Barkat Rice Mills

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Trump plans to permit green cards to foreign graduates of US colleges

Republican candidate Donald Trump has said that he will automatically permit green cards to foreign graduates of US colleges if he is re-elected, which is an unanticipated turn from the former president considering his strict rhetoric on immigration. Trump promised to make it convenient to bring talent to the US, reported Al Jazeera.



IT exports surges to stunning \$ 332 million in May this year

remittances have surged to US\$ 2.925 billion during Ju to May 2024 of FY2023-24 in comparison to US\$ 2.37

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peration Azm-e-Istehkam' to eradicate terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Central Apex Committee of National Action Plan on



Pakistan launches 'Operation Azm-e-Istehkam' to eradicate terrorism

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan government on Saturday approved a reinvigorated and re-energized counter-terrorism campaign through launching of Operation 'Azm-e-Istehkam' with consensus of all stakeholders, symbolising the national resolve to eradicate extremism and terrorism from the country.

The 'Operation Azm-e-Istehkam' was launched with the consensus of all stakeholders. including the provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, during a meeting of the Central Apex Committee on the National Action Plan (NAP), chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"Azm-e-Istehkam will integrate and synergise multiple lines of extremism and terrorism in

a comprehensive and decisive campaign and assessed the manner," said a press release issued by the PM Office Media

The meeting was attended by key ministers of the federal cabinet including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar.

Additionally, the chief ministers of all provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan, Services Chiefs and chief secretaries of the provinces along with other senior civilian, military and Law Enforcement Agencies officers were present.

The forum conducted a of effort to combat the menaces comprehensive review of the counter-terrorism domain, the forum resolved that ongoing

internal security situation.

"The forum reiterated that the fight against extremism and terrorism was Pakistan's war and was absolutely essential for the nation's survival and well-being. The forum resolved that no one would be allowed to challenge the writ of the state without any exception," it was added.

The progress on the multi-domain tenets of the National Action Plan was scrutinised, with particular emphasis on identifying shortcomings in the implementation for addressing the same on top priority.

The necessity for a comprehensive and reinvigorated counter-terrorism strategy, founded on complete national consensus and system-wide synergy, was under-

efforts would be intensified to reviewed measures to ensure curtail the operational space for terrorists through regional cooperation.

The renewed and full-blown kinetic efforts of the armed forces would be augmented by full support from all the law enforcement agencies, empowered by effective legislation to address legal voids that hindered the effective prosecution of terrorism-related cases and award of exemplary punishments to them, the press release said.

It said that the campaign would be duly complemented by socioeconomic measures aimed at addressing genuine concerns of the people and creating an environment that discouraged extremist tendencies.

The information space would be leveraged to promote a unified In the politico-diplomatic national narrative in support of the campaign. The forum also six-year high.

foolproof security for Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

Following the prime minister's approval, new standard operating procedures (SOPs) were issued to relevant departments, which would enhance mechanisms for providing comprehensive security to Chinese citizens in Pakistan.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreeki-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government

in November 2022. According to an annual security report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies, Pakistan witnessed 1,524 violence-related fatalities and 1,463 injuries from 789 terror attacks and counter-terror operations in 2023 - marking a record

PM attends funeral of sepoy Haroon William



跨 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The funeral service of Sepoy Haroon William, a 29-year-old resident of Islamabad, was held today at Saint Paul's Church, Rawalpindi. Sepoy William, a devoted Christian soldier, made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the motherland and embraced martyrdom in Kurram District yesterday while on duty in counter terrorism operations. The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defence Minister, Interior Minister, Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Chief of Army Staff, senior civil and military officers, soldiers, citizens, and relatives of the martyr.

The Prime Minister praised the contributions and sacrifices of the Christian fraternity, lauding their role in the country's progress. He emphasized that the Armed Forces of Pakistan are a cohesive unit, comprising indi- land at all costs.

viduals from diverse backgrounds, striving for the collective defence of the state.

Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) honored the sacrifice of Sepoy Haroon William, Sepoy Anosh Rufun, and their comrades, stating that their unity and bravery exemplify the strength of the nation. He reaffirmed that the nation will always be indebted to their services and sacrifices for the honor of the motherland.

Sepoy Haroon William was laid to rest with full military honors in Rawalpindi. Funeral prayers for Havildar Ageel Ahmed (Okara), Lance Naik Muhammad Tafeer (Poonch), Sepoy Anosh Rufun (Attock), and Sepoy Muhammad Azam Khan (Haripur) were also held in their respective hometowns with full military honours.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan remain resolute and committed to eradicating terrorism from the mother-

In reply to SC, ECP says SIC ineligible for reserved seats as non-Muslims can't join it

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sunni Ittehad Council—the new home of PTI elected lawmakers-was ineligible for reserved seats since non-Muslims cannot be religiopolitical party members, the country's top electoral authority said on Saturday.

In response to the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case, the Election Commission of Pakistan said that the SIC cannot be given reserved

In mid-February, the to secure reserved seats after pendent candidates.

the Supreme Court stripped the party of its iconic symbol before elections.

in the National Assembly and 210 seats in the whole country which are only allotted to the political parties. The deadline for submit-

There are 70 reserved seats

ting the list of reserved seats was January 24, but the SIC did not submit the list for reserved seats, the ECP said.

It went on to add that candidates were asked to provide a certificate of the PTI-Nazriati electoral symbol, but later they with-PTI-backed independent drew from the symbol. After candidates joined the SIC this, they were declared inde-

Ahsan for constituting committee to probe burgeoning lynching incidents countrywide

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday proposed to constitute a committee to probe the burgeoning incidents of lynching in the name of desecration and blasphemy across the

country. Speaking at the floor of the National Assembly (NA) on a 'point of order', he strongly condemned the Swat lynching incident stating that it had brought a bad name to the country in the comity of nations.

Ahsan, expressing his personal experience, informed that a religious extremist made an assassination attempt on him but he was survived by the grace of Allah Almighty. Taking law into own hands, he said, it was against the spirit of Islam and as well as the Constitution and law of the land.

Interior Minister chairs meeting on security of Chinese citizens in Pakistan

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday chaired an important meeting in the Ministry of Interior to review the measures taken to protect foreigners, especially Chinese citi-

The overall security situation in the country was also reviewed while the relevant institutions and senior officials minister instructed to implement the of the Ministry of Interior.

rity plan. He said that formulated plan should be regularly monitored at every level and the relevant departshould keep close contact to destroy the nefarious intentions of anti-na-

tional elements. There is no room for any negligence on the

security plan, said the minister. Meanwhile a briefing was given on the security plan and the overall situation from the relevant institutions including the Ministry of Interior to the minister.

In the meeting, Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Ali Agha, Head Necta Muhammad Tahir Rai, Coordinator National Action Plan. Participation of



PBC asks CJP to ensure seniority in LHC CJ appointment

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) asked Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa to follow seniority while appointing the chief justice of the Lahore High Court. In a letter written to the CJP, the PBC's

representatives asked the CJP to appoint the most senior judge as the chief justice of the LHC. The letter, signed by six PBC members read that the principle of seniority should be considered in the appointment of the Chief Justice. The PBC maintained that the government is 'mulling' to appoint a junior judge as the LHC chief justice.

In the letter, the PBC members also argued that deviating from the principle of seniority without solid reasons would be a violation of the established judicial precedent.

"The judiciary's dignity and transparency can only be maintained by following the principle of seniority. The public trust in the judicial system can only be maintained through transparency," the letter read

Earlier on March 8, Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan took oath as the Lahore High Court (LHC) chief justice in a ceremony held at the Governor's House here.

Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan is set to retire in March 2025.

SC to take notice of Muhammad **Zubair's interview**

PTI demands

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded the Supreme Court (SC) to take notice of former governor of Sindh, Muhammad Zubair's interview, in which he alleged that former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa derailed Imran Khan-led government.

Speaking at news channel' programme 'Off the Record', Muhammad Zubair, who parted ways with the PML-N, maintained that Nawaz Sharif and Gen (retd) Qamar Bajwa had even met a couple of times

Addressing a press conference, PTI spokesperson Raoof Hasan noted Zubair, in his interview, said Bajwa conspired to overthrow the

Hasan said that Zubair's claims are a serious matter and require the Supreme Court's attention. "A gang of criminals was imposed on the country by overthrowing Imran Khan-led regime," he said, urging the SC to take suo motu notice of

PTI government.

Zubair's interview.

He also criticised Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal's statement, saying it was irresponsible and aimed at spreading chaos. Ahsan Iqbal had demanded PTI founder Imran Khan should be kept in jail for country's stability.

The PTI spokesperson also mentioned that friendly countries are advising Pakistan to maintain political stability, while some elements are trying to create unrest.

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Transforming Digital Landscape: DG SCO Inaugurates High-Tech Freelancing Hub in Haveli, AJ&K

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

HAVELI: Special Communications Organization (SCO) has developed a new Freelancing Hub in Haveli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K). The initiative introduces cutting-edge technologies to local youth for development of niche skills and promotion of business enabling environment in IT domain. Major General Umar Ahmad Shah HI(M), DG SCO, officiated the opening, emphasizing SCO's resolve to transform region's IT landscape.

The newly established IT setup at Haveli joins six other Freelancing Hubs in AJ&K, located in Kel, Kamhora Ghambir along the Line of Control (LoC), Hattian, Goharabad, hubs aim at harnessing IT potential



Khairowal, and Koniyon. All these of youth, and are connected with major sharing of expertise, skill development, / district level IT hubs for mutual and mentoring.

During inauguration, DG SCO Major General Umar Ahmad Shah remarked, "The launch of Freelancing Hub in Haveli demonstrates SCO's commitment to empower local youth. It provides state-of-the-art IT facilities in a very conducive environment, with an objective to unlock youth potential. The purpose is to promote a digitally inclusive society. I anticipate that these facilities will contribute towards fostering IT skills and boosting local

The initiative to develop network of IT set ups across the region is a cornerstone of SCO's broader strategy to transform IT landscape of AJ&K. By nurturing local talent and providing them with desired IT tools, SCO is playing a pivotal role in the economic and social development of AJ&K.

Back to Home

ISLAMABAD: After spending Eid Holidays citizens of twin cities reaching back to homes.



