

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا تم سب کے لئے جسے اللہ تعالیٰ کے احکام سے جانے جاوے گا۔ عائشہ فرماتی ہیں کہ اس پر میں نے پوچھا یا رسول اللہ! تو کیا وہ جو میرے لئے ایک دوسرے کو دیکھتے ہوں گے؟ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اس وقت معاملہ اس سے کہیں زیادہ سخت ہو گا، اس کا خیال بھی کوئی نہیں کر سکتے گا۔
(بخاری، صفحہ نمبر 6527)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Donald Trump wins immunity — but there's a catch

Former president Donald Trump has immunity only from official actions taken in office, the SC ruled Monday, overturning a lower court verdict that had denied him legal shield against criminal charges stemming from his contentious efforts to manipulate the 2020 election results. As a result of this landmark ruling, the federal election meddling case against the Republican presidential candidate will be back in a lower court that will then choose to apply this ruling.



Xi's security vision and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

On June 15, 2001, then heads of state of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan gathered in Shanghai. Together, they announced the creation of a new regional group on the Eurasian continent — the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO is the only inter-governmental organization named after a Chinese city. (Details on Page 5)

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Call on

PM Shehbaz Sharif received the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin for a courtesy call at the Prime Minister House



Photo: PID

PM to participate in twin SCO summits in Kazakhstan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will travel to Kazakhstan for the twin Summits of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) and SCO Plus from 03-04 July 2024 in Astana.

He will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and other senior members of the cabinet and senior government officials, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Monday.

"At the SCO Council of Heads of Summit Meeting, the

PM underlines need to enhance trade, investment between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while noting the positive trajectory of bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan emphasized the need to enhance trade and investment, besides focusing on regional connectivity and security.

The prime minister received the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin for a courtesy call at the Prime Minister

House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister conveyed his greetings to the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and expressed his desire to strengthen the excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

PM underlines need to enhance trade, investment between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

He said he was looking forward

to his meeting with President Tokayev during his upcoming visit to Astana for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting on July 3-4.

The Kazakh ambassador conveyed the greetings of the president of Kazakhstan and briefed the prime minister on various activities and initiatives currently in progress to expand relations between the two countries.

PM underlines need to enhance trade, investment between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

He said he was looking forward

with SCO member countries," it was added.

The prime minister would also address the SCO Plus Summit that brings together SCO member states as well as invited dialogue partners, observer states, guests of the chair and international organizations.

He would share Pakistan's perspective on important regional and global issues and underline the importance of strengthening the organization for the benefit of the peoples of the SCO region.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would also hold meetings on the sidelines of the summit.

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Business friendly policies infuse foreign investors' confidence: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the business friendly policies of the incumbent government had stabilized country's economy and restored confidence of the foreign investors.

He said that the country was moving on the right path towards economic stability, adding steps were taken to provide relief to the public in the current fiscal budget.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of leading businessmen that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The delegation included Shahzad Saleem, Zaid Bashir, Mussadiq Zulqarnain and Shehryar Chishty.

The members of the delegation praised the prime minister for the economic turnaround and provision of conducive environment for the businesses and investment activities.

Protests erupt across country against inflated power bills, hiked taxes

Naveed Ahmad Khan / Correspondents

ISLAMABAD: Protests have erupted across the country prompted by inflated electricity bills and hike in taxes with traders demanding withdrawal of an increase in the average tariff.

The boiling frustration over inflated electricity bills and recent hike in taxes exploded into a countrywide protest with traders leading from the forefront. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also joined the protests.

The traders' community staged protests in Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Sukkur, Tando Allah Yar, Tulamba, Kasoor, Mailsi, Depalpur, Peshawar, Daska, Hasilpur, Liaquatpur, Haveli Lakha, and Bahawalnagar.

The traders' community, led by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), staged a demonstration at the Aabpara Chowk, demanding the government to withdraw the increase in electricity tariffs and taxes.

The protesters chanted slogans against the government and threatened to expand their protest if their demands were not met.



In Lahore, protests erupted in various areas, including Johar Town, Altaf Colony, and loadshedding-affected areas. The protesters, including traders and residents, blocked roads and chanted slogans against the government. They demanded an end to the prolonged loadshedding and reduction in electricity tariffs.

The Chamber of Small Traders in Multan organised a protest against the hike in electricity bills and taxes. A large number of traders participated in the protest, demanding the government to reduce electricity tariffs and withdraw the increase in taxes.

Traders in Sukkur staged a rally and marched from the Sarafa Bazaar to the Ghanta Ghar Chowk, demanding the government to reduce electricity tariffs and withdraw the increase in taxes.

Meanwhile, residents of Tando Allah Yar staged a protest and blocked roads while chanting slogans against the government.

The All-Pakistan Traders Association (APTA) had warned the federal government to abolish additional taxes by June 30 or face further actions.

Ajmal Baloch, President of the

5Es Framework to foster economic stability, growth: Ahsan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Kearney, a leading global management consulting firm Monday called on Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal to explore support for Pakistan's private investment initiatives.

During the meeting, the minister elaborated on the 5Es Framework, a cornerstone of the National Economic Transformation Plan, aimed at fostering stability and laying the foundation for future growth in Pakistan. The framework focuses on exports, economic growth, energy, education, and equality.

The minister emphasized the need to enhance exports, increase per-animal yield in agriculture, develop promising industrial clusters, and address structural issues to achieve rapid economic growth.

He also highlighted the importance of digital transformation, self-sufficiency in energy, and equitable development in the social

SC adjourns SIC's reserved seats case till Tuesday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday sought documents and formula from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under which the reserved seats were allotted to political parties in 2018 and 2024.

The 13-member SC bench presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa adjourned hearing of the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) case regarding the reserved seats till Tuesday.

The bench comprised justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Amin-ud-Din Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Athar Minallah, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed, Irfan Saadat Khan and Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

During the course of proceedings, the chief justice remarked that the issue of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections had been coming to the fore for many years. The party was repeatedly requesting for time for the elections but it was an admitted fact that it could not hold the same despite taking a year time, he noted.

Sikandar Bashir, counsel for Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in his arguments, said the PTI had issued party affiliation certificates and



Form 66 with the signatures of Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali to its candidates, which were on the record under the Election Act.

At that time the PTI had not conducted the intra-party elections, he said, adding that the candidates should have filed the party affiliation certificates along with the nomination papers to the ECP.

The lawyer said that the blank space specified for party affiliation in the nomination papers meant that the candidates were independent. Sikandar Bashir said that as the PTI chairman was not elected at the time of submission of certificates, the nomination papers signed by him were not valid.

He said that Hamid Raza submitted his filed his nomination papers on December 22 and party affiliation certificate on January 13, declaring himself as the candidate of the SIC and mentioned alliance with the PTI.

There was no mention of alliance with the PTI in the nomination papers, he said.

