff to unwind, connect, and celebrate the spirit of Eid ul-Adha together, further enhancing the sense of camaraderie and solidarity within the hospital community.

The Death of a Future

Summers have reached its prime, I was sitting in my veranda, reading from my mother's old novel Pakeza, fan is running as fast as it could, with occasionally cool breeze coming from the nearby room, where my grandmother had turned on watercooler and a voice came, what we going to cook today..., which interrupted by "Masoor ki Daal".

These words brought a time machine along them, and they transported me to the last quarter of 18th Century, in to the humble and heart-breaking scene in some confinement of Rangoon, Burma, when a low born jailer mocked our Padshah Bahadur Shah Zafar, "Yeh Muh Or Masoor Ki Daal", after inquiring about the His Highness's choice of today's lunch. Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last King of Hindustan, who was captured along with royal family by William Hodson on 19th September 1857.

Today societies call him a weak Emperor, but that weak Emperor laid the foundation of Independence from the British, he appeared as a prominent face of India's First War of Independence. However, I agree with their saying, he was weak because he was

left alone. Yes, you are reading it right Alone, by all the Nawabs, Rajas and Ranas, who were busy licking British Boots in the lust of some opportunities. Today, their children swollen with pride tell the bogus tales of their valour; such a laughing stock.

My gentle reader let me take you to a little farther in 16th Century, towards the root-cause of this disorder of Empire, from the Court of Shah Jhaan The Magnificent, towards the Battle of Samugarh, leading to the Death of Akbar's Hindustan, to the story of Dara and Aurangzeb with which a few of you would be familiar.

Dara Skukoh the Crown Prince of Mughal India has almost been wiped out from our history books, the Prince receives only inconsistent, sporadic commemoration. The last biography of Dara Skukoh in English was first published in 1935. It was one of the two important books on the Prince to appear during the first of the 20th Century. Kalika Ranjan Qanungo author of the biography and Bikra-

ma Jit Hasrat of the other, symbolized Dara a lost possibility of Hindu-Muslim concord that needed to be recovered. Moreover, it would be hardly an exaggeration to say that anyone who intends to take up the solution of the problem of religious peace, must begin the work where Dara had left it.

Aurangzeb had no vision, only ambition; no reach, only grab, in fact he who is responsible for the fracturing of our greatest Kingdom. However, it is true that in his region India was largely conquered however on the cost of the Akbar's principles which gave way to dismantling of once integrated nation. The Rajputs who were the wheels of Mughal Empire, were cast aside, the old ties of friendship and harmony were broken, the foundation of unity was shaken, Hindus were treated with contempt, all the imperative positions were taken back, it was the time of great oppression, even a Mahratra factor wrote to Aurangzeb that, Where God said that, am God

of only Muslims but, He is "Rub ul Allameen", Lord of all". There was violation in the socio-political system which obviously effected the economy. Let's say Bengal which yielded a net revenue of 1.7 million rupees during the region of Shah Jahan, in Aurangzeb region yielded no more than 500,000 rupees. All administration disappeared, which paved the path for English expansion of India. However, this was predicted two decades later on August 30, 1659, the night of execution of Dara, when Jahanara Beghum, Daughter of Emperor Shah Jahan, who along with the Emperor were imprisoned in Jasmin Tower, Agra Fort writes in her memoir, "A cold gust of wind sweeps in from the West and I shiver. It is the herald of storm, of seas of blood..."

The reign of Aurangzeb was among the longest of Mughals, however world has not become richer in any way by the long reign of Aurangzeb; but it would have been certainly poorer without Dara Sukoh.

Dara's promise was of a humane, progressive future. When he was executed, what was involved was not just the death of a prince, but the death of a future.



Munaza Kazmi

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Bringing the Judiciary Back in Line

During martial laws and civil dictatorships, the judiciary has often been used by the executive as a potent weapon to lend legitimacy and legal cover to their political, administrative, and law-and-order objectives. This has included punishing, grilling, incarcerating, or even eliminating their declared or undeclared enemies and adversaries in politics, business, the judiciary, the executive, or the media.

However, recent efforts by the judiciary to assert its independence have seen this effective tool slipping away from the executive's control. The usual methods of coercion, arm-twisting, intimidation, and luring judges to form compliant benches and deliver favorable decisions, particularly in highly sensitive political cases, appear to be losing their efficacy.

However, intelligence agencies, driven by their inherent nature and advanced training, are proficient in achieving their objectives through the simplest means or, as a standard operating procedure (SOP), by gradually increasing the complexity, lethality, sophistication, and effectiveness of their tools and techniques. If one method fails, they approach the objective from a different angle using more potent techniques and bringing in better and more experienced human resources. They will continue these efforts until they are either directed by their command to stand down, the target succeeds in eliminating them, or the target is eliminated.

At this point in time, there are significant stakes for the supra executive that can only be safeguarded with a compliant judiciary at all levels. These stakes include tainted elections and the formation of the government based on Form 47. If candidates who claim to have won the elections succeed in convincing independent election tribunals or the higher judiciary

that the current government lacks legitimacy due to rigged Form 47s, then the government, allegedly put together by the supra executive with considerable effort and engineering, would collapse like a house of cards.

The second major stake is that hand-picked non-political elements currently run major and sensitive ministries, departments, and bodies like PTA, NADRA, the Accountability Bureau, and SIFC. These individuals control, manage, and implement all important policy, strategic, and tactical decisions of the supra executive.

This also includes the Ministry of Finance, which holds the country's financial resources. The ministry has the power to either strangle any policy, department, agency, or institution by depriving it of financial liquidity, or to nurture, promote, expand, or strengthen others by providing financial support.

The Ministry of Interior is also involved, manipulating the police and security agencies to update the software of political elements considered hostile to the supra executive. This ministry implements the narrative to impart exemplary punishment to political leaders, workers, supporters, abettors, masterminds, and facilitators of the events of May 9.

In this background the problem statement for the supra executive is how to bring the judiciary back under tight control to save the current government and retain the ability to make vital and far-reaching decisions that it believes are in the best interest of the army, the people, and the country.

The options before the supra execu-

tive are many. It can continue to intensify direct pressure on judges, using threats, harassment, and surveillance and targeting judges' families and exploiting vulnerabilities. But it also knows that, if this action backfires, it would further alienate the judiciary and strengthen their resolve for independence, besides risking significant public and international backlash.

The next indirect option is to influence the appointment of judges sympathetic to their interests through legal and administrative channels by leveraging existing political connections to appoint or promote judges who are more likely to align with its objectives. This approach however risks undermining the judiciary's overall credibility and could provoke resistance from the legal community and civil society.

