



Warm felicitations to all Pakistanis on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha

Rawalpindi: The Armed Forces of Pakistan, CJSC and Services Chiefs extend their warm felicitations to all Pakistanis on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. This sacred event embodies the spirit of sacrifice for the greater good. On this auspicious day, we are indebted to our martyrs and ghazis for the independence and peace which prevail in the country, and pay tribute to their ultimate sacrifices.



Are Punjab citizens satisfied with Maryam Nawaz's govt? Survey reveals

A majority of Punjab's population has expressed satisfaction over the performance of the provincial govt led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, a survey revealed on Sunday. The IPOR conducted a survey in Punjab targeting the adult population (age 18 and above) to gather public opinion on the 100-day performance of Maryam Nawaz, who created history by becoming the first female to be elected as Chief Minister of Punjab. (Details on Page 8)

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Eidul Adha Mubark

UAE President performs Eid Al Adha prayer at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque on Sunday.



Muslims celebrate Eidul Adha in Saudi Arabia, UAE other parts of world

News Desk

MAKKAH: Eidul Adha is being celebrated in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and several other Middle East countries on Sunday.

Large congregations held at several places across the world to offer Eid prayers.

Two large congregations were held at Masjid ul Haram and Masjid e Nabawi in holy cities of Makkah and Madina in Saudi Arabia today to offer Eidul Adha prayers.

According to reports more than a million people attended the Eid prayers at the two

holiest places of Islam.

Large congregations for Eid prayers were also held in United Arab Emirates (UAE) today.

The Muslims in United States, Japan, Indonesia, Turkey are also celebrating Eidul Adha on Tuesday.

Eidul Adha will be celebrated in Pakistan on Monday (today).

Eidul Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice), falls on the 10th day of Zil-Hajj month of lunar Islamic calendar, and is celebrated by Muslims around the world 70 days after Eid Al Fitr which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

PM, President Aliyev convey Eid greetings, pray for unity, peace, prosperity of Ummah

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday had a telephone conversation with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

"The two dignitaries exchanged Eid greetings and expressed their best wishes for the people of both countries on this auspicious occasion. They also prayed for unity, peace and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah," PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the telephone conversation, the two leaders reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations, especially in the domain

of trade, defence and energy. They expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of relations and agreed to continue working closely to further strengthen bilateral ties to match the political goodwill that existed between both countries.

In addition, they also discussed ways to deal with common challenges, especially climate change. The prime minister congratulated Azerbaijan for hosting the COP29 in Baku later this year and thanked President Aliyev for extending a personal invitation to him to participate in the event.

Both leaders reaffirmed that Pakistan and Azerbaijan would continue to support each other at multilateral forums including at the United Nations, OIC and



ECO.

They particularly appreciated the firm and consistent support that both countries extended to each other on their respective

core issues.

Prime Minister Sharif also reiterated his warm and cordial invitation to President Aliyev to undertake an official visit to

Pakistan soon. President Aliyev confirmed that he would visit Pakistan at an early date.

On X account, the prime minister said that he had a warm conversation with Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, to wish each other on Eid ul Adha.

"We prayed that this Eid brings joy to our two countries as well as bringing peace and unity to the Muslim Ummah. Exchanged views on how to further strengthen our existing excellent, fraternal relations. There is tremendous potential in trade, investment, energy and connectivity. Reiterated my invitation to President Aliyev to visit Pakistan which he very graciously accepted to do at an early date," he further said in X post.

PTI quit anti-state smear campaign and hold dialogue: Barrister Aqeel

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Aqeel Malik, government's spokesperson on Legal Affairs, said on Sunday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) must quit its anti-state activities and propaganda, and hold dialogue with the government on political issues to mull over solutions instead of damaging the nation's interest at global forums.

Addressing a press conference, Barrister Aqeel Malik said that there was no precedent to PTI's country enmity as it was perpetrating anti-Pakistan legislation in foreign

countries.

"Pakistan is an independent country and does not take dictation from any nation. We want friendly relations with all nations.

However, a concentrated smear campaign against Pakistan in foreign countries that started after the 2022 vote of no confidence which mounted the anti-Pakistan propaganda," he said and added that the PTI had hired lobbyists and PR firms to promote anti-Pakistan campaign abroad.

He reiterated that the state and government of Pakistan were fully aware of the campaign and its perpetrators.

Afghan Taliban govt says to attend next round of UN talks in Doha

AFP

DOHA: Taliban authorities will attend the third round of United Nations-hosted talks on Afghanistan in the Qatari capital, a government spokesman said on Sunday, after snubbing an invitation to the previous round.

The Taliban government's participation in the conference of foreign special envoys to Afghanistan had been in doubt after it was not included in the first round and then refused an invitation to the second round in February.

A delegation of the Islamic Emirate will participate in the coming Doha conference. They will represent Afghanistan there and express Afghanistan's position," Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP.

The talks in Doha are scheduled to be held on June 30 and July 1.

Mujahid told Afghan media on Sunday that a delegation — yet to be announced — would attend because the agenda of the talks appeared "beneficial to Afghanistan".

The agenda includes "topics such as aid for Afghanistan and creating opportunities for investors in Afghanistan, which are important", he said. Civil society groups that

included women were invited to the February talks but the Taliban government refused to participate unless its members could be the sole representatives of Afghanistan.

It also requested to meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Guterres said in a statement after the February talks the set of conditions to participate "were not acceptable", but that delegates hoped for Taliban officials to attend future meetings.

Diplomatic sources told AFP there were plans to consult with civil society groups before and after the third round.

The sources said the talks were due to cover finance and economic issues, as well as counternarcotics efforts. Several civil society groups have also urged the UN to prioritise issues involving women's rights at the meeting.

The international community has wrestled with its approach to Afghanistan's new government, which has not been recognised by any other state, in the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power in 2021.

The Taliban government has imposed a strict interpretation of Islam, with women subjected to laws characterised by the UN as "gender apartheid".

What are the rates of sacrificial animal hides this Eid?

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The prices for the hides of sacrificial animals in Karachi and Lahore have been announced, according to media reports, as Muslims prepare for Eidul Adha.

In Karachi, the average price for a cowhide is set between Rs1,000 to Rs1,100 while in Punjab, the price range is between Rs1,800 to Rs2,000.

For goat hides, the price in Karachi is fixed at Rs425 to Rs450 and in Punjab, it would be Rs450 to Rs500.

The price of sheep hide in Karachi is set at Rs150 while in Punjab, it will be available for Rs200.

The price for a camel hide has been determined to be between Rs450 to

China expresses satisfaction over security arrangements in Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi assured foolproof security of Chinese citizens in Pakistan during his meeting with the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong.

The minister called arrived at the Chinese Embassy to call on Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong who warmly welcomed Mohsin Naqvi. Both sides discussed the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif to China in a meeting.

A detailed discussion was also held on the promotion of Pakistan-China relations and measures taken for the security of Chinese citizens in Pakistan. The recent visit of the prime minister has strengthened the friendship with China said Mohsin Naqvi adding that the president of China, the prime minister and senior leadership of China have always supported Pakistan.

He informed the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zedong about the measures to protect Chinese citizens



across the country including Islamabad.

Mohsin Naqvi also briefed him on the security plan of Chinese engineers and staff working on CPEC and other projects.

He said that comprehensive and effective SOPs have been made for the security of Chinese citizens and a separate force "SPU" is being created in Islamabad for foreign nationals. The protection of the Chinese brothers who are working for the construction and development of Pakistan is the first priority of the government of Pakistan, said Mohsin Naqvi.

He said that no one can create a rift in the eternal friendship between Pakistan and China and such a conspiracy will never be allowed to succeed. He said that Pakistan and China are friends and iron brothers said Chinese ambassador adding that China attaches great importance to relations with Pakistan.

The Chinese ambassador expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements made for the protection of Chinese citizens. Interior Secretary Khurram Ali Agha and senior officials of the Chinese Embassy were also present in the meeting.

Masses urged to safely dump offal to mitigate bird-aircraft collision risk

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government on Sunday urged masses to ensure safe disposal of offal and remains of sacrificial animals at designated places that would help in mitigating bird-aircraft collision risk and avoid any untoward situation in the residential areas in the vicinity of airports.

According to the awareness message issued on cellular phones, "The public is requested to avoid throwing offal in the areas around the airports because it leads to the gathering of scavengers and birds preying on the animal's leftover that may collide with the airplane

Continue on Page 8

Continue on Page 8

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs to ensure best arrangements & fool proof security on Eid-ul-Adha

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Impose Section-144 to enforce a ban on throwing animal waste in canals and drains, besides a ban on illegal business of roasting 'Siri Paey' on Eid-ul-Adha, said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while chairing a special meeting to review administrative and security arrangements on Eid-ul-Adha. She directed the authorities concerned to further activate provincial, divisional, district and tehsil level control rooms.

Madam Chief Minister was briefed, "In Lahore, staff will go from door to door, and pick up animal waste packed in biodegradable bags." She was apprised, "After performing the religious ritual of slaughtering sacrificial animals, the city streets will be washed, limed and sprayed."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was also briefed, "Animal sale points have been established at 294 places in Punjab." She was further briefed, "Drains and manhole would



be protected against littering throughout Punjab."

Madam Chief Minister was also presented with a report on security arrangements at 2600 mosques and 900 'Eid Gahs' in the province. She directed to ensure implementation of security SOPs, and said, "Wherever there is fear, increase security to ensure protection of people's lives and prop-

erty."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also directed to install mist fans and fans in Eid Gahs to beat the heat. She said, "Install cameras for surveillance and walk-through gates for checking." She added, "Inspect swings and slides for children in parks. Swings installed in parks should be checked regularly to ensure safety standards."

Madam Chief Minister resolved, "We will never allow anyone to take law into his hands." She said, "Illegal use of loud-speakers and display of weapons should be banned."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Fool-proof arrangements should be made for the security of cattle markets, bazaars and markets." She added, "Cattle markets should be cleaned and sprayed; sheds and, clean drinking water should be supplied there."

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Law Minister Soheb Ahmed Bharat, Special Assistants Rashid Nasrullah, Zeeshan Malik and MPA Sania Ashiq attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Inspector General Police Dr. Usman Anwar, Secretaries and other authorities concerned were also present. All commissioners and deputy commissioners attended the meeting via video link.

Foolproof security plan for Eid-ul-Adha issued: RPO

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A fool-proof security plan was issued on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha on the instructions of Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary. The purpose of which is to ensure the safety of the public, in this regard, 4493 police officers and youths will perform their duties at 2136 mosques of the region. Similarly, police officers have been assigned the duty of protecting the gatherings at 81 open places. On this occasion, the RPO said that the Multan Region Police is always busy for the safety of the public like in the past. For which no sacrifice will be spared. He further instructed the police officers to be vigilant during these days. And do your duty as worship.