Tarar responds to Khaqan, Miftah's criticism of 'tax-laden budget'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar on Monday hit back at former PML-N leaders, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail, following the latter's criticism of tax-laden Budget 2024-25.

Addressing a joint press conference, Shahid Khaqan and Miftah Ismail — who recently launched a new political party — castigated the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government for burdening the inflation-hit citizens by imposing more taxes in the Budget 2024-25.

Abbasi asked the government to reduce its expenditures instead of imposing taxes on the public, demanding review of the federal budget — which took effect from today following an accord by President Asif Ali Zardari.

He alleged that the government allocated Rs500 billion for legislators, stating that political favours were being prioritised over the welfare of the people. He questioned whether the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was aware of the massive tax evasion in the cigarette industry.

The former PM highlighted that Pakistan's largest expenditure was debt servicing, and



that no one was willing to tackle the issue of diesel smuggling. He also pointed out that factories in FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) were not benefiting the local population, and that taxes should be levied on them as they were not contributing to the region's development.

Meanwhile, Miftah Ismail suggested that taxing diesel and LPG smuggling could generate significant revenue, making other taxes unnecessary. He also recalled that the IMF had recommended taxing agriculture and real estate, which the government had failed to implement.

Responding to the criticism, Information Minister Attallah dispelled the impression that Rs500 billion rupees are being distributed among legislators in the name of development schemes.

Tarar said the total amount of Public Sector Development Programme is Rs1,500 billion and made it clear that the government has no intention to give Rs500 billion to

Continued on Page 8

Pakistan 'hopes to secure' fresh IMF loan program in July

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed satisfaction with the recent measures taken by the Pakistan government, paving the way for a new loan program, citing finance minister sources.

As per details, Pakistan hopes to secure a new IMF loan program in July as the budget 2024-25 prepared under IMF conditions has also been approved, fulfilling one of the major requirements set by the international lender.

19 prisoners arrested in Rawalakot jail after alleged prisoner break-out

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALKOT: According to press note issued by the AJK Press Information Department Yesterday on 30 June 2024 at 1:45 PM, 19 prisoners escaped from Rawalakot jail by breaking the jail, during which one prisoner was injured in a cross-fire with the prison staff, who later succumbed to

his injuries in a local hospital.

As soon as the incident was reported, Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq immediately ordered the Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police to ensure the arrest of the fugitive prisoners by using all the resources of the Azad Kashmir Police.

The search and sweep operation has

been started and the police of Punjab and other provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad have also been on high alert.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir to the Superintendent of Rawalakot Jail and other authorities/officials for negligence and carelessness. has been suspended and officials guilty of negligence and collusion including

the Deputy Superintendent Jail have been arrested by the Rawalakot Police and investigation has been started. The Inspector General of Jails has been attached to the Services Department as OSD. For an impartial investigation of the incident, the Azad Kashmir government has requested the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court to form a judicial commission.

Womens Chamber of Commerce and Industry laments 'most difficult' budget for common man



Asim Tanveer and Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan has also expressed concerns over the budget proposals and has termed the budget as the most difficult for the common man and the business community while reacting to the budget. Batul said that the accumulation of taxes in the budget has created difficulties for the common man and the salaried business community where inflation has already reduced the purchasing power. Economic problems will increase due to health sectors and daily consumption items being expensive. Overall, we cannot call this budget friendly to the people. No subsidy was announced on solar panels, nor was any program or facility announced for women entrepreneurs. Falza Mumtaz said that the middle class will be affected by taxing the jobbers. On one hand, the government is increasing the salaries of government employees. Sadia Ali advocate said that the country taking loans from IMF cannot afford a lump sum increase of 25% in the salaries of government employees. Continuous increase will make it difficult to do business. Exemption of income tax on 6 lakh annual income is a proper decision. The economic conditions are so difficult that the elite and the middle class are also suffering from anxiety. With each passing day, the economic problems are increasing and inflation is increasing while there is no hope of increase in income.

Railways post-fiscal year revenue of more than 88 billion rupees



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Railway Preme Union Chairman Ziauddin Ansari, President Sheikh Mohammad Anwar, Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tunio, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmud Chaudhry have said that at the end of the fiscal year 2023-24 till June 30, the railway has earned a record revenue of more than 88 billion, while the previous fiscal This year the revenue was 63 billion rupees. Railways got 40% more revenue than the previous financial year. This revenue has never been recorded in the history of railways. Railways had received a target of 73 billion revenue from the government at the beginning of the financial year. 47 billion revenue was generated from passenger trains. It is the result of the joint tireless work of the employees and officers for which the Prime Union congratulates them all. CEO Railway Aamir Baloch has determined to take the revenue of the railway to one trillion rupees in the next financial year. The TLA and in-weld employees also have an important role in the success. The union leaders have said that the Chairman Railway and the CEO Railway should immediately announce the permanent employment of these employees so that the employees can work equally and diligently in the current financial year. He said that the dues of retired railway employees and widows should also be paid immediately. He said that in the current budget, the government has allocated 180 billion rupees for the National Highway Authority. 593 billion rupees have been allocated for Benazir low support program while only 45 billion has been allocated for railways, which is equivalent to an excess for Pakistan's largest charity and welfare organization and cheap ride for common Pakistanis. They have demanded from the government. That the budget of the Railways equal to that of the National Highway Authority should be allocated immediately and the dues of the retired employees and widows of the Railways should be paid in one lump sum from the Benazir Inkam Support Program funds.

Protest for the recovery of Priya Kumari

Azad Baloch

DADU: Priya Kumari Action Committee Dadu led a protest in front of Dadu Press under the leadership of Aijaz Malkani, Mansoor Panhwar, Arbab Rustamani, Mashooq Zounr and others for the recovery of the girl Priya Kumari who was abducted 34 months ago from Sangrar area of Sukkur.

Aijaz Malkani, a social Worker who led the protest, said that more than 3 years have passed but the authorities have not been able to recover Priya Kumari. Where and who has Priya Kumari? The Sindh Government and Sindh Police know this very well, which is a question mark for the government and the police.

Aijaz Malkani has condemned the false news that has gone viral on social media regarding the recovery of Pyari Kumari and has demanded action against the elements involved in spreading false news.

He has demanded from the higher authorities to recover Priya Kumari as soon as possible and end the atmosphere of restlessness from the whole of Sindh.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A 35-member delegation of the United Nations Environment Programme's Denmark Mission, led by Senior Economist Xianli Zhu, called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam in the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination on Monday.



Photo: PID

MEPCO completes arrangements for non-stop power supply during Ashura Muharram

Asim Tanveer / Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Superintendent Engineer (SE) MEPCO Amjad Nawaz Bhatti has said During Ashura Muharram Mepco Has completed Arrangements to Ensure Non Stop power supply Provide to MEPCO Consumers. He Further said that they will use all their capabilities to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the month of Muharam and correct the bunches of wires hanging from electric poles on the mourning procession routes. Engineer of Rescue 1122 Muhammad Bilal said that on the occasion of Ashura Day, 30 ambulances and 09 motorcycle-riding rescue personnel will ensure the provision of medical aid to the mourners who were seriously injured by chaining. Medical camps will also be organized on the occasion of mourning processions and in this regard all staff leaves have also been cancelled.