Why it is, how to meet it

humanity. A tourist was while pursuing hidden agendas. accused of blasphemy, During that era, relakilled, and then his body was publicly tionships were estabburned. Such incidents have become common; only a few days earlier, a boring countries based similar event took place in Sargodha's on religion, leading to Mujahid Colony, where a Christian the squandering of family was harassed under the same accusation. The elderly victim of this Those affected by assault succumbed to his injuries this were alienated after seven days. These incidents are from the state and becoming a norm, and no one seems subjected to religious to pay attention. They are forgotten, been made to understand their causes or control them. Fundamentally, reli-

ust two days ago, a tragic under the guise of religion, the nation incident occurred in Swat fell victim. State policies exploited relithat brought shame to gion to manipulate people's emotions

lished with neighour human resources. extremism, viewing

but they stain our society. No effort has everything through a specific lens. ining the causes reveals that religious This cycle continued as such activities were pursued as short-term gious fanaticism has deep roots in our policies, fueling religious fanati- a society where such practices were society. When a dictator seized power cism and pushing society into a well

of extremism. Consequently, society benefits, the fear among the public has become completely fanatical, and people now act recklessly.

This situation affects not just one area but the country. entire making everyone increasingly unsafe. Initially, minorities were fearful, but now even the Muslim community is suffering. People use blasphemy accusations for personal vendettas. Exam-

fanaticism was once state-sponsored and still persists to some extent. In endorsed by the state solely for ruling

M Azam Tariq

has vanished, leading to unpredictable actions. Moreover, these killings were portrayed as spiritually beneficial, granting various metaphysical advantages, which people now only consider. Another reason is the state's weak or ineffective policies. Additionally, Pakistani politicians have exploited religious fanaticism, which has emboldened people to continue such actions thoughtlessly. To prevent such incidents, the state must abandon these short-term policies based on fanaticism. Secondly, we must address the complexities in legislation without religious constraints and train people morally, adapting their conservative thinking to modern needs.

> Writer is student at University of Sargodha.

Lodhran pilot project distributes toolkits to technical school graduates



MULTAN: Toolkit distribution ceremony under the auspices of social organization Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) according to details organized by social organization Lodhran pilot project, a toolkit distribution ceremony was held among the technical trained youth and coordination between institutions. Toolkits were distributed among 240 trained students from TEVTA and private educational institutions in a ceremony held at a local hotel in Bahawalpur. These students include 20 students of electricity, 40 students of beautician, 20 students of welding, 20 students of computer application, 50 students of graphic designing, 50 students of digital marketing, and 40 students of domestic tailoring. Chief Guest Additional Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Samira Rabbani while addressing the participants of the event said that the social services of Lodhran Pilot Project in Bahawalpur and Lodhran are commendable. Technical and technical education is the need of the hour and the youth should acquire skills in various fields and make their country famous. He said that the cooperation of the district government is always with the Lodhran pilot project.

Addressing the event, Project Coordinator LPP Mehreen Arif thanked all the government and non-government organizations and said that our organization is making a lot of efforts for the economic stability of the youth.

Officers of Toyota Bahawalpur, Social Welfare, Udyat Zar and other institutions also participated in the toolkit supply ceremony.

At the event, graduates, social organizations and employers also set up stalls related to their fields where they told the participants about their work and skills.

CTD arrests 22 suspects linked to banned groups in Punjab: spokesman

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Punjab province has foiled a major terror plot by arresting 22 suspected persons linked with a banned out-fits during operations in different areas of

According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 152 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 152 suspected persons were interrogated and 22 suspected persons were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. Among the arrested alleged terrorists are Muhammad Abdullah, Hamidullah, Kamal Khan, Syed Mohsin Raza, Allah Datta Saqib, Muhammad Nadeem, Saad Manzar, Moozam Hayat, Muhammad Akram Khan, Muhammad Ramadan, Feroze Khan, Muhammad Zohaib Hashmi, Muhammad Shoaib, Yasir Rehman Jagranwi, Asif Khan, Saeed Khan, Syed Rasool, Ameerullah, Muhammad Umar, Anwar Shah, Waris Khan, Muhammad Ahmad and Muhammad Siddiq are included., he said and added that they belongs to the banned organizations Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Tehreeke-Taliban Pakistan, Sipah Sahaba Pakistan Daesh and Blochistan Lobration Army. He said that the arrest of these suspected persons was carried out during intelligence-based operations in Lahore, Attock, Sheikhupura, Muzaffargarh, Nankana Sahib, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, Chakwal, Gujranullah, Lodhran, Mianwali, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalnagar and Rawalpindi.

He said that the explosives 1645 grams, Hand grenades 03, IED bombs 01, Detonators 12, Safety fuse wire 32 feet, Pistol with 28 bullets 04, banned books 09, banned magazines 02, Pamphlets 212, Stickers 323, 02 flags, 03 receipt books, 03 mobile phones and 78500 rupees in cash have been recovered from the possession of the terrorists. The spokesman said that the arrested suspected persons had planned to sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations. .

Very soon the country will be on path of development': Chaudhry Naseer

Mar Chauhan

Member National Assembly Constituency NA 65 Chaudhry Naseer Abbas Sidhu said that very soon the country will be on the path of development under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Shahbaz Sharif is working tirelessly as the prime minister. There has been a reduction in inflation and stability in the value of the



dollar, while the hundred-day performance of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is encouraging.

He talked to Senior Journalist Inam Mirza Patron General Kharian Press Club and Chaudhry Anwar Chauhan Chairman Kharian Press Club during the meeting at Dera Sidh.

Inevitable water crisis

Anwar Ullah

ccording to the states and figures, Pakistan is one of the 17th countries in the world which faces a severe water crisis. According to IRSA, we are undoubtedly in a downgraded position in terms of enemy can sustain herself for more than half a year. Being an agricultural country, more than 90% of our water is used for agricultural purposes

Out of that water, 80% water is used for four major agricultural crops; rice, contribution of these crops to the total GDP is below 5%. There exists a very poor pricing mechanism, both in agricultural rural and urban regions. The revenue collected for charging water to 20% of the total operating and manage-

face is the fast and continuous falling underground water level because of a flawed price mechanism. In fact, a recent study of NASA indicates that the Indus river basin is the second most stressed water basin on the planet. What makes the situation alarming is that 96% of our total freshwater is extracted from the Indus river basin, which has become so water sustainability, as we have a water volatile. Also to bother us is that 80% of backup for a month only, while our arch our total water that is either oceanic or surface water, comes from Indian water peripheries.

In contrast to our stagnant policies for water preservation, precautions are already in place for water conservation by the rest of the countries, which is recywheat, sugarcane and cotton but the cling the water and reusing it. Israel and Singapore are one of the most water scarce countries, both recycling waste water by 90% and 40% respectively.

The storage of water into huge collection structures like dams is a reality agricultural regions accounts to less than escape as it only serves a short term solution to a potentially long term

ment cost. The worst that we have to solution demanding issue, not to forget the environmental hazards that come with the package. The modern globe, 177 countries in particular, has more affinity towards a long term solution which is the desalination of saline water resources, primarily the seas and oceans.

The Middle East takes the lead here. particularly Israel and KSA. In fact, the UN has predicted that most of the countries will go for desalination of saline water in the near future. However, on the bad side, the process is enormously expensive as it requires huge amounts of energy to perform the process and can only be done in the regions that face acute water shortage.

Needless to mention, it also destroys the marine life. It has also been observed that the salinity is subject to increase slowly and gradually which will make the process of desalination costlier. Innovatively, Riyadh has shifted towards solar energy, which is far affordable than the conventional energy means. We took the initiative in 2008 when we built our first desalination plant in DHA sible for the crisis as well. Being such a Karachi, desalinating 14 million liters of saline water daily, for the members of the privileged housing society.

The plant also had the capacity of producing 94 megawatts of energy too. Shortly after, the plant saw a halt and soon became dead and powerless. Currently, a reverse osmosis (RO) plant in Manora of Karachi is half developed and is still under development. It is predicted that it will generate 5 million gallons of desalinated water daily. In 2018, another desalination plant was also inaugurated in Gwadar port and is not functional as of now, estimated to produce 2.5 million liters of water daily. Another solution to curb this serious threat is to control overpopulation. In the previous five decades, our population grew from 60 million to a staggering 220 million while the population of Bangladesh saw a hike from 65 million to 160 million in the same time frame. The citizens of the country, in one way or another are somehow respon-

under debt country, the citizens should embrace the ground responsibilities. For instance, we waste a great amount of water while washing cars in commercial car washing services. To deal with it, the government should charge the use of water which is called water pricing or water metering, so everyone become responsible for their actions.

Then, our political leaders should own and prioritize this issue. They need to understand that efficient management of water resources is where the problem and solution lies, instead of exhausting extreme budget portions on building dams. Instead of blaming India and their political opponents to gain political grounds, they should focus on; improving the water management system, introduction of latest and modern technology in the agricultural sector and draw an efficient water pricing mechanism. Water pollution is another issue directly associated with water crisis. Faisalabad's fast fashion industry

pollutes a huge amount of household use water. Not only does it decrease the amount of clean water but also inflict water borne diseases on the regional population putting further pressure on the healthcare system of the country and eventually, the overall economy. In this regard, the government should strictly impose various forms of punishments on the factory owners neglecting the laws. Needless to mention, is reforming the National Water Policy, which was formulated for the first time back in 2018. This policy lacked urban water challenges, quantifiable targets to meet water conservation and quality. The government should divert focus from infrastructure improvement to water management. We, as a nation, have to understand this problem and to efficiently conserve and manage water, if we are to grow collectively.

Analyst is student in National Defence University Islamabad. He can be reached at ullahanwar44@ gmail.com





SERVICES	
Namaz 1	imings
Fajr	
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	5:10 pm
Maghrib	7:22 pm
Isha	9:06 pm

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services 4451122
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Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Ctations

Stations		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

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ENQUI	RY
hi Ambulance	1

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PIA Flight Info	114
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HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Boa	ard 9270151-3

Budget debate: Shutdown IPPs to save billions, *HanifAbbasi* demands

ISLAMABAD: The independent power producers (IPPs) have earned billions of rupees, closed them to save billions, PML-N's Hanif Abbasi said in the National Assembly.

Taking part in budget debate, PML-N lawmaker said that the money is not being recovered from the IPPs and salaried class is being overburdened.

"Shutdown these I they have already minted billions of rupees," he said.

"We have to save the country, not the IPPs. The IPPs have earned billions of rupees even during the economic emergency," Hanif Abbasi said during budget debate.

MQM-P's Mustafa Kamal said that the country has been indebted by those who run the country, while it is public that have to give sacrifice in hard time.

He said 78,000 billion being demanded from the public, "Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari and the PTI's founder should lead the way," he said. "Nawaz Sharif should donate his Raiwind Palace, Asif Zardari one of his Bilawal Houses and the PTI's founder his Bani Galla," he said.

He said 71 percent capacity charges being paid in the power sector. "1700 billions have been allocated for the power companies, which are even not generating the electricity," Mustafa Kamal said.

Sanaullah, AJK PM discuss region's budget, development

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul-Haq on Saturday discussed the upcoming budget and development projects in the region.