Mosques with sensitive gatherings and open places will also be monitored by CCTV cameras. For which a control room has been established in Regional Office Multan. Similarly, entry into A-category Eid gathering will be through metal detector, walk-through gate and through search. Similarly, along with the police, other units, special branch, elite force, traffic police officers will perform their duties.

On the instructions of Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chowdhury, there is a ban on giving sacrificial skins to banned organizations in Multan Region, Wahari, Khanewal and Lodhran. Those who have obtained permission from the commissioner are allowed to give sacrificial skins. The RPO appealed to the public to fulfill their national duty by reporting the collection of skins by banned organizations to Police Rescue No. 15 or the nearest police station. The name of the whistleblower will be kept confidential. He added that providing any kind of financial support to proscribed organizations is also a crime under the law. Action will be taken against the elements involved under the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.

LHC CJ condole death of slain lawyers in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad on Sunday condoled the death of Malik Israr Ahmed, a seasoned advocate of the High Court and former President of the Punjab Bar Council, with his family in Attock. The lawyer along with his colleague was gunned down by an official of elite force over personal enmity at his chamber in Attock district courts complex on Friday.

The Chief Justice along with justice Sardar Sadaqat Ali Khan of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench visited the residence of the deceased lawyer in Attock district and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. Speaking on the occasion, he commended the services rendered by the deceased lawyer for the better relations between bar and bench. The LHC chief justice highlighted the importance of remembering deceased lawyer contributions for provision of justice and cause of bar.

Journalistic community of Attock condemns target killing of two senior lawyers

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The journalistic community of inter provincial bordering district Attock led by central union of journalists have expressed their deep concern over the prevailing security lapses causing tragic incident of target killing of two senior lawyers in district courts Attock on Saturday. In their joint statement the active journalists include chief patron Syed Arif Naqvi, chairman Rana Shaukat Ali, Secretary General Syed Raza Naqvi, members governing body central union of journalists Attock Mr Mohammad Sabrin, Dr Suhail Ahmed, Qazi Shoaib Khan, Mr Zahid Iqbal, Malik Mumraiz Khan, Yaqub Malik, have strongly condemned the firing incident upon the senior lawyers former member Punjab Bar Council Malik Israr Ahmed advocate supreme court and Mr Zulfiqar A Mirza advocate by the police official of elite force Attock police over some family dispute. The journalistic community of CUJ Attock also demanded of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz and Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider to constitute an impartial joint investigation team to probe the serious issue to bring the real facts on the book besides taking stringent security measures for the lawyers and public at large in the district courts Attock to overcome the sense of insecurity, deprivation and panic among the law fraternity in particular, the journalists added.

IIU invites applications for enrollment in summer Arabic language courses

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University (IIU) has asked interested students to submit applications for admission to the summer Arabic language learning courses by June 28, 2024.

According to an official, the 8-week course, with separate classes for male and female students, will begin on July 1, 2024. The university has offered courses in certificates, diplomas, and advanced diplomas in three categories, separately for male and female aspirants.

The Certificate in Arabic Language is designed for students with no prior understanding of Arabic. The Diploma in Arabic Language is intended for those who have completed the Certificate program. At the same time, the Advanced Diploma course is available to students who have completed the Diploma program at IIU or any other recognised institute.

Each eligible student needed to pay a fee of Rs 15,000 for the entire course. Classes are scheduled from Monday to Thursday each week, with sessions held from 5 pm to 7:30 pm for male students and 9 am to 12 noon for female students.

Hotday

ISLAMABAD: Children cooling them off in Rawal Dam in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Full Arrangements Completed for security of tourists on Eid-ul-Adha: DIG

Sohail Abbasi

ABBOTTABAD: Hazara Division Police has Completed measures to maintain the law and order situation in Hazara Division on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. Deputy Inspector General of Police Hazara Tahir Ayub Khan has announced peace-keeping, traffic plan and Giving instructions to the DPOs regarding the security of important and sensitive places, he said that the DPOs should further improve the security arrangements and traffic management in their respective districts on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha by utilizing all the resources. On this occasion, pay close

attention to the ongoing development projects in Hazara and the security of other important places so that no untoward incident takes place. The traffic plan should be further improved on the occasion of Eid, no one should be driven unnecessarily, especially the tourists should be treated with good manners and they should not be driven. However, full arrangements have been made for the security of tourists from all over the world and from different areas of Pakistan. Additional personnel will also be deployed to make the traffic flow efficient. Tourists from all over the world are welcome. Tourists are requested to cooperate with the police officers on



duty. DIG Hazara further said that the district administration has banned the

sale and purchase of sacrificial animals except in certain places. The respective SHOs should deploy their security personnel in the cattle markets to prevent incidents like theft, theft and pick pocketing. Full security arrangements should be made for Eid prayers in the big mosques and Eid gahs of the city. On the occasion of Eid, strict legal action should be taken against those who engage in aerial firing, one-wheeling and rioting at tourist spots. Make better arrangements for police patrolling in bazaars, shopping malls and other places of purchase and sale. Legal action should also be taken against the taking institutions and groups.

PPP has boycotted federal, Punjab budgets over economic challenges: senior leaders

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: President of Pakistan People's Party South Punjab and former Governor of Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mehmood, Senior Vice President of South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen, while commenting on the budget of the federal and Punjab province. All the PPP members of the national and provincial assembly and party leaders and workers belonging to Punjab have reservations about the federal and Punjab budget. The Punjab government did not consult the PPP on the budget. Serious reservations were expressed. The proposals given by the PPP to the government to improve the worsening situation of the farmers were completely ignored by the Punjab

government. The ongoing ADP scheme of the PPP was also ignored by the Punjab government even though the Prime Minister. Shehbaz Sharif's Charter of Economy policy was welcomed by Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, but the Punjab government did not consult with the People's Party on economic challenges. It wants to improve the economic situation, therefore the parliamentary party of the PPP has boycotted the federal and provincial budget meeting. The federal government should stop joking with the people. The blood of the people is being squeezed by increasing the price of electricity twice in a month by five rupees. And instead of reducing the misery, it is increasing it, which PPP is strongly protesting because we only believe in serving the people and the

prosperity of the people and this is the manifesto of the PPP. It has been and is making the people a piece of cake in the mill of inflation.

The current government is running the government house by increasing taxes on electricity, gas and petroleum products, but it is killing the people alive. These industries have been closed and by remaining closed, these industries have become sick. The government has not given any package in this budget to run the industries and give them a new life. Also, the agriculture sector is also suffering from misery. Farmers' wheat fields have fallen. Padi is being destroyed, especially in Punjab, the Punjab government is not buying wheat from the farmer, nor is there any investigation into the fact that during the caretaker government, wheat,



which is imported unnecessarily, has become the national treasury. How did it happen and which elements are active behind it? If the wheat scandal is being investigated, then why has this investigation not been made public? What is



the reason? He added that the government While making the budget, there was no contact with any coalition party, including the PPP, although the goal of the coalition government is to make a budget to give relief to the people

according to the manifesto of all the parties, but instead of giving relief to the people, this government gave the IMF. On this occasion, Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mehmood, Khawaja Rizwan Alam and Abdul Qadir Shaheen, talking about the South Punjab Secretariat, said that the PPP will never allow the transfer of the South Punjab Secretariat. In order to stop the transfer of this secretariat, the entire organization has demanded from its leadership that the approval of the budget should be made conditional on first ensuring that the South Punjab Secretariat will not be transferred nor in the Secretariat. There will be a reduction in officers because we want the secretariat to remain and there will be no reduction in the number of officers i.e. the current set-up will be maintained.

PM Shehbaz Sharif committed to protect country from desertification risk, aide Romina Khurshid

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has said that as the global community marks the World Desertification Day on June 17th, Pakistan—which is facing expanding desertification and recurring but intense droughts—stands at a critical juncture in its fight against desertification and land degradation.

In her press statement issued here on Sunday, the PM's aide said that the theme for this year's World Desertification Day 2024, "Restoration. Land. Climate.", resonates deeply with the present government's commitment and on-ground efforts to fight desertification by restoring degraded lands and ecosystems, enhancing climate-resilience and achieving sustainable development goals.

"Through targeted policies, investments in research and technology and fostering international cooperation, Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to combating desertification and achieving land degradation neutrality," Romina Khurshid said.

She highlighted that Pakistan is a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and is closely working with international partners to address desertification. Various projects and initiatives are supported by international organizations to enhance Pakistan's capacity to combat this issue.

The PM's aide emphasized that the global observance of the world desertification day on June 17 this year, however must serve as a stark reminder of the growing environmen-

tal challenges faced by not only the global regions but also Pakistan, underscoring the urgent need for concerted global efforts to combat desertification.

In light of the challenges of desertification and land degradation, the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already taken proactive coping measures to address desertification in collaboration with various stakeholders including civil society organizations, academia, and international partners, the PM's aide emphasised.

"Various initiatives including Green Pakistan Programme, climate-smart agriculture, National Adaptation Initiative, Living Indus, climate-resilient urban planning and management, Recharge Pakistan are already being implemented to fight desertification by promot-

ing sustainable land management practices, increasing tree cover for restoring degraded land and conserving natural resources as well as increasing groundwater level," she elaborated.

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that under these government-led desertification-control initiatives, we are taking all-out measures to engage local communities, development partners, civil society organisations for their role in deal with the threat of desertification.

Efforts are also being taken to raising awareness about the impacts of desertification for combating desertification in the country. Their participation and commitment are crucial in implementing sustainable solutions and adapting to the changing climate patterns, she added.

"I believe that addressing desertification in Pakistan



requires a holistic approach, integrating environmental, economic and social strategies and engaging local communities and all relevant stakeholders to

achieve sustainable land use and protect the livelihoods of those affected," she remarked, adding, "As the country observes World Desertification Day, let us reaffirm our collective responsibility

to preserve our natural heritage, protect our land resources, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come."

CBD Punjab conducts bid opening for Celestia IT Tower

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has successfully received and opened the financial and technical bids for the Celestia Tower which will be constructed in Pakistan's premier and largest IT hub, CBD NSIT IT City.

The NSIT Celestia Tower project attracted bids from several prominent construction companies, including Habib Construction, Maksons, EDCO King

Concrete and Hasnat Builders. These companies submitted their sealed bids comprising both financial and technical components ensuring a comprehensive evaluation process. The bid opening ceremony was conducted transparently with all participating bidders present to witness the proceedings.

Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab expressed confidence in the abilities of all participating companies. He reiterated that the contract award process will adhere strictly to all applicable rules and regulations emphasizing the commit-

ment to transparency and fairness. We trust the capabilities of all the companies that have submitted bids. The selection process will be conducted with the utmost transparency, following all established guidelines and standards he stated.