He expressed these views separately from the delegation of the licensees of the old and central Imam bargahs under the leadership of Member Provincial Ittehad Inter-Muslimin



Committee Punjab and Central President Khawar Shafiqat Bhutta and Central Secretary General Syed Talib Hussain Faraz of the Imam Hussain Preservation Council. In the meetings held on this occasion, Senior Vice President Makhdoom Syed Saddar Deen Gillani, Additional Axiom Taj Mahmood Qamar, Divisional President Engineer Sakhawat Ali Sial, Malik Shajar Abbas Khokhar, Shahzeb Hasan Baloch, Bashir Hussain Lodhi, Makhdoom Syed Imtiaz Hussain, Syed Ahmed Raza Gardezi, Asghar Ali Qureshi Hashmi, Haq Nawaz, Muhammad Raheel, Nasir Hussain,

Amar Karbalai, Safdar Hussain, Syed Hasan Abbas Rizvi, Aamir Raza Jafri, Farast Ali Siddiqui, Asif Jamhat, Syed Ali Haider Bukhari, Hasnain Abbas, Syed Hasnain Zaidi.

Bismillah Haider, Sikandar Hussain, Qazi Waqas Ahmed, Mulazim Hussain, Syed Azhar Hussain, Muhammad Hasnain, Rana Shehbaz, Ijaz Hussain, Fazal Abbas and licensees of Jalalpur Pirwala also participated while Syed Talib Hussain Faraz led the mourning procession. On this occasion, SE MEPCO immediately issued orders to the concerned officers to solve the problems faced

by the licensees immediately before 1st of Muharram and assured that the Majlis Mourning and Mourning processions will be conducted on the side of bunches of wires hanging on electric poles on the occasion of the routes.

So that the mourners do not have to face any kind of problem, MEPCO administration will remain alert on the occasion of the month of Muharram and in this regard, the vacations of the relevant staff have also been canceled. At the end, Syed Talib Hussain Faraz offered a collective prayer for the security and prosperity of Pakistan.

First international conference on gender equality in economics to be held in Mansehra

Nasir Ali Tanoli

MANSEHRA: first international conference organized by the Economics Department of Hazara University, Mansehra, has started. Director of Linguistics Dr. Sarah Osborne and Prof. Oda Hisaya of Ritsi Mogen University Japan are participating. The purpose of the conference is to promote gender equality in the field of economy and women's participation in economic activities. The chief guest of the conference, Member of the National Assembly, Shahzada Muhammad Ghstasp Khan, said in his address to the participants that this is a very important conference.

The efforts of Hazara University and its administration deserve to be commended. He said that in order to compete in economics, economics, education and research at the international level, women have to be empowered and walk side by side

with men. He said that the participation of women in various fields of life is better compared to the last several decades, but still this rate is low compared to other countries. Prince Gestasp Khan said that legislation has been enacted from time to time in this regard, but more work is needed on it.

Hazara University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Mohsin Nawaz said that at present almost 50% of the population of our country consists of women. We can compete with developed countries. He said that women's participation in economic activities is the need of the hour and this kind of conference will be a milestone for empowering women and making them partners in all matters including economic decisions. The Vice-Chancellor said that the results obtained from the discussion in the conference should be placed in front of planning institutions and individuals so that

effective legislation and decisions can be made.

Japanese professor Hisaya Oda presented his research paper on the subject of Advancing gender equality in Pakistan and Japan and told the statistics of other countries including Pakistan regarding gender equality. Addressing the participants, he highlighted the role of women in economic and commercial activities and said that in the 2024 ranking of 146 countries in terms of gender equality, Pakistan is currently at 145 and Japan at 118. Which is far behind the rest of the world. He said that the two countries are currently facing various challenges in maintaining gender equality, which are very important to solve.

Barriers to women's participation must be removed for gender equality.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project Director Gender and Social Inclusion Dr. Mehnaz Ifikhar and District Officer



Social Special Education and Women Empowerment Syed Sabir Hussain Shah also addressed the participants of the conference and highlighted the positive role of women in the coun-

try's economy and business activities. Earlier, the chief organizer of the conference and the chairperson of the economics department, Dr. Misbah Nausheen, welcomed the professors

and experts to the university and thanked them for participating in the conference. Scholars studying in other related academic fields are participating in large numbers.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:18 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:22 pm
Isha 9:06 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Business-friendly culture should be adopted: Atif Ikram

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that earning foreign exchange without giving incentives to the export sector will be just a dream, one percent tax on exporters is a cruel measure. Due to the taxes imposed in the budget, the people and the business class will be directly targeted.

Federation President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that loans will not end by taking more loans, but by setting up industries, increasing exports, and adopting a tax culture, the debts will end. Terminate contracts with IPP, terminate the law of capacity payment. Adopt a business-friendly culture for which businessmen sit together, the government will have to end its expenses. Privatize everything in one year.



Atif Ikram Sheikh said that from the measures taken in the budget, it seems that the government is following the policy of ending exports, ending the tax exemption on raw materials will also increase inflation and the increase in inflation will directly affect the poor. A business-friendly culture should be adopted and the businessmen should be brought together, only then the problems can be solved.

Voila Aesthetic Clinic by Saima Dahri launches 'InMode' Technology



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A leading expert in the cosmetic surgery - Saima Dahri recently hosted a grand event, to celebrate the first anniversary of the 'Voila Aesthetic Clinic' (Instagram: Voila Aesthetic Clinic). This clinic is the first of its kind in Karachi, to introduce the revolutionary 'InMode' cosmetic surgery machine, based on next-generation technology, imported from the United States of America.

Dr. Sach Mohan - an award-winning cosmetic dermatologist and expert, with over 25 years of experience in facial aesthetics and lasers, chaired the launch event. While Ghazanfar Rauf - the official distributor of InMode, Candela, Hydrafacial Md, Lutronic, and other devices in Pakistan, also attended the ceremony, besides many celebrities who are regular customers of Viola Aesthetic Clinic. These prominent guests who appreciated the high-quality services offered by this clinic included; Javeria Saud, Mariam Ansari, and Shan Baig.

"Unsilencing Spaces", an exhibit on Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens, a Unesco World Heritage Site at Karachi

City Desk

KARACHI: Asma Chishty hosted a brunch in honor of Mr & Mrs Kamran Lashari, Director General of the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) in Karachi yesterday. The event was held to celebrate 'Destinations' and WCLA's decade-long partnership and introduce the city of Karachi to their multiple collaborative projects. The brunch was attended by distinguished luminaries, thinkers, writers, fashion designers, film-directors, and artists from various fields in Karachi.

