فرمانرسول

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Navy fully prepared to respond to any aggression: Naval Chief

Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said Pakistan Navy is fully prepared to respond to any kind of aggression. Addressing the passing out parade of 121st Midshipman and 29th Short Service Commission Course at Pakistan Naval Academy in Karachi, he emphasized adopting advanced technology and artificial intelligence is indispensable for naval strategy to effectively ... (Details on Page 2)



Bat symbol verdict: Justice Athar Minallah says ECP misinterpreted SC judgment

SC's Justice Athar Minallah on Saturday said that apparently the apex court verdict in the PTI electoral symbol case was misunderstood by the ECP as it did not seek to bar the political party from participating in the polls. "Prima facie, the trued as having the effect of disqualifying a major political party from the general elections," the SC judge wrote.

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T20 World Champions

After the final cricket match between India and South Africa at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 29, 2024, Indian



'Pakistan-US relationship is in the best place it's been in years

 $State\ Dept\ official\ Elizabeth\ Horst\ praises\ Ambassador\ Masood\ Khan\ for\ building\ "bridges\ between\ Islamabad\ and\ Washington"$

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: United States Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst praised Masood Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, for his services towards building "bridges between Islamabad and Wash-

"On behalf of the State Department, I just want to note that the US-Pakistan relationship is in the best place it's been in years, in part, in large part to what Ambassador Masood Khan has done to represent Pakistan, to build bridges between Islamabad and Washington," said Horst at a farewell dinner.

The event was organised to honour the services of Khan with officials from the Depart- a framework to talk through fricment of State and the Depart- tion", she added. ment of Defense in attendance.



On behalf of the State Department, the US official acknowledged that the ties between the two countries, like any longstanding relationship, have experienced friction at times, but "because of you, we know how we can talk through this and we have

After serving two years as Paki-

stan's top representative in the US from February 2022, Khan is set to leave one of the most coveted diplomatic posts next week on Monday with his deputy to perform envoy duties following

The seasoned diplomat was nominated for the post by then-November 2021.

his departure from Washington.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East and SIFC) Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh has now been appointed as envoy to the United States.

In her praise for Khan and his role in strengthening the ties between Pakistan and the US, the State Department official said that both countries have achieved stability and a broadening of relationship that they haven't seen in many many years.

"We have had new dialogues opened. We have looked for new areas of trade," she said, adding that both nations have looked for ways in which they can cooperate on things like health and energy and climate, things that we have not been talked about for a long

"And all of that is because you, prime minister Imran Khan in Masood, have been an extraordinary representative of the Paki-

stani people and the Pakistani government. You have been a person of integrity, You have brought creativity and hospitality.

"You have used your dining room table for delicious lunches for everybody in the government of the United States as well as Capitol Hill. You have been incredibly effective. And we have this relationship now because of the efforts that you have made."

Horst, appreciating the ambassador's contributions, told Khan that while he is leaving, the relationship between Pakistan and the US is better than when he arrived and "as strong as it's been in a long time".

"I think we are all going to benefit from the two years that you put in here. I want to thank you personally and from the State Department," she concluded.

S After 17 Years

India become T20 World Champions for 2nd time

India join England and West Indies to win T20 World Cup title twice after defeating South Africa by 7 runs

Spokesman Report

BRIDGETOWN, BARBA-DOS: In a nerve-wracking finale at Kensington Oval, India emerged victorious against South Africa, clinching their second ICC Men's T20 World Cup title after a gap of 17 years.

Despite early setbacks, including the quick dismissal of Rohit Sharma, India's middle order stabilised, ensuring a competitive total.

Chasing 177, South Africa's innings was anchored by Quinton de Kock's resilient 39 and Heinrich Klaasen's explosive 52 off 27 balls.

However, India's bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah (2/18) and Arshdeep Singh (2/20), struck at critical moments, disrupting South Africa's momentum.

Chasing 177, South Africa's innings was anchored by campaign.

Quinton de Kock's resilient 39 and Heinrich Klaasen's explosive 52 off 27 balls.

However, India's bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah (2/18) and Arshdeep Singh (2/20), struck at critical moments, disrupting South Africa's momentum.

Virat Kohli led from the front with the bat, earning the Player of the Match for his pivotal innings.

Meanwhile, Pandya's all-round performance, including crucial wickets in the final overs, also contributed to India's win. India's victory marks the end of their trophy drought in ICC events since the 2013 Champions Trophy.

For South Africa, despite a valiant effort, it's another near miss in an ICC final. reflecting on their resilient yet ultimately unsuccessful

Ahsan calls for political unity

To propel national development



Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has emphasized the need of political stability for the country's development, stating that everyone must work together for a better future.

He was addressing the ceremony of Golden Jubilee of Paigham-e-Pakistan in Lahore on Saturday. The Minister highlighted the

importance of unity and collective efforts to put Pakistan on the path to progress

He said in the past, Muslims ruled over the world by adhering to the teachings of

Ahsan Iqbal said three decades ago, Pakistan was a leading country in South Asia in terms of development, and

progressed by adopting Pakistan's policies. He stressed that Pakistanis have immense potential and it is essential for everyone to contribute to societal improvement.

many countries have since

He said that incidents that took place in Jaranwala, Sargodha, and Swat have tarnished Pakistan's image globally. Condemning terrorism, he said terrorist acts have no place in Islam.

Ahsan Iqbal urged religious scholars to play their role in countering terrorism and preventing the country's defamation. He also highlighted the atrocities in Palestine, calling on international human rights organizations to take immediate action against the ongoing violence and oppression.

PM directs to expedite process of dissolution of Pak PWD



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday chaired a meeting regarding private companies. winding up of Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) and its alternative arrangements.

the plan to dissolve PWD, implementation of the ongoing projects, alternative to the PWD and outsource of the construction and repair work to the

The meeting was informed that the ongoing projects under PWD would be completed by the relevant federal The meeting was briefed regarding and provincial departments whereas

no further project would be assigned to PWD. The construction and repair work would be outsourced to the private companies of international

The prime minister, on the occasion directed that the interests of PWD employees be protected during the dissolution process and that a comprehensive and practical plan be formed to ensure their welfare.

He also directed to complete the process of the closure of PWD as soon as possible saying that he himself would monitor the process

He also ordered the formation of an asset management company to manage PWD's assets and digitize its records.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Ahsan Iqbal, and Ahad Khan Cheema, as well as the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, and other relevant officials.

Islamabad wants good ties with Washington

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Shaista Pervez Malik and Barris-

ter Aqeel Malik have criticized opposition for not supporting resolution in response to the US House of Representatives' resolution on Pakistan

Addressing a news conference along with PML-leader Barrister Aqeel Malik in Islamabad on Saturday, Shaista Pervez said Pakistan wants good relationship with the United States on the basis of mutual respect and dignity. Shaista Pervez Malik said resolution must had

been approved unanimously but unfortunately, a political party is continuously politicking on sovereignty of the country.

Spokesperson of the government for Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik said no one will be allowed to interfere in internal matters of Paki-

He said representatives of the people have the society. clearly demonstrated that violation of country's for implementation of laws sovereignty will not be tolerated.



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faez Isa has emphasized access to justice for all segments of soci-

sium titled 'Inclusive Justice' in promoting inclusivity in Islamabad on Saturday.

The Chief Justice said embodies clear provisions for protection of women, children and marginalized segments of

He underscored the need



He was addressing a sympo- for ensuring justice and

The Chief Justice said laws Constitution of Pakistan in Pakistan conform to the principles and teachings of

> He made special mention of laws related to women's marital rights and right to inheritance.

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Navy fully prepared to respond to any aggression: Naval Chief

Says a combination of both innovation and core values is essential to tackle emerging challenges in the maritime domain

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said Pakistan Navy is fully prepared to respond to any kind

Addressing the passing out parade of 121st Midshipman and 29th Short Service Commission Course at Pakistan Naval Academy in Karachi, he emphasized adopting advanced technology and artificial intelligence is indispensable for naval strategy to effectively deal with Sixth Generation Warfare.

The Naval Chief commended enhanced participation of women in Pakistan Navy in general and in various departments related to maritime sector in particular.

The naval chief said a combination of both innovation and core values is essential to tackle emerging challenges in the maritime domain.

Earlier, course participants presented a research paper on the use of artificial intelligence in naval warfare. The research panel of the course also presented a review of the opportunities and challenges for the Pakistan Navy in this regard. The Chief of the Naval Staff appreciated the research and suggestions made by the course participants. Manora on Saturday.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf awarding Sword of Honor to the best midshipman during 121st Midshipmen and 29th SSC Course Commissioning Parade at Pakistan Naval Academy

Empowering CMWs to improve healthcare, family planning indicators

跨 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: "Community Midwives (CMWs) are frontline first contact healthcare heroes whose services are indispensable to healthcare service delivery. Empowering CMWs has led to positive family planning results in the project districts (Matiari and Tando Muhammad Khan), highlighting the need to expand this successful approach. Building on the achievements of the CMWs Plus project, the government plans to replicate and scale it up across Sindh province", stated Rehan Igbal Baloch, Secretary of Health, Sindh, during the dissemination event of the project "Strength- particularly in rural areas, on this success, the project family planning initiatives high-quality service delivery. ening Community Healthcare System through Community deliver critical reproductive Tando Muhammad Khan up this successful model, $\label{lem:midwives} \mbox{ in Sindh". This initi- health services, including during 2023-2024.}$ ative, implemented by the antenatal care, delivery, post-Population Council in collab- natal care, and family plan- Director of the Population rural and remote areas. This oration with Health and Popu- ning. However, recent assesslation Welfare Departments of ments revealed that CMWs importance of enhancing Sindh, aimed to enhance the were not fully engaging with community-based healthrole of community midwives their communities, resulting in providing comprehensive in gaps in service provision. the critical role of commu-mately empower women to reproductive health services, To address these challenges,

ly planning (FP) and postpar- designed and piloted a model in Pakistan. She stated, "The

with a special focus on fami- the Population Council

tum family planning (PPFP) to enhance CMW engagement remarkable achievements of The community-based the Tando Allah Yar district Sindh offer a compelling bluesystem in Pakistan, during 2019–2020, Building print for progress in health and relies heavily on CMWs to was expanded to Matiari and across Pakistan. By scaling

Council, highlighted the care services and emphasized nity midwives in improving reach their full potential." She contraceptive prevalence rates

we can empower commu-Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country nities, particularly those in expansion has the potential to improve maternal health outcomes, reduce infant mortality rates, and ulti-

also stressed the importance of

delivering healthcare services through trusted providers in rural communities to achieve Universal Health Coverage

The project involved several targeted interventions. CMWs received extensive training in FP and PPFP, including hands-on training for intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCDs) and emergency preparedness for FP services during natural disasters. Free contraceptives, including Sayana Press and IUCDs, were provided to CMWs through Population Welfare Department, Sindh, Addiin rights-based FP services in the CMWs Plus project in tionally, CMWs were equipped with essential medical equipment and IUCD kits to ens

> Iram Kamran, Director of Research at the Population Council, shared the project's findings, "Through the CMWs Plus project, 97% of CMWs in Matiari and 91% in Tando Muhammad Khan have functional birth stations, compared to less than half at the project's start. CMWs were also trained in FP and PPFP during the project, resulting

India has taken away all the rights of Kashmiris: APHC-ÅJK

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The All-Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu to media representatives in Muzafand Kashmir branch has said that farabad said that South Asia For India has taken away all the rights of Kashmiris by turning the entire Occuresolution of the Kashmir dispute pied Jammu and Kashmir into a military cantonment.