The Celestia Tower is envisioned as a 19-story state-of-the-art building, poised to become a landmark in the region. The project is expected to be completed within 14 months and will involve an estimated investment of 7 billion PKR. Once completed, the Celestia Tower will not only enhance the architectural

landscape of the area but also contribute significantly to the local economy by creating jobs and attracting business investments.

CBD Punjab's commitment to this project reflects its broader mission to drive economic growth and urban development in Punjab. The Celestia Tower is part of the NSIT City project which aims to establish a hub for technology and innovation. By fostering such developments, CBD Punjab aims to position the region as a competitive player in the global market, attracting both national and international businesses.

Generative AI Software to Grow at 58% CAGR: S&P

ISLAMABAD: As generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology pivots from research to the monetization and product launch stages, the software part of the generative AI market is now forecast to see significant expansion, reaching \$52.2 billion by 2028 with a compound annual growth rate of 58% from 2023, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Published by 451 Research, part of S&P Global Market Intelligence, the Generative AI Market

Monitor report highlights an accelerated adoption rate of generative AI technologies across various sectors. This surge is attributed to advancements in AI models capable of generating new content, including text, images and code, leading to enhanced operational efficiencies and innovative applications in business processes.

"Our thorough and granular market forecast for generative AI software demonstrates the huge potential of this general-purpose technology to

transform processes and eventually industries. Organizations around the world are committing resources to take advantage of this shift from traditional AI to generative AI," said Nick Patience, managing analyst of Data, AI, Info security & Risk at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

For more information about the Generative AI Market Monitor & Forecast or to arrange an interview with our analysts, please contact press.mi@spglobal.com.

S&P Global Market

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Interview of Rana Abbas, CEO, AE Power is one of the pioneer Company Renewable Energy Sector of Pakistan

We received a wonderful response from SNEC Exhibition in China (Shanghai). We are providing the best and new technology products for Pakistan. Rana Abbas, CEO AE Power



Tahir Amin Malik.

Rana Abbas the Ceo, AE Power which is one of the pioneer Company Renewable Energy Sector of Pakistan he said that AE Power Renewable Energy Company was established in 2012. He said I started the business in Pakistan 2012 right after back from South Korea and that time Pakistan was facing huge issue for the grid failure and that time I thought to do solar business so I start-



ed this with my home supply first and then setup my business movement. He further said that we provide the best and new technology for Pakistan and we are dealing with solar panels HJT from world Huasun in 5G technology on pv and we also deal Huawei solar inverter and Pylon tech batteries. Rana Abbas said that we are working all over in Pakistan with having 4 offices in Pakistan biggest cities Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad and Gujranwala. He said we are also providing free consultancy for our customer's to choose the best products all the time and we are dealing with different banks and differ-

ent kind of projects from 10kw to 5Mw on EPC. He said we also provide only net metering services for those clients that we install complete systems. He said we are register with mostly all the banks in Pakistan to provide clients for the finance loan. He said that we are also providing Huasun 5G HJT solar panels 15 years product warranty and 30 years 80% performance warranty. He said Solar inverters Huawei 10 years warranty from 5-25 kw and 25-330 kw 5 years warranty as well. While Solar batteries Pylon tech with 10 years warranty. He said that we work for world No.1 brands that's our products are always first choice in Market. He said that I recently visited in China (Shanghai) to participate SNEC Exhibition which is biggest solar exhibition show of the new technology was held and we received wonderful response from this biggest Solar Exhibition regarding our products. He further said that in a rapidly evolving solar industry landscape, heterojunction (HJT) technology has emerged as a front runner, showcasing remarkable advancements in recent years. He said projections indicate a substantial increase in HJT production capacity, Huasun, a leading manufacturer in he field, stands at the forefront of this trans formative wave

and the significant advantage of lowest temperature coefficient makes HJT preferred choice for unity scale projects. He further said that with over 60GW of HJT production capacity projected to be operational by 2024,

the solar energy sector is witnessing a paradigm shift Huasun takes pride in spearheading this transformation with its proven track record and cutting-edge innovations that have garnered attention from Chinese state-owned enterprises, international investors, and project developers alike. He said in Pakistan, Huasun has swiftly become the preferred choice for the industry and thankst to its commitment to delivering the most advanced product features and technology benefits. He said the introduction of Huasun's HJT modules series, including the G10/G12 and G12R, has revolutionized the market, offering higher conversion efficiency, enhanced reliability, and lower Levelized cost of Electricity (LCOE) for PV projects. Rana Abbas said Huasun's dedication t research and development in HJT technology has positioned it as an innovator in the field, and focusing on industrialization and continuous improvement, Huasun remains at the forefront of technological advancements, ensuring that its modules meet the evolving needs of the solar industry. He said that as global demand for HJT

modules continues to surge, Huasun's commitment to excellence and innovation solidifies its position as a key player in shaping the future of solar energy. At last Rana Abbas said that with a track record of success and a vision for a sustainable future, Huasun leads the charge towards a brighter, cleaner tomorrow.



HUASUN Certified by TÜV SÜD
Source: TaiyangNews Top Modules
BloombergNEF

No.1 in Heterojunction

20 Capacity **5** Shipment
GW **GW**

750.54W
24.16%
The Highest-efficiency HJT Module

100MW Shipment to Pakistan Since Oct. 2023

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Ukraine War: Prospects of Victory for Russia or the West

World leaders gathered in Switzerland on June 16th for the second day of a major peace conference, aiming to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and address the war's human cost. Over 90 countries and 50 heads of state, including India, Turkey, and Hungary, attended. Russia was not invited, and China chose not to attend. In response to the G-7 Summit and the Peace Conference, Russia employed a dual strategy: a high-intensity military drill showcasing nuclear capabilities and a proposal for negotiations with Ukraine.

During the G-7 meeting in Italy (June 13-15), two significant decisions were made: providing \$50 billion in loans to Kyiv, backed by \$322 billion of frozen Russian central bank assets, and permitting Ukraine to use Western weapons to attack inside Russia, aiming to support Ukraine and intensify pressure on Russia.

President Vladimir Putin responded to both the G-7 and Peace Summit with his own strategic actions. On June 12, 2024, he ordered drills for the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons from the northern Leningrad military district, which borders NATO members Norway, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, covering almost all of Russia's European border from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea. The drills included training with operational-tactical missile systems, sea-based cruise missiles, and Belarusian troops to demonstrate Russia's readiness and signal severe consequences for continued Western support of Ukraine.

The drills included special training ammunition for operational-tactical missile systems and sea-based cruise missiles with mock warheads, involving Belarusian troops in tactical nuclear weapons exercises. Russia, with about 1,558 non-strategic nuclear warheads, each around 70-75 kilotons—five times

the size of the Hiroshima bomb—aimed to signal the severe consequences of Western support for Ukraine.

On June 13, 2024, amidst the G-7 and Peace Summit, President Putin proposed a six-point peace plan aimed at de-escalation and long-term stability. He promised to order an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine and begin peace negotiations if Kyiv and its Western allies agree to a series of conditions. These include Ukraine withdrawing all of its troops from the four Russian-occupied territories of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya; the West lifting all sanctions imposed on Moscow; and Kyiv dropping its NATO membership bid.

According to this plan, an immediate ceasefire agreement would halt hostilities, creating a conducive environment for peace talks. Second, a gradual withdrawal of Russian troops from occupied territories would reduce military confrontation, though it requires significant trust and verification. Third, deploying international peacekeeping forces would oversee the ceasefire and troop withdrawals, adding accountability but necessitating cooperation and impartiality.

The plan also calls for comprehensive political dialogue involving Ukraine, Russia, NATO, and the G-7 to address underlying issues, demanding substantial diplomatic efforts. An international fund for reconstructing war-torn areas in Ukraine would support economic recovery, fostering stability but needing careful management.

Finally, ensuring Ukraine's neutral status addresses Russia's security concerns while providing security guarantees for Ukraine, although this may face resistance from Ukrainian nationalists and

Western allies.

Ukraine and its Western allies reacted with skepticism and criticism towards the Russian President's peace proposal. Ukrainian officials dismissed the plan as hypocritical, pointing out ongoing Russian military actions in Ukraine and accusing Russia of using diplomacy as a guise while continuing aggressive operations. Western allies echoed these sentiments, expressing doubts about Russia's sincerity in seeking peace and emphasizing the need for Russia to demonstrate genuine commitment by ceasing hostilities and withdrawing troops from occupied territories. The proposal was seen as insufficient and lacking credibility given the current

circumstances. Ukraine and its Western allies aim to end the war by ensuring a complete withdrawal of Russian troops and the restoration of Ukraine's 1991 borders. They seek accountability for war crimes through international mechanisms and require robust security guarantees to prevent future aggression. Western allies support this plan with continuous military aid, intensified economic sanctions on Russia, diplomatic pressure for global isolation of Russia, and substantial financial aid for Ukraine's post-war reconstruction and economic recovery. This comprehensive strategy aims to secure Ukraine's sovereignty and establish durable peace.

Predictions for the Russia-Ukraine war, given the current dynamics, include a prolonged stalemate with significant humanitarian and economic costs, potential escalation with more severe tactics from Russia and intensified countermeasures from Ukraine and its allies, or a negotiated settlement despite mutual distrust and differing peace conditions. There's

also a risk of the conflict internationalizing, drawing in more direct involvement from NATO and other countries, which could escalate into a broader regional or global conflict. The situation remains fluid, influenced by ongoing diplomatic, military, and economic actions.

If the war prolongs this would adversely impact the entire globe and the weak economies like Pakistan in particular. Pakistan depends on Ukraine for significant agricultural imports like wheat and sunflower oil and has acquired military hardware from Ukraine, including tanks and aircraft engines.

From Russia, Pakistan is exploring natural gas imports, potential crude oil deals, and relies on Russian raw materials such as metals and fertilizers, along with investment in energy and infrastructure projects. To navigate the geopolitical tensions from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Pakistan must maintain balanced diplomatic relations to ensure continued access to these critical imports and technologies.

With a view to safeguard its long term interests, Pakistan should reduce its dependency on Russia and Ukraine. It should diversify its suppliers of grain and edible oils by sourcing from countries like Canada, Australia, and Argentina while enhancing domestic agricultural production. In defense, Pakistan can establish procurement agreements with China, Turkey, and European nations and invest in local manufacturing capabilities. For energy supplies, accelerating renewable energy projects and exploring imports from the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa are crucial. Broadening trade networks for raw materials and boosting local industrial production will also enhance resilience and stability amidst prolonged geopolitical conflicts.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Genocide Prevention

The UN's top genocide prevention official has warned that hate speech remains a significant threat to global peace and security, often targeting society's most vulnerable.