Guests were enthralled by the brilliance of 'Unsilencing Spaces', an exhibit of breathtaking images captured by ace-lensman Mobeen Ansari essaying the glory of the ongoing restoration of the Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens - two of the city's most historic structures that collectively form an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This initiative aimed to acquaint the creative minds of Karachi with the glory of the Walled City of Lahore's magnificence and open up a whole new set of locations as potential subjects and backdrops of their future audio-visual projects.

WCLA's involvement in restoration has brought to light previously buried treasures, including the excavation of the Moti Masjid and Akbari hammams among other such gems of an era bygone. Attendees also enjoyed an exclusive documentary showcasing the historical significance of these sites at the event.

Asma Chishty stated: "This exhibit is a celebration of Lahore's vibrant history and a call to artists to rediscover its grandeur. We invite filmmakers, photographers, artists, and curators to bring their projects to life in these iconic settings as our national heritage should be free of provincial borders".

Apart from important cultural delegates and dignitaries, the star-studded event was also graced by noted names from the media, fashion, and entertainment industry including Bunto Kazmi, Deepak Perwani, Asim and Ayla Raza, Asad ul Haq, Umer Sayeed, Aamna Isani, Masuma Halai, Mohsin Sayeed, JS CEO Basir Shamsi, Ayesha Jalil, Frieha Altaf, Fifi Haroon, Tammy Haq, Seema and Shakeel Jaffer, Shehla and Saleem Chatoor, Zahir Rahimtoola, Sherzade Rahimtoola, Aliya and Hasan Jaffer, and Faizaan Haqee among a host of others.

7th Engineering Capstone Expo (KPK Region)- Pakistan -2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Engineering Council - PEC has conducted 1st Ever MEGA ENGINEERING CAPSTONE EXPO (FYDP- Final Year Engineering Design Project Exhibition) in KPK, Peshawar on 1st July '2024 at "Galaxie Hall Phase 2 Hayatabad Peshawar near Zargooni Mosque. CAPSTONE EXPO is a project of PEC Pakistan Development committee - PPDC. This is the 7th EXPO in continuation at National level (2 held at Federal Capital Islamabad Region; 2 held at Lahore, Punjab region and 2 in Balochistan). In this Expo 20 Universities participated and 82 shortlisted projects were displayed out of which 20 projects were PEC funded.

Engr. Abdul kareem Tordher, Special Assistant to CM for Industries KPK inaugurated the ceremony as chief guest. Welcome address of the ceremony delivered by the Engr. Syed Zulqurnain Shah, Deputy Registrar, PEC R/o Peshawar in which he appreciated the PEC and PPDC for organizing 1st ever MEGA event at KPK, Peshawar. Purpose of this CAPSTONE is to maximize the industrial-academia linkage and to bring market compatible projects/ideas.

Engr Mir Masood Rashid convener PPDC and advisor to chairman PEC, had CAPSTONE briefing and discussed about the 10 MEGA projects launched by PEC which all have been successfully launched and available online for easy access to stakeholders, students, Engineers, Industries, employers, universities and foreign organizations.

Engr Muhammad Najeeb Haroon chief guest in the Closing ceremony address highlighted on the Engineering community critical role especially in such situation in which Pakistan is currently trapped. He promised that INSHALLAH such programs will continue so that Engineers who are core pillars of society may have platform to contribute which is a must need for PAKISTAN. Its continuous and consistent struggle that can make a difference and bring the country back on track to development journey. As we cannot be always underdeveloped country which is already over 75 years now, we have to set the right direction so that developed country journey be travelled which is only possible when right direction is set and adoption of certain steps like STEM education (where from school passing level students be educated on the importance of science and technology), bringing practical projects from FYDP and CAPSTONE to market and promote localization of industries.

Engr. Waqar Ali Khan (PAS), Special Secretary to CM KPK on Development. Briefed audience that Engineers having no limits as he has been developed and drilled to think beyond his own defined limits, it's just the matter of doing. All are engineering and system problems which can be resolved as engineering solution exist along with technology advancement.

Engr Ejaz Hussain Ansari, recalled that CAPSTONE one of the great initiatives of PEC which we request to continue in future like this 3 years tenure for betterment of Engineers, Society and Pakistan.

All 20 Universities of KPK Participated with complete zeal being 1st ever MEGA event:

In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: People filling clean drinking water from a filtration plant at sector D-12 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Crackdown on LPG vendors spurs protests, gas crisis in Lahore



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Following the district administrator crackdown on LPG vendors, the All Punjab LPG Distributors Association called a protest this week in Lahore, ARY News reported on Monday.

The president of All Punjab LPG Distributors Association has announced a protest on July 4 in front of Lahore Press Club over the district administrator crackdown on LPG vendors.

The President of the Association expressed frustration, stating that despite several requests, Commissioner Lahore and Deputy Commissioner have not addressed their concerns.

"The district administration is targeting shopkeepers unfairly," highlighted Abdullah, a spokesperson for the All Punjab LPG Association. He stated that the crackdown has intensified the gas crisis in Lahore, affecting businesses and consumers alike.

Public will continue to suffer from mini-budgets

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that the government is constantly increasing its perks and privileges and also escalating the burden on the masses.

The backbreaking of the people continues while the interests of the elite are being nurtured, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the current budget is directionless and not according to the ground realities; therefore, it will fail to play any role in the country's development.

The budget is focused on providing undue benefits to the upper classes at the cost of masses and economy. It will make rich class richer and more influential.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that

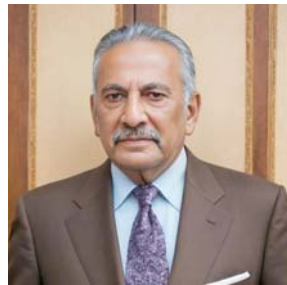
mini-budgets will continue to emerge from the womb of this budget, the target of which will be the people.

He said that the budget measures will increase poverty, anxiety, and unemployment. FBR's 94% of income is spent on loans and interest payments. The country will need more loans to please politicians and cater to defense and developmental needs.

This budget will cause public unrest, many businesses will close, and production will decrease because its targets are not realistic but based on expectations and assumptions.

The controversial budget will not decrease but will increase the deficit, which will cause more loans to be taken.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the government does not have any plan to increase its income without increasing the burden on the poor people, nor does the budget have any economic



direction.

As a result of the budget, it seems difficult to impose taxes on wholesalers and retailers. At the same time, politicians stand in the way of taxing agricultural income.

Farmhouses in Islamabad are being taxed, but this will never be done nationwide to please the elites.

As a result of the budget measures, taxpayers will be squeezed. At the same time, tax evaders will remain insulated and continue to enjoy life.

He noted that by raising

taxes on imports, smugglers are being encouraged. Tax authorities can improve matters by increasing direct taxes if they want, but they are not allowed to do so. In these circumstances, looking for local or foreign investment is self-delusion.

The business leader noted that in order to fulfil the requirements set forth by the International Monetary Fund for the forthcoming programme, which is intended to be a more extensive programme, the government is working extremely hard to raise the amount of money it receives from taxes.