Anwar-ul-Haq expressed his gratitude to the government of Pakistan for its unwavering support, emphasising the administration's commitment to ensuring good governance and the welfare of the people, said a press

However, he highlighted the need for an increase in the budget grant, which has remained stagnant for the past five years. The prime minister stressed that a boost in funding is essential to meet the targets of annual development projects, particularly in light of the current political and security landscape.

Sanaullah, who holds the portfolio of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), assured that the proposal to increase

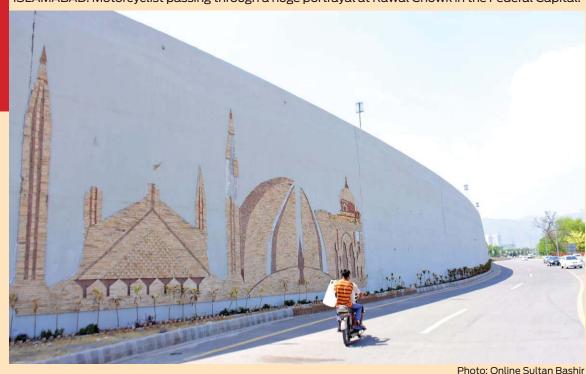


the budget grant would be given due government's dedication to utilising development and social prosperity in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

He also pledged to provide necesconsideration. He reaffirmed the sary support to alleviate the difficulties faced by the people of Azad Jammu available resources to drive economic and Kashmir, underscoring the federal government's unwavering commitment to the region's well-being.

Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclist passing through a huge portrayal at Rawal Chowk in the Federal Capital.



Madyan incident: Govt forms JIT for thorough investigation

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government formed a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe into the lynching incident in

According to a notification issued here, the Superintendent of Police (SP) Investigation will head the ninemember JIT.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Madyan and DSP Investigation Upper Swat are also named in the JIT.

According to the notification, the representatives of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) are named in the accused of committing blas-JIT tasked with investigation the matter thoroughly.

It is pertinent to mention



here that the incident took the police station however the place in Madyan where a enraged mob went inside and tourist was killed by a violent beaten the tourist to death.

mob over alleged blasphemy.

phemy by a mob in Swat district.

Earlier in the day, Federal

The tourist was allegedly Minister Ahsan Iqbal y condemned the lynching incident in Swat and called to stop this 'street justice.

The KP police took him to Ahsan Iqbal during the

budget debate in the National Assembly called the incident horrific in Swat's Madyan area.

Ahsan said that parliament had to take stern notice of "mob justice", as it had brought Pakistan "to the brink of destruction".

We must take notice of this incident. We have now reached to a point where religion being used to justify mob violence and street justice, flagrantly violating the Constitution, the law and the state," he lamented.

Ahsan maintained that parliament has to take notice of the issue, as it had brought Pakistan to the brink of anarchy.

Ahsan Iqbal demanded a special house committee be formed to probe these inci-

Govt 'devises' procedure for sugar export



ISLAMABAD: The federal government devised a procedure for the export of 150,000 tonnes of sugar, citing sources.

According to the details, the sugar export quota will be divided among the provinces based on their installed crushing capacity, the government sources privy to the development said.

According to the devised plan, Punjab will get the largest share of 61 percent of the sugar export quota, while Sindh will get 32 percent and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will get 7 percent. The sugar would not be exported from Balochistan quota.

The sources added that the sugar export quota will be distributed among the provinces through the cane commissioners. The federal and provincial governments will not provide any subsidy for sugar export The quota of share will be fixed within seven days of the issuance

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will inform the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the federal cabinet about the sugar

Earlier on June 14, the ECC approved conditional export of 150,000 tonnes of sugar. It allowed the Ministry of Industry and Production to export the sugar which is subject to the condition that the export will not cause price hike in the domestic market.

The ECC maintained that if the price of sugar increases, the permission to export will be cancelled.

Budget 2024: Big news related to tax on mobile phones

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee rejected the proposal to impose 18 percent of sales tax on mobile phones worth up to \$200. A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance presided over by the Saleem Mandviwalla where the meeting members rejected the proposal to impose 18 percent sales tax on mobile phones up to

"Mobile phone is not a luxury item, imposing tax will make phones expensive," a committee member Anusha Rahman said during the

She further added that according to the IMF, the burden has been put on the poor, tax on phone for the poor, tax on calling, tax on charging, investors are fleeing the country due to FBR.

She further added that, the burden has been unfairly placed on the poor to fulfil the IMF's condition.

"There are taxes on phones for the poor, taxes on calls, and taxes on

Meanwhile, the meeting member also stated that the investors are fleeing the country due to the actions of the FBR.

Prolonged loadshedding: Protesters storm KE customer care centre

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Frustrated with prolonged loadshedding, enraged citizens stormed the K-Electric (KE) customer care centre on Karachi's Abul Hassan Isphani Road, forcing the staff to flee.

The protesters chanted slogans against K-Electric



and pelted stones at the customer care centre, shattering windows. The demonstration was sparked by the worsening power crisis in Karachi, with residents demanding an end to the frequent load shedding. The protesters blocked both sides of the road, causing a massive

Following the protest, the K-Electric staff abandoned their office and fled the scene, leaving the protesters to vent their anger.

A day earlier, citizens staged protests in various city areas over the non-availability of electricity and water. Protesters staged a sit-in at North Karachi Power House Chowrangi and Gulzar-e-Hijri Scheme 33, blocking traffic and setting tires on fire.

A large number of residents of the area near North Karachi staged a protest against the load shedding of electricity, which caused traffic to come to a standstill on both tracks of Nagan Chowrangi and Surjani Town. The protesters demanded an end to load shedding and cable

faults, and chanted slogans against the K Electric. Meanwhile, a large number of residents of Scheme 33, PCSIR Society, Sachal area, came out of their homes to protest against the non-availability of water, blocking traffic and chanting slogans against the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, demanding immediate water supply. Protesters also set tires and other objects on fire, causing traffic jams and long queues of vehicles.

Devcom-Pakistan launches 'Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award' in memory of legendary artist

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mansoor Rahi, a celebrated Cubist artist from Pakistan whose recent passing left an indelible mark on the global art landscape, was honored by his disciples of the Generation Rahi at a memorial event held on

Speaking at the Reference in memory of Mansoor Rahi, Devcom-Pakistan said: Rahi was the only Pakistani artist

beyond Pakistan, influencing the international art community with his unique artistic vision and technique.

The memorial event, attended Saturday. To commemorate his legaby prominent figures from the art cy and contributions to the world of world, served as a tribute to Rahi's life art, Devcom-Pakistan announced the and career, highlighting his impact launch of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism on contemporary art practices. Award on the occasion. An open Devcom-Pakistan, a leading national competition will be announced soon voluntary organization committed in collaboration with the Rahi Gener- to promoting cultural and artistic al and other art galleries and organ- endeavors, took the opportunity to announce the establishment of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award.

Munir Ahmed said the Mansoor Executive Director Munir Ahmed Rahi Cubism Award will be a symbol of honor and inspiration for artists dediwidely recognized for his significant cated to the Cubist tradition, fostering work in Cubism art, a genre that he a spirit of creativity and innovation in

not only mastered but also imparted to the art community. The award will be countless aspiring artists who became another feather in the Devcom-Pakiknown collectively as the Genera- stan cap that is a non-profit voluntary tion Rahi. His influence extended far organization dedicated to fostering cultural, social, environmental, and economic development through various initiatives in Pakistan.

Hajra Mansoor appreciated the Generation Rahi for organizing the reference in memory of his late legendary artist husband, and also appreciated the announcement of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award by Devcom-Pakistan.

Hajra Mansoor said: "I am deeply touched and grateful to Devcom-Pakistan for honoring my late husband, Mansoor Rahi, with the establishment of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award. This award will not only celebrate his artistic legacy but also inspire future generations of artists.



"As Mansoor Rahi's wife and lifelong supporter of his artistic journey, I am moved by the recognition bestowed

upon him through this prestigious award. I believe it will encourage artists to explore and innovate within the Cubist tradition, just as Mansoor did. This award embodies Mansoor Rahi's passion for artistic exploration and innovation. I am optimistic that it will encourage emerging artists to push boundaries and contribute meaningfully to the evolution of Cubism."

"On behalf of our family, I extend my sincere gratitude to Devcom-Pakistan for creating the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award. It is a testament to Mansoor's enduring impact on the art world and a source of pride for all who admired his work.

Nahida Raza, artist and organizer of the Reference, said the Generation Rahi will keep up the Mansoor Rahi's tradition of promoting the art fraternity and the upcoming artists through various initiatives.

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Nine months after Gaza war, population entirely dispossessed of livelihood means

fter nearly nine months of the Israeli war in Gaza, the besieged enclave's population has been almost entirely dispossessed of the means to ensure food security, shelter, health, and livelihood, a UN official told reporters Friday.

Gaza was "a world of devastation" and still in the grip of Israeli attacks, UN humanitarian officials just back from the enclave reported on Friday, as they described widespread destruction and stories of pregnant mothers forced to request preterm C-sections out of desperation and fear.

"Women were asking me, 'When can we go back to our homes?' Each displacement has brought more loss and fear," Maryse Guimond, UN Women's Special Representative for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, said by video-link to reporters in Geneva.

Ms Guimond, a veteran humanitarian worker, described seeing people "crammed" into makeshift shelters and lacking even the most basic essentials. At one school-turnedshelter run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), there were only 25 toilets for the 14,000 people seeking safety inside the compound and the 59,000 others camping outside, she noted.

Pointing to the "enormous" problems of access to Gaza's last functioning hospitals today, Dr Rik Peeperkorn from the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the enclave's health workers, obstetricians and doctors now treat far higher levels of low birthweight babies than before the war.

"We see a lot of preterm babies and low birthweight babies and you see that often in times of conflicts, war...but we even had the stories where women were going when they had access to the hospital would ask for an early Caesarean to make sure that they deliver and deliver safely because they were completely unclear and they were scared about the access, if they would be able to access the hospital later, because of the volatile security situation and the constantly changing situation."

Beyond the risks of giving birth in Gaza today for mothers and their babies in a place where "there is hardly any antenatal care", the WHO medic highlighted the "amazing" amount of trauma cases, amputees and patients with chronic health conditions who urgently need to be evacuated out of the enclave for treatment.

Since war erupted on October 7, roughly 4,800 patients have been evacuated out of medical necessity from Gaza, most to Egypt and elsewhere in the region.

But "at least another 10,000 patients" now needed specialist treatment outside the enclave, Dr Peeperkorn said - "half of them related to the war and half of them related to what we call the chronic diseases: ...cancer, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases, including severe mental health cases".