It might use its clout in the parliament and the government to offer financial incentives, career advancements, or other perks to judges in exchange for favorable rulings such as promises of high-profile positions post-retirement. The fallout of this strategy could erode judicial integrity and lead to long-term damage to the rule of law, besides exposing it to vigilant media or whistleblowers, leading to scandals.

It might use legislative and executive to undermine judicial independence indirectly by fostering where judicial decisions can be overridden or ignored by executive orders. The weakness of this approach is that it could destabilize the democratic process, leading to political unrest and weakening public trust in state institutions.

It can launch media campaigns to discredit independent judges and portray

them as biased or corrupt and utilizing the state-controlled media to shape public opinion against the judiciary. The fallout of this strategy could cause a backlash if the public perceives it as overt propaganda. It can also rally civil society and international observers to support judicial independence.

It might create factions within the judiciary by aligning with judges who have similar ideological stances or grievances against independent judges by promoting internal division to weaken overall judicial solidarity. This strategy may create short-term advantages but risks long-term instability within the judiciary, compromising its ability to function effectively and cohesively.

Out of all these scenarios, the best possible option is to enhance its evidence-gathering capabilities to build stronger cases against individuals or entities. This includes cultivating highly effective lawyers, working closely with witnesses, and ensuring robust legal arguments. Additionally, they might employ intimidation tactics to deter victims or subjects from approaching the judiciary by threatening dire consequences. The implication of this approach may improve legal strategies leading to more successful prosecutions and minimum resistance from legal and human rights communities.

In this critical period, the judiciary's resistance to executive control represents a significant shift towards asserting judicial independence in Pakistan. Any approach by the supra executive to regain influence must be carefully considered, as it carries the risk of exacerbating tensions and undermining the very fabric of Pakistan's legal and political systems.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

U. N. refugee report: 120 million people in need of aid

Forced displacement surged to historic new levels across the globe last year and this, according to the 2024 flagship Global Trends Report from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

The rise in overall forced displacement – to 120 million by May 2024 – was the 12th consecutive annual increase and reflects both new and mutating conflicts and a failure to resolve long-standing crises. The figure would make the global displaced population equivalent to the 12th largest country in the world, around the size of Japan's.

Meanwhile, Afghan refugees represent the largest refugee population around the world– 2.6 million registered with 2.2 million registered Pakistan and Iran alone. Another 3.22 million people were internally displaced by the end of 2023, having fled their homes in search of refuge within Afghanistan.

A key factor driving the displaced peoples' figures higher has been the devastating conflict in Sudan: at the end of 2023, 10.8 million Sudanese remained uprooted. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Myanmar, millions were internally displaced last year by vicious fighting. UNRWA estimates that by the end of last year, up to 1.7 million people (75 per cent of the population) had been displaced in the Gaza Strip by the catastrophic violence, most of whom were Palestine refugees. Syria remains the world's largest displacement crisis, with 13.8 million forcibly displaced in and outside the country.

"Behind these stark and rising numbers lie countless human tragedies. That suffering must galvanize the international community to act urgently to tackle the root causes of forced displacement," said Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. "It is high time for warring parties to respect the basic laws of war and international law. The fact is that without better cooperation and concerted efforts to address conflict, human rights violations and the climate crisis, displacement figures will keep rising, bringing fresh misery and costly humanitarian responses."

The largest increase in displacement figures came from people fleeing conflict who remain in their own country, rising to 68.3 million people according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre – up almost 50 per cent over five years.

The number of refugees, and others in need of international protection, climbed to 43.4 million when including those under UNHCR and UNRWA's mandates. The vast majority of refugees are hosted in countries neighbouring their own, with 75 per cent residing in low- and middle-income countries that together produce less than 20 per cent of the world's income.

The report showed that worldwide, more than 5 million internally displaced people and 1 million refugees returned home in 2023. These figures show some progress towards longer-term solutions. Positively, resettlement arrivals increased to almost 160,000 in 2023.

"Refugees – and the communities hosting them – need solidarity and a helping hand. They can and do contribute to societies when they are included," Grandi added. "Equally, last year millions of people returned home, representing an important glimmer of hope. Solutions are out there – we've seen countries like Kenya lead the way in refugee inclusion – but it takes real commitment."



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

Role of Remittances in Shaping Pakistan's Economic Diplomacy - I

Muhammad Arfa Mushtaq

As a lifeline for millions of households and a significant factor in defining Pakistan's foreign policy and international economic connections, remittances are integral to the country's economic diplomacy. Pakistan is among the top recipients of remittances worldwide, and the money its diaspora sends home is crucial to the country's economic growth and stability. The repercussions of these remittances are extensive, affecting Pakistan's diplomatic relations and strategic alliances and the country's internal economy.

Remittances have significantly contributed to Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves in recent years. The World Bank estimates that remittances to Pakistan came to about \$29.4 billion in 2021; this amount highlights the significance of these payments in preserving economic stability. The consistent influx of remittances has served as a buffer against economic shocks and has lessened the effects of trade imbalances. Pakistan needs this financial stability to handle challenging geopolitical environments and advance its international reputation.

Pakistan's policy with its diaspora is intricately linked to its economic diplomacy. The government is aware of the strategic significance of its foreign nationals, especially those in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which account for the majority of remittances. Consequently, Pakistan has directed more of its attention towards fortifying its bilateral ties with these nations to guarantee the welfare of its expatriates and to enable the uninterrupted flow of remittances. The imperative to safeguard and advance the welfare of Pakistani labourers overseas frequently influences high-level diplomatic interactions, trade deals, and labour

regulations.

One of the most prominent examples of this dynamic is Pakistan's relationship with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, which hosts a huge number of Pakistani workers, is Pakistan's greatest source of remittances. The desire to maintain these economic links has a significant impact on the two countries' bilateral relationship. Pakistan's diplomatic efforts frequently focus on ensuring favourable working conditions and legal rights for its workers in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, Pakistan's support for Saudi-led efforts, as well as its alignment with Riyadh on many regional issues, reflect the economic interdependence produced by remittances.

Similarly, Pakistan's interactions with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Gulf governments follow a similar trend. The UAE is another key source of remittances, and the Pakistani government works closely with Emirati authorities to improve labour collaboration and protect the rights of Pakistani expats. These diplomatic measures are intended not just to protect the current workforce, but also to boost employment prospects for Pakistanis, raising the possibility of future remittance flows.

Beyond the Gulf, Pakistan's economic diplomacy is affected by its diaspora in other regions of the world, such as North America and Europe. Remittances from these regions, though less than those from the Gulf Cooperation Council, are still considerable and add to Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves. The government has launched several initiatives to interact with the diaspora in these locations, with a focus on investment opportunities, dual citizenship, and political representation. These initiatives are intended to build ties with the expatriate population and urge them to participate more actively in Pakistan's economic development.