However, in order for it to become a reality, the International Monetary Fund is requesting either a greater mobilisation of resources or an increase in the ratio of tax revenue to GDP revenue from the obvious reason of debt sustainability.

Graduation of LUMS Class of 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: LUMS recently celebrated the graduation of 1,407 scholars at the University's 36th Convocation. Surrounded by proud family, friends, and faculty, the students from LUMS' five schools received their degrees at separate commencement ceremonies held for graduate and undergraduate students.

Senior university leaders, including, Pro Chancellor Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Rector Mr. Shahid Hussain, and Vice Chancellor Dr. Ali Cheema attended the ceremony. Other members of the Board of Trustees, Deans, and faculty also joined in sharing the celebrations with the graduates and their families. Ms. Zara Fateh Qizilbash, Registrar, welcomed attendees, followed by the formal inauguration of the Convocation by the Pro Chancellor.

Dr. Cheema congratulated the graduates on their achievements and advised, "It is important that you make



it a mission to create value for society, rather than pursuing self-interest." Later in the day, addressing undergraduates, he reiterated, "Today, as you celebrate your accomplishments, remember that your education at LUMS has equipped you not just with knowledge, but with the responsibility

to engage meaningfully in shaping a better future. Your resilience in the face of adversity will be a powerful asset as you navigate the complexities of our time." He also requested the audience to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the three students who the University tragically

lost during the last academic year: Muhammad Zaryab Saroya, Syed Musa, and Abdul Hadi Khan.

This year's valedictorians, Dua Zahra and Syed Muhammad Sarim Gillani, spoke about the opportunities and experiences that shaped their time at LUMS. They expressed their honour in studying alongside some of the brightest minds in the country and conveyed gratitude for the transformative education they received at LUMS.

The keynote speakers, Prof. Ayesha Jalal, Mary Richardson Professor of History, Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, and Mr. Musadaq Zulqurnain, Chairman of Interloop Limited, offered wise counsel to the graduates. Prof. Jalal emphasised the importance of resilience, while Mr. Zulqurnain advised the graduates to prioritise their passion and pursue work that brings them joy.

The ceremony concluded on a high note with the graduates excited to explore the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

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Imran Khan's Biggest Dilemma

At this critical juncture, the entire PTI leadership must unite and focus their undivided attention and collective energies of politicians, lawyers, and technocrats to navigate the party out of its current challenges. The visible discord among party leaders stands as perhaps the greatest threat, capable of causing irreparable harm.

If the current leadership fails to acknowledge the fundamental flaws in the party's current composition, strategy, and plans—marked by a narrow representation largely dominated by lawyers, technocrats, and KP-based political activists—lack of plan to secure the release of their leaders, and neglects to open the party's doors for broader and more diverse representation, they would undermine the party's integrity.

Such actions would not only betray the PTI's founding principles and the national cause it champions but also disregard the enduring hardships and sacrifices, including imprisonment, endured by its leader Imran Khan over nearly a year.

This internal division came at a crucial time when unity, solidarity, and comradeship were most dearly needed to address critical and game changing challenges faced by the party. These challenges include the need for an urgent, doable and well thought out actionable plan to secure the release of Imran Khan and other incarcerated leaders, activists, and workers and reclaim their stolen mandate.

Additionally, PTI needs a coherent and highly effective strategy to defend numerous legal cases across various courts, including the Supreme Court. They must realize that the fate of the party hangs in the balance with the pending verdicts of the Supreme Court on several critical cases that hold existential value for both the party and its leadership.

The party needs to understand that the Supreme Court's decisions in sensitive cases concerning electoral irregular-

ities, PTI's political status, the return of election symbols, and the restoration of special seats for women and minorities will shape PTI's future trajectory. Ironically, in the sub-judice case of allocation of special seats for women and minorities to SIC, PTI reason best known to it, neglected to participate, a flaw that Supreme Court judges themselves lamented with concern.

PTI must realize that these cases demand the undivided attention of the party and require their collective ability to mobilize the public on a large scale in support of their demands. This is crucial to demonstrate PTI's resilience and capability to achieve its goals even in challenging circumstances.

In this background, PTI urgently needs a well-thought-out and fully articulated political and legal vision, strategy, and action plan to present a robust defense that convinces the full bench of the Supreme Court and aids the supreme court in reaching decisions aligned precisely with the constitution and the greater good of the people and the country. It is also crucial for the party to promptly determine whether the party's cause or positions in government, party, or parliament hold greater importance. Equally critical is resolving whether political sacrifices rendered by the political leadership, lawyers or technocrats should be the sole criterion for their elevation to positions of power, or if competency and suitability for the role should be paramount considerations. They must also decide whether to air their internal disagreements in public, or resolve their egotistical, self-aggrandizing differences in private or on the party platform.

Indeed, the lawyers who stood by Imran Khan through thick and thin, keeping the party afloat while political leaders were

incarcerated, in hiding, or abroad, or deserted the party, deserve commendation for their remarkable job.

However, they should also recognize that their talents lie in law rather than politics. They should focus on research, seek guidance from political leadership, and develop a strong, lawful defense for cases across various judicial levels from civil court to the Supreme Court. They should

willingly step aside to allow political leaders to lead the party politically and provide them with political insight while crafting defenses.

Similarly, technocrats like Raouf Hassan and Hamid Khan, who may not have public followings, should continue

to offer ideological guidance to the PTI founder and political leaders. They should refrain from meddling in or leading the political and legal decision-making processes where they lack competency or qualifications.

These three distinct departments—legal, ideological and political—working in harmony within their respective domains will significantly enhance the quality of the party and its decision-making processes. However, if individuals continue to dominate departments where they lack qualifications or competency, they would do a disservice to the party leader and the party itself.

At this critical juncture, with their leader facing immense hardship and nearing a year in prison for the greater cause of creating an egalitarian society and upholding the rule of law equally for all, every institution adhering to the constitution, and unlocking Pakistan's full potential, it is disheartening that he must also contend with petty and ego-driven disputes among party leaders vying for positions based solely on their endurance

of jail terms and hardships, rather than their skills, education, or public service record.

The party requires political leadership deeply rooted in the public, capable of mobilizing people to exercise their democratic and constitutional rights to protest to exert pressure on the government to meet their legitimate and legal demands, including the release of Imran Khan, his wife, and other political leaders, a re-evaluation of election results based upon form 45, the return of their allegedly stolen mandate, and the restoration of PTI as a recognized party with its election symbol.

This monumental task demands peace, unity, and consensus within the party at all levels, with responsibilities assigned based on suitability, capacity and ability. The political wing could be led by former President Mr. Arif Alvi, Omer Ayub, Fawad Chaudhary, Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, Mohammad Ali Khan, and Shehryar Afridi and others who have sizable and organic public followings.