How many deaths will it take for the int'l community to wake up?

Amna Ayub

s the days go by, Palestinians are waiting for a sortie of brutal Israeli's army, but the international community ceases to function. This is due to instability and fragility of their policies and it leads to unsettled disputes. The United Nation which is a diplomatic and political international organization which intends to uphold and retain international peace and security, achieve international cooperation and to sustain harmony has failed to uphold Israel accountable for the massacre and displacement of thousands including the majority of women and children. The major world powers have failed humanity.

The Palestine Israel conflict is a historic one dating back to late 19th and early 20th centuries, rather than a recent event from October 7th 2023. Historical accounts indicate that conflict is on sacred land that has significant religious importance for both groups. The Palestinians lived peacefully under the Ottoman Empire until after World War 1, the UN placed Palestine under British Administration and they legitimized Jewish immigration into Palestine through the Balfour Declaration. The situation escalated after World War 2 and the Holocaust which granted Israel International support for immigration into Palestine. The UN proposed a two state solution but the Arabs refused

Palestine, it started repeated conflicts among the parties in 1948, 1967, and 1973. Efforts to bring peace were made through resolutions such as Oslo Accord but failed and hence the conflict kept escalating as Israel yearned to capture more and more land. The conflict exacerbated once again after Hamas' attack on Southern Israel resulting in many casualties and hostage-takings. In response, Israel has been vigorously attacking civilians that include mostly children for the past 8 months.

This genocide has continued for the past 8 months killing at least 36,439 Palestinians, mostly women and children, with over more than 82,000 injured and thousands still missing, according to enclave's Ministry of Health. The situation worsened after food shortage leading to starvation and increasing death-toll even higher due to malnutrition and it does not end here but Israel keeps on killing the civilians in the hospitals, homes and to add more to the calamities even attacked Rafah, the camp side Israel declared as 'safe zone' for the Palestinians to flee to.

The American President has been supporting Israel since the beginning, condemning the Hamas' attack and in his recent statements he reaffirmed USA's support to Israel. The US calls it Israel's right to self defense.

The UN has been actively monitoring the conflict and calling for peace on both sides. It has also been engaging with pause and to allow humanitarian aid in Gaza but the resolution was twice vetoed by the US. Despite all the efforts, the UN has miserably failed to call for accountability for the war crimes Israel has been committing. Also, no strong resolution has been passed to stop Israel from the

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court seeks arrest warrants of Netanyahu, the PM of Israel and the Hamas leaders for war crimes. The charges include, causing starvation as a method of war, including denial of humanitarian aid. The Arabs and other Muslim countries have failed miserably in taking any stern stance for ceasefire or the resolution of this conflict. They have made efforts on diplomatic grounds but those efforts are negligible and have little or no impact on the situation.

Iran has openly opposed Israeli aggression and condemned it while clearly siding with Palestinians. It also attacked Israel with drones in the month of April as an aggressive response.

Recently, the US has proposed a ceasefire plan including three stages: first, a 6 days ceasefire when Israel will remove its forces from populated areas, then exchange of hostages followed by negotiations among Hamas and Israel for a permanent ceasefire. The final stage is the permanent ceasefire and also reconstruction of the enclave destroyed by the

to accept. After the British withdrew from stakeholders to call for a ceasefire. The UN Israeli forces. This plan is also being highly Security Council has called for an urgent opposed by Netanyahu but the exact consequences are not clear.

People across the globe have been boycotting the goods that support Israeli war crimes directly or indirectly. This has affected the revenue of producers with an estimated loss of about \$15 billion. This has also left political pressure on Israel and many companies have also divested from investing in Israeli companies.

Israel has failed in conquering public opinion and people have been protesting against the genocide for months on end including students, workers, and people of all color and creed.

Despite the repeated call for ceasefire and allowing humanitarian aid, Israel has not considered any law and is recurrently attacking the civilians and has not lifted the blockade to let the humanitarian aid in Gaza. It has been violating human rights, and International law over and over again but no one has yet taken any effective step to make Israel accountable for the mass destruction and killings of innocent people. The world has failed miserably in peace keeping, and humanity. The economic gains are more important to the states than the thousands of innocent kids that are beheaded, burned, airstriked, bombed and displaced.

It's high time the world should wake up and contribute to the ceasefire and call for peace.

Writer is student at National Defense University, Islamabad



An Alarming Situation

Muhammad Sohail Hassan

alludes to the drawn-out expansion in Earth's normal surface temperature because of human exercises, basically the discharge of ozone harming substances like carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O). These gases trap heat in the environment, prompting the nursery impact. Since the Modern Unrest, the convergence of these gases has risen

The results of an Earth-wide temperature boost are sweeping and serious, influencing normal biological systems, weather conditions. and human social orders. Glacial masses and ice covers are dissolving, adding to rising ocean levels, which compromise beach front networks. Outrageous climate occasions, including storms, heatwayes, and weighty precipitation, are

turning out to be more regular and extraordinary. Moreover, an Earth-wide temperature boost disturbs rural efficiency, imperils biodiversity, and worsens medical conditions. Relieving an Earth-wide temperature boost requires dire and composed worldwide endeavours to decrease ozone harming substance outflows, change to environmentally friendly power sources, upgrade energy productivity, and advance feasible land use rehearses. Addressing this worldwide test is fundamental to safeguard the planet for people in the future and to guarantee the versatility of both normal and human frameworks.

An Earth-wide temperature boost, a basic part of environmental change, is driven by human exercises that increment centralizations of ozone harming substances in the World's climate. This cycle started to advance quickly with the coming of the Modern Upset in the late eighteenth 100 years, while the consuming of petroleum derivatives like coal, oil, and flammable gas started to strengthen. These exercises discharge

dangerous atmospheric devotion a lot of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other ozone depleting substances, including methane (CH4) from rural practices and domesticated animals, and nitrous oxide (N2O) from modern exercises and composts. As these gases collect in the climate, they structure a sweeping that traps heat, prompting the warming of the planet.

The ramifications of a dangerous atmospheric devation are significant and complex. One of the most perceptible impacts is the dissolving of decisively, bringing about uncommon warming. polar ice covers and glacial masses, which adds to rising ocean levels. This peculiarity represents a

critical danger to seaside urban communities and little island countries, possibly uprooting a large number of individuals and causing monetary interruptions. Also, a worldwide temperature alteration is connected to the expanded recurrence and seriousness of outrageous climate occasions, like tropical storms, dry seasons,

and heatwaves. These occasions can obliterate networks, annihilate framework, and lead to

In addition, a worldwide temperature alteration influences biodiversity and biological systems. Numerous species are attempting to adjust to quickly changing temperatures and environments, bringing about shifts in dispersion, modified relocation examples, and even termination. Coral reefs, for instance, are encountering boundless dving because of hotter sea temperatures, which undermines marine biodiversity and the vocations of individuals who rely upon these environments.

Farming frameworks are likewise under pressure as changing environment conditions influence crop yields and food security. Areas that were once fruitful may become parched, while others might encounter expanded precipitation and flooding, entangling cultivating rehearses and compounding craving and destitution in weak populaces.

Tending to a dangerous atmospheric devotion requires thorough systems that envelop moderation and transformation. Moderation endeavours centre around decreasing ozone harming substance emanations through the reception of sustainable power sources like sun based, wind, and hydropower, improving energy effectiveness, and executing carbon catch and capacity advances. Transformation includes making changes in environmental, social, and monetary frameworks to limit the harm brought about by an Earth-wide temperature boost. This incorporates building strong framework, growing early admonition frameworks for outrageous climate

occasions, and safeguarding normal territories. Worldwide collaboration is urgent in handling an Earth-wide temperature boost. Arrangements, for example, the Paris Understanding mean to join nations in the work to restrict worldwide temperature climb to well under 2 degrees Celsius above pre-modern levels, with a goal to restrict it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This requires a responsibility from all countries to decrease their carbon impressions and to help each other

through innovation move and monetary guide. All in all, an unnatural weather change is a mind boggling and critical issue that influences each feature of life on the planet. Quick and supported activity is important to moderate its belongings and to adjust to the progressions that are as of now in progress. Through worldwide collaboration, development, and a common obligation to supportability, it is feasible to address the difficulties presented by an unnatural weather change and to shield the planet for people in

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Cultural diplomacy

Fouzia Yasmin

ultural diplomacy, a vital subset of international relations, involves different aspects like exchange of ideas, values, traditions, and other cultural aspects between nations and peoples of different countries to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation. Unlike traditional diplomacy, which often relied on political and economic negotiations only at governmental level, cultural diplomacy includes softer realms of interaction among societies, like people-to-people contact, which aims to build relations of trust and respect through cultural engagements.

Mainly, cultural diplomacy seeks to promote national interests and foster peace by representing their country's culture at global level. The representation of cultural diplomacy includes music, art, literature, cuisine, sports, and educational programs. By presenting these cultural assets, nations can build up their global image and create a more favorable environment for political and economic relations and winning the hearts of foreign audiences.

Cultural diplomacy is of great importance. Like when people from other countries watch and experience the cultures of our country, they often find common ground and shared human experiences, which can significantly reduce stereotypes and prejudices against our country. This connection through cultural diplomacy is crucial in countries where misunderstandings and misrepresentations can lead to internal and external conflicts.

Through this way cultural diplomacy can play a significant role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. In regions where political tensions are high, initiatives through cultural diplomacy can lead to negotiation and build up relationships. For instance, cultural exchange programs that bring together young people from conflicting nations can help to create awareness among people of the new generation that values, dialogue and cooperation reduces hostile relations. This could also

lead their government to making friendly policies as their citizens are wishing.

Similarly, educational exchange programs are powerful tools of cultural diplomacy. Programs that enable students and scholars to study abroad create a network of global citizens who have a deep understanding and appreciation of the culture of the country where they studied. These individuals often become ambassadors for their host countries, promoting international collaboration and understanding in their professional and personal life styles.

More importantly, cultural diplomacy contributes to the global economy. The cultural industries, including film, music, fashion, and art, are significant economic drivers. By promoting these industries abroad, countries can boost their financial conditions, create jobs, and attract others for tourism. Other things like festivals, exhibitions, and cultural performances not only represent the cultural richness and beauty but also attract international visitors, contributing to economic growth through tourism and making the tourism industry successful.

As we are living in an age of digital world, so cultural diplomacy can be done very successfully on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram etc and similarly through TV channels. This digital cultural diplomacy can engage younger audiences and foster global connectivity, making cultural exchanges more inclusive and widespread. The importance of cultural diplomacy is also evident in addressing global challenges such as climate change, health crises, and social justice. Cultural narratives and practices can inspire collective action and drive international cooperation on these issues.