Alice Nderitu, Special Adviser of the Secretary on the Prevention of Genocide, emphasized that in addition to violence, hate speech also reinforces discrimination, stigma, dehumanization, and marginalization.

"Violence does not start when physical attacks are launched. Violence often starts with words. Words of hatred spread intolerance, divide societies, promote and endorse discrimination and incite violence," she told the UN Security Council on Friday.

Although she did not specify areas where the threat existed, the UN's International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ordered Israel to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza.

And, Genocide Watch, an international watchdog group, has warned that the Hindu nationalist policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have worsened anti-Muslim violence and caste oppression in India. Of particular concern, it said, are the situations in Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, with cow protection laws used as pretexts for lynching, as also anti-Muslim citizenship laws.

Ms. Nderitu, the genocide official's briefing to the 15-member Council was presented in the context of resolution 2686, adopted unanimously in June 2023, on tolerance and international peace and security.

In the resolution, the Security Council urged UN Member States to condemn and prevent hate speech, extremism, and violence, and encouraged the promotion of tolerance, intercultural dialogue, women's participation, social cohesion, quality education, and peace initiatives.

It also requested feedback on the spread of hate speech and timely reporting.

In ongoing crises or conflict situations, hate speech intensifies existing tensions and vulnerabilities, she said.

Ms. Nderitu warned that combined with disinformation, hate speech entrenches divisions and poses direct threats to civilians, potentially leading to severe crimes such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Combined with disinformation, hate speech entrenches divisions and poses direct threats to civilians

In addition, the proliferation of social media use has exacerbated the reach and impact of hate speech, she added.

Such divisive, misleading and hateful narratives enable hate speech to spread rapidly and reach distant audiences, thus increasing the potential for offline harm.

"The widespread use of social media ... is allowing hate speech to be employed by anyone, reaching quicker distant audiences, and hence increasing the potential for offline harm. Minorities are particularly targeted. And so are women, especially those in public space," Ms. Nderitu warned.

At the same time, tackling hate speech should never be used to stifle freedom of expression, she stressed.

"Blanket restrictions, bans and internet shutdowns are not the solution and may violate human rights, including freedom of expression. They may also silence the actors working to stand up against hate speech including civil society, human rights defenders, and journalists."

The Special Adviser stressed the UN's commitment to raising awareness about the dangers of hate speech and addressing its impacts, drivers, and root causes.



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

Budget 2024-25

The budget for 2024-25 has been presented in the National Assembly, but according to renowned economist and former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, it is far from being an ideal budget. He argues that it further burdens the middle and salaried classes while ignoring the large

with collecting Rs. 12 trillion, but it is focusing on the existing taxpayers. It was necessary to tax immovable properties like those in the real estate sector and various estates, but this has not been done. As usual, the salaried class will bear the brunt of the taxes.

Budget deficits play a significant role in economic stability, but no special attention has been given to this either, suggesting the possibility of future economic complications. Since Pakistan has to deal with international financial institutions, their conditions also have to be considered. The IMF had already asked Pakistan to review its economic planning, particularly the National Financial Commission, but no development has been seen on this front. The primary goal was to reduce the economic burden on the federation, but this has not been addressed.

This budget is being called traditional because it continues all previous policies. FBR, our largest revenue collection institution, has a history of never meeting its targets, and if this trend continues, it could be a significant setback. The biggest issues related to this budget have been raised by the government's allies, who have their own political interests. In an ideal budget, the distribution of

resources is free from such considerations. The IMF had also demanded a reduction in government expenditures, but there has been no action on this. The budgets for the Senate, National Assembly, and Prime Minister's offices have all been increased, and this suggestion has been ignored as well.

Is the current economic planning in this budget favorable for Pakistan's economy or not?

The current economic planning includes a developmental budget designed in a way that MPs (Members of Parliament) and MNAs (Members of National Assembly) will play a role in running various programs. This will affect transparency, and the developmental programs may not be implemented effectively. One major reason is that Pakistan is currently in debt, and such programs are not favorable for the economy because revenue collection is already very poor. These new developmental and non-developmental budgets can further complicate Pakistan's economic situation.

Is it necessary to impose taxes for economic stability?

Yes, for optimal performance, either reduce budget consumption or increase revenue. If increasing revenue is the goal, then taxes will have to be imposed.

Writer is student at University Of Sargodha.

Analysis



M Azam Tariq

Role of Remittances In shaping Pakistan's Economic Diplomacy - II

Muhammad Arfa Mushtaq

However, relying on remittances creates several issues. Pakistani expats' economic well-being is frequently influenced by the host country's economic situation and labour market rules. Any economic slump or changes in labour legislation might have a direct influence on remittances. For example, Gulf countries' economic diversification efforts, which aim to lessen reliance on foreign labour, might undermine remittance inflows. Pakistan needs to constantly adjust its economic diplomacy to offset these vulnerabilities and discover new markets for its workers.

In addition to economic vulnerabilities, the socio-political context in host nations can influence remittance flows. Changes in immigration or labour rights rules, for example, might have a considerable impact on expatriates' capacity to send money home. Pakistan's diplomatic offices in these nations play an important role in monitoring such developments and lobbying for legislation that protect the rights and welfare of Pakistani workers. These activities are critical for Pakistan's economic health, as they provide a consistent flow of remittances.

Furthermore, remittances have a significant impact on local development in Pakistan. Expatriate money are frequently used to support household consumption, education, and healthcare, helping to grow human capital. Furthermore, remittances can boost local economies by financing small enterprises and entrepreneurial ventures. Recognising this, the Pakistani government has implemented several

programmes to direct remittances towards beneficial projects. Programmes that offer matching funding or preferred loans for remittance-backed projects seek to maximise the developmental impact of these inflows.

Pakistan's approach to utilising remittances for development includes collaboration with international development agencies. These collaborations frequently focus on developing more efficient and secure remittance transfer technologies, increasing financial awareness among remittance recipients, and encouraging the use of traditional banking channels. Pakistan hopes to improve the benefits of remittances for both individual households and the economy as a whole by aligning with global best practices.

Ultimately, remittances are a key component of Pakistan's economic diplomacy, influencing both domestic economic policies and international relations. The government's deliberate focus on its diaspora, particularly in the Gulf area, demonstrates the crucial role of remittances in economic stability and progress. Diplomatic efforts to secure favourable conditions for Pakistani workers overseas are critical for maintaining remittance flows. Furthermore, by actively participating in global talks on migration and remittance policy, Pakistan hopes to ensure that its economic interests are adequately reflected on the world stage. While remittances create some obstacles, they also provide possibilities for Pakistan to strengthen its economic and diplomatic engagements around the world. Through careful management and effective diplomacy, Pakistan can continue to harness the power of remittances to assist economic progress.

Writer is International Relations student at National Defence University (NDU)

Uzbekistan-Republic of Korea: Commitment to centuries-old ties and strengthening a special strategic partnership

Spokesman Report

President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Suk Yeol will pay a state visit to Uzbekistan at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on 13-15 June.

Established on 29 January 1992, Uzbek-South Korean relations have become an example of successful cooperation between the two countries in various fields. In more than thirty years of interaction, the relations have developed and strengthened, passing through several key milestones. In 2006, the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership was signed, and in 2019, the relationship was elevated to a special strategic partnership.

These phases reflect deep historical ties and are characterized by highly dynamic mutual exchanges. Regular exchanges of high-level visits emphasize the importance of Uzbek-South Korean relations for both sides. The heads of state meet to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation and global challenges. These meetings contribute to deepening mutual understanding and expanding interaction in various areas and are accompanied by the signing of important agreements and memorandums of co-operation.

Inter-parliamentary ties are an important element of Uzbek-South Korean relations. Parliamentarians of both countries hold meetings and exchanges of delegations on a systematic basis, which makes it possible to develop the legislative base of bilateral cooperation and strengthen friendly ties between the peoples. Parliamentary friendship groups play a key role in this process, sharing experience and best practices.

Uzbekistan and South Korea actively interact within the framework of various international organizations and formats. Such cooperation allows the countries to coordinate efforts in addressing global and regional issues, strengthen their positions in the international arena and jointly promote initiatives aimed at ensuring stability and sustainable development.

Thus, within the framework of cooperation in the international arena, Seoul supported and co-sponsored resolutions adopted at the initiative of Uzbekistan by the UN General Assembly: 'Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region' and 'Education and religious tolerance' (2018), 'Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia' (2019), 'On strengthening the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals' (2022).

The South Korean side support-



ed Uzbekistan's candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council for 2021-2023, as well as Samarkand's candidacy to host the 25th session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2023. And there are many such examples.

Economic co-operation between Uzbekistan and South Korea shows significant progress. In 2023, trade turnover between the two countries exceeded \$2.3 billion, which indicates a high level of mutual interest. South Korean companies are actively investing in the Uzbek economy, participating in the implementation of various projects in such sectors as energy, construction, chemical, textile and others. Today, more than 700 enterprises with South Korean capital are operating in Uzbekistan.

An important step in the history of bilateral economic ties was the opening of the first Trade House of Uzbekistan in Seoul in March 2024. It will undoubtedly become a platform to promote Uzbek goods and services in the South Korean market, as well as to establish business contacts between entrepreneurs of the two countries and increase exports to South Korea, thus contributing to the strengthening of economic ties.

In partnership with South Korea, Uzbekistan has established a joint educational and practical textile technology park, the Scientific and Technological Centre for Rare Metals and Alloys, the Design and Technological Centre for Agricultural Machinery, and the

Uzbek-Korean Centre for Cooperation in Electronic Government.

The South Korean side also assists in launching the National E-Commerce Platform.

Investment interaction is also at a high level. In general, the volume of direct South Korean investments attracted into Uzbekistan's economy exceeded \$7.5 billion.

South Korea also provides financial and technical assistance to Uzbekistan. Thus, within the framework of cooperation with the Exim Bank of the Republic of Korea, 17 projects worth \$2.6 billion have been jointly implemented since 1999.

In December 2020, the Government of the Republic of Korea signed an administrative agreement on the contribution of financial assistance in the amount of 1 million dollars to the UN Multi-partner Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region.

Cultural and humanitarian co-operation between Uzbekistan and South Korea has deep roots, the similarity of traditions and culture of our people contribute to this in many ways.

Cooperation in education and science is also a significant aspect of Uzbek-South Korean relations. Uzbekistan's universities maintain cooperation with more than 45 universities and scientific and educational organizations in South Korea. There are branches of four South Korean universities in Uzbekistan: Inha, Puchon and Yeosu in Tashkent,

as well as the Korea International University in Fergana, where students study in various specialties. In addition, Uzbek students have the opportunity to study at leading universities in South Korea. Scientific exchanges and joint research in areas such as information technology, medicine and engineering contribute to the development of scientific potential of both countries. In March 2023, the Forum of Rectors of leading universities of the two countries was held in Tashkent.