Service, the leaders of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir branch, Sheikh Abdul

Manzoor Ahmed Dar while talking sustainable peace and stability, the according to the wishes of the Kashmiris is indispensable. He has According to Kashmir Media demanded the international community to play a role in solving this

Mateen, Imtiaz Ahmed Wani, struggling against the illegal Indian other Kashmiri leaders are imprisoned the mission to its logical conclusion

Muhammad Shafi Dar, Dawood occupation for the past 76 years, in Indian jails. Yousafzai, Abdul Majeed Lone and and India has committed atrocities on innocent Kashmiris. He said that Musrat Alam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Yasin Malik, Asia Andrabi, Dr. Abdul Hameed Fayaz, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Faktu, a minority in the occupied area, the Muhammad Yusuf Falahi, Ameer Hamza, Hayat Dar, Nahida Nasreen, Naeem Khan, Ayaz Akbar, Sufi Fahmida, Saif Thousands of innocent Kashmiris including Allah Pir, He said that Kashmiris have been Zafar Akbar Butt, Umar Adil Dar and

The leaders of the All Party Hurrivat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir branch said that India is engaged in nefarious conspiracies to turn the majority of Muslims into freedom of the media in the area has also been taken away and any voice against Indian atrocities has been taken away. He is detained under the black laws of Public Safety Act and UAPA. We are determined to carry out

$Sardar Attique\ expresses$ solidarity with Kashmiri prisoners

Majeed Tahir



MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan while expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri prisoners and those affected by the violence of the Indian Army he said that the occupying forces have taken the lives of freedom fighters in the valley. Violence and illegal arrests of Kashmiris have become routine. On the other hand,

the supporters of the Azadi movement are engaged in anti-India protests with new determination and full zeal. Curfew is imposed in occupied valley to suppress public voice. Schools, offices and business centers are closed and roads are deserted. India should resolve the Kashmir issue through negotiations, the attempts to weaken the Kashmiris politically and economically through cruelty and violence and the brutal use of military force are condemnable, the international community should take notice of the condition of the Kashmiri prisoners.

While talking to the media, he said that India is weakening the Kashmiris politically and economically through brutal use of violence and military power. Serious efforts should be made. He said that the detention of Hurriyat leaders is a reflection of the cowardice of the puppet administration. He said that the puppet administration is trying to suppress every voice of Kashmiris for their right by adopting the policy of pressure and violence of Naziism. He said that it is very sad that the authorities are not allowing Hurriyat leaders to carry out their political activities in a peaceful manner while imposing restrictions on these leaders and interfering in their religious affairs. No matter how much violence the Indian rulers and their puppets use, they will never be able to turn Kashmiris away from their struggle for right of self-determination he added.

Another branch of DPS College to be opened in FDA City

FAISALABAD: A branch of Divisional Public School College is being established in FDA City Sargodha road on the initiative of Commissioner Silwat Saeed. In this regard, funds of 20 cror 32 lakh rupees have been allocated for the construction of the building.

This was told by Director FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry. He said that FDA is providing full support for the promotion of quality education and in this regard, sufficient land has been allocated in FDA City with the best location for the establishment of educational institutions.

He said that the establishment of a campus in FDA City of Divisional Public School and College, a standard educational institution under the supervision of the divisional administration, will provide the best educational facilities to the local residents and the people of the surrounding communities, for which Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed has strong patronage and has entrusted the responsibility of constructing the building to FDA.

He said that departmental measures have been initiated for the construction of the building, the construction of which will have a positive impact on the rapid development of FDA City. He said that instructions have been issued to the officers of the engineering branch to speed up the implementation of this development project. PR

APBF calls for solid economic plan as budget fails to stabilize economy

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has called for solid economic an, terming the new budget of 2024-25 a the uncertain one in view of deteriorating energy crises following the tough conditionality of the International Monetary Fund.

The APBF condemns the imposition of more taxes in the budget, questioning how inflation can be maintained at 11 percent when more than 45 percent of revenue targets will be achieved from tax and non-tax measures and the elimination of tax exemptions, said the APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood.

Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the APBF had taken all trade and industry associations on board for preparation of proposals for the upcoming budget. He said that efforts were made to give government a set of suggestions for upcoming budget to make it business-friendly.

The APBF chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that the FBR's reforms initiatives are not bearing fruit, as the revenue collecting agency could increase the number of sales tax return filers mainly due to rise in the type of those filers, who haven't paid any tax, implying that bad governance and weak tax management of the tax department still persist.

Ibrahim Qureshi emphasized the evident expectations drawn from the budget 2024-25. It highlighted the same measures which have been in discussion for the success of the IMF program, he added. First of all, she indicated the prosperous increase in the revenue which was targeted at Rs9.4 trillion in the previous year, however, it has jumped to Rs12.97 trillion which is nearly Rs13 trillion for the current fiscal year. This is a significant jump and is an over-ambitious target for the FBR to collect revenue, he said.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Syed}}$ Maaz Mahmood urged the authorities to introduce new tax incentives and extend the period of existing ones for attracting new foreign direct investments in line with the potential of the country. With a view to wipe out corruption there needs to develop local software and Apps with simplified system in Urdu so that interaction of human resource should be reduced, he suggested. He suggested that taxes should be charged one time by any provincial or federal government, as provinces levy same kind of tax which the federal government has already imposed, escalating the cost of production and discouraging the registered manufacturers.

Celebrating Future in Tech

CIRCLE Women Honours Graduates of IT Advanced Skills Training Program in Collaboration with Plus W

👺 Abdul Majid

start-up CIRCLE Women Association, in collaboration with Plus W, proudly awards graduation certificates to the graduates of IT Advanced Skills Training Program. The training program focused on up-skilling IT professionals with advanced technical skills, prepar-

Organised by CIRCLE Women, the event reflected the organisation's mission of empowering the youth in the realm of tech and enabling them to drive change in the digital age. The

and a panel discussion to highlight the KARACHI: The leading non-profit tech mission, accomplishments, and key challenges of the training program. CEO CIRCLE Women, Sadaffe Abid took to stage to share a few words of encouragement for the graduates. Takashi Horiuchi, Vice-President Plus W, and Ando-San, Senior Director Plus W joined in virtually to celebrate ing them for the rapidly evolving world the achievement of the graduates. The graduates expressed their gratitude and shared their experience of this incred-

As part of the IT Advanced Skills Training Program, 28 IT professionals were trained in the field of IT, specifigraduation ceremony featured speeches cally on backend and front-end devel-

by CIRCLE Women and Plus W teams $\;\;$ opment. Along with this, they were able to achieve basic fluency in the Japanese language, preparing them to enter the Japanese job market. Throughout the training program, the participants engaged in a series of hands-on training sessions, and real-world projects to further their understanding and proficiency in various IT domains. 3 of the graduates were successful in securing placements in a project with a leading Japanese client. Addressing to the audience, Sadaffe

Abid shared "Congratulations to our graduating class! Today marks a significant milestone in your journey, and we at CIRCLE Women are incredibly proud of your dedication and achieve-

Training Program. The ever-evolving tech industry demands a skilled and adaptable workforce. This program has equipped you with the advanced technical skills and intercultural knowledge to not only compete but thrive in this dynamic landscape. Remember, your learning journey doesn't end here. Embrace challenges, stay curious, and keep pushing boundaries. CIRCLE remains committed to supporting your future endeavors, and we are excited to see the innovative paths you forge in the tech world."

Mr. Kazunori Yamaguchi, Country Director Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) attended the event as

the advancement of technology among youth, he said,

'Congratulations to our graduates for their hard work and dedication in completing this intensive course. At Plus W, we are proud of your achievements and excited to see you grow in your IT and Japanese skills. Today marks the beginning of many new opportunities, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Circle to support and showcase the talents of Pakistani IT students on the global stage. Thank you to everyone who has supported this journey."-Takashi Horiuchi, Executive Vice President & COO of Plus W

The IT Advanced Skills Training

ments in the IT Advanced Skills Guest of Honor. While speaking about Program is a reflection of CIRCLE's goal of creating opportunities that enable individuals to thrive in the digital economy. In collaboration with PLUS W, CIRCLE is dedicated to boosting the impact of the IT Advanced Skills Training Program and determined to equip youth across the nation with tech

Renowned names in the tech industry in Pakistan graced the event with their presence. The esteemed guests included Sana Kazmi, Head of Partnerships at STEAM Pakistan and Faizan Lagari, Co-Lead at Startup Syndicate. Their presence and words of appreciation added significant value and proved to be highly encouraging for the graduates.



elect their chairmen

ISLAMABAD, JUN 29 (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committees on Information Technology and Telecommunication, Commerce, Privatization and Industries and Production unanimously elected their chairmen in their maiden meetings held here on Saturday.

The meetings were attended by members of the respective Standing Committees and Chief Whips of the PML(N), PPPP and MQM, said a press release.

The elections were conducted by Muhammad Mushtaq, Advisor (Legislation), Syed Jawad Murtaza Naqvi Additional Secretary (Committees) and Syed Haseen Raza Zaidi, Joint Secretary (Committees).

The Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication unanimously elected Syed Amin ul Haq, MNA as its Chairman. His name was proposed by MNA Syed Mustafa Kamal and seconded by all the members of the committee, whereas the Standing Committee on Commerce unanimously elected Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan as its chairman. His candidature was proposed by MNA Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig and supported by all the members of the committee.

The Standing Committees on Privatization and Industries and Production unanimously elected MNAs Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar and Syed Hafeezuddin as chairmen, respectively in their separate meetings. Their names were proposed respectively by MNAs Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani and Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani and seconded by all the members of the commit-

After conducting the elections, Advisor (Legislation) felicitated the newly elected chairmen on behalf of NA Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary General and assure their all-out support in discharge of their official responsibilities.

NA standing committees Rubina condemns rebranding attempts of **BISP**

The Senator emphasizes foundational vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto that created the BISP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, addressed the pressing issue of intellectual dishonesty, describing it as the root cause of societal destruction. Speaking at a ceremony held at the Benazir Income Support Programme auditorium for the regularization of Benazir Income Support Programme Contingent Paid Staff, she emphasized the foundational vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto that created the Benazir Income Support Programme. "Benazir Income Support Programme is the brainchild of Shaheed Mohterma Benazir Bhutto. Her vision has fostered awareness and empowerment among the women of this country," she stated.

In her address to the Benazir Income Support Programme employees, Chairperson Rubina Khalid highlighted the importance of teamwork in reshaping the public perception of Benazir Income



should change the negative perception of Benazir Income Support Programme. We must highlight the achievements of Benazir Income Support Programme. Your behavior towards the needy women reflects the culture of Benazir Income Support Programme," she remarked.

She reiterated the organization's commitment to integrity and service, stating, "There will be zero tolerance for those found involved in corruption and those who misbehave with our women beneficiaries. It is our great responsibility to serve the underprivileged segments Support Programme. "We, as a team, of society." Chairperson Khalid assured

the staff of continuous support, "We are committed to providing best available facilities to our hardworking field staff."

The ceremony concluded with Chairperson Rubina Khalid distributing regularization certificates to the Benazir Income Support Programme Contingent Paid Staff, wishing them the best of luck for their future endeavors.

The ceremony also featured the celebration of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's birthday, where Chairperson Rubina Khalid, alongside female employees of the Benazir Income Support Programme, cut a cake

Overhead bridge

ISLAMABAD: Work continue on the construction project of an overhead bridge at Sector I-10 for connecting Sector H-10 to I-10 and onwards with Margallah Avenue in the Federal Capital.



CM Punjab approves Murree development plan

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chaired a five-hour meeting in which the Murree development plan was approved.

The meeting accorded approval to development, beautification, transport, construction and rehabilitation projects as Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb provided a detailed briefing. Approval was also given for the Rawalpindi to Murree Tourist glass train project and it was decided to hire an international consultant for the project.

A decision was made to remove high-rise hotel buildings obstructing the natural scenery of Mall Road. It was further agreed to relocate the hotels from GPO Chowk to an alternative location. Uniform appearance, signs, and color schemes for old build-

be implemented.