So, promoting the positive image of our country must be the first priority as the citizens of Pakistan. We are mostly indulged in promoting negative content just for the sake of getting attention and view, and leaving behind the precious and beautiful image of our country.

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Custodian of Kaaba, Sheikh Saleh Al Shaibi, passes away

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Saleh al Shaibi, the chief key holder and custodian of the holy Kaaba in Makkah, passed away on Saturday, after a prolonged illness, Gulf News reported.

Al Shaibi was the 109th successor in a line that dates back to Uthman bin Talha, a companion of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was originally entrusted with the key to the

He took over the role of caretaker in 2013 and was the 77th member of his family to serve in this capacity, a tradi-



tion that has spanned centuries.

The family's duties include managing the affairs of the Kaaba, cleaning, washing, ironing, and repairing its Kiswa (cover), as well as receiving visitors and handling all related tasks.

Al Shaibi was a scholar in his own right, holding a doctorate in Islamic studies and authoring several books on religion and history.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman have expressed their grief over the passing of Al Shaibi.

The burial will take place at the Al Mu'alla Cemetery in Makkah.

Long March-2C rocket

A Long March-2C rocket carrying an astronomical satellite, the Space-based Multi-band Variable Object Monitor (SVOM), blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province on Saturday.



Photo: Chen Haojie/Xinhua

Top diplomats, UN officials join in celebrating

President Diplomat Business Club asks Pakistani tech businesses to join digital revolution

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Diplomat Business Club and former ambassador Javed Malik on Saturday urged Pakistani tech businesses to become a part of the digital revolution that was transforming the global business landscape.

He was addressing the Global Business Forum 2024, in Dubai, UAE which brought together delegates from over 30 coun-Diplomat Business Club to explore business, trade and investment opportunities release said. through global collabora-

Diplomat Business Club facilitates business leaders to connect, collaborate, vative businesses ideas in and explore new avenues the areas of fintech, blockto expand their businesses and also build new alliances robotics, renewable energy, to co-create new businesses ventures particularly in the mous vehicles, clean energy, digital business landscape.

Javed Malik stressed that digital transformation and businesses ventures that are innovation was changing the clearly the future of business. nature of doing business and



embrace this change, a press

The president Diplomat Business Club further urged them to focusing their attention to new and innochain, artificial intelligence, space technology, autonoquantum computing and other technology-based

tries under the auspices of smart investors and business the presence of diplomats, owners should be willing business leaders, investors, entrepreneurs and CEOs from more than 30 countries highlighted the Club's position as a premier global platform for business diplo-

nacy in the region.

Speaking to media, he said that Diplomat Business Club would extend support to the Pakistani companies that wanted to reach international markets as well as qualified start-ups that sought funding.

He said that Diplomat Club's global engagement Javed Malik said that team has been in discuselection to Security Council Spokesman Report NEW YORK: Nearly a hundred

Pakistan's

ambassadors from all regions of the world and United Nations officials Friday attended a reception hosted by Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, to celebrate Pakistan's victorious election to the United Nations Security Council

On June 6, Pakistan was elected, with a massive majority, as a non-permanent member of the 15-member Council, with Ambassador Akram pledging to make a contribution in meeting the grave challenges facing the

Pakistan, which was unopposed, garnered 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly, and will begin its two-year term on January 1, 2025.

Ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council- China, United States, Russia, France and Britain were among those attended.

Also present were members of the Pakistani community in and around New York

Palestine welcomes Cuba's announcement to intervene in the genocide case against Israel

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates welcomes Cuba's announcement to intervene in the case relating to the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip, submitted by South Africa against Israel.

The Ministry affirms that this decision expresses Cuba's firm commitment to justice and the rule of international law, and affirms the deep solidarity and historical friendship between the two countries.

The Ministry calls on all states parties to the Convention to join and announce their active participation in the proceedings before the Court, as ending the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people and combating Israel's impunity are responsibilities that we must shoulder together in the interest of humanity and the law.

Pakistan Association Luxembourg hosts Eid ul Azha celebration

Spokesman Report

LUXEMBOURG: The Pakistan Association Luxembourg (PAL) hosted a vibrant Eid ul Adha celebration, uniting the Pakistani community in Luxembourg for a day filled with festivities, cultural immersion, and community



Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg Amna Baloch graced the event as the chief guest. The celebration attracted a large turnout from the Pakistani diaspora, who gathered to mark this significant cultural festival with enthusiasm and joy.

Families enjoyed a variety of activities, relishing traditional Pakistani cuisine and creating a lively and festive atmosphere. Special activities were organized for children, ensuring a memorable experience for all ages

In her address, Amna Baloch emphasized the significance of Eid ul Adha, reflecting on its core values of sacrifice, unity, and togetherness. She praised the Pakistani community in Luxembourg for their contributions and highlighted the importance of such events in preserving cultural heritage and fostering unity among expatriates.

The ambassador's presence underscored the Embassy's commitment to supporting and connecting with the Pakistani diaspora, addressing their needs and concerns, and strengthening the bond between the community and their homeland.

The event served as a platform for cultural exchange, reinforcing a sense of unity and belonging among the Pakistani community in Luxembourg. It also provided an opportunity for the community to celebrate their heritage, share their traditions, and foster stronger connections within the diaspora.

ECO countries' including Pak's carpet design displayed at Tehran carpets exhibition



跨 Spokesman Report

TEHRAN: ECO member states displayed their carpet arts including Pakistani carpet designs during Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) regional exhibition of carpet arts held in Tehran.

Besides the carpet exhibition, a parallel workshop on the art of old carpet restoration was also inaugurated on the occasion, said a press release received here from Tehran on Saturday.

While inaugurating the carpet exhibition, President of Economic Cultural Institute (ECI) Tehran, Saad S Khan emphasised that carpet is the most ancient of regional art that is common across all the regional

Meanwhile, professors and scholars speaking on the occasion talked about the common heritage of carpet designs in Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and other regional countries that are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) based in Tehran.

Turkmenistan even holds Carpet Day each year as a national state holiday, Dr Saad said.

The scholars highlighted the cultural significance of carpets as a cultural symbol, carpets' role in hospitality in traditional homes and the importance of carpet weaving as a form of livelihood. Experts explained various techniques for restoring old, worn out or torn carpets, up to a century old, which can be restored to appear as good as new.

The ceremony was followed by a widely attended exhibition at the ECI Art Gallery in Tehran of hand-made unique carpets from the countries of the region including Pakistan. There was a live demonstration of carpet restoration being done by artisans. Thousands of visitors from across ECO countries are expected to visit this year's ongoing carpet exhibition.

Rhapsody in Isfahan

Mohammad Ghaderian

n historic city of Isfahan, where hosted an exquisite symphony of connections in the end week of May. As we stood before these diverse expressions in a world where walls rise, we tions, it is not solitary; one of the were reminded that humanity cuts across artificial lines.

'Symphony of Life' weaved approximately 57 threads from 20 countries. including Morocco, South Korea, Pakistan, Norway, Taiwan, India, Lithu-Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Turkey, UK, Germany, Italy, France, Neth-

interaction and coexistence of identities. 'Symphony of Life' behaved as a whispers travel across centu- living archive; although works were ries and echoes of caravans presented as prints, attendees were resonate through the bustling eager to see the originals. Each work bazaars, Didar Art Gallery transcended mere physicality encompassing its creator's transformation, rebellion, and growth.

Identity is the sum of our aspirastandout aspects of this exhibition was its scope which had a profound impact on the dialogue between civilizations. 'Symphony of Life' emphasized art as a language that has always played a key role in promoting democracy. The ania, Austria, Mexico, Singapore, performances of traditional Iranian music, Eastern music, and a fusion of Iranian, Western, and Eastern instruerlands and US, into a diverse and ments were another highlight, creating rich tapestry. The exhibition became empathy and joy. This cultural initia strong cultural conduit between ative has been one of the significant nations aimed to highlight common- events in recent years in Isfahan, alities and acknowledge differences, garnering positive international atten-

providing a unique opportunity for the tion. More truly, progress is collective

Commerce in Pakistan

and some tech companies

to facilitate them where

Other speakers and

participants of the global business forum included

Trade Commissioner of

Italy Valerio Soldani, Consul

Generals, Trade Commis-

sioners & Chairmen of busi-

ness councils from Sweden,

Turkey, United Kingdom,

Pakistan, China, Russia,

Spain, Mexico, Azerbaijan,

South Africa as well as

senior officials from the UAE

Ministry of Economy.

and humans thrive in shared histories. L'ART International Group founded by Abdolreza Rabeti in 2019, comprises Iranian and international artists chatting via messenger and emails to make such cultural exchanges a reality. Today, we stand on the precipice of change, which warrants new inquiries and an expanded capacity for critical thinking. At such junctures, there has been a natural inclination towards connecting with people outside the conventional systems for which platforms (tools) have been repurposed throughout history, and these adaptations continue to redefine our planet.

'Symphony of Life' presents Isfahan's legacy as the shared breath of people, where artists have debated philosophy in gardens and poets have penned verses under arches-all linked in humanity's quest for freedom to express and connect. It is hoped that in



the current tense and war-torn climate, dialogue among nations and people through art will serve as a balm for pain and suffering, generating space for peace and empathy.