Remittances also influence Pakistan's domestic economic policies, which in turn impact its international ties. The government has implemented several steps to encourage remittance inflows, including incentives for using formal banking channels and lower transaction costs. These policies seek to maximize the economic benefits of remittances by encouraging more finances to enter the formal financial system. By doing so, Pakistan not only increases its foreign exchange reserves but also improves the stability and transparency of its financial sector, which is crucial for attracting foreign investment and building international economic ties.

Furthermore, the strategic importance of remittances has prompted Pakistan to actively participate in international forums and discussions about migration and remittance policies. Pakistan pushes for migrant workers' rights and strives to influence global policy affecting remittances. This aggressive approach in international forums enables Pakistan to form relationships with other remittance-receiving countries and advocate for better conditions for its diaspora. Such diplomatic measures are critical to ensuring that global remittance rules are consistent with Pakistan's economic objectives.

Remittances have an impact on Pakistan's economic diplomacy, including its interactions with international financial institutions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank constantly monitor remittance flows to assess Pakistan's economic health. Stable and strong remittance inflows might help Pakistan's negotiating position with international institutions, allowing for better conditions in financial aid programs. This, in turn, can help Pakistan adopt necessary economic reforms and attain better fiscal stability.

To be continued

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

Uzair Ahmad

This includes efficient energy conservation through better insulated structures, efficient appliances in homes, and enhanced fuel conservation through improved vehicles. This paper reveals that afforestation and forest restoration contributes to Carbon Storage. Therefore, efforts to safeguard the areas that are already being occupied by forests from giving way to the process of deforestation are equally as relevant. Supporting institutions can use carbon pricing mechanisms like carbon taxes or cap-and-trade systems that would incentivize the controlling of carbon emissions. These policies support companies to create competitive, new, and efficient methods of production that are also less polluting. New technologies, like CCCs, and next generation nuclear power reactors, can be a part of an effective strategy to reduce emissions.

Adaptation measures which imply changes in sectors and values are the methods intended to minimize the vulnerability of the climate change threats. It is important to focus on ensuring that infrastructure is appropriate for its environment and can stand up to the worst storms. This includes construction of barriers to floods, enhancing drainage systems as well as constructing structures and other amenities that can withstand extreme heat and stormy weather conditions. It is especially important that actions are taken to develop climate resistant crops and other practices in farming. Water management and the adequate use of water with the utilization of proper soil conservation measures are also imperative. It must be noted that improving the public health infrastructure to manage climate-related health effects adequately is crucial.

This entails the surveillance and management of infectious and diseases outbreaks, as well as support during heat waves and other acts of climax. It was found that the adaptation measures like early warning systems and disaster preparedness can minimize effects of climate – related disasters. Participation in education and training in the community is paramount in the disaster risk management processes. Finally, climate change is a global issue which merits international efforts. Emphasis on their efforts is evident in the Paris agreement where nations work hand in hand to limit the effects of climate change and support developing countries. It is important to offer money to these countries because developing countries need help in a lot of ways including offering them some of their financial needs. Thus, this assists them to adapt to low carbon economies and also prepare themselves for the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is that one issue that has define this century and needs to be addressed with a lot of seriousness and vim. We are only at the beginning of our journey in dealing with this problem; however, tools that could help us combat this issue exist. Minimizing further emissions of GHG on the one hand, preparing for the changes that cannot be avoided on the other, and involving the global community in the climate change process on the third, will help minimize the negative consequences of climate change and create the basis for a sustainable future. This is a worldwide initiative and all persons, neighbourhood and countries have a part to contribute. About this common issue we should come up and unite, contribute our efforts, and take the responsibility of protecting our home, the earth, for the generations to come.

Writer is student of International Relations in National Defence University, Islamabad

ASEAN Movie Night at the Indonesian Embassy

Creative Economy as Means for Managing Diversity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, in collaboration with the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) organized an ASEAN Movie Night event featuring the award-winning Indonesian film "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" (Missing Home:red), directed by the Indonesian Producer Bene Dion Rajagukguk. The event was a delightful fusion of cinema and cuisine, celebrating the rich cultural ties and immense similarities between Indonesia and Pakistan.

On this occasion, the Indonesia Chargé d' Affaires (CDA) Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta in his welcoming remarks apprised the distinguished guests from diplomatic and Pakistani community that the ASEAN Movie Night reflects the spirit of continuously bolstering friendship among ASEAN family members. "Moreover, I also wish to transfer the spirit of friendship among us to our brothers and sisters in Pakistan and beyond," he said.

The Indonesian CDA also called Pakistani film makers to 'Look East' for further exploring potentials of creative economy in Indonesia and ASEAN region. Elaborating the huge economic potential of Indonesian creative industry he said, "The film industry is currently the fastest-growing sub-sector of Indonesia's creative economy. The number of moviegoers in the country were more than 55 million in 2023. And in 2023, the local film industry in Indonesia set a new record with 20 movies, attracting over 1 million viewers each. In recent years, the film and entertain-

ment industry in ASEAN countries, have experienced robust growth."

The event commenced by screening the video on ASEAN Summit 2023 held in the enchanting paradise of Labuan Bajo as one of Indonesian ten new Balis followed by the screening of Indonesian movie that provided a cinematic treat showcasing Indonesia's perfect blend of humor, mutual respect, ideal parenting, local wisdom and morality, cultural richness, and beauty of the natural landscape.

Released in 2022, "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap" is a comedy film that tells the story of an elderly couple from the Batak tribal family in Toba Lake, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Known for their rich customs and social structure, the Batak community places a strong emphasis on patriarchal hierarchy and respect for elders. The film portrays the couple's three sons who have left home to pursue their careers far away from their village. In a humorous twist, the parents pretend to divorce to compel their sons to return home. The movie is pictured in the breathtaking backdrop of Lake Toba—the largest volcanic lake in the world, recognized as a UNESCO Global Geopark since 2020.

The audience also savoured a variety of mouth-watering Indonesian dishes, including bakso (meatball soup), chicken satay (sweet saucy BBQ), onde-onde (glutinous rice balls dessert), and much more on this occasion.

After the movie, all the guests received goodie bags from Indomie, the world's largest instant noodle brand, which manufactures in Faisalabad with the flavors tailored to the Pakistani market.



Movie Review: Ngeri-ngerri Sedap

Bene Dion Rajagukguk provides a breath of fresh air for Indonesian cinema by highlighting the culture and customs of the Batak tribe as outlined in a family comedy-drama film.

The film about the story of a family from the Batak tribe was made by Bene Dion through a comedy-drama that is presented in a natural way. The Batak family that we see in the film Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap is a harmonious family that is successful in raising its children. The family also upholds Batak customs. Pak Domu as the head of the family (played by Arswendy Nasution) is described by Bene Dion as a person whose wishes are obeyed. There is a conflict over lack of freedom and loss of the definition of "home".