It was decided to restore the old names of cities, areas and historical buildings including that of Murree. Amendment to the building laws for construction in Murree and transferring the power of approval to the provincial level were approved. The in-principle decision was made to take action against officials who allowed illegal constructions. A comprehensive short, medium and long-term plan for the supply of drinking water was also

It was informed that the existing system will be repaired and restored, making it possible to supply over 600,000 gallons of clean water daily in Murree. RCC and tough tiles will be installed on 53-kilometre-long streets of different villages in Murree. A project to store rainwater for domestic use

ings on Mall Road were instructed to was approved, with the government promotion were also decided. supporting over 1,100 homes in storing

> The construction and expansion of old Rawalpindi-Murree-Kashmir Road was approved and temporary parking spaces will also be created on Old Murree Road. The remodelling of Jhika Gali Chowk, removal of encroachments and construction and restoration of Lawrence College Road, Boostal Mor to Brewery Road were approved as well.

> In Banser Gali Wildlife Park, tree houses, camping sites, walkways and terrace parking areas will be created. PIA and Bagh-e-Shaheedan Park's entrances will be renovated and attractive walkways for tourists will be built. Murree Biodiversity Park will provide natural habitats for plants, birds and animals, along with picnic areas and tourist huts. An artist's corner, walkways, walking tracks and eco-tourism

It was informed that the task of constructing and repairing 16 internal roads in Murree has been completed. Briefings were also given on the upgradation of Samli Hospital, street lights and public toilets.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed immediate legislation to restore old names and install memorials in every city in accordance with their history and traditions.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif emphasized not to trouble the poor, and the government will set up stalls itself.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated that Murree has improved significantly and will be made the best for the public. Various proposals for parking yards in Murree were also reviewed. Thirteen illegal constructions and encroachments were demolished in Murree.

Muslim Aid Pakistan BRSC-II Project ends

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of "Building Resilience by Strengthening Communities - II Project" under the auspices of Muslim Aid Pakistan was held in, Islamabad, where Ms. Sherry Rehman, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee for Climate Change, Senate of Pakistan graced the occasion as the chief guest. The closing ceremony was attended by the senior management of Muslim Aid Pakistan, representatives of NDRMF, Asian Development Bank, NDMA, PDMAs, national/international humanitarian organizations, philanthropists, civil society, academia, and also representatives from the media.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Amanullah Rind, Director of Planning PDMA Balochistan said: "Strengthening communities is essential for enhancing resilience against natural disasters and calamities." He also highlighted the importance of fostering national and international collaborations to advance disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the the dedication of Muslim Aid workers

LE BY STRENGTHENING



context of Pakistan's evolving climate change challenges.

While addressing the closing ceremony, Dr. Asif Iqbal - the Country Director of Muslim Aid Pakistan thanked ADB and NDRMF for their Financial contribution and appreciated

in making the Building Resilience by Strengthening Communities – II Project successful and contributing to rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts for the people of Killa Saifullah, Loralai and Chagai in Balochistan. Dr. Asif Iqbal also highlighted the significance of national and international collaborations to promote

disaster risk reduction and strengthen the resilience of Pakistan for the vulnerable areas and communities of Pakistan.

It's noteworthy that Muslim Aid Pakistan reached 12,246 direct and 15,453 indirect beneficiaries under the project, and constructed 20 flood protection walls and 6 water reservoirs in Killa Saifullah, 7 flood protection walls and 4 water reservoirs in Chagai and 4 flood protection walls in Loralai. Apart from this, 80 village disaster risk management committees, 50 School Based Disaster Risk Management Committees, and 16 Union Council Based Disaster Risk Management Committees were also formed in the Killa Saifullah and Chagai

In addition to the insightful remarks from the chief guests and guests of honor, the closing ceremony featured a panel discussion titled "Significance of DRR in the Emerging Context of Climate Change in Pakistan." The debate explored strategies for promoting disaster risk reduction and enhancing Pakistan's resilience.

PM efforts to bring Chinese industry to Pakistan laudable: Shahid Rasheed Butt

№ Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Friday lauded Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for his efforts to attract Chinese investment and relocate Chinese industries to Pakistan.



The cost of doing business has increased in China, while tensions with the West are also hampering its exports and resolution to these problems lies in relocation of industries, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that Chinese investors are trying to improve their businesses by relocating to other countries where labor is cheap and overall business costs are lower as compared to China.

The business leader said that Chinese investors have moved industries and businesses to their enemy countries, like India, but they are not willing to relocate their businesses to the closest and friendliest

All policymakers here understand the reluctance of Chinese investors, but they do nothing to address their concerns, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that PM Sharif recently visited China and signed MOUs with many companies. Now he wants to transform these MOUs into reality. Presently, PM is exerting a tremendous deal of effort to make the effort a success

The PM recently said that it was of It is of utmost importance to encourage both domestic and international investment in Pakistan. However, his assertion will be tested soon, that we are cultivating a business-friendly environment to facilitate the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan through joint ventures.

This is due to the fact that Pakistan's bureaucracy is notorious for stalling investment and foreign companies view it as a major barrier to direct investment.

The government is pushing two policy actions to allay the fears of Chinese investors: legislation to establish a one-stop shop for luring investments in the Special Economic Zones and the development of a business facilitation facility in Islamabad, he informed.

The goal of both of these steps is to allay any investor concerns, which will be a very beneficial development. He said that the issues that Pakistan faces in terms of its internal security will continue to take precedence over the investment decisions that Chinese corporations make, regardless of whether or not there are improvements in business policies.

Chinese investors have brought up the safety of their employees in Pakistan, which was likely the most important concern they raised.

He recalled that a senior minister of China's Communist Party had raised these issues more forcefully recently. He was speaking to $\,$ representatives of Pakistan's political parties in Islamabad, and he cited deficiencies in Pakistan's internal security as a major cause for the decline in investor trust.

Despite the fact that Beijing has always been concerned about the safety of its employees, the targeted attacks, particularly the one that took place in Bisham, which is located close to the construction site of the Dasu dam, have significantly undermined China's confidence in our capacity to protect its interests from militant groups, he observed.

It will be necessary to enhance the business climate in addition to the security conditions in order to make Pakistan a destination of choice for Chinese investors, he said.

Country making strides in IT sector due to SIFC's efforts



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The country is making strides in the IT sector due to the efforts of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

An agreement has been signed amongst National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation, Allied Australia and Tech Valley for the establishment of a chrome book manufacturing assembly in the

Speaking at the signing ceremony, CEO Allied Australia Aron Saether Jackson said that five hundred thousand chrome books will be provided to Pakistani students through Google Allied and Tech Valley. He said that now these devices will be manufactured in Pakistan due the state of the art facilities being offered by NRTC.

Saether Jackson expressed readiness to invest in Pakistan, saying this project will not only prove beneficial for students but it will create immense job opportunities.

SGAPRPA expresses concerns over ABL mismanagement

LAHORE: Aurangzeb Tanoli Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association said that Allied Bank Limited management has not changed its attitude, getting pension credit after pleading with them every month is nothing less than torture. If our problem is not solved. So thousands of pensioners will be forced to transfer their accounts to other banks, in order to get rid of this cruel action

Aurangzeb Tanoli Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association appealed to Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Chairman Federal Banking Ombudsman Lahore, Chairman Allied Bank Limited, Secretary Ministry of Finance Islamabad, Chairman Ministry of Railways Islamabad, Member Finance Ministry of Railways Islamabad, Chief Executive Officer and FA&CAO to resolve the long-standing problems of the pensioners.

The management of Allied Bank Limited Napiar Road, Lahore, is delaying the payment of pension despite receiving funds on time. On 28th June 2024, all Banks received funds for payment of pension but pension credit started in all banks except Allied Bank Limited. I called to Allied Bank Limited Napiar Road Branch Lahore management as Secretary General All Pakistan Railways Pensioners Association several times but no one answered. After tried many time, I talked to the branch manager Zia, who tried to negotiate. Then I brought this matter to the knowledge of Regional Manager Head Lahore Sibghatullah. But there was no response till late night. Therefore, the management of Allied Bank Limited Napiar Road Lahore should be questioned as to why they have made retired pensioners, widows and children suffer financial difficulties in the process of showing the balance sheet till June 30. Every month we have to beg the Allied Bank Limited management. Now we have no option left for thousands of pensioners to transfer their accounts to other banks to get rid of this cruel action of this bank. PR

Sunday, June 30, 2024

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Pakistan needs robust economic policies, reforms

akistan stands at a critical juncture in its economic history. With a burgeoning population, evolving geopolitical landscape, and mounting external debts, the need for robust economic policies and reforms has never been more pressing. The current state of the economy, marked by sluggish growth, high inflation, and a widening fiscal deficit, necessitates immediate and decisive action.

One of the foremost challenges facing Pakistan is its precarious fiscal health. The country's budget deficit has been widening, driven by excessive public spending and insufficient revenue collection. This imbalance has led to increased borrowing, both domestically and internationally, pushing the nation into a cycle of debt dependency. Inflation remains another significant concern. The rising cost of essential goods and services erodes the purchasing power of the average Pakistani, exacerbating poverty and social inequality. Additionally, unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, are alarmingly high. This not only hinders economic progress but also poses a threat to

The energy sector is another area in dire need of reform. Frequent power outages and an overreliance on imported fuel have crippled industrial productivity and stifled economic growth. The lack of a sustainable and efficient energy policy continues to hamper Pakistan's development prospects.

Enhancing tax collection and broadening the tax base are crucial. Implementing a progressive tax system where the wealthy pay a fair share can increase revenue without overburdening the lower-income population. Tackling tax evasion through stricter enforcement and leveraging technology for better compliance can also make a significant difference. Rationalizing public expenditure and ensuring that funds are allocated to sectors that yield high economic returns, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, is essential. Reducing unnecessary subsidies and redirecting resources to more productive uses will help in balancing the budget. Investing in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, can reduce dependency on imported fuels and provide a sustainable solution to the energy crisis. Modernizing the power infrastructure to minimize losses and improve distribution efficiency will also boost industrial productivity.

Developing a coherent industrial policy that supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs), encourages innovation, and attracts foreign investment is vital. Special economic zones with attractive incentives can stimulate industrial growth and create employment opportunities. Investing in education and vocational training is imperative to equip the youth with the skills needed for a modern economy. A focus on quality education, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), will prepare the workforce for future challenges. Modernizing agriculture through the introduction of advanced farming techniques, better irrigation systems, and access to credit for small farmers can enhance productivity and ensure food security.

Pakistan's economic revival hinges on the implementation of these crucial reforms. It requires a collaborative effort from all stakeholders, including the government, private sector, and civil society, to build a resilient and inclusive economy. The road to recovery may be challenging, but with strategic plan-

New trends in Central Asian politics of Uzbekistan - I

zbekistan's policy in Central Asia has reached a qualitatively higher level. The trend of developing mutually beneficial cooperation between the countries of the region is intensifying with its own characteristics. According to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has given priority to strengthening relations of close friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries, and over the past historically short period-the political position and influence of our country in the Central Asian region and the Middle East. The world has grown dramatically. The spirit of trust in New Uzbekistan and the principles of striving for cooperation with our country have increased in the world.

Central Asia is a region with important and unique resources, economic and communication potential. In the 90s of the 20th century, the countries of the region embarked on their own independent path of development and joined the ranks of developing countries, promoting humanism, social justice, and security, in the region there is international harmony, peace and well-established foreign policy activities and international cooperation, based on the principles of international law, such as the creation of an atmosphere of peace, and consistently developing them.