The Korean language is taught in nine universities and 24 schools and lycées in the country, and South Korean foreign language universities in the cities of Busan and Daegu have established Uzbek language departments. In general, the number of Uzbek students in higher education institutions of the Republic of Korea exceeds 11,000.

Scientific co-operation between Uzbekistan and South Korea is actively developing through joint research in areas such as biotechnology, nanotechnology and medical sciences, agriculture, and ecology. Research institutes and universities of both countries conduct joint projects and exchanges of scientists, which contributes to the development of scientific potential and innovation. Such initiatives help accelerate scientific progress and the introduction of advanced technologies into the economy and society.

Active cultural exchanges between Uzbekistan and South Korea have been established, contributing to the

strengthening of friendly ties and mutual understanding between the people. Festivals, exhibitions, concerts and other cultural events are regularly held to showcase the traditions, arts and cultures of both countries. These events enable the people of Uzbekistan and South Korea to get to know each other better, enrich their cultural experience and strengthen their ties of friendship.

The Seoul Park in Tashkent, which opened in 2014, and the monument to the great Uzbek poet and thinker Alisher Navoi in the capital of the Republic of Korea are symbols of friendship between the Uzbek and Korean people.

The presence of a large South Korean Diaspora in Uzbekistan, exceeding 180,000 ethnic Koreans, also plays an important role in strengthening cultural ties between the people, promoting mutual understanding and friendship. It is important to note that the Korean Diaspora in Uzbekistan is the largest in Central Asia and the fifth largest in the world. National cultural centers, which operate in all regions of the country, make a great contribution to the preservation of the language, culture and traditions of Koreans in Uzbekistan.

A memorial monument 'Gratitude to the Uzbek people for warmth and kindness' was unveiled in Seoul Park in Tashkent to mark the 80th anniversary of the resettlement of Koreans in Uzbekistan. And on 20 April 2019, the House of Korean Culture and Art

were opened in Tashkent.

Co-operation in the field of healthcare is also becoming increasingly fruitful. The South Korean side assists in the training and internship of Uzbek medical workers in leading clinics and centers in Korea.

In 2020, with the assistance of the EDCF, the construction of the Children's Multidisciplinary Centre in Tashkent was completed. The successful implementation of this project served as a basis for the development of a grandiose project for the construction of a medical cluster, including a multidisciplinary hospital for adults, an oncology clinic, a medical university, and the creation of a pharmaceutical cluster.

In recent years, South Korea has seen a growing interest in Uzbekistan's tourist destinations. In 2023, more than 35 thousand tourists from South Korea visited our country. Travel agencies offer a variety of programs that include visits to historical and cultural attractions. Such initiatives stimulate mutual interest in the culture and history of the two countries, as well as strengthen friendly ties at the level of citizens.

The existence of direct air services between Uzbekistan and South Korea also plays an important role in strengthening bilateral relations. Regular flights between the capitals make travelling more accessible and convenient, contributing to the growth of business and tourist flows.

Uzbekistan and South Korea are actively working on joint environmental projects aimed at improving the environment and combating climate change. One of the key areas of co-operation is the introduction of water and air purification technologies. South Korean companies and experts are helping to introduce advanced methods of waste treatment and recycling, which contributes to improving the environmental situation in Uzbekistan.

Tashkent and Seoul emphasize that Uzbek-South Korean relations have significant potential for further expansion and deepening of cooperation. New areas of interaction, such as the green economy, digitalization and innovation, could become important areas for future partnership.

Today, it can be stated that the mutually beneficial Uzbek-South Korean relations since their establishment in 1992 have come a long way, becoming an example of a special strategic partnership. In this context, the forthcoming visit of the South Korean leader to Uzbekistan will undoubtedly broaden the horizons of cooperation and define new prospects for further deepening and expanding the partnership for the benefit of progress and prosperity of the two countries and people.

Paris 2024: New Chapter in Sporting Culture

The Paris Olympics are set to provide excitement and achievements that will have a lasting impact beyond just sports

What is most awaited about the Paris Olympics draws near from 26th July to 11th

August is not only the return of twenty-eight familiar disciplines or rather but also the unveiling of four new entries. The upcoming games which will be held after the Tokyo Summer Olympics that were postponed to 2021 due to the worldwide pandemic caused by the coronavirus will offer a chance to sports climbing, skateboarding, surfing, and breaking. There are thus some examples illustrating this aspect as modern sports have been embraced while tradition has been respected by adding some events in Olympic competitions for example; breaking as a form of dance. Breaking, especially, makes its first appearance creating an exciting new dimension at the world's greatest sporting festival. As Paris readies itself to welcome athletes and fans from around the world, it's time to celebrate athleticism, innovation and competitive zeal. Thereby, they are anticipated with great excitement as this event is expected to produce moments of ecstasy beyond the playing field.

Preparing to host the upcoming Olympic Games with a focus that extends beyond traditional logistical concerns, French organizers are ambitiously aiming to embed and sustain a profound cultural transformation within the nation. This initiative not only emphasizes aspects such as security, hospitality, crowd control, and infrastructure but also holds potential lessons for businesses looking to achieve lasting organizational change.

While the Paris 2024 Games are contributing to peace, at the heart of this, they are changing cultural views

Everyone knows France for its great food, great art, and great fashion—but not great sports really—at least, not traditionally. In recent years, the French people have worked very hard to adapt their culture and way of life to be more conducive to a sports-friendly society. French teams and athletes have no shortage of global success, winning the prestigious FIFA World Cup in 1998 and 2018, women's Eurobasket in 2001 and 2009, and gold medals in handball at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. This shows the year 2023 France has finished second in the Greatest Sporting Nation rankings for the year.

The change was not immediate. A complete shocker took place after an Olympic crisis of unprecedented proportions in 1960, when the entire of France—whose feeble Roma-Olympic debut, broadcast directly on television screens, garnered the not-so-stunning sum of five medals, none of them gold. It was a national humiliation and so incensed President Charles de Gaulle that he viewed it as an insult and a slight on the prestige of a now diminished France on the world stage.

France itself was struggling then to emerge from the Cold War, decolonize, and meet the challenge of a youth bulge and waves of an immigrant population. Sport was considered something that might help lift national morale and bring these new inhabitants into the fold. The government realized that showing the competitive comebacks of the French could be of incredible assistance to reintroducing this nation.

In order to boost this vision, considerable legislative measures were introduced. INSEP, the National Sports Institute was established in 1975 by the monumental Mazeaud Law for the elite athletes to combine their

education with training here. This law marked sports' growth as an indispensable aspect of French culture and a responsibility of the state on a national level. It became even more evident with the 1984 Avice Law, which pronounced physical activity along with sport to be integral components needed by every citizen to ensure personal welfare.

One of the biggest reforms was investment in youth sports development. In the mid-1970s, the French Football Federation (FFF) and professional clubs established a national program to identify and train promising young players. This program has enabled talented youngsters to play at a high level while continuing their education. This approach began to pay off in the 1980s, leading to great success in football, culminating in winning the 1998 World Cup on home soil. Other sports, such as basketball, which found international success in the late 1990s and early 2000s shaped this youth development program. Since then, the "formation à la française" has made the "Made in France" brand synonymous with high performance in global sport, influencing practices around the world, including the NBA's youth academy network.

As the 2024 Olympics approach, there is hope that this event will cement sports as a key aspect of French cultural identity. The ongoing efforts to build a sporting culture reflect the broader challenge of cultural integration, illustrating that substantial change requires both institutional support and grassroots enthusiasm.

French organizers believe that the lessons learned from their journey—such as the importance of legislative support, investment in youth, and the need for a holistic approach—can provide valuable insights for leaders and managers in other fields looking to implement and sustain cultural change. As any leader knows, significant organizational change is difficult and slow, but France's experience shows it is possible with determination and strategic effort.

The anticipation surrounding the upcoming Paris Olympics in 2024 extends far beyond the international sports competition. This prestigious global event not only promises to showcase the highest level of sporting excellence but also sets a standard for sustainable practices, technology integration, diversity, and what is added, as well as long-term community benefits. As Pakistan deals with its own set of challenges including environmental issues, lack of participation in sports, and the need for improved athlete development programs, the Paris Olympics presents a unique opportunity for the country to gather valuable insights and emulate best practices.

As Pakistan deals with its own set of challenges including environmental issues, lack of participation in sports, and the need for improved athlete development programs, the Paris Olympics presents a unique opportunity for the country to gather valuable insights and emulate best practices. One of the most distinctive features of the Paris Olympics is its relentless

focus on sustainability. The organizers have prioritized the integration of sustainable infrastructure, waste management, and renewable energy to make it the most environmentally conscious Games to date. Pakistan can draw inspiration from these efforts as it faces major environmental problems and find innovative solutions to meet its environmental challenges.

In the age of technology, the Paris Olympic Games are set to embrace groundbreaking developments to enhance the event experience. From streamlined ticketing systems to sophisticated player performance analytics tools, technology is poised to play a vital role in improving overall match efficiency and participant experience. By looking at how technology is seamlessly integrated into sports, Pakistan can learn valuable lessons in implementing digital solutions to improve its sporting environment.

Furthermore, the Paris Olympics are not only about sporting skills, but also about supporting diversity and participation in sport. With a strong emphasis on gender equality and diverse representation, the event is a beacon of inclusion. Pakistan can take cues from these initiatives to reshape its sports ecosystem, provide equal opportunities for all athletes, and foster a more inclusive sports culture.

Post-Olympics, the planners have delineated strategies to repurpose venues and infrastructure for community advantage, thereby establishing a paradigm for the evolution of sustainable sports infrastructure. Pakistan could investigate analogous methodologies to ensure that its investments in sports infrastructure render long-term positive dividends for the nation and its populace. Additionally, the Paris Olymp-

pics furnishes an exceptional venue to advance the notion of healthy lifestyles and physical activity. By accentuating the significance of maintaining activity and adopting a healthy lifestyle, the event can catalyze nations like Pakistan to prioritize sports participation and wellness initiatives, particularly among the younger demographic. Capitalizing on the momentum engendered by the games, Pakistan can endeavor to embed a culture of physical fitness and well-being across its citizenry.

Finally, with premier athletes from around the globe congregating in Paris for competition at the zenith of performance, Pakistan encounters an extraordinary circumstance to scrutinize efficacious sporting programs and training methodologies. By meticulously analyzing the output of top-tier athletes and discerning best practices, Pakistan can refine its athlete development programs and cultivate future sports luminaries equipped with the requisite skills and support to thrive on the global stage. The Paris Olympics in 2024 presents substantial potential to assimilate insights from global sports management practices, sustainable event design frameworks, and holistic approaches to sports engagement.