The preamble to the film Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap shows the beauty of Lake Toba for a minute. Batak language singing can be heard and it features Pak Domu enjoying the music of his guitar in the lapo (stall). The lyrics of the song in Indonesian mean "I work hard day and night so that my children can go to school. I try as hard as possible. I can do everything. Literally to survive this life. So that my children can achieve their dreams. My son is my treasure." becomes an implied message about the point of view of Pak Domu and Mak Domu (played by Tika Panggabean) which later develops into a conflict within the family.

One of the residents who was late at the report reasoned that he had just finished handling a land dispute case assisted by a lawyer who was his own son. The next scene shows a television program showing Gabe (played by Lolox), Mr. Domu's third child, who is a comedian on a television show. Mr. Domu felt embarrassed because he actually wanted Gabe to become a judge or prosecutor according to the major he took in college. The opening scene is neat because it shows two different fates. Between desire and reality.

The Batak tribe is synonymous with people who are experts in professions that deal with the law. In fact, it is normal to hear that the Faculty of Law is filled with Batak people. It is also not



Film Title: Delicious Horror
Scenario: Bene Dion Rajagukguk
Cast: Arswendy Beningswara Nasution, Tika Panggabean, Boris Bokir Manullang, Gita Bhebhita Butar-Butar, Lolox, Indra Jegel
Production: Imaginari and Visionary Film Fund
Release Date: June 2, 2022

strange to hear the names of great lawyers whose surnames are Batak. It's not surprising that Mr Domu wants Gabe to become a judge or prosecutor rather than a comedian considering that Gabe has a law degree. Bene Dion interpreted the Batak tribe according to how Indonesian society views the Batak tribe. It's not just profession that Mr Domu is concerned about. His first child, Domu (played by Boris Bokir), is also opposed. This is because Domu wants to marry a Sundanese person. Pak Domu is too concerned about what residents say who are worried that

Sundanese people don't understand Batak customs. Batak traditional representations are increasingly visible regarding the first male child, who continues the clan and customs, should marry a Batak person. Mr Domu even threatened not to meet Domu if he still resisted. Pak Domu's last child, Sahat (played by Indra Jegel), is also a victim of Pak Domu's worries. According to Batak custom, the last child does not go abroad, he takes care of his parents. However, Sahat reasoned that he could not go home because he had a business in the village where he

did KKN and took care of Mr. Pomo who lived alone.

Sarma (played by Gita Bhebhita) is Mr Domu's only hope. According to him, Sarma is the one who takes care of him and Mak Domu because Sarma works as a civil servant in the sub-district so there is no need to go abroad. However, residents are wondering why Sarma isn't married yet. The character of Sarma is a symbol of the stigma that women should marry quickly so they don't become old maids.

Children from birth are raised by their parents. When adults, they have the right to determine their life goals. Pak Domu is a symbol of parents who overly impose their will because they want their family to run according to existing customs. Pak Domu's selfishness became even more visible when he was given the message to bring all his children to the traditional Sulang-Sulang Pahompuparty. Pak Domu finally devised scary

and delicious strategies to get his children to come home, namely pretending to want a divorce from Mak Domu.

During almost two hours of watching the film Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap, I praised this film many times. How come? The actors who play the roles are descendants of the original Batak tribe so their accents feel natural. The one take shot before the traditional party begins brings the audience into the warm atmosphere of the village. Details such as small children being reprimanded while playing before the traditional party started were also noted. Simple scenes that provide a more realistic and natural atmosphere.

One take shot is the hallmark of Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap. Shooting using this technique increasingly brings a dramatic impression when the conflict escalates. I could feel how emotional Pak Domu's four children were when they were constantly forced to follow their father's wishes. Also when Pak Domu and Mak Domu's lies were exposed, the children felt they didn't recognize their own family. They lost the definition of "home".

Unfortunately, his emotional disposition was felt to be lacking. During the scene where Sarma turns out to have known about all the lies that Mr. Domu and Mak Domu had done from the start, the characters of Domu, Gabe, and Sahat, who felt betrayed, looked less emotional and seemed pushy. The intonation of the voice when sad also feels like a soap opera scene. However, it is saved by Gita Bhebhita's heart-wrenching acting.

Maybe Bene Dion wanted to make the strong sense of the Batak tribe even more pronounced by inserting several Batak language terms, for example lapo, pahompup, nantulang, and so on. It is true that writers, film actors and Batak people understand these terms, but other Indonesian people do not necessarily understand what is meant. This film backfired because not all Indonesians know Batak language terms, especially without translation.

There are many lessons that can be taken from the film Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap. We all know that parents are obliged to raise their children. However, children



also have the right to live and determine their own path when they grow up. Like what Opung Domu said in the film, "If your child becomes smart, good at thinking, don't be angry. If children develop, parents must also develop. So parents have no end in sight. You have to keep learning."

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

World Bank approves \$150 million to improve primary school outcomes in Punjab and reduce drop-outs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved on Friday \$150 million for a project to increase the participation rates of girls and boys in pre-primary and primary grades and enhance reading proficiency in primary grades in Punjab Province.

Getting Results: Access and Delivery of Quality Education Services in Punjab Project (GRADES) will focus on improving learning outcomes, recovering from learning losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the management of schools, and expanding school participation levels. This will contribute to higher completion rates and increased years of schooling with better learning for both girls and boys. The project is expected to directly benefit approximately 5 million children,



7,000 headteachers, 165,000 teachers, and more than 3,000 teacher mentors in public schools as well as Punjab Education Foundation schools.

"Punjab has more than 7 million out-of-school children. GRADES will help the government of Punjab substantially reduce this number and, in parallel, improve foundational learning outcomes for boys and girls who are

already in school," said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "This will be done through scaling up and strengthening public-private partnerships, improving school preparedness among young children, enhancing the quality and use of teaching and learning materials and assessments, and improving the learning environment in schools."

Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate shocks, the project will follow a climate resilient approach with measures to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, including construction of approximately 5,400 additional climate-smart classrooms in primary schools. It will introduce low-cost climate-smart features such as raised plinths and reflective roofs. The project will prioritize reconstruction of schools damaged during the 2022 floods, especially girls' schools, over-

crowded schools and schools in locations with high numbers of out-of-school children. In addition, measures to strengthen disability inclusion, such as making school infrastructure more accessible and integrating inclusive education principles in teacher coaching is also part of the project's inclusive design.

"The World Bank and the government of Punjab have a strong history of collaboration on education reform," said Izza Farrakh, Task Team Leader for the Project. "GRADES will leverage this partnership for further innovation, such as climate-resilient classrooms and integrating climate change education into the curriculum. Reforms such as these will help ensure a safe and conducive learning environment and at the same time prepare the next generation to be more resilient to climate shocks and natural disasters."