Sohrab Sepehri writes for the exhi-

life is understanding of now زند گیار سم خوشایندی است a pleasant custom

زندگی چیزی نیست که لب طاقچه عادت از یاد من و توبرود not something that can be forgotten

a great mystery that flows in us

interval of our coming and going زندگی وزن نگاہی است که در خاطر هامی ماند the weight of life is a look that remains in memories زندگی ترشدن یی در یی، زندگی آب تنی کر دن در حوضحیه اکنون است

getting more alive successively, is the life of bathing in the pond, now زند گی صحنه زیبای هنر مندی من وتواست

a beautiful, artistic scene, of me and هر کس نغمه خو دخواند واز صحنه رود

everyone sings his/her song and leaves the stage This is an articulated opinion of

Mohammad Ghaderian, a prominent figure in the visual arts, master painter and recognised art critic. He has collaborated with Iranian museums on book projects and research initiatives. With multiple solos and publications in academic journals under his belt, Ghaderian is currently leading the research group of Isfahan Painters Association.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,810.49	78,801.53	
Day's High	Day's Low	
80,059.87	78,169.02	
Index Value	Change	
15,054,633,137	+8.96	
Percentage	Time	
+0.01%	21 Jun, 2024	
	5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
8,237.72	-34.74	
Percentage	Time	
-0.42%	21 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones I	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
39,145.08	+10.32	
Percentage	Time	
+0.026%	21 Jun, 1:11 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	
38,596.47	-36.55	

Percentage

-0.095%

Time

21 Jun, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.98	748.98
Canadian Dollar	202	204
China Yuan	38.4	38.8
Danish Krone	40.15	40.55
Euro	294.3	297.9
Hong Kong Dollar	35.68	36.03
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.9	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.7	917.7
Malaysian Ringgit	59.07	59.67
NewZealand \$	170.98	172.98
Norwegians Krone	26.38	26.68
Omani Riyal	723.75	731.75
Qatari Riyal	76.53	77.23
Saudi Riyal	72.85	73.6
Singapore Dollar	202	204
Swedish Korona	26.68	26.98
Swiss Franc	315.21	317.71
Thai Bhat	7.59	7.74
U.A.E Dirham	75	75.8
UK Pound Sterling	352	355.5
US Dollar	277.8	280.7

Open Market Forex Rates

Budget 2024-25: 18pc GST to reverse all gains towards digitalization of businesses

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Bill 2024 proposed GST increase to 18 percent will further disadvantage tax-compliant retailers and will reverse all gains towards digitalization of the retail sector over the past five years. Although a maximum GST rate of 12 percent should be restored, maintaining the current rate at 15 percent will partially incentivize customers of Tier-1 retailers therefore allowing some semblance of competitiveness for the formal sector. These views were expressed by the Chairman of the Chainstore Association of Pakistan Rana Tariq, emphasizing that a strategic combination of sequential measures, implemented in consultation with progressive retailers, will promote economic growth and sustainable tax compliance across the entire retail sector. He stated the association represents Tier-1 Retailers integrated with the FBR-POS system. The organized retail sector significantly contributes to Pakistan's formal economy, directly employing over 2,000,000 people and indirectly supporting many more through shopping malls, manufacturers, service providers, and the cottage industry amongst over 50 other sectors. Despite ongoing attempts to rationalize the taxation of the retail sector. the proposed tax reforms have led to the closure of several integrated Tier-1 retailers and the premature reduction of the physical retail network of many others over the past two years, he furthered. He urged the government to maintain the 15% GST rate for Integrated Tier-1 Retailers by retaining S. No. 66 of the Eight Schedule of the Sales Tax Act 1990, which is proposed to be omitted in the Finance Bill 2024, as the FBR-POS integration has been instrumental in digitalizing taxation efforts, yielding positive results across the country since its inception. We firmly believe that thorough digitalization can address the elusive taxation reforms of the retail sector. The press release noted that when FBR-POS integration was introduced in 2019, the GST rate for locally produced textile and leather products

FBR's expanded authority in tax fraud cases will hamper investment: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Saturday that some conditions of the IMF have yet to be fulfilled in the recent budget.

He said that in contrast, most of the budget proposals are as per the instructions of the IMF. He said that honouring commitments with addressed. the IMF will help Pakistan secure new loans to keep the country afloat.

Mian Zahid Hussain said allocating 1400 billion rupees for developmental projects in these difficult circumstances is a miracle.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that electricity could be made cheaper by Rs10 per unit for the industrial sector by a 200 billion rupees cut in development projects.

The affordable electricity will increase exports by five billion dollars, increase employment, and provide relief to people, but it seems difficult.

The business leader said that last year, 950 billion rupees were earmarked for development projects, of which only 379 billion rupees could be spent till May.

The budget is too focused on indirect taxes, which will increase poverty while reducing government expenditure, which should be

There has yet to be a concrete plan to eliminate the losses of 1200 billion rupees per year from the power sector. Besides, the privatization of 80 government institutions, which incur losses of 1200 billion rupees annually, must be done immediately.

In both terms, 2400 billion rupees can be saved annually, which makes it possible to save seven and a half billion dollars in government expenses.



Mian Zahid Hussain said that the industries of former Fata, Pata and other parts of the 200 billion rupees. At the same time, there are risks being misused to discourage investment.

several incentives, that violate the promises

In these circumstances, if there is no increase in exports, remittances and tax base, new minibudgets will have to be brought, increasing the pressure on the people.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that big infrastructure projects can bring improvement for the economy and the people, so these projects should be completed immediately so that the country's economic condition can improve.

He said that despite the huge increase in inflation, it is excessive to increase the tax on the income of the salaried class and that increasing the price of medicines, medical equipment, poultry feed, tractors, mobile phones, stationery, newsprint, cement, pasteurized milk and other items will increase inflation.

He warned that increased powers given to country are being given incentives of more than FBR are tax fraud cases and 0-year sentence

Group photo

Mr. Rana Abbas, CEO, AE Power Solar and foreign delegates posing for a group photo at InterSolar Europe World's Leading solar exhibition, Munich, Germany.



One Network and Mastercard partner for 10% cashback on M-TAG Top-Ups

👺 Δsad Hashmi

RAWALPINDI: One Network, a leading services provider of electronic toll collection on Pakistan's Motorways, and Mastercard, a global leader in innovation in digital payments, announced a strategic partnership to offer a rewarding experience for motorway travelers

Through this collaboration, users can enjoy a 10% cashback on their M-TAG recharge when they use their Mastercard (debit or credit cards) via One Network M-TAG App. This initiative aims to encourage the use of digital payments for motorway tolls, promoting a cashless and seamless travel experience for commuters across Pakistan.

The signing ceremony was held in Rawalpindi, where representatives from both companies emphasized their commitment to innovation and customer convenience.

"This partnership with Mastercard is a significant step forward for One Network," said Asif Siddique, CEO, One Network "By



recharge via Mastercard, we are encouraging the adoption of digital payments on motorways, ultimately creating a smoother and more efficient experience for travelers." "Mastercard is delighted to partner with

One Network to drive the growth of digital payments in Pakistan," added Arslan Khan,

offering a cashback incentive for M-TAG Country Manager (Pakistan), Mastercard. "This collaboration aligns perfectly with our commitment to fostering innovation and convenience within the payments ecosystem. We believe the 10% cashback offer will encourage travelers to embrace the ease and security of digital payments

CAP urges continuation of 15% **GST** for POS integrated retailers in Finance Bill

E Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chairman of the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) Rana Tariq Mehboob has urged the government to maintain the 15% GST rate for Integrated Tier-1 Retailers by retaining S. No. 66 of the Eight Schedule of the Sales Tax Act 1990, which is proposed to be omitted in the Finance Bill 2024, as the FBR-POS integration has been instrumental in digitalizing taxation efforts.

In a press release issued today, CAP emphasized that a strategic combination of sequential measures, implemented in consultation with progressive retailers, will promote economic growth and sustainable tax compliance across the entire retail



Rana Tariq Mehboob stated the CAP represents Tier-1 Retailers integrated with the FBR-POS system. The organized retail sector significantly contributes to Pakistan's formal economy, directly employing over 2,000,000 people and indi $rectly\, supporting\, many\, more$ through shopping malls, manufacturers, providers, and the cottage industry amongst over 50 other sectors.

Salt manufacturers oppose proposal to abolish fixed tax regime for exporters

E Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Salt Manu-

facturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP) has expressed deep concern over the proposed shift from a 1% turnover-based Fixed Tax Regime (FTR) to the standard taxation rate of 29% of taxable profit in the Federal Budget 2024. The association warned that this change would be disastrous for exports and urged that the proposal to remove exports from the FTR must be immediately rejected to prevent further economic crises.

In a statement, Chairman SMAP, Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, said, "We stand united with Pakistan's export industries in vehemently opposing the proposed abolition of the fixed tax regime in the federal budget. These budget proposals threaten to escalate harassment and



ties, driving away investors and creating an environment of uncertainty for businesses. "The business community categorically denounces these draconian measures. If these proposals are implemented, it will be very difficult to run the industries, and survival for industries will be impossible."

Qasim Yaqoob Paracha added, "We urge the government to reconsider these detrimental changes. Should these proposals persist, we will explore all available avenues in consultation with

Value-added textile exporters reject shift from 1% final to normal tax regime in Budget

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The value-added textile exporters have rejected the proposed shift from one percent turno- exports which will sabotage the hard of taxable profit, proving to be disastrous for the exports.

Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA), in vice chairman Amanullah Khan, a hurriedly called meeting, held here today, observed that this proposal to wear and Sheikh Zafar Mahmood remove exports from FTR must be of Combined Fabrics, a large number dropped from the Finance Bill 2024 of knitwear industry representatives to prevent further deterioration of attended the meeting to review the

on foreign exchange reserves.

We are in state of shock on the adverse announcements in the Federal Budget 2024-2025 against ver-based Final Tax Regime (FTR) to decades-long efforts of exporters to the standard taxation at 29 percent earn valuable foreign exchange for the country and to provide highest employment."

Besides PHMA North Zone senior M. I. Khurram of Comfort Knittrade deficit and resulting pressure anomalies of the new budget 2024-



PHMA North Zone SVC Amanullah Khan observed that historically, the FTR has offered transparent mechanism for taxing export proceeds electronically irrespective of profit or loss on realization of their export proceeds. He said that this imprudent tax measure has been proposed not with an intention to enhance revenue but to open up the doors of corruption and harassment in the hands of FBR. He mentioned that presently the exporters are also contributing 0.25% as Export Devel-

opment Surcharge. M. I. Khurram of Comfort Knit-

wear, while addressing the meeting, stated that the proposal to eliminate zero-rating on local supplies under Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) will have highly adverse effects on export. He said that removal of zerorating on local supplies to registered exporters will compel the exporters to claim refunds of Sales Tax from FBR which is lengthy process contrary to the spirit of EFS.

M. I. Khurram said that already, billions of rupees Sales Tax Refunds are stuck-up with the government. Therefore, this adverse proposal must also be dropped from the Finance Bill 2024, he demanded.

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Young fan invades pitch, gets selfie with Cristiano Ronaldo in Euro 2024

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A young fan ran onto the pitch during Saturday's Euro 2024 match between Turkey and Portugal and posed for a selfie with Cristiano Ronaldo in the centre circle.

The fan, wearing a red tracksuit top, evaded security staff as he emerged from the stand behind the benches midway through the second half of the game in Dortmund and made his way towards the Portugal skipper.

Portugal were leading 3-0 in the Group F game at the time, and Ronaldo posed smiling for a photo before the pitch invader ran off trying to escape stewards.

They eventually caught up with him and escorted him away to applause from

Shortly afterwards, another youngster attempted to copy the first pitch invader but this time an exasperated Ronaldo threw his arms up in frustration and did not agree to a second selfie.

The youth was then brusquely manhandled away from the superstar forward and off the playing area.

Portugal eventually swept into the of swathes of passionate Turkish fans in two more tries to become the oldest destination.



last 16 of Euro 2024 after comfortably seeing off Turkey 3-0 and guaranteeing first place in Group F.