In the direction of the foreign policy of New Uzbekistan, in establishing practical cooperation in the countries of Central Asia, the fifth priority direction of the

"Uzbekistan-2030" strategy has been Partnership Agreement between Uzbekidentified-the consistent continuation of a policy based on the principle of "A Safe and Peaceful State". the region to a new level of quality, good neighborliness and strategic partnership with all neighboring countries, pays special attention to the rapid development of relations, regular and effective conduct of bilateral and multilateral negotiations in political, economic, cultural and humani-

The measures taken by the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan to expand mutual cooperation between the countries of the region also play an important role. It should be noted that as a result of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's reforms in the field of foreign policy, diplomatic relations of Uzbekistan with the countries of the Central region literally rose to a new level.

The fact that Shavkat Mirziyoyev began his first visit to foreign countries as President of Uzbekistan with a visit to the countries of Central Asia, literally indicating that he has raised the development of regional cooperation to a new level.

On March 6-7, 2017, Shavkat Mirziyoyev made a state visit to Turkmenistan. It should be noted that this was Sh. Mirziyoyev's first visit to a foreign country as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This state visit of the President clearly confirmed that Uzbekistan attaches great importance to good neighborly relations in foreign policy, and was supported by the signing of the Strategic

istan and Turkmenistan.

The visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Kazakhstan on March 23, 2017 and the signing of a Joint declaration on deepening the strategic partnership and strengthening the friendly neighborhood between the two countries opened a new era in interstate cooperation. Thanks to the joint efforts of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, in 2017 the volume of bilateral trade reached 2 billion US dollars, and such direct contacts serve as the basis for the effective implementation of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Following the state visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Kyrgyz Republic, a declaration was signed on strengthening strategic partnership, friendship, good neighborliness and

In 2018, the implementation of the new policy of the President of Uzbekistan to strengthen political trust and mutual solidarity in Central Asia continued consistently. In particular, President Sh. Mirziyoyev visited this country on March 9-10, 2018 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Rahmon. During the visit, the leaders of the two countries signed a Joint Statement on Strengthening Friendship and Good Neighborhood and an Agreement on Certain Sections of the Uzbek-Tajik State Border.

In addition, as a result of the continuation of negotiations of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the delimitation and

demarcation of the state border with neighboring countries, the delimitation of the state border lines with Kazakhstan has been completed, 85 percent of the border with Kyrgyzstan has been passed. agreed upon, and 99.9 percent of the border with Tajikistan has been agreed upon.

At the end of 2021, trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan amounted to almost 600 million US dollars. The number of joint ventures has increased 10 times. If in 2017 there were 24 enterprises operating in Uzbekistan, then by the end of 2021 240 enterprises with the participation of Tajik capital began operating. There are 61 enterprises operating in Tajikistan based on investments from Uzbekistan.

On June 2-3, 2022, the presidents of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the presidents of Tajikistan signed a historic declaration "On strengthening eternal friendship and alliance." In addition, documents signed at the level of government, ministries and departments are designed to raise multifaceted Uzbek-Tajikistan cooperation to a new level.

Analyzing the platforms and formats of interstate dialogue organized on the initiative of Uzbekistan on regional cooperation, it should be noted that, on the initiative of the head of Uzbekistan, consultative meetings of the leaders of Central Asian countries are regularly

To be continued





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

Police true performance is restoration of public trust

owadays, newspapers often show a police employee presenting certificates or performance shields to their peers or subordinates". Police departments are issuing similar press releases, and these images are published only in a few select newspapers, which the public does not pay much attention to. The police have also started uploading these images on social media to show their performance.

given to police employees are not awarded for extraordinary performance but merely for fulfilling their basic duties. This was not the case in the past. We clearly remember that when a police employee performed exceptionally well beyond their usual duties, they were honoured with flower garlands by business associations and

common citizens, banquets were also arranged in their honoring. The shift from recognizing truly outstanding achievements to merely acknowledging routine duties diminishes the value of such awards. True recognition and public respect come from extraordinary service and genuine community impact, not just routine tasks. The police should strive to return to a culture where exceptional performance is celebrated meaningfully, fostering greater motivation and respect both within the force and among the public. The public's perception is correct that the police, by presenting certificates to their peers or subordinates, only achieve personally satisfaction. While internal recognition is important for boosting morale and motivation within the force, it does little to enhance the respect and dignity of the

police in the eyes of the public. Respect for the police in society can only be

fostered through the positive behaviour of the department's employees. When police officers demonstrate integrity, fairness, and a genuine commitment to serving the community, they build trust and respect among the public. Positive interactions, transparency, and accountability are essential for creating a positive image of the police force.

Ultimately, the true measure of a police department's success lies in the trust and confidence it earns from the community it serves. While It has been observed that the certificates commendation certificates are valuable for

internal morale, they must be complemented by consistent, positive public engagement to foster lasting respect and dignity for the police in society. The practice of awarding commendation certificates to police employees is commendable, as it serves as a significant motivator for them to work with greater dedication and commit-

ment. Recognizing and appreciating their efforts boosts morale and encourages a higher standard of performance. Currently, the grievance redressal rate in Multan District is alarmingly low, at less than 5%. This indicates a pressing need for improvement in the process of addressing public grievances. By enhancing the mechanisms for grievance redressal, the police can significantly improve their service to the community.

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

Ultimately, the police's image will only improve through consistent public appreciation and trust. By focusing on both recognition and accountability, the police can build a stronger, more positive relationship with the community they serve.

The true performance of the police is the restoration of public trust. When the community feels confident that the police are fair, just, and dedicated to serving and protecting, it enhances cooperation and collaboration. This trust is essential

for effective policing, as it encourages community members to report crimes, provide valuable information, and work alongside officers to create a safer environment. The restoration and maintenance of public trust signify that the police are not only performing their duties but are also upholding the principles of justice and integrity that are fundamental to their role in society.

In any government institution, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) holds a significant amount of responsibility and importance. Unfortunately, in the police department, it has been observed that the PRO gives undue importance to unreliable individuals and arranges their meetings with officers. After photo sessions with the officers, these images are used by fake journalists and property dealers to demonstrate their influence and to facilitate illegal activities at the police station.

This practice not only misrepresents the officers' intentions but also severely damages the image of the police. Such misuse of access undermines public trust and compromises the integrity of the police force. To maintain the dignity and effectiveness of law enforcement, it is crucial that the PRO exercises discernment and prioritizes interactions that genuinely serve the public interest.

Journalists from the Multan Press Club are gaining access to police offices. Perhaps the PROs are unaware that the registration of the Multan Press Club cancelled in 2019. Therefore, officials and members of this forum have no legal standing. Police offices should not give undue importance to the members and officials of the Multan Press Club but should instead maintain contact with active journalists. Only credible, ethical, and educated working journalists can play a role in changing public opinion. To bridge the gap between the police and the public and to increase public trust, changing public opinion is essential. Police PROs must adopt an impartial attitude and act beyond personal interests.

Deployment of Frontier Constabulary in AJK - IV

Abdul Basit Alvi

he UAE's special operations manipulation, pervades various facets of society, as the UAE Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and Presin preserving security and stability within the Manipulative narratives, sensationalized headnation. These highly skilled units collaborate lines, and doctored images are frequently closely with local law enforcement agencies to prevent terrorism, combat organized crime, and and further concealed agendas. False propaganda

In Iraq, a nation hosting a substantial number

relied upon to protect foreign nationals amidst security challenges. Nigeria, a prominent destination for foreign workers in sectors like oil and gas, telecommunications, and construction, also deploys its special forces units to address security challenges and safeguard expatriates within its borders. The Nigerian Special Forces,

including units like the Special Forces Command tive as truth. False propaganda not only under-(SFC) and Special Boat Service (SBS), collaborate mines trust in institutions but also corrodes social with government agencies and private security firms to provide security escorts, secure work sites, and respond to security incidents affecting foreign workers. These efforts are crucial for fostering a conducive environment for foreign investment and stimulating economic growth in Nigeria. These examples underscore the necessity of taking special measures regarding this sensitive issue in Pakistan and AJK. It is disheartening to witness that whenever the government and armed forces undertake positive initiatives, the propaganda machinery of anti-state elements ramps up its efforts to disseminate misinformation and foster animosity. In today's information-saturated world, differentiating truth from falsehood has become increasingly challenging. rejects the unfounded propaganda directed False propaganda, fueled by misinformation and

forces, which include units such ranging from politics and media to social issues and international relations. It infiltrates our daily lives through diverse channels, including social idential Guard, play a crucial role media, news platforms, and political discourse. employed to sway public opinion, exploit biases, safeguard foreign nationals from security risks. thrives on exploiting fear, exacerbating divisions, and undermining trust in institutions and authorof foreign workers engaged in reconstruction and ities. Accepting false propaganda uncritically can development projects, its special forces units are have wide-ranging repercussions, both individ-

ually and collectively. Blindly embracing misinformation can lead to misguided decisions, distorted perceptions, and societal discord. In an era dominated by digital echo chambers and confirmation bias, it is essential to scrutinize sources, authenticate information, and engage in critical analvsis before embracing any narra-

cohesion and exacerbates polarization within communities. By planting seeds of doubt and spreading mistrust, propagandists aim to weaken democratic institutions, subvert the rule of law, and fracture societies along ideological fault lines. The erosion of trust and solidarity perpetuated by false propaganda represents a fundamental threat to the essence of democracy and the welfare

The populace of Pakistan and AJK fully acknowledges the significance of national security and the safety of both Pakistani nationals and foreigners employed in Pakistan and AJK. Every measure taken in this regard is embraced by the nation, and the entire populace vehemently against this constructive initiative.

TEHRAN: Iran on "all Resistance Fronts", a grouping of Iran and its regional allies, would

confront Israel if it attacks

The comment from Iran's mission to New York comes with fears of a wider

since the war in Gaza began.

about intending to attack Lebanon".

tants attacked southern Israel.

has denied any involvement.AFP

of all Resistance Fronts, are on the table."

Lebanon.

Over 625,000 Gaza children out of school for months amid Israeli war: UNRWA

The UN agency said there were 300,000 UNRWA students before the Israeli war in

UNITED NATIONS: More than 625,000 children in besieged Gaza have not attended school for more than eight months as Israel continues with its deadly attacks on the densely-populated enclave, according to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

In a social post, the UN agency said there were 300,000 UNRWA students before the Israeli war in Gaza.

"Play and learning activities provided by UNRWA teams are critical in preparing children to get back to school and restore their right to education," the UN agency said, posting photos of UNRWA staff training Gazan kids.

The Israel military has been attacking non-stop for nearly nine months now, killing at least 15 thousand children, in defiance of a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

Israel has also imposed a total immediately.



blockade on the strip that has cut the to the shattered enclave.

The Israeli military is accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Avive to halt its offensive in Rafah

Last Saturday, the Gaza Governflow of food, clean water, and medicine ment's Media Office said in a statement that at least 800,000 students of various educational levels have been deprived of their right to education in the region.

It said about 40,000 high school

year's exams, which endangers their opportunities in local and international higher education.

"40,000 high school students from various branches will not be able to participate in this year's session of the high school exams, representing an unprecedented violation that threatens their future and undermines their chances of enrolling in local and international universities and colleges," the media office added.

The media office said, "85 percent of educational facilities are out of service due to direct and deliberate targeting, posing a significant challenge to efforts to resume the educational process after the war ends.

It said plans have been implemented to make up for the academic year for students to ensure that the academic year is not lost and that they possess the essential concepts and skills necesstudents will not be able to take this sary for their continued learning. APP

Three anti-armor missiles launched from Lebanon toward Upper Galilee, says Israel

Iran vows all-out war against Israel if Lebanon is attacked

regional war involving Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah

movement. The two sides have engaged in near-daily exchanges of fire

Such exchanges have escalated this month, alongside bellicose rhetoric from both sides. Israel's military said plans for a Lebanon offensive

had been "approved and validated", prompting Hezbollah to respond

In a post on social media platform X, the Iranian mission said it "deems as psychological warfare the Zionist regime's propaganda

But, it added, "should it embark on full-scale military aggression,

The war in Gaza began in October when Hamas Palestinian mili-

Iran, which backs Hamas, has praised the attack as a success but

an obliterating war will ensue. All options, incl. the full involvement

that none of Israel would be spared in a full-blown conflict.