All Pakistan Private Schools' Association protests budget neglect of private education in 2024-25

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain, expressed serious concern over the neglect of the private education sector in the budget 2024-25. He demanded that it is very sad not to give relief in the budget to the private education sector, which helps the government of Pakistan to provide the best education to millions of children. There is no mention of giving relief to religious schools in the budget, while the salaries of government employees should have increased in proportion to inflation, which was not done.

In his statement issued here yesterday, Malik Abrar Hussain completely rejected the budget 2024-25. He said that by ignoring private education in the budget, the current government has shown its hostility towards education. Due to which there



is anxiety in the private education sector. Malik Abrar Hussain further said that no relief was given to religious schools in the budget and no money was allocated

for their development and improvement. Due to which disappointment is spreading in the religious community as well. The government should have allocated a good amount of money for religious school. Who provide free food, shelter and religious education to millions of children. But unfortunately it didn't happen. The budget shows the incompetence of the imported finance minister. Malik Abrar Hussain also strongly criticized the 25% increase in the salaries of government employees. And said that on the contrary, after the tax cut, this increase will be negligible. He demanded that the salaries of government employees should be increased in proportion to inflation.

He said that due to property tax, this private sector will suffer economic exploitation. People's jobs will also be lost. While making the budget, the government should take all aspects into consideration and create a truly people-friendly budget.

Sarsabz Royals Wins Prestigious Ana b2b Award In Usa For Best Customer Experience!

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer's pioneering loyalty program, Sarsabz Royals, has garnered remarkable success at the prestigious Association of National Advertisers (ANA) B2 Awards. This year, Sarsabz Royals was honored with a silver accolade for Best Customer Experience at the ANA B2B Awards Gala in Naples, Florida, USA.

The silver B2B Award for Customer Experience was awarded to Sarsabz Royals for its extremely successful five-year journey in the fertilizer industry, recognizing the partnership with Fatima Fertilizer's business associates. This pioneering initiative has set Fatima Fertilizer apart with first-of-its-kind point-based dealer loyalty program, aiming to create, cultivate, and foster stronger relationships with business

associates. This achievement strengthens Fatima Fertilizer's belief that when dedication, creativity, and vision come together, they create a lasting impact that transcends traditional marketing boundaries. ANA is the advertising industry's renowned and largest trade association in USA, with over 600 companies and 25,000 brands internationally, annually celebrating the most impactful and innovative B2B marketing campaigns across diverse industries.

Speaking about this triumph at the ANA B2B Awards, Rabel Sadozai, Director Sales and Marketing Fatima Fertilizer, said, "We are incredibly proud of our achievements at the ANA B2B Awards. This accolade is a testament to our innovative marketing approaches and commitment to excellence."

Successful Completion of E-skills IT Training Programme in Partnership with Akhuwat

Correspondent

KASUR: A dynamic six-month E-skills IT training programme on 'SEO-Ecommerce with Social Media Marketing' concluded recently, benefiting 39 students, including 20 girls and 19 boys. The programme, conducted in partnership with Akhuwat, has already enabled 10 participants to start earning through small-scale online initiatives, demonstrating its success.

The concluding ceremony was held at Akhuwat College, Kasur, where laptops were distributed to the graduates, equipping them with essential tools for professional growth and financial independence. The event was graced by Mr. Imran Abbasy, MD & CEO of PPL, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Founder of Akhuwat, and officials from both organizations.

In his address, Mr. Imran Abbasy congratulated the graduates and expressed hope that the programme would open numerous earning opportunities, facilitating their seamless transition into the workforce. He also distributed certificates and laptops to graduates from PPL's operational areas in Dera Bugti, Sanghar, and Chakwal districts, as well as Tehsil Gujjar



Khan. With a contribution of Rs. 10 million, PPL's support of the IT training programme underscores its strong commitment to CSR and youth empowerment. PPL continues to lead in CSR initiatives, fostering sustainable community development and empowering individu-

als towards financial independence, benefiting marginalized communities nationwide with an annual input exceeding Rs 3 billion.

Founded in 2001, Akhuwat provides support through interest-free microfinance, free education, healthcare, and other socio-economic measures.

SECP warns public against fraudulent car financing scheme by Etihad Auto Solutions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has taken cognizance of an unincorporated entity by the name of Etihad Auto Solutions for offering car financing schemes against an advance or down payment of 25% at extremely low markup rates.

The sponsors of Etihad Auto Solutions have also registered another company under the Companies Act, 2017 with a similar name, i.e., Etihad Auto Solutions (Private) Limited in order to deceive the public. This fraudulent scheme is being promoted through <https://etihadautosolutions.com/>. It is falsely claimed that Etihad

Auto Solutions (Private) Limited is a non-banking finance company (NBFC) registered with SECP.

SECP hereby warns the public not to deal with M/s Etihad Auto Solutions (Private) Limited and/or Etihad Auto Solutions in any form or arrangement, as these entities are neither licensed by the SECP as NBFCs nor are they allowed to offer car financing services.

The SECP has already initiated action against M/s Etihad Auto Solutions (Private) Limited and Etihad Auto Solutions, which includes closing down their operations and referring the matter to relevant law enforcement agencies.

China's Footwear Association pledges Rs 20 billion investment in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a significant development for Pakistan's footwear industry, The Association of Guangdong Shoes Manufacturers, TAGSM of China has expressed its intention to invest billions of rupees in Pakistan's shoe industry. Mr. Sui Long Liu, Chairman AGSM visited Lahore along with 10 Chinese Delegates from 3-8 June 2024. PFMA host the Chinese delegation, arranged their B2B meetings with Pakistani footwear industry and government officials.

The Chinese delegation visited Pakistan from June 3 to June 8, 2024 and witnessed various shoe-making factories where they have had B2B meetings with the Pakistani counterparts. In April this year, a Pakistan delegation headed by Mansoor Ehsan Sheikh, Chairman

PFMA also visited China and met with the leading shoe-makers there.

Mr. Sui Long Liu, marking a new chapter in bilateral trade relations and potential economic growth. During his visit, Mr. Liu had various meetings with Mr. Mansoor Ehsan Sheikh and finally signed a MOU at the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) in the presence of Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Minister of Trade & Investment Punjab, the both Chairmen highlighted the shared enthusiasm for strengthening ties between the two countries' footwear sectors.

Minister for Trade & Investment, Mr. Shafay Hussain, praised PFMA for their pivotal role in attracting investment in Pakistan. "The success of this visit exemplifies our commitment to fostering international trade relations and attracting foreign investment," said Mr. Hussain. He

further acknowledged the role of PFMA and those of Mr. Ahmed Fawad Farooq, whose dedicated efforts have been instrumental in attracting investors to Pakistan's shoe industry.