Bernardo Silva's fine finish in the 21st minute, a comical Samet Akaydin own goal shortly afterwards and Bruno Fernandes's second-half tap-in gave Portugal a straightforward win in front

aiming to win their second European Championship after triumphing in 2016, their star-studded line-up easily dealing with Vincenzo Montella's enthusiastic but limited Turkey team.

Cristiano Ronaldo will have at least

goalscorer at a European Championship as Martinez said on Friday that the 39-year-old is in the right shape to play

every four days. It was Ronaldo who unselfishly set up Fernandes for a simple goal in the 56th minute after springing through Turkey's offside trap, and he then had time to pose for a selfie with a child fan who invaded the pitch midway through the second

Martinez's side, on a perfect six points, will face one of the four best third-place finishers in the next round and go into their final group game against Georgia without any pressure for a result.

The same cannot be said for Turkey who need a draw against the Czech Republic on Wednesday to ensure second

Turkey's passionate support again Portugal looked every inch a team flocked to the Westfalenstadion in huge numbers, with long tailbacks on the roads leading to the ground several hours before the 6:00 pm (1600 GMT) kick-off.

> Some fans sat on the top of cars leading chants among the thousands of supporters who crawled towards their

Wasim Akram advises Arshdeep Singh to bowl like Shaheen Afridi

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan former captain and legendary fast bowler Wasim Akram shared a piece of advice for India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh.

Speaking to an international sports outlet, Akram advised Arshdeep to bowl fuller deliveries in the initial phase of the innings 'just like Pakistan left-armer Shaheen Shah Afridi'.

The former captain, who himself was a left-arm fast bowler, believed that fuller length deliveries would help Arshdeep, especially in the West Indies conditions

"He (Arshdeep) will get some help with the new ball in his mark, he has protection to his second spell, he should he added. West Indies. The pitches are not very flat like we have seen

should have the mid-on and pacer said. mid-off on the straighter side



stop the bounda

in the IPL or Pakistan. He can mid-on and mid-off a bit take a chance with the new straighter, so even if he misses ball and pitch it up. Bowl like the mark with the yorker, Shaheen Afridi," Akram said. the two fielders can stop the He added that Arshdeep straight shots," the legendary

Akram also advised Arshwhile bowling full length to deep to rely on variations a legacy behind, you will have ensure that even if he misses while in the death over. "For to think of the longest format,"

be using variations. While "He can try that. Keep the I've not seen him very closely at No.2 in Super 8's Group 1 recently, I think he's got the potential to be a regular bowler for India, and I hope he has Test cricket in his mind. You can earn money and be famous for a year in T20s. but if you want to leave

of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, having won against Afghanistan by 47 runs. The Rohit Sharma-led team is facing Bangladesh in their second match of the Super 8 match at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua

Pak cueists to participate in Asian Snooker, 6 Reds C'ships

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Five Pakistani cueists will feature in the Asian Team Men & U21 Snooker, 6 Reds Championships 2024 to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from June 26 to July 5.

The Pakistan team players include Asjad Igbal (Asian Team & 6 Reds Championship), Awais Ullah and Muhammad Hamza Ilyas (Asian ships. PBSA was waiting for the pass-Munir (Asian Team & 6 Reds Championship), Ahsan Ramzan (Asian U21 release. Championship), Muhammad Hasnain Akhtar (Asian U21 Championship)



U21 Championship), said a press The training camp of the Pakistan

snooker team players was held at NBP

June 20 to 25 from 10 am to 5 pm.

The camp played an important role in honing the players' skills and preparing them for the mega-events. The Pakistan Billiards & Snooker Association (PBSA) was hopeful that the players would win laurels for the country, in all the champion-

ports which were in the Saudi Embassy, Karachi for the visa process. The team players would depart for Riyadh on Wednesday (June 26) from Karachi.

Pakistan has experienced a tumultuous history in the ICC T20 World Cup

跨 Czechangez Khan Jadoon

he Pakistan cricket team has experienced a tumultuous history in the ICC T20 World Cup, with a blend of remarkable victories and disheartening defeats. However, their performance in the upcoming 2024 tournament in the USA has been preceded by a string of controversies and setbacks, tarnishing their reputation in the cricket world. One of the primary concerns revolves around the team's inconsistent performance. Pakistan has struggled to maintain a stable lineup, with frequent changes in the squad and an over-reliance on veteran players. This lack of cohesion has resulted in disappointing losses, including a dismal performance in the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia. Furthermore, the team has been plagued by off-field issues, including conflicts between players and the Pakistan Cricket Board PCB). The PCB has faced criticism for its poor management and lack of transparency, leading to tensions between the board and the players. This internal strife has negatively impacted the team's morale and performance. Additionally, Pakistan has faced scrutiny for their bowling action controversies. Several Pakistani bowlers have been accused of illegal bowling actions, leading to suspensions and fines. This has raised concerns about the team's adherence to ICC regulations and their commitment to fair play. The team's reputation has also been marred by allegations of spot-fixing and match-fixing. In the past, several Pakistani players have been implicated in corruption scandals, damaging the team's reputation and leading to a loss of trust among fans and the cricket community. Moreover, Pakistan's preparation for the 2024 T20 World Cup has been hindered by political tensions and security concerns. The team's ability to host international matches has been compromised due to security issues, forcing them to play home series in neutral venues. This has disrupted their preparation and affected their performance. In conclusion, the Pakistan cricket team's reputation has been tarnished by a combination of inconsistent performance, off-field controversies, bowling action issues, corruption allegations, and political and security concerns. As they prepare for the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup in the USA, the team faces an uphill battle to redeem themselves and restore their reputation in the cricket world.

Shakib Al Hasan sets major T20 World Cup record



NORTH SOUND: Bangladesh's veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Saturday, became the first to take 50 wickets in the Men's T20 World

The left-arm spinner achieved the feat in his side's T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight match against India when he dismissed Rohit Sharma in the fourth over of the first innings.

Shakib, however, had a tough outing with the ball against India as he conceded 37 runs in three overs.

Bowlers with Most Wickets in T20 World Cups

Shakib Al Hasan: 50 wickets Shahid Afridi: 39 wickets Lasith Malinga: 38 wickets Wanindu Hasaranga: 37 wickets

Saeed Ajmal: 36 wickets For the unversed, Shakib is one of the few players to have featured in every T20 World Cup edition since its inception in 2007.

He is also the second leading wicket-taker in T20Is with 148 scalps in 128 matches, only behind New Zealand's Tim Southee, who has 164 wickets to his name.

It is worth mentioning here that Bangladesh need to chase 197 runs in a must-win T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight match

Put into bat first, India finished at 196/5 in their allotted 20 overs, courtesy of Hardik Pandya's quickfire half-century.

Pandya, who came out to bat at No.6, bolstered India's total with belligerent hitting. He smashed four fours and three sixes on his way to an unbeaten 50 off 27 deliveries.

Besides Pandya, Virat Kohli (37), Rishabh Pant (36) and Shivam Dube (34) were the other notable contributors for India.

Rishad Hossain and Tanzim Hasan Sakib bagged two wickets each for Bangladesh while Shakib Al Hasan made one scalp.

Top firms interested for premier football, futsal competitions

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalization Committee has announced that multiple reputable advisory firms and consultants have expressed interest in the bidding process for Mens, Womens and Futsal Leagues.

The PFF NC was looking to hire a Financial Advisory firm/ consortium to conduct a bidding process for the award of rights to operate the Mens, Womens and Futsal Leagues, said a press release.

The enthusiastic response highlights the growing recognition to uplift the standards of football and futsal in Pakistan. The PFF NC had previously announced a call for proposals, inviting firms with significant expertise in legal, technical and financial domains to participate in the competitive bidding process

The selected advisory firm or consortium will play a crucial role in conducting thorough market analysis, organising strategic pre-bid meetings, developing comprehensive financial models and evaluating bids to provide final recommendations to the PFF NC.

With categories for both men and women, the upcoming events would include a Men's Football League/Championship, a Women's Football League/Championship, and Men's and Women's Futsal Leagues/Championships. These initiatives aim to create a competitive environment for football and futsal in Pakistan.

The PFF NC encourages all interested firms to take advantage of the remaining time to submit their expressions of interest. Firms were invited to email their intent to PFF by July 8. Following this deadline, all interested parties will be invited to a preliminary meeting to discuss the final submission of their technical and

Chile, Peru settle for goalless draw in Copa America

Two-time Copa America champions Chile opened their bid for a third title with a hard-fought 0-0 draw against Peru in Arlington on Friday. A scrappy encounter at the Texas home of the Dallas Cowboys NFL team saw neither side manage to get on top before a result that boosts Argentina's hopes of winning Group A.

Chile were left ruing a golden missed chance from veteran Inter Milan forward Alexis Sanchez in the 16th minute. Sanchez, one of the heroes of Chile's back-to-back Copa America

victories in 2015 and 2016, was teed up in the six-yard box after a low pass from Victor Davila.

But with plenty of time and space, the 35-year-old somehow scooped his shot over the bar as Peru were given a huge let-off. Thad one or two chances and this is the Copa América — when

you have a chance you have to make it," Sanchez said afterwards. Despite his frustration in front of goal, Sanchez insisted Chile were satisfied with their display.

"The feeling is good. I am happy with the performance. I am excited," said the former Barcelona and Arsenal forward. Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel

Sanchez's botched effort ended up being the best chance of the night for Chile, who enjoyed 65% possession yet only managed one shot on target during the game. A disjointed encounter never really got going, with some 37

fouls breaking up play and contributing to a lacklustre spectacle. Peru's best chance came near the hour mark when Gianluca Lapadula volleyed over from close range. AFP

India thrash Bangladesh to stay unbeaten in T20 World Cup 2024

NORTH SOUND: Hardik Pandya's quickfire half-century, followed by a combined bowling display powered India to outclass Bangladesh by 50 runs in the 47th match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 here at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday.

Set to chase 197, Bangladesh could only manage 146 runs for the loss of eight wickets.

Bangladesh had a decent start to the pursuit as openers Litton Das and Tanzid Hasan put on a controlled which included one four and three 35-run partnership.

The pair appeared to be in control Pandya's slower delivery in the fifth over. The wicketkeeper batter made

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto then joined Hasan in the middle to anchor the run chase. The duo added 31 runs for the second wicket before Kuldeep Yadav trapped the opener lbw on 29.

Yadav then struck again in the next at 196/5 in their allotted 20 overs, over, dismissing Towhid Hridoy (4) to give India an upper hand as Bangladesh slipped to 76/3 in 11.1 overs.