GAZA: At least three anti-armor missiles were launched toward the Upper Galilee area near the Lebanese border, the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation reported on Saturday.

One of these missiles landed in the Tel Hai area, while the other two landed in the Misgav Am area in the Upper Galilee region, with no reported casualties, it added.

It also noted that the Israeli army "responds with artillery fire to the

Meanwhile, the Lebanese group Hezbollah reported targeting of surveillance equipment at Misgav Am, opposite the southern Leba-

The group claimed achieving a "direct hit."

Tensions have soared along Lebanon's border with Israel amid cross-border attacks between Hezbollah and Israeli forces as Tel Aviv pressed ahead with its deadly offensive on the Gaza Strip, which has killed more than 37,800 people since last Oct. 7. Hezbollah has linked the cessation of its attacks on Israel to the end

of Tel Aviv's onslaught on Gaza. Anadolu Agency

Taliban govt declares Afghan women's rights internal matter ahead of UN talks

DOHA, QATAR: Taliban authorities said on Saturday that demands over women's rights were "Afghanistan's issues" to solve, ahead of United Nations-led engagement talks where the exclusion of Afghan women has sparked outcry.

The Taliban government, which has imposed restrictions on women since seizing power in 2021 that the UN has described as "gender apartheid," will send its first delegation to the third round of talks starting in Qatar on Sunday. Civil society representatives, including from women's rights groups, will attend meetings with the international envoys and UN officials on Tuesday, after the official talks.

Rights groups have condemned the exclusion of Afghan women from the main meetings and the lack of human rights issues on the agenda.

The Taliban authorities "acknowledge the issues about women," government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference in Kabul on the eve of the latest talks. "But these issues are Afghanistan's issues," said Mujahid, who will

"We are working to find a logical path toward solutions inside Afghanistan so that, God forbid, our country doesn't again fall into conflict and discord."

Modi's women's wing calls for probe into Foxconn India hiring practice

BJP says imperative to conduct investigation and ensure rights of women employees at Foxconn Hon Hai are protected

NEW DELH: The women's wing of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party on Friday urged the National Commission for Women to launch an investigation after Reuters reported that Apple supplier Foxconn rejects married women from iPhone assembly jobs in the

"It is imperative to conduct a thorough investigation into these claims and ensure that the rights of women employees at Foxconn Hon Hai are protected," Vanathi Srinivasan, national pres-Party's (BJP) women's atically excluded married practices against married

Commission, posted on X. In response to the letter, chairperson of the National Rekha Sharma, wrote on X: "we are doing the needful." She did not elaborate.

the Constitution and other laws, its website says. It also summon any person.

Apple (AAPL. O), opens immediately respond to a as a "grave issue". request for comment.

A Reuters investigation through various media and said they had worked



wing wrote in a letter to the women from jobs at its main India iPhone plant near Chennai in Tamil Nadu state, on the grounds they Commission for Women, have more family responsibilities than their unmarried counterparts.

Foxconn hiring agents and The National Commission HR sources interviewed by for Women has the powers Reuters cited family duties, to investigate all matters pregnancy and higher relating to the safeguards absenteeism as reasons why provided for women under Foxconn did not hire married women at the plant.

has powers of a civil court to debates on TV channels and newspaper editorials.

In the letter, Srinivasan new tab and Foxconn (2317. referred to the reported TW), opens new tab did not hiring practices of Foxconn

"It has come to our notice

published on Tuesday found sources that Foxconn has ident of Bharatiya Janata that Foxconn has system- adopted discriminatory

> The letter also stated that it had come to the knowledge of the BJP's women wing that women employees at Foxconn are not even allowed to use the washroom during working hours, and those who stay in hostels are not permitted to take leaves. Srinivasan's letter did not elaborate on these points.

Earlier this week, Modi's labour ministry said it has The story has sparked requested a detailed report from the Labour Department

> of Tamil Nadu on the matter. In response to questions from Reuters for its Tuesday report, Apple and Foxconn acknowledged lapses in hiring practices in 2022

to address the issues. All the discriminatory practices documented by Reuters at the Sriperumbudur plant, however, took place in 2023 and 2024. The two companies didn't address the 2023 and 2024 incidents.

Apple said that "when concerns about hiring practices were first raised in 2022 we immediately took action and worked with our supplier to conduct monthly audits to identify issues and ensure that our high standards are upheld," adding that all its suppliers, including Foxconn, hire married women.

Foxconn said it "vigorously futes allegations of employ ment discrimination based on marital status, gender, religion or any other form."

The hiring curbs at the iPhone plant show the challenge for both Apple and Foxconn in upholding their stated global standards of inclusion while expanding their supply chains in this fast-growing but largely conservative country.

Modi has previously called for removal of societal impediments that prevent many Indian women from getting jobs. While Foxconn employs thousands of women in India, discrimination on the basis of marital status risks undercutting the prime minister's aims. Reuters

Sexual abuse by US forces triggers outrage *in Japan*

LONDON: The Japanese are brimming with anger against incidents of sexual abuse by US forces deployed in the country. It comes as prosecutors indicted US Marine Jamel Clayton for attempted rape and injuring a woman.

"A vile crime has come to light once again, causing strong concern to the people of Okinawa. I cannot help but be outraged," Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki told reporters Friday.

He said he "feels anger beyond description" about the crime.

Clayton was arrested in May and indicted by the Naha district public prosecutor's office June 17.

The US soldier was charged with allegedly "choking the victim, unbuttoning her pants, and attempting to have sexual intercourse with her" in Vomitan village on May 26, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported.

The attack caused injuries to the victim who was treated for around

And on Tuesday, prosecutors indicted a US soldier for the alleged sexual assault and kidnapping of a minor last December. Brennon Washington, 25, had

invited the girl to speak to him on Dec. 24 in his car at a park in Yomitan in Okinawa province.

Later, he drove her to his home before touching the lower half of the girl's body.

Okinawa province's deputy governor lodged protests Thursday with US forces for the incidents in the region, saying it was "causing concern for people who are forced to live next to US bases."

MWC Shanghai 2024

MENA and Central Asian Telecom Stakeholders Address Policy and Cybersecurity Standards

Theme of event was "Driving Policy and Innovation to Shape Our Digital Future".

Spokesman Report

SHANGHAI: Huawei announced today that MENA and Central Asian telecoms stakeholders came together at a roundtable during MWC Shanghai 2024, the leading connectivity event in the Asia Pacific region. The session, 'Middle East and Central Asia ICT Policy and Governance Forum', took place today and was moderated by the GSMA, bringing together regulators and operators from the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. The stakeholders included senior officials from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology and Huawei to discuss industry policies, successful practices, and valuable insights on key industry trends.

Themed "Driving Policy and Innovation to Shape Our Digital Future," the forum discussed the importance of spectrum, optical, and datacom policy planning and explored how carriers, enter-

prises, oversight agencies, and regulators can enhance mobile security capabilities and provide guidance for risk management strategies. The meeting also sought to promote the adoption of GSMA's Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme (NESAS) and Mobile Cybersecurity Knowledge Base (MCKB). Attendees also reviewed industry policies and best practices, with examples from China's successful Mr. Jawad Abassi, Head of

MENA at GSMA, who moderated the roundtable discussion, said, "The GSMA regularly explores a range of security considerations including secure by design, 5G deployment models and security activities. Good security practices and policies by industry suppliers are essential. The mobile ecosystem should empower advancing positive policy and spectrum outcomes, driving digital innovation to reduce inequalities in our world and tackling today's biggest soci-

etal challenges."

At the forum, Mr. Jeff Wang, President of the Public Affairs and Communications Department, Huawei, said, "To fully reap digital dividends, we need to pay more attention to enhancing connectivity, embracing digital application, and empowering digital talent."

NESAS demonstrates how global collaborative efforts can address cybersecurity, offering a standardized assessment mechanism jointly defined by GSMA and 3GPP. It serves as a fundamental security baseline, developed in accordance with security standard guidelines pertaining to vendors' product development and lifecycle processes. NESAS is valuable to both operators and vendors and is intended to be used alongside other mechanisms to ensure network security throughout its lifecycle.

MCKB seeks to help stakeholders manage risks in the 5G ecosystem by providing essential insights for their risk manage-

ment strategy and guidance covering best practices and risk mitigation measures. The framework offers clear instructions for taking step-by-step actions to build security assurance while considering the entire risk spectrum of mobile end-to-end networks. It aims to enhance mobile security competencies and capabilities, strengthening the work of carriers, enterprises, oversight agencies, and regula-A focus on policy implementation

and cybersecurity

The forum featured two sessions focused on policy implementation and cybersecurity. The ICT Policy Implementation session explored spectrum planning for 5G and 5G-A networks, universal service funds (USF) and policies to promote mobile connectivity in rural areas, strengthening regulation of mobile and fixed networks to improve digital economy foundations. The session provided recommendations for various countries, such as UAE, Saudi menting holistic telecom cyberse- the trust and resiliency of the Arabia, Pakistan, and Iraq, based on their specific needs and achievements in these areas.

More than 50 countries globally are investing in super-fast optical fiber networks and Giga broadband to handle the network demands from future technologies like AR/VR and high-definition streaming. This digital upgrade is crucial to support the development of the regional ICT industry while ensuring a smooth user experience. Operators in the MENA region especially need to improve their optical fiber networks to ensure homes and offices have the speed and stability for these advancements.

The Cybersecurity Session focused on building a Tele-Security com-Information Management System (T-ISMS) to manage current cybersecurity issues facing telcos globally. The session covered key topics such as the roles and responsibilities of telecom cybersecurity for various stakeholders, implecurity with collaboration between entwork, the cyberspace, and the stakeholders and how regulatory authorities can promote telecom cybersecurity.

Robust national network development strategies, aligned with visions and key industries, are crucial for MENA. The growing demand for advanced services necessitates network upgrades, vital for ambitious projects like Saudi Arabia's 10Gbs Society. Supportive policies from governments will incentivize carriers and enterprises to invest in infrastructure optimization.

Joining the session, Mr. Lin Yanqing, Principal Consultant. Industry Policy Public & Government Affairs, Huawei Technologies, and Mr. Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer, Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, mobile ecosystem. Huawei has reiterated that Huawei has taken a proactive approach to telecom ations for its 5G base station and cybersecurity standardization. NESAS audits for its RAN and Cheang said, "As we chart our journey into the digital future, company's commitment to cybercybersecurity must safeguard

metaverse where data is the new oil as organizations' assets are increasingly digitalized or virtualized. We must ensure that we continue to embrace the culture of openness, transparency, and collaboration. Cybersecurity is a team sport, and together with GSMA, we can leverage their good work, such as NESAS and MCKB, that will lay the foundation to secure broadband, 5G, 5G-A, and beyond." The executives explained that

Huawei works with the GSMA, the ITU, the 3GPP, and others, as well as through partnerships with security organizations and companies, to ensure the security of its customers and promote the healthy development of the passed NESAS/SCAS 2.0 evalucore network, demonstrating the

Sunday, June 30, 2024

AJK sets dev program of Rs44b for FY2024-25: Finance Minister

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Abdul Majid Khan, the Finance Minister of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has set a development program of 44 billion rupees for the next financial year. 100% for local government, 7% for public health, 6% for physical planning and housing, while the remaining 23% are allocated for other productive and social sectors. Despite the financial difficulties, the government made electricity cheaper, established the Social Protection Trust Fund, saved billions, the government should get the credit for these measures, the government did practical work instead of slogans, no one raised any major objection on the budget. 5 billion rupees have been kept in the budget for providing interest-free loans to the youth, of which 33% will be given to women.