Mr. Liu's visit underscored the immense potential of Pakistan's shoe market. "Pakistan represents a burgeoning market for footwear with vast opportunities for growth and development," stated Mr. Liu. He expressed confidence in the country's economic prospects and reiterated his commitment to investing substantially in Pakistan's shoe manufacturing sector. The Chinese delegates plan to invest in 1st phase Rs. 2 billion, and will increase their investment quantum to Rs. 20 billion in the 2nd phase, reflecting the long-term vision and belief in the Pakistani market," he added.

Chairman of PFMA Mr. Mansoor



Ehsan, welcomed the investment and highlighted its potential impact on the local economy. "This investment will create numerous job opportunities and contribute to the overall economic development of Pakistan. We look forward to

a mutually beneficial partnership with TAGSM," he remarked.

This landmark investment signals a promising future for Pakistan's footwear industry, paving the way for increased exports and solidifying the country's

position in the international market. The collaborative efforts of PBIT, PFMA and key figures like Mr. Ahmed Fawad Farooq and Minister Shafay Hussain have been crucial in making this vision a reality.

Arshad Nadeem set to compete in Diamond League events

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem has been granted a long-term multiple entry visa for the Schengen region, courtesy of the efforts of the Pakistan Athletics Federation (PAF).

This will enable Nadeem to participate in the Diamond League events in Finland and France, paving the way for his journey to the Olympics.

The PAF, in collaboration with Major General (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi, Vice President of the Asian Athletics Federation, played a crucial role in facilitating the visa issuance, said a press release.

Sahi had appealed to his counterparts in European Federations and World Athletics, seeking support for Arshad's training and competition endeavours abroad.

With this visa, Nadeem will now have the opportunity to train abroad, compete in all European competitions, including the Olympics, and showcase his talent on the global stage. This achievement is due to PAF's dedication to promoting athletics in Pakistan and supporting its athletes in achieving their goals.



'Heads must roll': Pakistan ex-stars, media slam T20 World Cup exit

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan's ex-stars and media blamed team discord and biased selection for the Asian cricket powerhouse's humiliating first-round exit from the Twenty20 World Cup. AFP

Pakistan's ex-stars and media blamed team discord and biased selection for the Asian cricket powerhouse's humiliating first-round exit from the Twenty20 World Cup.

The 2009 champions were knocked out after the USA-Ireland match was abandoned because of rain – the earliest-ever elimination from a T20 World Cup for Pakistan.

They suffered a shock defeat to first-timers USA before losing to arch-rivals India. Pakistan's only win was against Canada.

"Pakistani players think that if they don't perform well, the coaches will be sacked, and nothing will happen to them," former captain Wasim Akram said during a broadcast after the defeat to India.

"It is time to keep the coaches and change the entire team."

Throughout the tournament, the team was dogged by allegations of internal discord and that some players were



in the squad because of favouritism and not merit.

Fans and analysts also criticised the team's management for not picking the right players for the World Cup.

Former player Kamran Akmal said Shadab Khan was chosen to play because he is close to captain Babar Azam, and that meant leaving out leg-spinner Usama Mir, the top wicket-taker in this year's Pakistan Super League.

"When you select players based on friendship, you'll get these results,"

the last World Cup two years ago, when they reached the final.

"I am disgusted and will not watch the World Cup any more," said Mohammad Asim, a Pakistani fan.

"The team selection was biased and based on friendship," said the 19-year-old university student.

Pakistan are due to host next year's Champions Trophy, and there are calls for a major shake-up in the team and the management.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi – who is also the country's interior minister – said changes were imminent.

"Pakistan team needs a major surgery," he told local media after the India defeat.

"We must endeavour to make the Pakistani cricket team one of the best in the world. The nation does not expect such a disappointing performance."

But one former captain said the board is part of the problem.

"Before we shift the blame to the players, first the PCB and its governing body needs to be sacked," Rashid Latif wrote on the social media platform X.

"These are the people responsible for selecting the players. Heads must roll, but would they?"

One of two Japanese climbers missing in Pakistan found dead

Sports Desk

One of two Japanese climbers was found dead and his body recovered from a mountain in northern Pakistan on Saturday, with a search ongoing for the second man, an official said.

Ryuseki Hiraoka and Atsushi Taguchi were attempting to summit the 7,027-metre (23,054-foot) Spantik mountain in the Karakoram range before they went missing this week.

"The dead body of a Japanese climber was found, and a search is ongoing for the second climber," Wali Ullah Falahi, the Shigar district deputy commissioner, told AFP.

The body was found 300

metres (984 feet) below Camp 3, he said, set at around 6,200 metres (20,341 feet) from where climbers prepare for the final summit.

The deceased was identified as Ryuseki Hiraoka, according to Aaj News correspondent in Skardu.

This photo shows a rescue helicopter in Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan. Photo via Aaj News/Qasim Butt in Skardu

They went missing on June 12. Pakistan army, which also took part in the rescue mission, had traced the mountaineers at 5,000-metre height but the helicopter could not be landed there due to the weather and land situation.



Later a team of climbers and high-altitude mountaineers launched a rescue operation from the ground.

Separately the Shigar DC confirmed this to Aaj News.

"We hope that the recovered body would be brought to the base camp while the search was under way for the second mountaineer," he said.

Naiknam Karim, head of

Adventure Tours Pakistan which organised the expedition, told AFP that "it is not clear whose dead body has been found".

The search by high-altitude climbers and experts was backed by two Pakistan Army helicopters.

The pair had reached base camp on June 3 and were attempting the climb without the help of porters.

They were last seen on June 10 and the alarm raised the following day by fellow climbers who had expected to cross paths with them.

A military helicopter spotted the climbers on Thursday, but the search was suspended due to due to poor weather conditions.

Imad Wasim takes responsibility of run-chase debacle against India

A Sports

FLORIDA: Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim took responsibility for the failed run-chase against India in a blockbuster ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 clash.

Imad, while addressing the pre-match press conference ahead of Pakistan's last fixture against Ireland, talked about what went wrong for the Green Shirts against fierce rivals.

India set Pakistan to chase 120 on a tricky Nassau County International Cricket Stadium surface. The Green Shirts had a decent start to the pursuit but ended up losing the match by six runs.



Imad Wasim came out to bat when Pakistan were 73/3 in 12.2 overs, needing a further 47 runs off 46 deliveries.

The all-rounder revealed that the plan was to take the run-chase against India deeper but he could not execute the

plans properly.

"Our game plan [against India] was to take the chase deep. The wicket was tough to bat on. I let the team down because usually when I go in these situations, I stay very calm and finish the job," stated Imad.