The Paris 2024 Games encompass a significance surpassing merely that of a worldwide athletic event; they serve as an embodiment of a nation's capacity to emerge from adversity, undergo a process of self-reinvention, and endeavor to establish a persistent legacy intended for succeeding generations.

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Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

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

PFC, Chen One to collaborate for Paris Expo



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) and ChenOne will collaborate in showcasing high-quality Pakistani products of innovative designs at the three-day Texworld Paris expo, starting from July 1, 2024.

Talking to a delegation of importers and exporters, led by Muhammad Araib here on Sunday, PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq said, "Participation in the expo underscores our commitment to expanding our global footprint and promoting Pakistani craftsmanship on an international stage."

He said that Paris expo is a key event in the textile and apparel industry, attracting exhibitors and visitors from around the world. He remarked that ChenOne's participation, supported by the PFC, aims to highlight the unique blend of traditional and contemporary designs that Pakistani furniture and home decor offer.

The CEO said that global market leaders will see a diverse array of products including elegant furniture, luxurious home textiles, and stylish accessories, all reflecting the rich cultural heritage and modern sensibilities of Pakistan.

He said, PFC is focused on forging new business relationships, explore market trends, and gain valuable insights into global buyers preferences. This strategic move not only enhances the visibility of Pakistani products but also reinforces ChenOne's position as a leading player in the international home furnishings market.

The delegation head, Muhammad Araib, and deputy leader Mian Faryad Ahmad Raza appreciating the sincere efforts of the council and said that participation will create space for Pakistan in global markets and will definitely attract foreign buyers and investors on account of excellent qualities of products at par with international standards.

Pakistan's telecom sector raises concerns over heavy taxes

✉ Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Telecom Operators Association has expressed concerns over the heavy taxes slapped in budget 2024.

In a letter written to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Salim Mandviwala, the Telecom Operators expressed concerns over the heavy taxes introduced in the budget.

The telecom sector has warned that foreign investment might withdraw from Pakistan if tax issues are not resolved. According to the telecom operators, unresolved tax issues could lead to legal complications for the government.

The letter highlights that two major market players have already decided to leave Pakistan. The telecom sector contributed PKR 340 billion in tax revenue last year, and has attracted direct investment of USD 15 billion to date, the letter stated.



The implementation of budget proposals will severely impact the dream of a Digital Pakistan, the letter's content reveals. The letter further mentions that collecting 75% advance tax from non-filer telecom users is impractical.

The letter outlines that this decision will result in revenue loss for both the telecom sector and the government. Additionally, telecom companies have expressed concerns over the Income Tax General Order.

Regarding the issue of blocking SIM cards of non-filers, the telecom sector is being considered for penalties. The telecom sector is not a party to the tax issue concerning non-filers, according to the letter.

Increasing the sales tax rate on mobile phone sets valued up to USD 500 will negatively impact the inclusion of the low-income group, the letter mentions.

The Telecom operators have requested a time for meeting with Committee Chairman Saleem Mandviwala to present their concerns.

Deserted Road

ISLAMABAD: The scene of deserted roads of Islamabad, as the citizens have gone to their native villages to celebrate the Eid-ul-Adha holidays.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Technology shapes future of hospitality with enhanced guest experiences

✉ News Desk

RIYADH: The global hospitality industry is increasingly investing in technology to improve the guest experience, with artificial intelligence playing a key role in automating tasks like booking, check-ins, and housekeeping management.

In a recent report, The Bench, a publication by the Future Hospitality Summit, noted that implementing advanced technologies also enables 24/7 traveler support through AI chatbots and virtual assistants. "The hospitality industry has continually been reputed to adapt slowly to technological advancements. Hospitality asset owners and investors are keen on ramping up technology investment," said the report.

Citing a 2023 PwC analysis, the report noted that over 70 percent of hotel executives are prioritizing investments in technologies that streamline operations and elevate customer experiences.

"This growing focus is evident in the adoption of Customer Relationship Management systems and data-driven marketing strategies aimed at customer retention," added The Bench.

According to the report, CRM systems are becoming a cornerstone in hotel operations, helping hoteliers manage and analyze guest interactions and data throughout the customer lifecycle.

FHS added that leveraging CRM systems could also help hotels improve customer service relationships, assist in guest retention, and drive sales growth.

It cited a Salesforce study, noting that CRM technology could increase sales by up to 29 percent and improve forecast accuracy by 32 percent.

"Data-driven market strategies supported by robust CRM systems enable hotels to tailor their marketing efforts to individual guest preferences, thereby increasing the likelihood of repeat business," said the report.

Property Management Systems According to the analysis, Property Management Systems like innRoad, Oracle, and Hotelogix are essential for maximizing revenues, increasing efficiencies, and enhancing guest understanding.

"These systems serve as the backbone of hotel operations, offering comprehensive functionalities that streamline various processes. From managing reservations and check-ins to overseeing housekeeping and billing, PMS solutions integrate all these functions into a single cohesive

platform, making operations smoother and more efficient," the report added.

The FHS publication also noted that technologies like TakeUp.ai leverage AI to analyze past guest behavior and competitors' pricing, thereby optimizing revenues without reliance on guesswork.

"This approach provides hoteliers with a strategic advantage in a competitive market. AI-driven revenue management systems can predict demand with higher accuracy, allowing hotels to adjust prices dynamically and maximize revenues," said the report.

It added: "These systems also help in identifying and capitalizing on market trends, ensuring that hotels remain competitive."

The release highlighted that the hospital-



ity industry is witnessing a shift in guests' behavior, as most travelers expect a seamless, modern experience blended with technology.

"Guests now expect digital control over room environments, such as lighting, shades, and temperature, even in mid-range hotels. Additional basic additions like bedside USB-C ports, mobile key entry, and digital check-in contribute to a seamless and modern guest experience," added the analysis.

Moreover, mobile key entry will reduce the need for physical keys and front desk check-ins, thereby streamlining the arrival process.

Post-pandemic market dynamics According to the report, rising wages and worker shortages have accelerated the move toward automation and technology utilization in the hospitality sector.

"Automated check-ins, robotic room service, and AI-powered concierge services are just a few examples of how technology can mitigate labor shortages. These innovations allow hotels to maintain high service levels, even with reduced staff, ensuring guest satisfaction," said the FHS publication.

With travel restrictions easing post-pandemic, the report highlighted that hotels are prioritizing technology to enhance operational efficiency and attract guests.

"This focus is vital in a landscape marked by intense competition. Technologies that enhance cleanliness and safety, such as contactless check-in and check-out and mobile room keys, have become particularly important. Hotels are also investing in digital marketing strategies to reach potential guests who are eager to travel again but are cautious about safety," said the analysis.

Moreover, the hospitality tech sector is experiencing a surge in acquisitions as companies aim to consolidate and offer more comprehensive solutions to meet the diverse needs of hotels.

"This consolidation trend is driven by the need to provide integrated solutions that address multiple aspects of hotel operations. By acquiring or merging with other tech companies, firms can offer a broad range of services, from property management and guest services to marketing and revenue management," added the report.

Discussing the challenges faced by the sector in implementing technology, the study highlighted that several hotels face the problem of outdated and siloed systems that hinder their efficient operations.

"The solution lies in adopting open API-based (Application Programming Interface) systems that facilitate the integration of various functionalities, thereby overcoming the limitations of legacy systems," said the analysis.

The report also highlighted that using open API-based systems will enable seamless communication between different software applications, allowing hotels to integrate new technologies without overhauling their entire IT infrastructure.

Areas of untapped potential The analysis highlighted that some untapped areas in the hospitality industry can be strengthened further using technology.

It added that many processes in the sector are still handled manually and should be automated using advanced technologies.

"For example, night audits, which involve substantial administrative work, can be automated to improve efficiency and reduce labor costs," added the document.

Moreover, integrating a proper payment technology setup can enable hotels to offer more personalized and flexible experiences without relying on manual administrative tasks.

Roshan Digital Account inflows rise to \$8.055 bln in May 24

✉ Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$8.055 billion by the end of May 2024 as compared to US \$7.831 billion by April (2024) end, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The data showed that the inflows of remittances during April were recorded at US\$ 224 million as compared to US\$ 171 million in March and US\$ 182 million in February 2024.

These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and invest-



ment activities in Pakistan.

The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 12,960 to 702,610 in May 2024 from 689,650 accounts in April 2024.

By the end of May, overseas Pakistanis have invested US \$338 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US \$582 in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US \$37 million in Roshan Equity Investment.

The Roshan Digital Account was introduced by the State Bank to facilitate overseas Pakistanis in sending remittances and investing in Pakistan.

Protectionism wrong approach to dealing with China's EV industry: German expert

✉ Xinhua

FRANKFURT: Protectionism is the wrong approach to dealing with the rise of China's electric vehicle (EV) industry, and would be detrimental to European automakers, a German expert in the field has said.

European countries will emerge as the losers if the European Union (EU) imposes additional tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles in the EU, warned Ferdinand Dudenhoefler, director of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) in Bochum in a recent interview with Xinhua.

In the event of "decoupling," automakers in the EU will "go directly" to invest in China, which has leading technology and innovation, Dudenhoefler argued. He is convinced that German carmakers, as global players, will continue their "strong cooperation" with China.

Dudenhoefler recently wrapped up a visit to China, and said he was impressed by the dynamism and fast development of the auto industry there.

Sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in China, including battery electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles and fuel-cell electric vehicles, surged 37.9 percent year-on-year to about 9.5 million last year, compared with just 75,000 a decade ago, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

The pace of development of the new energy sector in China puts the world in a better position to tackle climate change, according

to Dudenhoefler.

The scale of the new energy vehicle market in China has allowed automakers in the country to bring down production costs, a competitive edge European automakers do not currently have, Dudenhoefler said.

As China is in a leading position to drive forward the development of EV industry globally, the expert said that German automakers have been increasing their investments in China, where cost advantages and cutting-



edge technologies are available.

The EU will also damage their business by imposing additional tariffs on EVs made in China, he said, adding, "It will hurt our cooperation with China. It will hurt ourselves. So it's a tragedy for the German car industry."

According to statistics from the European Federation for Transport and Environment, around 20 percent of all-electric cars sold across the EU last year, or 300,000 units, were made in China. More than half of them come from Western carmakers, such as Tesla, Dacia and BMW, which produce them in China for export.

With the world currently facing the daunting task of fighting climate change, Dudenhoefler believes that cooperation and partnership with China is very important.

Shaheen Afridi equals Imad Wasim's T20I record

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi equalled the record made by all-rounder Imad Wasim during their game against Ireland in the T20 World Cup 2024.

Afridi became the second Pakistani bowler to have taken three wickets inside powerplay twice in T20Is as he dismissed three Ireland batters in Sunday's game in Florida.