Thanks to Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Army Chief for providing 23 billion rupees to solve the problems of Azad Kashmir. The government increased tax collection and increased state revenue. A false impression was created that there was a rift in the government, but the budget was approved on the second day. Disagreement is the beauty of democracy. Negative things are being created about peace and order in Azad Kashmir. 1000 Rangers are going to be recruited in Azad Kashmir, 3000 police recruitments are going on through NTS, the federal government has shown generosity to us despite financial difficulties. An attempt was made to pay homage to the conditions of Azad Kashmir.

In the federal development program, an amount of 4 billion rupees has been provided for the projects of Azad Kashmir, including the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Complex, Medical College Muzaffarabad and Mirpur, Nusiri Leswa Bypass, Ratoa Hariyam Bridge, the people affected by Indian firing. The restoration project includes the 48 megawatt hydropower generation project at Jagran and the water supply and sewerage projects in Mirpur. Which has been used for the construction and development of Azad Kashmir. In the current financial year, 63 projects have been completed, while under the annual development program, 62%funds have been allocated for 383 ongoing projects, and a target of completion of 161 more projects has been set. While 38% funds have been proposed for new projects.. 62% of funds have been allocated for ongoing projects and 38% for new projects in the planning and editing of the annual development program. A target of completion of 161 projects has been set during the next financial year. Also, the overall development program has been maintained to the extent feasible. In the Annual Development Program 2024-25, a total of 31% of financial resources have been provided for social sectors 14% for productive sectors and 559 for infrastructure sectors.

$CCP \, approves \ acquisition \, in$ textile, apparel industry

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a merger in the textile yarn sector. The approved transaction entails the acquisition of up to 29.43% shareholding of M/s. Gatron (Industries) ltd by M/s. Nova Fron-

M/s. Nova Frontiers ltd, a Pakistani public unlisted company, is involved in investments of shares, stocks, bonds, units of mutual funds and related securities. While, M/s Gatron (Industries) ltd is a public listed company with a prime business of manufacturing polyester filament yarn in Pakistan. Later in 1988, Gatron expanded their product range by introducing the Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) line, which offered enhanced durability and versatility in various applications.

The CCP's Phase I competition assessment identified 'Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)' as the relevant markets. Post-transaction the market share of Nova Frontiers ltd in both the markets will remain unchanged.

The analysis confirmed that the trans $action\ will\ not\ lead\ to\ the\ dominance\ of$ Nova Frontiers ltd in the relevant market, therefore, the merger was authorized under Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Chambers across country emphasize importance of regional trade

Govt must remove trade barriers with neighboring countrier: Zubair Ahmed Malik

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Business leaders and Presidents of chambers across the country have urged the government to focus on regional trade to significantly increase country's exports. They called for urgent efforts to remove trade barriers with neighboring countries. Increasing exports to Iran and Central Asian countries should be part of the government's priority agenda. Through effective lobbying in regional groups like ASEAN and ECO, new markets should be explored for Pakistani products, especially textiles.

Speaking at the session on promoting regional trade at the All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference hosted by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former FPCCI President Zubair Ahmed Malik stated that out of Pakistan's total \$25 billion in exports, \$20 billion go to Western countries. The remaining \$5 billion is exported to the rest of the world. All stakeholders, including the government, need to work with comprehensive planning to access markets like Central Asian countries.

The government should first identify countries where there is demand for Pakistani goods and then work with a coordinated policy. Pakistani embassies in these countries should be mobilized, and special envoys should be sent to improve coordination between the government



the issue.

baijan and other Central Asian countries could be significant markets for Pakistan's textiles.

ICCI President Ahsan Bhaktawari said that in modern times, regions develop rather than individual countries. The European Union and ASEAN are examples before us. For our region, platforms like SAARC, ECO, and SCO exist, but unfortunately, they haven't been effective due to India's obstinacy. Recently, new governments have formed in both Pakistan and India.

and the private sector. He mentioned that Azer- The government should start with new determination and courage to activate all regional organizations and work on resolving issues with Iran and Afghanistan on a priority basis. He expressed concern over the recent decline in mutual trade volume with Afghanistan and urged the government to take steps to address

> Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kashif Anwar stated that the longterm solution to Pakistan's economic prob-

Government Should Prioritise Exports to Iran and Central Asian Countries: Ahsan Bhaktawari

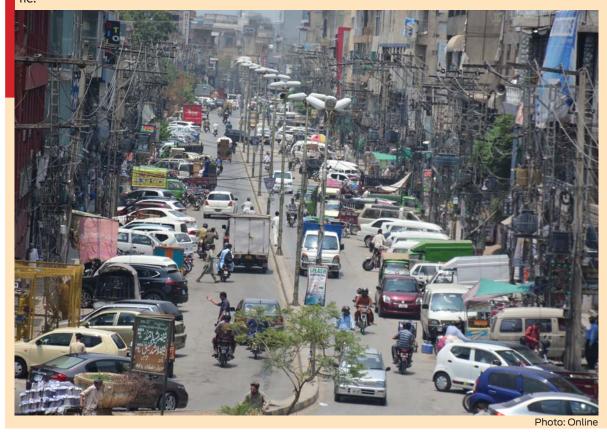
lems lies in increasing exports. Until dollars flow into Pakistan, our issues cannot be resolved. Heavy taxation and additional taxes on already tax-paying individuals are not the solution. Focusing on the region is essential for increasing Pakistan's exports.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce President Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh called on the government to remove barriers to trade with regional countries. Road, rail, and air links should be improved. Joint platforms under government sponsorship should be formed to enhance coordination between the government and

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq urged the government to ensure electricity supply to the industry at competitive regional tariffs to boost Pakistani exports. We will only be able to sell Pakistani products globally when there is a significant increase in large-scale and medium-scale manufacturing locally.

Disruption in traffic flow

FAISALABAD: Traders park their vehicles on both sides of the College Road, disrupt the flow of traf-



VLEKTRA Wins SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Pakistan's pioneering electric motorcycle company, VLEKTRA, has won the SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup, organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and JS Bank. The company stood out among over 200 contenders with their innovative vision for sustainable transportation. This achievement highlights VLEKTRA's growing role in Pakistan's electric vehicle (EV) landscape. Their focus on crafting premium electric motorcycles powered by high-quality lithium batteries addresses the fight against climate change.

"Winning the SDGs Innovative Financing Challenge Cup is a great endorsement of our mission," says VLEKTRA CEO Syed Raza Mohsin. He added, "The competition showcased encourages us to continue greener future for Pakistan. revolution.



VLEKTRA is grateful for the infrastructure." recognition and support from

at building a better future. and expanding Pakistan's EV

VLEKTRA's success marks

many innovative ideas aimed promoting electric mobility By promoting eco-friendly e-mobility solutions that are economical and safe. VLEKTRA is paving the way UNDP and JS Bank. This win a step towards a cleaner, for a sustainable transportation

Kh. Shahid Razak Sikka a beacon for businessmen



FAISALABAD: Eminent business leader Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka is a beacon for businessmen all over the world. This

He has appealed to businessmen across Pakistan to pray for the health of their central leader. While talking to Khawaja Shahid Razzaq was said by Vohra broth- Sikka, Vohra brothers also ers Muhammad Nadeem, shed light on the situation Muhammad Waseem, of eight markets, on which Muhammad Kaleem and the president of Anjuman Muhammad Hamid while Tajran City, Khwaja Shahid taking care of Khawaja Razzag Sikka said that if Shahid Razzak Sikka. He health permits, the probalso prayed for the health of lems of traders will be his leader Khawaja Shahid solved at their doorsteps, God willing will be done. PR

SAI Chief demands withdrawal of SRO-350

As SSGC failed to file ST Return on time

Solution Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The Site Association of Industry (SAI) President, Muhammad Kamran Arbi has once again demanded the government to immediately withdraw the SRO-350, ab initio, in the wake of being ambiguous in nature.

In a press statement, Arbi said that the major public utility company - SSGC, has not yet been able to file their sales tax return for the tax period May-2024 on time due to SRO-350, and this has resulted in non-filing of return by vast majority of industries, leading to exorbitant sales tax liabilities for them as well as unnecessary anguish. Subsequently, the Association has again requested FBR to extend the date for return filing for the tax period MAY-2024 by one more week.

SAI President added that 2024, the SRO 350(I)/2024 already difficult time.

has proved to be a trouble for the business community who have not only been unable to file their monthly sales tax returns on time due to requirements not met till last date of submission, but also have had to pay unnecessary tax liability on their input due to no fault of their own. This SRO has once again exposed the half-baked nature of FBR policies and implementation

Mr. Arbi added that this matter has been raised time and again by the business community, even during its meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan in April in Karachi where they collectively requested the Prime Minister to issue orders to withdraw the SRO-350. As things stand, the uncertainty & ambiguity regarding timely filing of Sales Tax return along with unreasonable sales tax liabilities, is very unsettling since issuance in March- businesses & industries at an

easypaisa revolutionizes borrowing with 'easycash' digital loan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Reaffirming its dedication to delivering seamless digital financial services to all Pakistanis, easypaisa is offering "easycash", a digital service history. providing instant, hassle-free access to loans for users.

enables easypaisa "easvcash" customers to obtain an instant loan of repay their loans through flexible terms, without any hidden charges or ambi-

Loan approval is contingent upon a credit score, which is determined through our state-of-the-art in-house credit scoring model based on the user's easypaisa account activity and credit

To avail "easycash" service, users can simply log in to the easypaisa account and select the easy cash loan menu. They can then enter an amount up to the up to PKR 15,000 seamlessly, without maximum limit of PKR 15,000. Upon any documentation, allowing them to confirmation, users will receive the loan amount instantly and receive a notification on their easypaisa app and SMS. The feature also allows users to track and

plan their repayments by viewing the outstanding amount, service fee, and due date, with an option to repay the full or partial amount from the easycash menu.

Muhammad Khurram Waraich. Head of Digital Lending & Data Science, TMB/easypaisa, commented, "easycash has revolutionized the way loans are borrowed, strengthening our commitment to simplifying the lives of millions of Pakistanis through our innovative service offerings. Access to formal credit remains critical for individuals, often involving extensive paperwork and



complicated procedures. With easycash, we aim to streamline access to formal

credit for everyone to meet their shortterm needs easily. This initiative not only empowers individuals but also propels Pakistan towards a more inclusive digital economy.

With 1 in 4 Pakistani adults having a registered easypaisa account, easypaisa has continuously elevated its product offerings through its customer-first approach. Leveraged by easypaisa's own in-house credit scoring model, easycash represents a significant step in enhancing easypaisa's digital lending product suite and creating a financially inclusive Pakistan.

Technological advancements in digital finance continue to simplify our lives. As Pakistan's premier digital financial services platform, easypaisa remains at the forefront of introducing innovative and tailored solutions for all customer segments.

With over 40 million registered mobile accounts, easypaisa has consistently proven itself as a leader in Pakistan's digital financial services landscape and remains dedicated to its mission of transforming Pakistan into a financially inclusive society through the power of collaboration and technology.

Switzerland stun holders Italy to reach Euro 2024 quarters

Switzerland dumped reigning champions Italy out of Euro 2024 with a stunning 2-0 victory

BERLIN: Switzerland dumped the Swiss rarely looked like letting reigning champions Italy out of Euro 2024 with a stunning 2-0 victory on Saturday to reach the quarter-finals for the second time in their history.

Murat Yakin's supremely well-drilled side outplayed the flat two-time winners in the last 16 clash in Berlin and will face England or Slovakia in the next round.

Ruben Vargas teed up Remo Freuler for Switzerland's 37th minute opener before curling home superbly himself right at the start of the second half to deservedly double their lead.

A new-look Italy, short on star power and without many of the key figures that led them to Euro 2020 glory, offered little in response to Switzerland's energetic display.