The legal wing should be headed by Sardar Latif Khosa, Salman Akram Raja, Gohar Ayub Khan, Sher Afzal Marwat, and others who have proven legal qualifications, expertise, experience and ability to navigate complex, intricate and sensitive legal complexities and present a credible and strong defense in favor of their plea.

The ideological wing may be led by Hamid Khan and Raouf Hassan and such other highly competent, articulate and committed intellectuals.

All wings must work in harmony, enjoying equal status, importance, and value, equal excess to Imran Khan and should unanimously and collectively focus on achieving overarching objectives rather than getting bogged down in trivial issues that could distract the party from its goals.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

'Economic violence' against women, girls must stop

The UN human rights chief, Volker Turk, has told a Human Rights Council panel that it's time to eliminate laws and practices that contribute to "economic violence" against women and girls.

During his opening statement Friday to the all-day panel dedicated to women and human rights, Turk said there had been "extraordinary progress" thanks to the worldwide women's movement.

But the very fact that a separate panel needed to be convened on gender-based violence shows that progress has been "hard-won and fragile", he added.

The meeting's focus on so-called economic violence as a part of a wider pattern of gender-based violence occurs when a woman or girl is denied access to financial resources as a form of abuse or control.

Turk noted that one in three women have been subjected to some form of violence – physical, sexual, psychological or economic – at least once in their life.

"If one in three men globally were subject to such devastating and pervasive harm, an emergency summit would be convened," he said.

The High Commissioner said economic violence often goes unseen or unregulated but could be just as harmful as physical violence, as it usually includes forms of control, exploitation and sabotage.

"While economic violence most commonly occurred in the home, it could also be enabled and perpetrated by the State through discriminatory legal frameworks which restricted women's access to credit, employment, social protection, or property and land rights," he said.

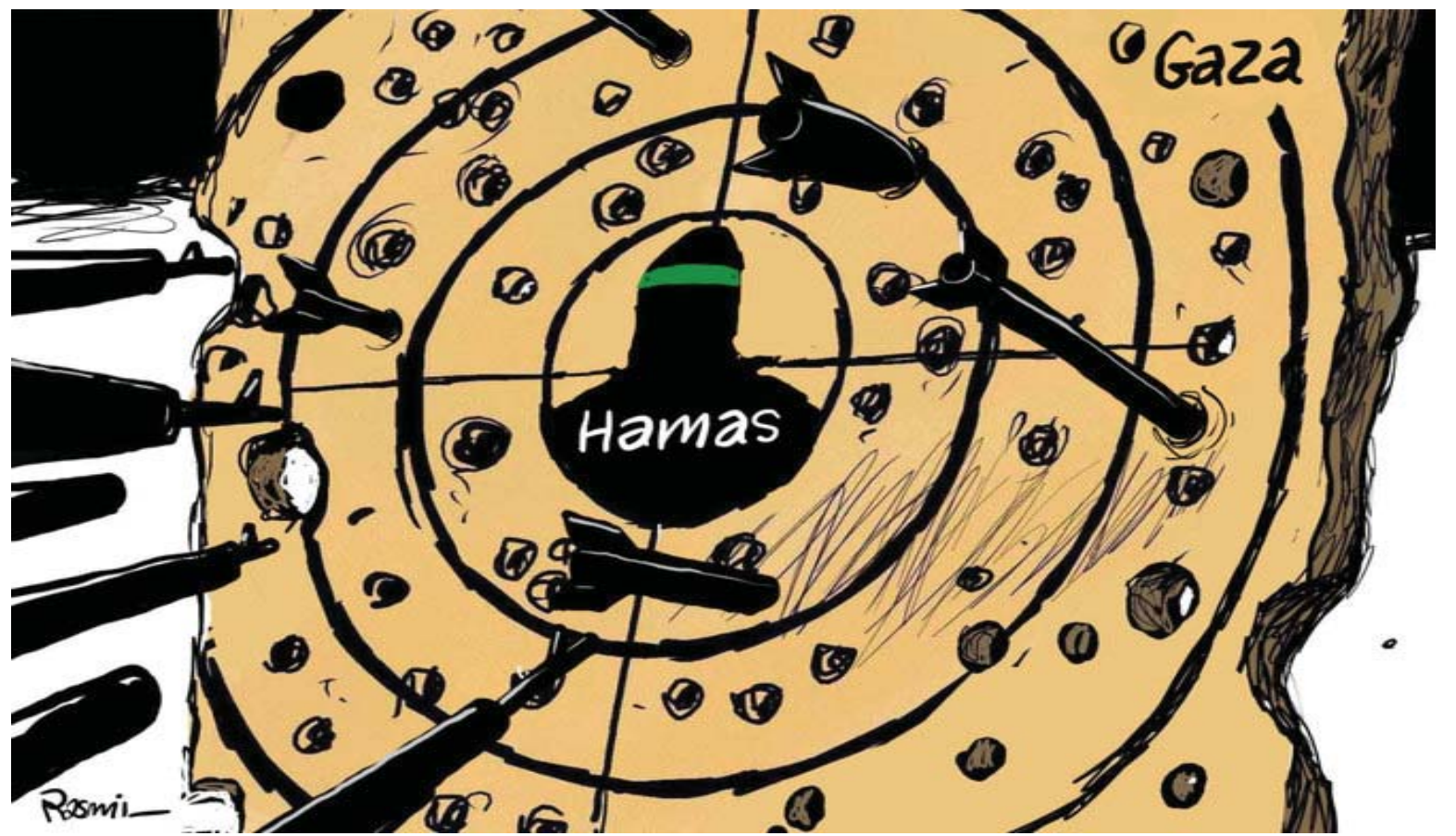
Turk declared that so far, global efforts to deliver on gender equality have failed, pointing out that 3.9 billion women worldwide faced legal barriers affecting their economic participation and women earn only 77 cents for every dollar paid to men, among other inequities.

He said there needed to be a thorough revision of discriminatory laws and practices to put a stop to economic violence.

"Gender equality needed to be positively fostered through laws governing all areas of life and there needed to be policy measures to ensure these laws were applied," he said.

Further, he said there needed to be a stronger effort to ensure survivors of economic violence could seek justice and assistance.

"There needed to be better complaint mechanisms, economic and social support systems, more widely available psychological assistance, and for perpetrators to be brought to justice," the High Commissioner said.



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

Pak Army's Impressive Standing in Global Military Strength Ranking

Throughout Pakistan's history, the Pakistan Army has earned commendation for its acts of bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to the nation.

From the challenging terrains of the Himalayas to the bustling urban landscapes, the army's invaluable contributions have impacted millions and left an enduring impression on Pakistani society.

Since its establishment, the Pakistan Army has stood as a steadfast guardian of the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. From defending against border incursions to combating cross-border terrorism, the army's vigilance has shielded Pakistan from external threats. In times of natural disasters like earthquakes and floods, the army has been at the forefront of relief efforts, demonstrating swift responsiveness and a commitment to aiding affected communities.