All-rounder Imad Wasim was the first Pakistani bowler to have achieved the record by taking three wickets in a T20I power-play in 2016 and 2018.

Pakistan's experienced pacer Mohammad Amir alongside former speedsters Sohail Tanvir and Umar Gul have taken three wickets in powerplay once in their careers.

Shaheen Afridi's three scalps included two wickets in the first over of Ireland's inning in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024.

Meanwhile, Pakistan, who had already been knocked out of the Super 8s contention, registered a consolation victory over Ireland in their last match.

Shaheen Afridi starred with his all-round abilities as he backed his three wickets with an unbeaten blistering cameo.

He came out to bat when Pakistan needed 11 off 14 deliveries and steered



Pakistan to glory with 13 not out off five deliveries. He smashed two sixes during his match-winning cameo.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam anchored the run-chase with his sensible

knock and top-scored with an unbeaten 32 off 34 deliveries.

Besides Shaheen Afridi, Imad Wasi also claimed three wickets while Mohammad Amir bagged two. Haris

Rauf, on the other hand, made one scalp.

The three-wicket victory over Ireland helped Pakistan to finish third in Group A standing of the T20 World Cup 2024.

Samar Khan becomes first Pakistani to summit Europe's highest peak

Sports Desk

LAHORE: In a historic achievement, Pakistani climber Samar Khan successfully scaled Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, and descended the peak by snowboarding.

Hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dir district, Samar becomes the first Pakistani to reach the summit of Mount Elbrus, standing tall at 5,642 meters in Russia.

With the support of the Frontier Corps North, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khan accomplished this remarkable feat and proudly hoisted the Pakistani flag on the summit.

"I'm pleased to announce that I have successfully climbed Europe's highest peak, Mt. Elbrus, and snowboarded down, becoming the first Pakistani to pioneer this feat in the world of action sports," she wrote on Instagram.

"I set out for the summit push around 3am and reached the top by



10am with a green flag, followed by an exhilarating snowboarding descent from Elbrus," she added while thanking everyone for the support.

It is pertinent to mention here

that Samar Khan is also the world's first woman to cycled the third-largest non-polar glacial system, Biafo Glacier and Godwin Austen Glacier, in the Karakoram mountains of Gilgit

Baltistan (GB).

She is also the first Pakistani to have cycled on the roof of Africa, Kilimanjaro, in 2017.

Recognising her achievements, the ESPNW Global Sports Mentoring Program selected Khan to be mentored by top sports executives in the United States (US).

Later, Khan also founded her initiative, 'Samar Camp', through which she offers sports camps like mountain biking, backpacking, and snowboarding for girls and women in Pakistan.

The adventurer had also won a silver medal in the Sadia Khan Championship in 2022 and emerged as the winner of the Red Bull Homerun snowboarding category in 2021.

Samar Khan also had a mountain - Shimshal in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) - in her name 'Ghar e Samar', which she summited and descended the 5,610-metre peak by snowboarding.

Italy begin Euro 2024 title defence with win as Spain start in style

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Italy recovered from conceding the fastest goal in European Championship history to begin their title defence with a 2-1 win over Albania on Saturday after Spain made a dream start to their Euro 2024 campaign by beating Croatia 3-0.

Albania went ahead after just 23 seconds against Italy in the Group B opener in Dortmund as Nedim Bajrami scored to the delight of their huge support.

Bajrami's strike destroyed the previous record for the quickest goal at the Euros, of 67 seconds by Dmitri Kirichenko for Russia against Greece in 2004.

However, Italy kept their calm and equalised when Alessandro Bastoni headed in at the back post on 11 minutes, before Nicolo Barella's glorious effort put them



ahead just past the quarter-hour mark.

That proved to be enough for the Euro 2020 winners, with Davide Frattesi coming closest to adding another for the Italians as he hit the post before half-time.

"It was a negative situation but we did really well to turn

it around," said Italy's Federico Chiesa, who played in the final three years ago when they came back to beat England on penalties despite conceding inside two minutes.

"We had a flashback to the Euro 2020 final when we went behind immediately, and we

were great today because together we took control of the match as a team, just as the manager wants from us."

Italy, whose line-up at kick-off featured only five players who started that final against England, now move on to a heavyweight showdown with Spain on Thursday in Gelsenkirchen.

Spain, the three-time European champions, made a dream start to their Euro 2024 campaign as they tore apart a disappointing Croatia at the Olympiastadion in Berlin.

Alvaro Morata broke the deadlock before the half-hour mark and Fabian Ruiz soon made it 2-0, with Dani Carvajal getting the third goal just prior to the interval.

The day was also notable for Lamine Yamal, Spain's Barcelona winger, becoming the youngest

player in the competition's history at 16 years and 338 days old.

Morata's goal was his seventh at the European Championship, a tally which allowed him to move joint-third on the all-time list alongside Alan Shearer and Antoine Griezmann.

Only Cristiano Ronaldo, with 14, and Michel Platini, who got all of his nine goals on France's run to glory in 1984, are ahead of them.

"Of course this give us a boost, and settles us, but in five days we have a big game against Italy," said Spain coach Luis de la Fuente.

"Above all we have to stay calm, our target is still very far away, we have to just keep our feet on the ground."

It was a chastening night for Croatia, the 2022 World Cup semi-finalists.

French Open champion Alcaraz eager to take clay form into grass season



French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz has set his sights on more grass-court success after his first title on the clay at Roland Garros.

The 21-year-old became the youngest man to win major titles on all three surfaces — grass, hard courts and clay — with a five-set victory over Alexander Zverev in Paris last Sunday.

But now Alcaraz's attention has turned to yet more grass-court titles, with the Spaniard looking to repeat his London double of last year when victory at Queen's Club was followed by a maiden Wimbledon triumph.

It has been a memorable week for Carlos Alcaraz, with his French Open success followed by the news he is set to partner 14-times Roland Garros king Rafael Nadal at next month's Olympics in Paris.

"I had a few days off, I went to Ibiza with a group of friends. I had fun, I enjoyed my time," Alcaraz told reporters at Queen's on Sunday.

"Obviously Roland Garros was a fantastic two weeks for me, a dream come true to lift the trophy but right now my mind must be here on the grass.

"To be ready as soon as I can to play good tennis here at Queen's and obviously to get ready for Wimbledon.

"Right now my focus is on the grass season, the two tournaments and after that my mind will be to be ready on clay again and playing my best tennis at the Olympic Games."

Carlos Alcaraz, turning to the prospect of joining forces with Spanish tennis great Nadal at Roland Garros in the Olympics, said: "I feel really, really happy to play doubles in the Olympics and with an idol like Rafa.

"I mean, I didn't expect to play doubles at the Olympic Games with Rafa. It is a unique moment for me but of course I am very happy about it. Let's see how it's going to be but it's going to be a great time.

"Honestly, I feel he is going to teach me how to deal with everything. I am the young guy who needs to grow up as a player, to grow up as a person as well."

He added: "Of course it's going to be my first Olympic Games. Everything is new for me, so I hope to learn a lot from him."

Carlos Alcaraz begins his Queen's Club campaign against Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo on Tuesday.

Angelo Mathews apologises after Sri Lanka's T20 World Cup debacle

Sri Lanka's experienced all-rounder Angelo Mathews offered an apology following the team's early exit from the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, co-hosted by the United States of America (USA) and West Indies.



In a media talk ahead of Sri Lanka's final game against the Netherlands on Sunday, he reflected on the team's campaign in the marquee event and discussed the unpredictable nature of the shorter format.

"I think first of all we've let the entire nation down and we are really sorry because we've let ourselves down," said Mathews. "We never expected this. I mean, we came across a lot of challenges but those are not something to sort of worry about, but it's unfortunate that we didn't make the second round."

"This format is such where you can't take any team lightly. I mean they come up with, they've got nothing to lose and you can't you can't take any team lightly. I mean we've seen that especially over the last few years also especially in this tournament, we have seen teams beating bigger teams. As I always say you can't take any team lightly," he added.

Meanwhile, Mathews expressed hope that his team will close out on a high note and will look to edge the Netherlands in their final game in the T20 World Cup 2024.

"It's very important. I think we can't take any given team lightly. We saw Nepal beat South Africa yesterday. It's unfortunate that our Nepal game was washed out. But it is what it is. We have just one more game in the tournament, and we'll play for pride," he said.

Sri Lanka lost their matches against South Africa in New York and Bangladesh in Dallas while their fixture against Nepal washed out in Florida at the T20 World Cup 2024.

They were officially eliminated in the group stage after Bangladesh beat the Netherlands in St Vincent on June 13. Sri Lanka's early exit means it is now a decade since they reached the semi-finals of a T20 World Cup.

Pakistan edge past Ireland to seal consolation victory in T20 World Cup

FLORIDA: A combined bowling effort, followed by Babar Azam's unbeaten knock led Pakistan to beat Ireland by three wickets in the 36th match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 here at Central Broward Regional Park on Sunday.

Set to chase 107, Pakistan amassed 111/7 with seven balls to spare.

Pakistan had a shaky start to the pursuit as Saim Ayub and Mohammad Rizwan could add 23 runs amid the first wicket partnership as Mark Adair got rid of the former in the fifth over.

Ayub scored a run-a-ball 17 with the help of two fours and a six.

Rizwan was quick to follow Ayub as he perished in the next over after scoring 17 off 16 deliveries.

Following the back-to-back blows, Fakhar Zaman (5) joined skipper Babar

Azam briefly and the two added 13 runs for the third wicket until the left-hander fell prey to Curtis Campher in the ninth over.

Pakistan then lost three more wickets in quick succession and thus slipped to 62/6 in 11 overs.

Babar Azam was then joined by Abbas Afridi when Pakistan needed 45 off 54.

Abbas and Babar batted cautiously and brought Pakistan in touching distance with a crucial 33-run stand that lasted with the former's dismissal in the 18th over. Abbas scored a gutsy 17 off 21 balls.

Shaheen Shah Afridi then took the game away from a blistering cameo and sealed Pakistan's consolation with a six. He made an unbeaten 13 off just five balls.

Babar Azam remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a 34-ball 32 with the help of two boundaries.

Barry McCarthy was the pick of the bowlers for Ireland with three wickets, followed by Curtis Campher, who took two. Whereas, Ben White and Mark Adair made one scalp each.

Sent into bat first, Ireland managed to utilize full 20 overs and registered a decent total on the board, which seemed out of reach after the batting powerplay.

Ireland had a disastrous start to their innings as Pakistan's new-ball bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Amir ran through their top order with successive strikes, leaving them reeling at 32/5 in six overs.

Right-arm pacer Haris Rauf continued the momentum as he picked up a

wicket in his first over to add further to Ireland's misery.