The back-to-back dismissals pushed Bangladesh to the back foot. Shanto then put together a brief partnership with Shakib Al Hasan

(11) before finally walking back to the dressing room in the 16th over. Bangladesh skipper waged a lone battle for his side with a 32-ball 40,

Rishad Hossain then offered until Das fell victim to Hardik notable resistance against a dominant Indian bowling attack with a 24-run cameo before he was neutralized by ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah in the penul-

> attack of India with 3/19 in his four overs, followed by Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh with two wickets apiece.

courtesy of Hardik Pandya's quickfire half-century.

The former champions had a decent start to their innings as their seasoned opening pair of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli recorded a 39-run opening partnership.

Rohit, who was the core aggressor of the stand, miscued one off Shakib Al Hasan and walked back after scoring 23 off 11 balls, hitting three fours and

Kohli then joined forces with wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant and together they raised 32 runs until the former fell victim to Tanzim Hasan Sakib on the first delivery of the ninth

India's star batter scored 37 off 28 Kuldeep Yadav led the bowling deliveries, laced up with four boundaries including three sixes.

India then sustained another blow in the same over when top-ranked Put into bat first, India finished T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav

perished for a two-ball six, bringing the total down to 77/3 in 8.3 overs.

Following the back-to-back dismissals, Pant partnered with Shivam Dube and the duo briefly anchored the innings until the former's dismissal in the 12th over.

Pant remained a notable run-getter for India with a 24-ball 36 which featured four fours and two sixes.

Coming out to bat at No.6, Hardik Pandya took the reigns of India's innings and bolstered the total with belligerent hitting.

He stitched an important partnership for the fifth wicket with Shivam Dube which yielded 53 runs and lasted with the latter's dismissal in the 18th over. Dube struck three sixes on his way to a 24-ball 34. Meanwhile, Hardik Pandya kept

going and continued the attack on Bangladesh bowlers to help India breach the 190-run barrier. He top-scored for India with a



27-ball 50 with the help of four fours and three sixes.

Rishad Hossain and Tanzim Hasan Sakib bagged two wickets each for Bangladesh while Shakib Al Hasan made one scalp.

The 50-run victory propelled India to the top of Group 1 of the Super Eight stage of the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 with four points in two matches while Bangladesh remained at the bottom.

The Spokesman

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chairs the second meeting of the



Deputy PM chairs second meeting on medical education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired the second meeting on 'Medical Education', emphasizing the government's dedication to enhancing healthcare through comprehensive improvements in medical training and inent public and private education and come up with medical institutions and

The meeting was attended medical community.

by National Coordinator to Minister for Law and Justice, Secretary of Health, Pres-Higher Education Commission, President CPSP, Additional Foreign Secretary (ME & SIFC) and heads of promconcrete recommendations. eminent experts from the

In his opening address, the the Prime Minister on Health, Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the essential role of MNA Dr Nafeesa Shah, robust medical education in tackling the nation's healthident PM&DC, Chairman care challenges. He stated, "Elevating our medical education standards is crucial for the health and well-being of our citizens. Our institutions must be empowered to provide top-tier education and training to our future medical professionals.

to review the progress made since the initial meeting and discuss the recommendations of the sub-committee. Chair, Sub-committee, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health presented the recommendation of the sub-committee. The discussion focused on improving the quality of medical education in Pakistan, including the prime minister.

The main agenda aimed but not limited to, bringing education at par with international best practices, measures to streamline admission in foreign medical colleges, coordination improving between public and private sector and regulatory bodies to ensure uniform quality of education.

The next meeting will be held on 29th June after which the report will be submitted to

FBR to increase property valuation rates in major cities to 90% of market value

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FRR) has announced that assessed value of immovable properties located in major urban cities will be increased from 75% to 90% of the market rate through an official government notification that is expected to be issued in July 2024.

The FBR has planned to introduce a simplified tax scheme for retailers. The previous Tajir Dost Scheme, which was voluntary, was deemed a failure, so the FBR intends to try a new simplified approach for the retail sector.

reporters after a Senate panel meeting, Senator Faisal Vawda



During a discussion with budget will be approved at all is to be increased.

stated that the federal budget Revenue (IR) Operation Mir for the upcoming year will be Badshah Wazir highlighted passed regardless of the circum-revision of valuation rates of stances or obstacles encoun- properties soon after approval tered. He emphasized that the of the budget 2024-25, which

The Senate panel recom-

have made efforts to expand
The FBR stated that their tax new tax filers in the previous

Senator Anusha Rahman argued that without drastic measures, the number of tax filers will not increase significantly. She proposed jailing non-filers as a solution.

The FBR informed that the total number of tax filers is around 4.5 million, but Senators Farooq Naek and others inquired about the number of "nil-filers"-those who file taxes but report no taxable

income. The FBR officials acknowledged that over 30% of filers

declined to provide the exact The FBR stated that they number of nil-filers.

the tax base, adding 1.5 million—authorities uncovered Rs 756 billion worth of alleged tax fraud through fake/flying invoices, and arrested 70-80 individuals.

The steel sector was identified as a major source of these fake invoices and scrap steel-related schemes, causing estimated annual losses of Rs. 60-70 billion to the national

"We have been hearing for the last 12 years that FBR is doing this and that to bring the undocumented sectors into to the tax net but the fact of the matter is that it has done nothing." Senate Standing Committee on Finance Chairman Saleem

Markaz, reviews security measures, public facilities



ISLAMABAD, JUN 22 (APP): DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza on Saturday visited Police Khidmat Markaz F-6 and reviewed security measures, scrutinized records and assessed the welfare and public facilities for police officers and the gener-

A police spokesman said that during the visit, to citizens and emphasized the Markaz commitment to providing every possible facility to the

officers within Police Khidmat Markaz, dedicated not only to serving Pakistani citizens but also delivering exceptional services to foreign nationals.

He issued directives to senior officers to ensure immediate solutions and the provision of all feasible amenities for their benefit. SSP Traffic Muhammad Sarfraz Virk was also present on the

FBR's Member Inland mended abolishing 10 percent could be "zero-filers", but they Mandviwala said. DIG Islamabad visits Police Khidmat



the DIG Islamabad evaluated the services offered

He highlighted the deployment of trained and diagnostic kits.

> Prime Minister and Finance Minister, nation from doctors' organizations, requesting the removal of the sales educationists, and economists, who tax, warning that it will make treat-

Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel's NA membership suspended over 'foul remarks'

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq suspended Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) member Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel for the entire budget session as he was found 'guilty' of using inappropriate language against the female lawmakers.

While suspending the SIC member, the speaker remarked that Sanaullah Mastikhel seriously violated the Assembly Rules.

"I have been a part of this House, and such language has never been used on the microphone," Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said.

The house adopted a motion introduced by the Speaker regarding the suspension of the member. The motion said, "Muhammad Sana Ullah Khan Masti Khel MNA the Rules Procedure and Conduct of expressed objectionable and indecent Business in the National Assembly, remarks during the budget speech". 2007.



The ruling said "Muhammad Sana Ullah Khan Masti Khel in his budget speech expressed highly objectionable and indecent remarks, thereby eroding and lowering the sanctity of the house in violation of rule of 30 of

Interior ministry's report on Swat mob lynching finds fault in police response

ISLAMABAD: A local tourist who was lynched in Swat's Madyan over allegations of blasphemy had reiterated denial that he desecrated the holy Quran, an interior ministry report said on Saturday.

accused to the police station was the

"key mistake" that led to fatal consequences, according to the key points

of the report. A violent mob lynched the suspect on Thursday night and set his body on fire. The man was arrested and brought to the Madyan police station which was later stormed by the mob, The police's decision to take the according to police and local resi-

Educated nation can change the country: Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Magbool Siddiqui on Saturday said that only an educated nation could change the country and put it on the path to development and prosperity.

Talking to media persons after a meeting to discuss establishing campuses of educational institutions in Sindh at the Regional Office of Higher Education Commission (HEC), he said they have to change emergency into an emerging Pakistan and that is only possible through education.

Dr Siddiqui said that they were trying to take Pakistan's every area, village and slum to a prosperous

He emphasised the digitisation in the country.



The minister mentioned that it is important to showcase this opportunity to the world and aging nations.

He added that crises have already emerged in Japan, Germany, and Russia, where the population is decreasing.

New tax on over 200 medical instruments set to drive up healthcare costs

Naveed Ahmad Khan

The federal government has imposed a sales tax on over 200 medical devices, including equipment for procedures like angiography and angioplasty, as well as diagnostic kits for various diseases.

This new tax, introduced as part of the 2024-25 fiscal budget, is expected to significantly impact the affordability of healthcare, especially for poorer patients.

Experts warn that this first-ever sales tax on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases will increase healthcare costs by 25% to 30%. The tax will also severely impact the budgets of public hospitals, leading to a notable reduction in routine operations, angiographies, and angioplasties.

The poor and middle classes who rely on private hospitals will be directly affected by the higher costs.

The Chairman of the Healthcare Devices Association of Pakistan, Masood Ahmed, stated that the federal government has imposed sales tax on all imported medical devices

The association has written to the



private hospitals.

Similarly, the former provincial health minister and President of the Private Hospitals and Clinics Association, Dr. Syed Junaid Ali Shah, stated that the 15% sales tax on diagnostic kits will severely burden patients, especially the poor.

In an emergency meeting, the association demanded that healthcare providers be granted industry status, arguing that healthcare is a necessity, not a luxury.

The article also mentions that the Sindh government has introduced a 15% tax on medical services, which is expected to add to the financial burden on patients who predominantly rely on private healthcare providers.

This move has sparked condemargue that such measures could ment unaffordable for the poor in hinder investment in human capital.

IT exports surges to stunning \$ 332 million in May this year

E Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ICT services export remittances surged to US\$ 332 million in the month of May 2024, an astounding increase of 40.7% in comparison to US\$ 236 million in May 2023 ICT export remittances have

surged to US\$ 2.925 billion during July 2023 to May 2024 of FY2023-24 in comparison to US\$ 2.371 billion reported for the same period last year, said a news release. Minister of State for IT and

Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that the present government is focused upon the development of IT sector.

She said the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) in the increase of IT exports is laudable. Shaza Fatima said on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan robust steps are underway for increasing IT exports.

She said that hefty increase has been made in IT sector budget in coming financial year, adding that this increase in IT exports will be



million (7.1% growth) in May Trade surplus of US\$ 2.571 billion, highest in all Services billion.

2024, ICT services export remit-

tances have increased by US\$ 22

(87.9% of total ICT export remit-& ITeS Industry during July 2023 to May 2024 of FY2023-24, an increase of 22.31% as compared to trade surplus of US\$ 2.102 billion during the same period last year.

ICT sector exports of US\$ 2.925 billion are the highest among all Services (41.02% of total export of services) with 'Other Business Services' trailing at US\$ 1.424

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