Pakistan has long grappled with the menace of terrorism, with extremist groups posing significant challenges to security and stability. Through operations like Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, the Pakistan Army has played a pivotal role in dismantling terrorist networks and restoring peace to troubled regions, often at great personal sacrifice.

The Pakistan Army's medical corps provides essential healthcare services to both military personnel and civilians, particularly in remote areas and during emergencies. Additionally, its network of educational institutions not only serves military families but also extends its benefits to the broader community, promoting youth empowerment and human capital development.

These examples represent just a fraction of the Pakistan Army's vast contributions to the nation and its people. As Pakistan faces contemporary challenges, the army remains resolute in safeguarding

the country's future and upholding its core values of unity, faith, and discipline.

With a rich history of strategic planning, modernization, and operational capabilities, Pakistan's military strength encompasses various indicators that underscore its preparedness and resilience on the global stage. Indeed, the backbone of any military force lies in its personnel. Pakistan possesses a substantial active-duty force encompassing personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. According to recent data, Pakistan's active-duty military personnel number approximately 650,000, placing it among the largest military forces globally. Alongside its active-duty members, Pakistan maintains a considerable reserve force to enhance its operational capabilities during periods of crisis. This reserve comprises trained individuals capable of swift mobilization to assist the active-duty military in defense and security endeavors. Estimates indicate that Pakistan's reserve force comprises around 500,000 personnel.

The Pakistan Army stands as the primary branch of the nation's military, boasting a diverse range of infantry, armored, artillery, and support units. Its strength lies not only in its substantial size but also in its extensive combat experience and operational preparedness. With its active-duty personnel, the Pakistan Army is well-prepared to safeguard the nation's borders and maintain internal security. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) possesses an impressive array of modern combat aircraft, comprising fighter jets, transport planes, and helicopters. Emphasizing air superiority and precision strike capabilities, the PAF plays a pivotal role in protecting Pakistan's airspace and projecting influence throughout the region. Its fleet comprises advanced platforms like the F-16 Fighting Falcons, JF-17 Thunder, and Mirage aircraft.

Pakistan's maritime strength rests with the Pakistan Navy, which operates a diverse fleet of surface vessels, submarines, and maritime patrol aircraft. Prioritizing maritime security, sea control, and power projection, the Pakistan Navy is instrumental in safeguarding coastal waters, securing vital sea routes, and executing maritime missions. Its fleet includes frigates, corvettes, submarines, and patrol craft equipped with modern sensor and weapon systems.

According to the World Military Strength Ranking, the Pakistan Army ascended from the 15th, 10th, and 9th positions in 2020, 2021, and 2022 respectively, to the 7th most powerful army globally in 2024. This accomplishment is undoubtedly a source of pride for Pakistan, reassuring its citizens that their homeland's defense is entrusted to the world's seventh-largest professional army.

Global Firepower has been annually evaluating military power since 2006, assigning a "PowerIndex" score to each country based on over 60 factors, with a lower score indicating greater combat capability. Pakistan's Power Index of 0.1694 surpasses that of countries like Japan, France, Italy, Turkey, Brazil, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Canada. However, despite the increasing prowess of the Pakistan Army, our adversaries relentlessly endeavor to deceive the impressionable minds of our youth through incessant social media campaigns. Nevertheless, history has shown that our nation and its army consistently thwart such attempts, emerging victorious.

The people of Pakistan take great pride in the recent notable ranking achieved by the Pakistan Army and vehemently oppose any attempts to disseminate propaganda against this esteemed institution of the nation. The people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with the Army and anticipate witnessing its unwavering commitment to Pakistan's development, advancement, and security under the dynamic leadership of Army Chief General Asim Munir.

AI & Pakistan's Flawed Judicial System - I

Undoubtedly, the judicial system of Pakistan is beset with formidable problems of diverse nature which have impeded the way of the country towards peace, progress and prosperity. It has been suffering from heavy backlog, rampant corruption, incompetent judicial and non-judicial staff, excessive favoritism and nepotism, insufficient use of technology and poor research culture. The judicial system of Pakistan is basically defective, thoroughly rotten and excessively divisive.

The unsound judicial mechanism of Pakistan has not only tarnished the image of the nation across the world but also spread the stream of tyranny, unfairness and chaos. It is evident from the fact that approximately 2.26 million cases are pending before the various courts of the country while Pakistan has been ranked at 130th out of 142nd countries as far as world judiciary is concerned. This alarming situation has caused the grave violation of fundamental rights and forfeited the constitutional virtues. Injustice, inequity and unfairness have become norm of the day. Historically, this colonial judicial system was put into practice to enslave and subjugate the masses and keep them distant from the corridors of power and governance.

Indeed, the advanced countries of the world like America, France, Germany and other have undertaken successful journey in every segment of the society due to sound mechanism of judiciary. They have left no stone unturned to provide cheap and accessible justice, fairness and equity to their subjects on their doorstep. Sadly, the judicial system of Pakistan is pathetic and deplorable. In this

regard, there is dire need of legal and judicial reforms and to transform the justice system. The integration and incorporation of technology and AI can be proved as soothing and mitigating to all ills and evils.

The use of AI can be proved as panacea to all the problems of the judicial system of Pakistan. AI has capacity and capability to manage the case flows, legal documents and precedents efficiently. It can be potential to decide cases earlier and to identify relevant precedents. In fact, the variety of AI tools is beneficial for legal research. It provides insights into complex legal issues. In turn, the judges and lawyers become efficient and faster to prepare cases, draft memos and make prudent decisions.

Currently, the people of the remote areas of Pakistan have no access to legal information and service. However, AI is the only tool that can ameliorate access to legal information and services. The underserved and unprivileged communities and regions are faced with the issue of lack of legal professionals. They can be served with provision of Chatbots and virtual assistants. It provides basic legal information, knowledge and guidance to individuals who are unable to afford the legal counsel. Besides, poverty-ridden and downtrodden people of the society are unable to get cheap and timely justice. Contrarily, AI tools can reduce cost, save time, minimize errors and optimize the resource allocation.

Moreover, the AI can be beneficial for legal professionals, judges, lawyers, researchers, court staffs and students. It augments intellect, widens vision and produces a refined material for the law professionals.

To be continued



Analysis

Zahid Karim

Xi's security vision and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Xinhua

BELJING/ASTANA: On June 15, 2001, then heads of state of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan gathered in Shanghai. Together, they announced the creation of a new regional group on the Eurasian continent — the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The SCO is the only inter-governmental organization named after a Chinese city. It has become a key venue for China to bolster its cooperation with countries in Central Asia and the broader Eurasian landmass.

Over the past decade, Chinese President Xi Jinping has attended every SCO head-of-state summit, including through video conferences during the COVID period. He shared at this multilateral platform his thoughts and proposals with other world leaders on ensuring regional stability, achieving more robust common development and contributing to a better world.

"A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far." In Xi's eyes, the development of the SCO, which represents about half of the world's population and a quarter of the global economy, accords with the trend of the times and goes along with the direction of human progress.