Granit Xhaka, arriving at the Euros after a stunning season with German champions Bayer sive Italy won the 2006 World Leverkusen, pulled the strings as Cup.

the lead slip away.

Italy coach Luciano Spalletti dropped Jorginho after his worrying group stage performances, bringing in Nicolo Fagioli in defensive midfield among a hefty six changes which failed to bring the Azzurri to life.

The 23-year-old started a major tournament match for the first time, having missed most of the season with Juventus after a seven-month ban for gambling on football matches.

Italy scraped through the first phase thanks to Mattia Zaccagni's last-gasp strike in the 1-1 draw with Croatia and Spalletti said his team had no alternative but to improve in the knock-out rounds.

However it was Switzerland who grew in confidence and pulled off their best display Former Arsenal midfielder yet, making a bright start at the Olympiastadion in a sweltering Berlin, where a far more impres-

Former goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, now Italy's delegation head, has been regaling the squad with stories from that triumph but it did not inspire a convincing performance - apart from by his modern day counterpart, Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper, key in Italy's Euro 2020 conquest, made a fine save to thwart Breel Embolo midway through the first half as Switzerland created the first real chance by playing him through.

Donnarumma could not stop Freuler from firing Switzerland ahead after 37 minutes when the midfielder controlled Vargas' low cross and drilled home at the near Switzerland kept the ball

for well over a minute in the build-up, stringing together 33 passes before Freuler, who plays for Serie A side Bologna, applied the finishing touch.

Donnarumma produced a fine save to tip Fabian Rieder's free-



kick on to the post before the break as the Swiss sought to equal their best ever Euros performance by reaching the last eight.

Hosts Germany needed a late out much fancied France in the leveller to avoid defeat against the Swiss in the group phase, while at the previous Euros they knocked

last 16, so Italy cannot say they

were not warned. Spalletti hooked Stephan

El Shaarawy at half-time for Zaccagni, but Italy gave the ball away from the kick-off and Switzerland doubled their lead just 27 seconds into the second period.

Augsburg midfielder Vargas, who started in place of the suspended Silvan Widmer but on the left of the attack, broke into the area and arced a superb curling shot over Donnarumma.

The closest Italy came to scoring in the first hour was when Swiss defender Fabian Schar misjudged a header and hit the frame of his own goal.

Substitute Mateo Retegui produced Italy's first shot on target as the clock ticked down and the near-invisible Gianluca Scamacca hit the post from close range, but appeared to be offside.

The sides drew twice in World Cup 2022 qualification with the Azzurri failing to make the tournament but went one better in Germany, securing their first win against Italy since 1993, after 11 without victory. AFP

Pakistan team to feature in AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalization Committee (NC) has announced the participation of the Pakistan Women's Futsal team in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025. For the first time, the women's team will compete in any premier futsal competition under the umbrella of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The qualification round is scheduled to begin at the of 12 set to take place in May

To prepare for the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025, the PFF has successfully organized five Futsal



titions in major cities across the Women's Futsal National Pakistan, said a press release.

MRF clinched the title of the Women's Futsal National Cup in Islamabad, National Cup in Lahore. In Quetta, Hazara remained team secured the win in the

start of 2025, with the round National Cup (FNC) compethe crowned champions of

Cup. Smuff emerged victo-

rious in the Women's Futsal

while the Karachi City

Women's Futsal National Cup in Karachi. These competitions were a part of PFF's efforts to develop women's futsal in Pakistan.

Chairman of the Pakistan Football Federation Normalisation Committee, Haroon Malik, expressed his views, stating, "I am pleased to announce that the PFF NC has confirmed the participation of the Women's Futsal team in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025. This participation highlights PFF's commitment to developing women's futsal in Pakistan and providing our players with opportunities to compete at the international

Pak players Sohail, Huzaifa, Abdullah, Hamza move in Asian Fr Squash C'ships finals

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani players Sohail Adnan, Huzaifa Shahid, Abdullah Nawaz and Hamza Khan have moved in the finals of the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship here on Friday.

In Boys U-13 semifinals, Sohail Adnan (Pak) beat Mohammad Iffat Zulkifli (MAS) by 11-8, 11-6, 11-2 whereas Huzaifa Shahid (Pak) beat Julius Tan (MAS) by 11-2, 11-8, 11-5.

In Boys U-15 semifinals, Muhammad Raziq Puttra (MAS) beat Abdullah Zaman (Pak) by 11-7, 11-8, 11-6 whereas Shiven Agarwal (IND) beat Nouman Khan (Pak) by 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-0.

In Boys U-17 semifinals, Abdullah Nawaz (Pak) beat Altamis Aqhar (MAS) by 11-4, 14-12, 11-6 whereas, Nikhelswar (MAS) beat Azaan Ali (Pak) by 11-6, 11-6,

In Boys U-19 semifinals, Hamza Khan (Pak) beat Muhammad Ammad (Pak) by 11-6 11-5 11-0 whereas Harith Dania (MAS) beat Jooyoung NA (KOR) 11-9,

In Girls U-13 semifinals, Aadya Budhia (IND) beat Chiu Hau (HKG) by 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 12-10 whereas, Goushika (IND) beat Maisarah Mohd (MAS) by 11-6, 6-11, 5-11,

In Girls U-15 semifinals, Harleein Tan (MAS) beat Yek Rui Jean (MAS) by 11-6, 11-5, 11-6, whereas, Lo Pui Yin Chloe (HKG) beat Ooi Wen Min (MAS) by 11-7, 6-11, 11-5, 11-7.

In Girls U-17 semifinals, Enna Wong (HKG) beat Doyce Lee (MAS) by 11-9, 11-7, 11-5 whereas, Tang Helen (HKG) beat Whitney Isabelle (MAS) by 11-6, 8-11, 11-6,

In Girls U-19 semifinals, Thanussa Uthrian (MAS) beat Leung Ka (HKG) by 11-6, 11-4, 5-11, 11-6 whereas, Akari Midorikawa (JPN) beat Goh Zhe (MAS) by 7-11, 11-7, 11-6, 3-11, 11-8.

The finals of Boys of both Men & Women Events would be played on

Fixtures- BU-13: Sohail Adnan (Pak) Vs Huzaifa Shahid (Pak); BU-15: M Raziq Puttra (MAS) Vs Shiven Agarwal (IND); BU-17: Abdullah Nawaz (Pak) Vs Nikhelswar (MAS); BU-19: M Hamza Khan (Pak) Vs Harith Danial (MAS); GU-13: Aadya Budhia (IND) Vs Goushika (IND); GU-15: Harleen Tan (MAS) Vs Lo Pui Yin Chloe (HKG); GU-17: Enna Wong (HKG) Vs Tang Helen (HKG);

GU-19: Thanussa Uthrian (MAS) Vs Akari

'Exponentially larger' World Cup in Riyadh to

Midorikawa (JPN). APP

Pakistan's Tanveer Ahmed move in Para Archery World Ranking Event final



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's talented blind archer, Tanveer Ahmed, has qualified for the final of Para Archery World Ranking Event & European Cup 2024.

He convincingly defeated Bulgaria's Yanive Ivan by 7-1 in the semifinals, securing his spot in the final scheduled for Saturday. Tanveer expressed his delight at reaching the final, saying "I am

thrilled to have made it this far and am eager to win as many laurels for my country as possible, making the nation proud." Confident of his preparations, he added, "I am all-out prepared for the mega final and hopeful of emerging victorious."

Tanveer's remarkable achievement has brought pride to Pakistan, and his determination to excel in the final is inspiring. APP

Asjad Iqbal outplays current World Champion in Asian Snooker C'ship

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal downed current World Champion Ali Alobaidli of Qatar in ACBS Asian 15Red U21 & 6Red Men's Snooker Championship at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. According to details, Asjad Iqbal beat Ali Alobaidli by 4-1(21-

29, 45-30, 41-32, 66-0(66), 47-0) in Asian 6Red Championship. Meanwhile in other Day 2nd matches, Awais Munir of Pakistan defeated Mekded Tagi (Kuwait) by 4-0(43-09, 43-06, 29-15, 72-0(72) while his county mate Pakistan's Ahsan Ramzan got a walk over 3-0 against Hussain Aqeel of Bahrain.

Another Pakistani player Hasnain Akhtar outplayed Pongsatorn Seemuen of Thailand by 3-0(55-24, 60-56, 57-48).

Heavyweight boxer Anthony named Riyadh Season ambassador

RIYADH: British boxer Anthony Joshua has been signed up as an ambassador for Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Season, according to the head of the the Kingdom's entertainment authority.

Joshua will promote a range of boxing events that will be part of the annual festival, Turki Alalshikh, the chairman of the General Entertainment Authority, announced early Thursday.

Alalshikh expressed happiness in selecting the distinguished boxer for the role, which will contribute to the furthering the expan-

Missing Wimbledon would not have been 'correct', says Djokovic

LONDON: Novak Djokovic said Saturday it would not have been "correct" to miss Wimbledon despite having undergone knee surgery just over three weeks ago

The 37-year-old Serb, who is looking to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles and become the oldest champion of the modern era, said he was driven by his "incredible desire to play and compete."

Djokovic needed surgery to repair the damaged play, just to compete. meniscus in his right knee after being injured at the French Open earlier this

He was forced to withdraw before his quarter-final and hasn't played since.

"I do have something that is described as a feeling of not while I can still play and while I'm still active and at this level," said Djokovic.

"I wouldn't call it a fear of it's this incredible desire to ranking.



Wimbledon, the tournament that always has been a dream tournament for me when I was a kid. Just the thought month. of me missing Wimbledon was just not correct. I didn't want to deal with that."

Diokovic arrives in missing out at a Grand Slam London without a title to his name this season.

He has seen 22-year-old Jannik Sinner take his Australian Open crown as missing out. I would just say well as his world number one

Alcaraz, who "Particularly because it is deposed him as Wimbledon

> "I'm confident about the health of my knee and just general physical state is really good," said the Serb who is chasing a 25th Grand Slam

champion 12 months ago,

succeeded him as French

Open champion earlier this

"I haven't had any setback. If I had one setback, I would be then questioning whether I haven't had a single one.

Alcaraz has impressed by what he's seen of Djokovic just 24 days after going under the knife.

The Spaniard on Saturday described Djokovic as "superhuman." But the Serb said he was inspired by Taylor Fritz, the American player who was back on court 21 days after requiring similar knee surgery in 2021.

Fritz suffered his injury at the French Open and needed a wheelchair to help him off

After surgery, he returned at Wimbledon and made the third round. "I think Taylor Fritz is a superhuman. insisted Djokovic.

"His situation really gave me optimism that I can make it, too.

"Three weeks is just making the cut, so to say. It's not ideal maybe in the eyes of the doctors and specialists that would normally tell you I should be here or not. But it's normally between three and six weeks. AFP

RIYADH: In a significant leap for the global gaming industry, Riyadh is set to host the Esports World Cup, which promises new levels of competition and cultural exchange.

Building on the success of previous events such as Gamers8, the new tournament aims to elevate esports to new heights.

Arab News interviewed Ralf Reichert, CEO of the Esports World Cup Foundation, ahead of the event to explore the global impact of the tournament on the gaming industry and beyond.

"We don't want to be just another competition. Our goal is to leapfrog the industry and bring it together on a scale never

elevate Esports to new heights 8-week tournament a 'leap forward' for global gaming, organizers say seen before," he said. "With 22 support from publishers, a the world," Reichert said. competitions and 21 games, this

Reichert highlighted Riyadh's strategic location as a bridge between the West and the Middle East, creating a unique opportunity to unite gamers from both regions. The eight-week event will celebrate the sport and its culture, pushing the entire industry forward, he said. The CEO said there is a clear vision for the tournament, but executing it on this scale was daunting.

before — it's exponentially larger."