"Finishing this chase was my job which I couldn't do, and I am very hurt by that. But this is life, sometimes you make mistakes. I believe my planning was right but the execution wasn't good," he added.

He then went on to opine that Pakistan are left way behind the other teams in terms of mindset.

"In my opinion, the reason for our defeat [In the World

Cup] was our mindset. We need to take the fear of failure out of our minds and try something new. It is all about mindset, other teams have also changed their thinking, we are behind them because we didn't change our way of thinking," he added.

In response to a question regarding the need for major changes in the team, Imad Wasim said it was not his domain but "drastic" changes are required right now.

"It's not my domain but I think there need to be changes. There should be a drastic change so that we can move forward and fight with world cricket in the way that cricket is played now," Imad concluded.

Pak athlete Yasir clinches silver medal in Asian Throwing C'ship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Talented Pakistani athlete Muhammad Yasir has secured a silver medal in the 2nd Asian Throwing Championship held in Korea.

Yasir threw an impressive 78.10 meters, finishing second behind Sri Lanka's top player, who achieved a throw of 85.45 meters, said a press release.

Another Sri Lankan athlete took third place with a throw of 77.57 meters, while a Japanese athlete finished fourth with a throw of 77.25 meters.

The championship, which took place in Korea, brought together athletes from various Asian countries.

The Pakistan Athletics Federation (PAF) has expressed pride and congratulated Yasir and his coach, Syed Fayaz Hussain Bukhari, for this outstanding achievement.

PAF President Brig (R) Wajahat Hussain and Secretary General Col (R) Shahjahan Mir praised the duo's dedication and hard work.

Yasir and Bukhari are scheduled to return home on June 18 and will be accorded a warm welcome at the airport.



National Men's Baseball C'ship from June 30

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 25th National Men's Baseball Championship would kick off from June 30 in Rawalpindi.

All provincial teams and affiliated units including Balochistan, K. P. Sindh, Punjab, Islamabad, Army, Wapda, Police and HEC will participate.

According to Secretary General Pakistan Federation Baseball Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, all provincial teams and affiliated units including Balochistan, KP, Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad, Pakistan Army, Wapda, Police and HEC would participate in the championship.

He said the names of Organizing Secretary, Coordinator, Chairman Technical Committee, Media Coordinator and other members of organizing committee would be announced later.

"The championship is expected to showcase the best of baseball talent from across the country," he said.

Shah said the organizing committee was working hard to ensure a successful and memorable event.

"Pakistan Federation Baseball has sent a letter to all the participating units announcing the organization of the 25th National Men's Baseball Championship, in response to which all the teams and units have started their preparations and training for the event," he said.



India-Canada T20 World Cup 2024 fixture abandoned due to wet outfield



A Sports

FLORIDA: The 33rd match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 between India and Canada has been abandoned without a ball bowled due to a wet outfield here at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium.

A heavy rainfall in the morning left several wet patches on the outfield and despite a tireless effort from the ground staff, the field could not be made suitable for the action.

The umpires carried out two inspections and decided to call off the match.

As a result of the abandonment, India and Canada shared a point of each.

The inaugural champions finished the group stage unbeaten with seven points in four matches while the associate nation finished last with just one point.

India had already booked their spot in the Super 8s of the T20 World Cup 2024 with a hard-fought victory over the co-host United States of America (USA).

Earlier, a crucial Group A fixture between the co-host United States of America (USA) and Ireland was washed out at the same venue and thus marked the end of Pakistan's journey in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024.

Besides Pakistan, Ireland were also eliminated from the Super 8s race.

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.

T20 World Cup 2024: Nepal fall short as South Africa secure 1-run victory

Nepal fell short of a historic win against the mighty South Africa as the latter managed to secure a thrilling one-run victory on the last ball of the 31st match of the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024.

Chasing South Africa's 116-run target, Nepal were set to get over the line, however, the Proteas bagged back-to-back wickets towards the end of the game to triumph over the Asian side.

Nepal were 85-2 at one stage as Aasif Sheikh and AK Sah added 50 runs in 36 balls for the third wicket partnership.

Tabraiz Shamsi led the way for South Africa with figures of 4-19 in four overs.

Ottneil Baartman was tasked with bowling the last over with Nepal needing eight runs to win. Despite conceding a four on the third ball, Baartman held his nerves and finished the over with two dot balls.

Two runs were needed on the last delivery of the final over. Baartman banged in short as Gulsan Jha looked to run it past the keeper but he failed to connect bat with ball.

Pakistan Navy's MILGEM Class Ship BABUR

Group photo of Pakistan and Turkish Navy officials onboard PNS BABUR at Naval Base AKSAZ Turkiye.



Photo: Online

E-Office to provide better public services, ensure transparency: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the main objective behind usage of E-Office system in the federal government's run ministries and departments would provide better services to the public, besides ensuring transparency in the government system.

The prime minister chaired an important review meeting on shifting of federal govern-

ment's run ministries and departments on E-Office. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for Information and Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, PM's Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and other relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister observed that with this system, billions of rupees in the national exche-



quers could be saved and the lesser use of paper would also cast positive effects upon environment. He also directed for simplification and security of E-office system.

The prime minister directed for expediting work on the matters related to a cooperation agreement with Huawei, a Chinese company.

The meeting was apprised of progress made on the E-Office system, its implementation and reforms.

For the evaluation of success of this system, key performance indicators were being arranged. While overhauling of National Information Technology Board was also started, it was further added.

PNS BABUR participates PN-TN bilateral drill TURGUTREIS-IX at Aksaz Turkiye

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy's MILGEM Class Ship BABUR participated in PN-TN Bilateral Exercise TURGUTREIS-IX at Naval Base AKSAZ, Turkiye.

The exercise encompassed harbour and sea phases to rehearse various maritime operations and enhance interoperability, a Pakistan Navy news release said on Saturday.

During harbour phase of the exercise, briefings, tabletop discussions and exercise coordination meetings were held onboard PNS BABUR. During the sea phase, PNS BABUR and Turkish Fleet units, including ADA Class Corvette TCG HEYBE-

LIADA, Submarine TCG DOGANAY, and SH- 70B helicopter, conducted joint maritime exercises and operations to enhance interoperability between both navies.

Earlier, upon arrival at Naval Base AKSAZ, Rear Admiral Yusuf Akyuz, Commander Turkish Navy Southern Task Group welcomed the ship. During interaction with Commanding officer of PNS BABUR matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation were discussed. Regular conduct of PN-TNF Bilateral Exercise TURGUTREIS demonstrates the strong bond and cooperation between the Pakistan Navy and the Turkish Naval Forces, promoting regional maritime security and stability.

Balochistan's budget expected to exceed Rs870 billion

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan's annual budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 is expected to be more than Rs875 billion, sources within the provincial Finance Department told.