Ireland were in heaps of trouble being 32/6 in 6.3 overs.

However, Gareth Delany, who came out to bat at No.7, launched an astounding recovery for the European side with a gutsy knock.

He put together a one-sided partnership with Mark Adair. The seventh-wicket stand yielded 44 runs in just five overs before Imad Wasim provided Pakistan a much-needed breakthrough with Delany's demise.

Delany remained the top-scorer for Ireland with 19-ball 31, which featured one four and two sixes.

Ireland lost two more quick wickets and were consequently slipped to 80/9 in 14 overs.

But their batting tail retaliated



against a strong Pakistan bowling attack and batted through the allotted overs.

Josh Little added valuable runs for Ireland at the backend with an unbeaten 22 off 18 deliveries while Ben White scored a 20-ball five.

Imad Wasim and Shaheen Shah Afridi bagged three wickets each for Paki-

stan, followed by Mohammad Amir with two while Haris Rauf picked one.

It is pertinent to mention that both Pakistan and Ireland are out of the Super 8s race of the T20 World Cup 2024 after the crucial Group A fixture between Ireland and the USA was abandoned without a ball bowled at the same venue on Thursday.

Ceasefire

Palestinians hold Eid Al-Adha prayers by the ruins of Al-Al Rahma mosque destroyed by Israeli air strikes in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip on June 16, 2024. Hamas said they are ready for a comprehensive deal for Gaza peace.



Photo: Reuters

PM, President Erdogan reaffirm to further cement bilateral ties between Pakistan, Turkiye

LAHORE, JUN 16 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including trade, investment, defence and tourism.

They celebrated the strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Turkiye that were rooted in shared values, history and cultural affinities.

Both leaders held a warm and cordial telephone conversation, exchanging greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Eid ul Azha,

PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Prime Minister Sharif and President Erdogan also discussed ways to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

"They expressed serious concern about the current situation in Palestine while urging the international community to redouble peace efforts to end the misery and suffering of the innocent Palestinians. The two leaders agreed to continue working together to address common challenges and to support each other's core national interests," the press statement further added.

The warm conversation



between the two leaders was a testament to the strong and enduring relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye, and their commitment to continuing their close cooperation in the days ahead.

To this end, the prime minister reiterated his cordial

invitation to President Erdogan to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience so as to convene the 7th session of the High Level Strategic Consultative Council (HLSCC).

Separately on X account, the prime minister posted

that he shared warm wishes and greetings with my dear brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye on Eid-ul-Azha, highlighting the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect and cooperation between the two nations.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen these historic ties into a mutually beneficial strategic partnership. I reiterated my cordial invitation to President Erdogan to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience. Long live Pakistan-Turkiye friendship & Eid Mubarak to all our Turkish brothers and sisters!" he said in the post.

Hamas response to Gaza ceasefire proposal 'consistent' with principles of US plan, leader says

News Desk

CAIRO: Hamas' response to the latest Gaza ceasefire proposal is consistent with the principles put forward in US President Joe Biden's plan, the group's Qatar-based leader Ismail Haniyeh said in a televised speech on the occasion of the Islamic Eid Al-Adha on Sunday.

"Hamas and the (Palestinian) groups are ready for a comprehensive deal which entails a ceasefire, withdrawal from the strip, the reconstruction of what was destroyed and a comprehensive swap deal," Haniyeh said, referring to the exchange of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

On May 31, Biden laid out what he called a "three-phase" Israeli proposal that would include negotiations for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza as well as phased exchanges of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

Egypt and Qatar — which along with the United States have been mediating between Hamas and Israel — said on June 11 that they had received a response from the Palestinian groups to the US plan, without giving further details.

While Israel said Hamas rejected key elements of the US plan, a senior Hamas leader said that the changes the group requested were "not significant".

Ambassador Hashmi visits Cross Border E-commerce Trade Expo in Shenzhen, China



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi visited ongoing Cross Border E-commerce Trade Expo in Shenzhen, China.

During his visit, the ambassador interacted with several Chinese and international companies at the expo.

Ambassador Hashmi visits Cross Border E-commerce Trade Expo in Shenzhen, China

He remarked that there are great opportunities for Pakistan e-commerce enterprises especially small and medium to participate, network and partner.

"Ambassador Hashmi highlighted Pakistan's potential in e-commerce, boosted by our young, tech/savvy population and geographical location.

Complementing China, the present government aims to expand exports and foster global collaboration through e-commerce platforms, he said.

"Interacted with several Chinese and international companies at the ongoing Cross Border E-commerce Trade Expo in #Shenzhen; Great opportunities for Pakistan e-commerce enterprises especially small & medium to participate, network and partner; Highlighted Pakistan's potential in e-commerce, boosted by our young, tech-savvy population and geographical location and complementing China, we aim to expand exports and foster global collaboration through e-commerce platforms," the ambassador posted on social media platform X formerly known Twitter.

Are Punjab citizens satisfied with Maryam Nawaz's govt? Survey reveals

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A majority of Punjab's population has expressed satisfaction over the performance of the provincial government led by Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz, a survey revealed on Sunday.

The Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) conducted a quantitative survey in Punjab targeting the adult population (age 18

and above) of Punjab to gather public opinion on the 100-day performance of CM Maryam Nawaz, who created history by becoming the first female to be elected as Chief Minister of Punjab.

According to the survey, an over-all majority of 55 per cent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Punjab government, in the Urban/Rural split.

It has been observed the

dis-satisfaction level is higher in Rural Areas 42pc compared to Urban Areas with 28pc.

Out of 35pc who were not satisfied at-all with the last 3-month performance of CM, 51pc of respondents believe that the government will never be able to improve the situation, regardless of the time given.

Meanwhile, 19pc of respondents are willing to give the government as much time as needed to improve the

situation.

The survey report also revealed that 60pc of respondents believe Maryam Nawaz's popularity has increased over the last three months.

It added 53pc of the respondents credited the government's efforts for the decrease in commodity prices, while 42pc considered the reduction in bread [Roti] prices as the most popular action taken by the Mariam Nawaz government.

Following this project are the Solar Panel Program (11pc) and the 200 Clinic on Wheels initiative (11pc), it added.

The survey concluded that Maryam Nawaz's leadership in Punjab is highly regarded, with strong public approval of her performance and initiatives. While there is significant support for her efforts in reducing commodity prices and specific projects like the Bread price reduction, as compared to other initiatives.

Sindh Governor announces free solar panels

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has announced free solar panels for low-income families in effort to provide relief from load shedding.

Speaking to journalists here, Tessori said households consuming up to 300 units of electricity, with a rent agreement and children under 10 years old, will be provided with free solar panels.

Sindh Governor said this initiative will free citizens from the "misery of load shedding" and was made possible through the generosity of overseas Pakistanis.

He assured that the solar panels will be provided free of cost, and households can use up to 300 units of electricity without any charges. "No charges will be taken for installing solar," he added.

Complaint filed against LHC chief justice at judicial council

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A complaint has been filed against the Lahore High Court Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed at the Judicial Council.

The complaint was filed through the registry by Rifaqat Ali Tanoli. It was alleged that the LHC chief justice had become an obstacle in the process of justice for the "mysterious murder" of the complainant's son.

The complaint further alleged that LHC Chief Justice Ahmed misused his office and position and demanded that he be removed for misconduct.

Tanoli confirmed that the complaint was sent to the judicial council on May 29.

PTI-P MPA booked for assaulting ANP leader in Peshawar

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Parliamentarians (PTI-P) MPA Iqbal Wazir has been booked for allegedly assaulting ANP leader Alif Khan in Peshawar.

An FIR has been registered against PTI-P MPA Iqbal Wazir for allegedly assaulting ANP leader Alif Khan in Peshawar. The case was filed at the Sharqi Police Station.

According to the FIR, the MPA and his accomplices hit Alif Khan's vehicle, injuring him and two passersby. The attackers also damaged Alif Khan's vehicle.

An Awami National Party (ANP) leader, Alif Khan, was attacked and injured near the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Peshawar on Saturday night.

The assailants included Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Parliamentarians (PTI-P) MPA Iqbal Wazir and his accomplices.

Karachi Police chief warns officials against TikTok making

Bureau Report

KARACHI: AIG Karachi has taken notice of increasing trend of TikTok making in police officials including ladies police constables.

Karachi police chief has said that the uniform given for performing official duty and not for the personal publicity. "During duty hours making TikTok in uniform has been inappropriate," AIG Police Imran Yaqoob Minhas has said.

"A constable has been sent to CPEC duty over making TikTok," police chief said. "A woman constable was issued warning and censured over the practice," AIG Karachi said.

He said a DSP has also been issued warning over the practice. AIG Police warned of departmental action against officials over their involvement in making TikTok while in uniform.

MNA Asifa Bhutto Zardari arrives in Nawabshah

Bureau Report

NAWABSHAH: Member National Assembly and daughter of Former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Asifa Bhutto Zardari has arrived at Nawabshah on Sunday to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with his Father President Asif Ali Zardari at Zardari House Nawabshah.

Soon after his arrival Asifa Bhutto Zardari met with President Asif Ali Zardari and later visited different areas of Nawabshah city.

They instructed the district administration for maintenance of the sanitation situation in the city on all the three days of Eid ul Azha.

During their stay at Nawabshah President Asif Ali Zardari and Asifa Bhutto Zardari would meet different delegations and party office bearers and workers.

PM AJK directed the concerned authorities to ensure all possible facilities to the electricity consumers

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: An extraordinary meeting of Department of Electricity was held here today with Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Col. Retd Waqar Noor, Minister Local Government Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Minister Department of Electricity Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad, Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, and other pertinent

officials of the department. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Haq directed the concerned authorities to ensure the provision of all possible facilities to the electricity consumers.

He said that the government would provide all the resources to improve departmental efficiency.

The Prime Minister said that improved metering system will also improve the accurate billing system besides preventing misuse of electricity and over-billing of consumers in the region

What are the rates of sacrificial ...

Continued from Page 1

Rs500.

This year, it is estimated that around three million cows would be sacrificed across the country during

Eidul Azha while the number of goats is expected to be 3.2 million to 3.5 million.

The estimate for camel sacrifices is around 100,000 and the number of sheep is expected to reach 200,000.

Masses urged to safely dump...

Continued from Page 1

and lead to a serious tragedy."

It urged the nation to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha amid cleanliness and responsibility through proper disposal of sacrificial animals.

"These birds can crash into planes and destroy planes, increasing the risk of irreparable damage to precious lives and property," it said.

The message appealed to the public to dump the remains of the sacrificed animals in designated places or bury them in the ground and ensure the cleanliness of the environment around them.

It added that the public should inform the base authorities and municipal administrations in case they find the corpse of any animal to timely manage it to avert any risk.