"Time was our biggest enemy," he said. Despite this, strong

comprehensive qualification is not just twice as big as anything strategy, and numerous broadcasting partnerships have been secured.

"If you haven't heard about it yet, our job is to make sure you do," he added, emphasizing their commitment to broadening the The response to the tourna-

ment has been overwhelmingly positive, with significant interest from broadcasting and media partners. "We initially aimed for 15

Global esports supporters have in more than 50 broadcasting partners worldwide.

"We've built an unprecedented broadcasting network, ensuring true global coverage from companies across the US, India, Africa, South America, Korea, and China." Reichert also discussed the thriving gaming culture in Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle East.

"About 67 percent of the Saudi population identifies as gamers. games, but we're starting with Gaming is a core cultural pillar

fully realize this yet, he said. The region's young popularallied behind the event, resulting tion and leadership are highly supportive of gaming, backed by initiatives such as Vision 2030, and the national gaming and

esports strategy. Saudi Arabia has already produced several gaming cham-

pions, and the CEO sees the Esports World Cup as a catalyst for nurturing more local talent. This tournament is a chance for fans to see the best gamers live

and for aspiring players to envision themselves on these stages," 21, featuring the best games in here," though the world may not young gamers to pursue their Arab News

dreams of becoming national and even global stars, helping to further popularize esports world-

In a message to gaming fans, the CEO encouraged everyone in the region to attend the event.

"You'll witness the best sport in the world played live and experience fantastic gaming, esports, and cultural entertainment. This is more than just a tournament it's a fanfest. We call it the Esports World Cup Festival, a historic moment you don't want to miss. If you can't be there in person, he said. The event aims to inspire make sure to tune in online."

The Spokesman

ECNEC meeting

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs the meeting of Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Saturday.



ECNEC approves 19 development projects

 $The forum\ directed\ that\ reconstruction\ activities\ in\ Balochistan\ be\ undertaken$ expeditiously

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has accorded approval to nineteen development projects.

Meeting of ECNEC was held in Islamabad today with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in the chair.

To expedite the reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood affected areas in Balochistan, the forum accorded approval to four sub-components of 400 million dollars World Bank funded Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation

Programme.

reconstruction activities in Balochistan be undertaken of 13.502 billion rupees. expeditiously while ensuring top quality.

A number of projects being undertaken in Sindh were also approved by the forum, including the revised Flood Project at a cost of 296 billion

The Chair informed the Airport. forum that the federal government remains committed to providing its share in housing

reconstruction efforts in Sindh. The forum also cleared

revised PC-I of operationali-The forum directed that zation of Green Line BRTS in and allied buildings as well as Karachi at a rationalized cost

Among the projects falling under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the forum cleared the re-alignment of KKH between Thakot and Raikot at a rationalized Response Emergency Housing cost of 13.067 billion RMB as well as the revised PC-I of New Gwadar International

> The new Gwadar airport is scheduled to become operational within the calendar year.

> Other projects approved by the forum included elec-

trical and mechanical works access roads of Lowari tunnel at a cost of 33.257 billion rupee and 48 MW Jagran hydro power station at 13.995 billion

The forum also extended the Sehat Sahulat Program till end December this year.

Prime Minister's Programme for Elimination of Hepatitis C Infection was also approved at a cost of 68.25 billion rupees to be shared equally between federal government and provinces.

The Ministry of National Health Services was tasked

to prepare an implementation plan with well-defined targets and measurable indicators within three months. The forum also directed the Planning Commission to carry out an exercise for reviewing the Public Sector Development Programme in view of the shrinking fiscal space available with the federal government and timely completion of on-going projects.

These approvals demonstrate the government's commitment to expedite economic development, rehabilitation, and improve the

'Govt to implement unified fertilizer price mechanism'



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain says the country has ample stock of urea fertilizer for Kharif

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad, Rana Tanveer Hussain said all manufacturing units will operate at full capacity to meet local demand.

He said fertilizer companies will implement a uniform pricing mechanism across the country from the next season and emphasized that retail prices should be uniform across the

The minister further said that provincial governments and companies will monitor Urea prices and dealers to ensure a smooth supply of the commodity to farmers of the country.

He said it has been decided to introduce toll free numbers to receive complaints regarding urea price hike.

The Minister directed Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority to check value-added urea products of fertilizer companies.

The representatives of Fertilizer Companies said all manufacturing units will operate at full capacity to meet local demand of urea.

Mohsin directs to stay alert amid threat of dengue

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday directed the Islamabad administration to stay alert regarding the threat of dengue fever in the wake of monsoon season

The minister has directed the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA)/ Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, to ensure the implementation of all SOPs to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

The minister directed that immediate drainage of water from low-lying must be ensured. He instructed that the dengue prevention plan should be implemented in letter and spirit and any negligence in this regard would not be tolerated.

He also directed that hospitals and laboratories in the city be contacted during the current season. to collect data on dengue cases and to ensure coordination for a unified



Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, briefed the Minister on the measures being taken to prevent the spread of dengue and apprised that a working group is being established to prevent the spread of dengue in the border areas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. He said that the Islamabad and Rawalpindi administrations will work as one team to carry out dengue prevention measures

So far, 9 cases of dengue fever have een reported in Islamabad, APP

'Supremacy of Parliament cornerstone of strengthening democracy'

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah Saturday said that the supremacy of the Parliament rights, and the rule of law. was essential for the growth and development of democratic institutions in the country.

"A strong Parliament is vital for ensuring the representation of people's voices and holding the government accountable for its actions" they expressed in their separate messages on International Day of Parliamentarism, observed protection and promotion of every year on 30th June to commemorate the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889 and to recognize the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting peace, security and sustainable development worldwide.

day was significant as it highlighted the crucial role Parliaments play in promoting democratic values, human He reiterated the Pakistani Parliament's commitment to upholding these principles and ensuring the democratic institution's continued growth and development.

He said that a strong Parliament was the cornerstone of a stable democracy and it is essential for ensuring the democratic values. He said that collaboration among Parliathe National Assembly was the institution and ensuring the supremacy of the Parliament in the country.

The Speaker also highinternational cooperation and sustainable development glob-security and sustainable devel-



ments, as embodied by the committed to strengthening IPU, in achieving these goals.

He said that Pakistan was an active member of the IPU, and to working with the IPU to icant role played by the Parlia-

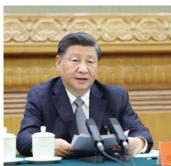
ally. He reiterated the National Assembly's dedication to strengthening the institution and ensuring the supremacy of Parliament in the country. He the country was committed also acknowledged the signif-

opment in the region.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said that the National Assembly was dedicated to promoting democratic values and ensuring the representation of all citizens in the democratic process. He acknowledged the importance of international cooperation and collaboration among Parliaments, as embodied by the IPU, in achieving these goals.

He said that the Parliament was committed to upholding the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law and ensuring the institution's continued growth and development. Pakistan Peoples Party has always been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen Parliament and lighted the importance of achieve peace, democracy and ment in promoting peace, ensure its supremacy in the country, he expressed.

China remains key driving force for global economic growth



DALIAN: Despite the world grappling $with \, a \, slowdown \, in \, economic \, growth \,$ and a challenging recovery, China's economy has maintained steady development, bolstered by the rise of new industries and new growth drivers.

During the 15th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the 2024 Summer Davos, which concluded, participants hailed China's efforts in cultivating new quality productive forces, noting that it has not only injected new vitality into the Chinese economy but also expanded opportunities for global cooperation.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Polish President Andrzej Duda said that China's contribution to world economic growth has stayed at around 30 percent over the years, and it continues to be a key driving force for global economic growth.

Since the start of this year, the Chinese economy has maintained its recovery momentum. It started strongly in the first quarter with a 5.3 percent year-on-year growth and continued to grow steadily in the second quarter.

Official data showed that indicators measuring consumption, trade in goods and value-added industrial output all posted positive performance in May.

"We have the confidence and capability to achieve the growth target of around 5 percent for this year," Chinese Premier Li Qiang said when addressing the opening plenary of the

International organizations and

institutions have raised their forecasts for China's economic growth, reflecting strong confidence in the country's future prospects.

Recently, the World Bank increased its forecast for China's 2024 economic growth to 4.8 percent, 0.3 percentage points higher than the previous forecast. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also revised China's economic outlook to 5 percent, 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous forecast.

This positive outlook rebuffs the narratives of some Western politicians and media, who claimed that China's economic slowdown could pose risks to global economic growth. According to IMF analysis, a 1 percentage point increase in China's GDP growth results in an average of 0.3 percentage point increase in growth for other econo-

China's economy has exceeded expectations and shown strong resilience in the first half of this year, especially in emerging industries, Jason Ding, managing partner of Greater China offices with Bain & Company told Xinhua.

In particular, China has gained an international edge in electric vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaics. Renewable energy now accounts for over 50 percent of the country's total installed capacity.

"I see huge opportunities in China since it is leading the way in a series of new technologies such as the batteries and new energy vehicles, which have provided new drivers of growth," said Merik Dusek, the managing director of the World Economic Forum.

"High-quality growth" is more than just a popular buzzword, said Peng Sen, president of the China Society of Economic Reform. "This is about advanced productivity and innovation."

Future growth for China's industries requires a revolutionary transformation on the technological front, as well as a focus on cutting-edge technologies such as generative AI and advanced

chips, he added. Xinhua

At Punjab Assembly

Suspension of 11 opposition members sparks uproar

LAHORE: Opposition members of the Punjab Assembly staged a protest on Saturday at the assembly gates, raising loud slogans in response to the suspension of 11 of their members.

Security personnel barred the suspended members from entering the assembly premises during the session.

Yesterday, speaker Malik Ahmed Khan suspended the membership of 11 Punjab Assembly members belonging to the Sunni Ittehad Council during the budget session of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz's government, resulting in uproar, disorder, use of offensive language, and disruption within the assembly.

LHC directs PM Office to stop agencies from contacting judges No agency should "approach or contact" any judge, says order

LAHORE: The Lahore High the previous hearing, issued Court (LHC) has directed instructions to the prime the PM Office to instruct all

the civil and military agencies including the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to not contact any member of the judiciary.

LHC's Justice Shahid Karim issued a four-page written interim order on Saturday in a case pertaining to the harassment of an anti-terrorism court (ATC) judge in Sargodha.

The suo motu notice was taken by former LHC chief justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan on the ATC judge's complaint. However, Justice Karim took over the proceedings after Khan's elevation to the Supreme Court.

Justice Karim, during ings before these courts.

minister to lay down guidelines for the security agencies. He said that it was the responsibility of higher authorities to ensure the prevention of such

The written order states that no agency should "approach or contact" a judge whether of superior judiciary or sub-ordinate judiciary or any member of their staff in the future.

The court also said that the same instructions should be issued to all police officers in Punjab to not contact directly any judge of the superior judiciary or the sub-ordinate judiciary regarding the merits of any pending judicial proceed-

"In case certain measures they receive and with regard have to be taken regarding security etc in respect of Anti-Terrorism Courts across Punjab, these measures will only be put in place with the consultation and concurrence of the learned judge of that court and not otherwise," said the order.

It also said that the IGP, and chief of police of the division or district will be personally held responsible and will be proceeded against in contempt of the orders in the LHC in case of violation.

Justice Karim also said that the judges of ATC across Punjab are directed to download a call recording application and shall be bound to record all such calls which the hearing till July 8. Agencies

them. "A direction is issued to the judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts across Punjab to deal and decide the cases relating to May 9, 2023 expeditiously and on priority," the order said.

The court also directed the

to which the learned judges

have apprehensions that they

have been made to influence

any judicial proceedings before

erate in the investigation. "All investigation proceedings should be video recorded and the record shall be maintained by the police as also remitted to this court through

ATC judge and his staff to coop-

the registrar." The court then adjourned

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