The surplus budget would be presented in the Balochistan Assembly on June 22. But the cabinet would decide after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visits the province.

The development budget is expected to exceed Rs220 billion, they said and added that the education budget is expected to see a record 52% increase, reaching Rs115 billion. Moreover, Rs68 billion has been earmarked for the health sector.

In addition to this, the provincial government has decided to create 3,000 new positions in

the police and Levies forces and increase the budget for law and order by 70%.

It is expected that parliamentarians would be given separate funds for development schemes.

The municipal budget is expected to see a 110% increase, rising from Rs16 billion to Rs35 billion. Rs50 billion each has been allocated for solarisation and the Green Pakistan initiative under which barren land would be converted for cultivation.

Almost Rs220 billion would be earmarked for developmental funds. Sources said that parliamentarians would get separate funds for uplift schemes. Lawmakers in the treasury benches are expected to get Rs800 million each while the members in opposition benches would get Rs500 million each.

Mohsin Naqvi visits Frontier Constabulary's Fort in Shabqadar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the historic Fort of the Frontier Constabulary in Shabqadar and conducted a detailed inspection of the said fort which was built in 1813.

The minister showed keen interest in the ancient parts of the fort and the chained gates. Apart from this, the minister also saw the statue of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the rest house which was built in 1837.

It is worth mentioning that Winston Churchill stayed in that rest house in September 1897.

During the reign of Ranjit Singh, the fort was built by Toota Ram, a skilled architect, and named Shankar Garh. In 1839, the Mahmood tribe attacked Shankar Garh Fort

and entered the fort by breaking the gates. Ranjit Singh's son, Sher Singh, conducted an inquiry about the broken gates which was headed by a French general. As a result of the inquiry, the gates were sentenced to be chained for 100 years in 1840. Even after 184 years, the gates remain chained.

Mohsin Naqvi praised the historical significance of the fort and commended it.

He highlighted that FC has rendered invaluable services

towards maintaining peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that FC has written stories of bravery in the war against terrorism and the nation is proud of its brave soldiers.

Commandant FC Moazzam Jah Ansari briefed the interior minister about the historical background of the fort and chained gates.

Later, Minister Mohsin Naqvi recorded his comments in the visitors' book.



Hajj sermon: Muslims urged to forge unity

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Maher Al Muaiqly testified that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is Allah's Messenger, sent as a mercy to all worlds. Allah commanded to follow the Prophet (PBUH), and those who follow Allah and His Messenger's commands will succeed in this world and the hereafter.

"Alcohol and gambling are satanic acts," he warned.

Imam-e-Kaaba also urged Muslims to especially remember Palestinians in their prayers.

He concluded by urging the public to respect each other's rights, not to kill unjustly, and to make decisions with justice.

The Hajj is life goal for many Muslims, who are obligated to perform

the pilgrimage at least once if they are financially and physically capable.

This year's hajj takes place in the shadow of the Gaza war, after eight months of bloodshed that is an open wound for many in the Muslim world.

Key points from Arafah Khutbah by Sheikh Maher:

Shariah's Objectives: The Shariah aims to achieve and maximize benefits while preventing or minimizing harm. It prioritizes preventing harm over achieving benefits.

Flourishing Life: The Shariah encompasses everything that promotes a flourishing life and development, and it prohibits causing harm to others.

Five essentials:

Islamic law emphasizes the importance of preserving the five essentials: religion, life, intellect, wealth, and honor. Any violation against them is considered a crime.

Individual responsibility: Every believer must strive to protect these five essentials, which leads to the well-being of creation, societal stability, widespread security, and the ability for people to achieve their religious and worldly interests.

Purpose of Hajj: Hajj is a manifestation of worship and devotion to Allah, not a place for political slogans or factions.

Greatness of Arafah: Pilgrims, you are in a significant position at Arafah, where Allah boasts of you to His angels. It is a noble time

and place where good deeds are multiplied, sins are forgiven, and ranks are elevated.

Prophet's Practice: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stood at Arafah to engage in remembrance and supplication.

Supplication: Pilgrims should pray for themselves, their parents, and their loved ones. When one prays for their brother in their absence, an angel responds, "Ameen, and for you the same."

Prayers for Palestine: Pray for our brothers in Palestine who are suffering from harm and oppression by their enemy, shedding blood, causing destruction, and preventing them from accessing their needs.

Didn't face a bid to pressurize, says SHC Chief Justice

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Justice Sindh High Court on Saturday said he didn't contact neither pressurized. SHC chief justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi was replying to a question of a newsman.

"The judiciary's freedom depicts from its decisions, I think a judge could not be dishonest or corrupt," Justice Abbasi said.

"I didn't face a bid to pressurize in a specific case," chief justice said. "A bid seemed such an effort was tackled forthwith, which was later found to be a misunderstanding," Justice Abbasi said.

Chief Justice SHC said that transfer of an election tribunal judge was a routine matter. "Pressure increases over courts when institutions fail to perform their job diligently," he added.

Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad on Friday regretted the interference of



the establishment in the matters of the judiciary, believing that "it will come to its end very soon."

"Establishment's interference in the judiciary will have to be fought with bravery, courage and without any fear, and with the belief that this interference, God-willing, will end soon," said Justice Ahmad while addressing an event in Rawalpindi.

The LHC chief justice noted that he has received complaints and letters of interference in judicial matters by "institutions", adding that he was glad that the judiciary was "fulfilling its responsibilities without any fear or greed".

Senate committee rejects proposal for 15% tax on property

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Senate committee has rejected the federal government's proposal to impose a 15% levy on the property that would have come into effect on July 1, however, it approved the recommendation to restrict the foreign travel on non-filers.

The decision was taken during the Senate Standing Committee on Finance meeting on the Finance Bill in Islamabad on Saturday. PPP Senator Saleem Mandviwala presided over the meeting.

In the annual budget, the federal government proposed a host of new taxes including those on non-filers to bring the people to the tax net.

Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Zubair Tiwana informed the committee that a new provision has been introduced in the Finance Bill regarding property purchases by late filers. The tax rate for late filers has been kept between that of regular filers and non-filers. He

also mentioned that most individuals only file their returns at the time of property purchase.

Committee Chairman Mandviwala argued that the tax rate for late filers should be the same as non-filers. Senator Anusha Rahman advocated being more lenient towards filers and increasing taxes on non-filers. But Senator Mansoor Kakar opposed any increase in property taxes.

The committee ultimately decided to reject the proposal to increase property taxes. They also rejected the suggestion to extend the tax exemption for erstwhile tribal areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - FATA and PATA regions - by another year.

The FBR chairman stated that there was extensive debate on such issues in the cabinet, but their objections were not accepted. When asked, he revealed that the International Monetary Fund had opposed providing tax exemptions to the merged districts.