"The 'Three evil forces,' drug traf-

ficking and transnational organized crime are serious threats to regional security and stability." When Xi first addressed the SCO summit in Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek in 2013, he opened his speech with a clear and concise assessment of the security situation facing SCO members.

The SCO was born primarily for security reasons. Its predecessor, the "Shanghai Five," was formed to manage border security issues after the end of the Cold War. Terrorism, separatism and extremism, known as the "three evil forces," have for decades hung over Central Asia, becoming increasingly acute following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and the so-called Arab Spring.

As Xi debuted on the SCO stage, the region was facing a much more complicated security situation. The rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria caused a spillover of terrorist and extremist elements into Central Asia back then, resulting in more pressure for China and its SCO partners to forge strong security ties.

The Chinese leader stressed security cooperation at every summit and mentioned "security" more than 120 times in his 11 SCO speeches. For the Chinese leader, security is the bedrock of development, while stability is a prerequisite for prosperity.

"With peace, a country enjoys pros-

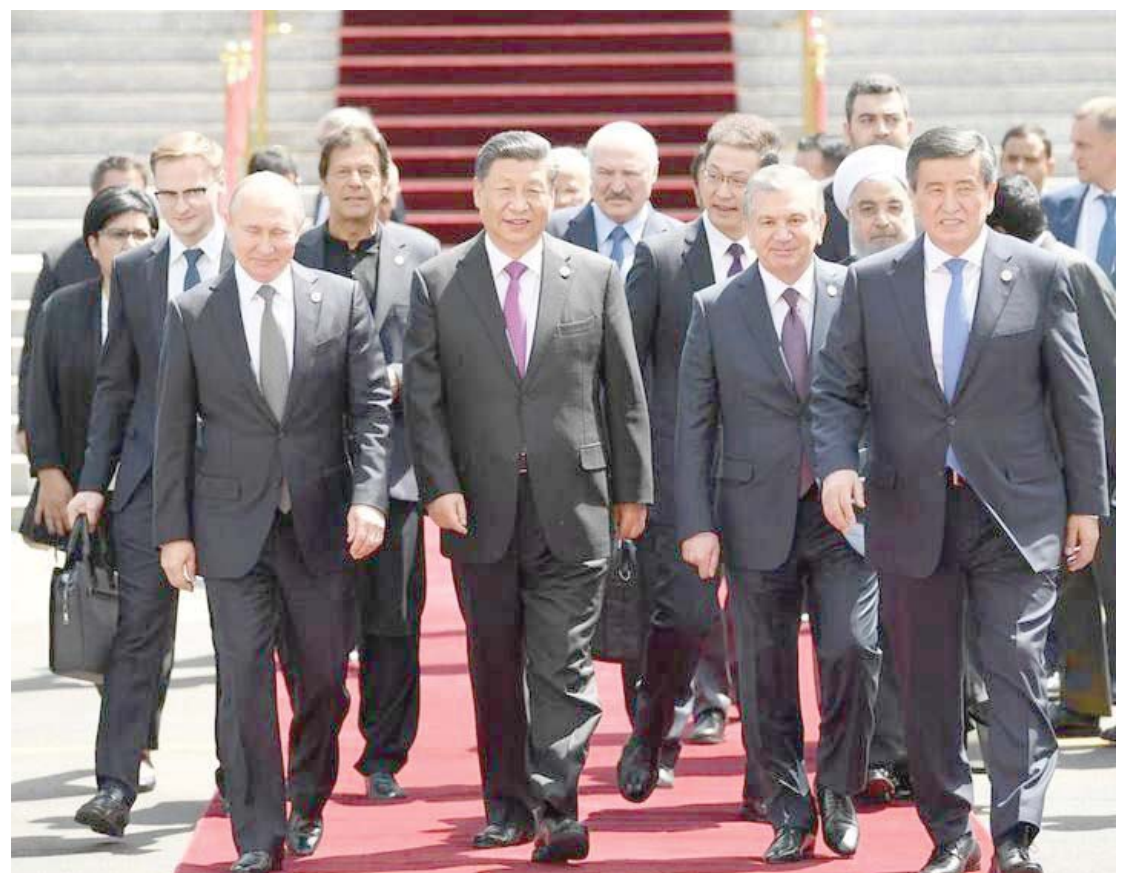
perity, just as with rain, the land can flourish." Xi once quoted this Uzbekistan proverb to explain his understanding of the relationship between security and development when attending the 2022 SCO Samarkand summit.

Xi pledged "zero tolerance" towards the "three evil forces" and underscored concerted efforts to eradicate them. He also urged the SCO members to help Afghanistan regain peace and push forward cooperation in tackling drug trafficking, organized crime, and nontraditional security sectors like cyberspace and outer space.

With the consistent push by Xi and his fellow SCO leaders, the SCO has, over the years, organized joint drills and cracked down on drug smuggling to cut terrorism financing. Those efforts have paid off. From 2013 to 2017, SCO member states foiled more than 600 terrorist crimes, captured some 2,000 terrorists and destroyed over 500 terrorist boot camps. Security mechanisms have improved, and joint drills have extended to cyberspace.

The SCO has also been a platform on which Xi expounded his new security vision for Asia — a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

The world today remains gripped by war and conflict. Xi has always been concerned with preventing war and



achieving lasting peace. In 2022, he proposed the Global Security Initiative (GSI), a global public good provided

by China to advance global security governance. The guiding principle of the GSI

is consistent with his security vision, offering China's solution to the question of the times.

Yousuf Dewan Companies Introduces New Honri Ve 3.0 Variant with 300Km Range

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Eco-Green Motors Limited under Yousuf Dewan Companies introduces the Honri Ve 3.0, a stylish electric hatchback designed for the masses.

Priced at 4,999,000 PKR, this vehicle is perfect for those looking to save on fuel costs while commuting daily, going to offices, taking family outings, managing daily chores, or enjoying city tours with friends and family. The Honri Ve 3.0 offers unparalleled performance, advanced



features, and top-notch safety standards, making it the ideal choice for modern, eco-conscious Pakistanis. With the option to book this innovative vehicle at just 50% of the total price, transitioning to electric mobility has never been more accessible or appealing.

The Honri Ve 3.0 stands out with its impressive performance specs, including a CLTC e-range of 300 km and a charging time from 0-100% in just 7 hours. The vehicle is powered by a permanent magnet synchronous motor that delivers a

maximum power of 35 kW and a maximum torque of 87 Nm, allowing for a maximum speed of 100 km/h. The 29.9 kWh lithium iron phosphate battery ensures long-lasting performance and durability. Additionally, the Honri Ve 3.0 features intelligent battery insulation and regenerative braking, enhancing its efficiency and sustainability. Drivers can choose between Economy and Sports driving modes to suit their preferences and driving conditions. The exterior of the Honri Ve 3.0 is both functional and stylish. It

features 15-inch rims and 165/55/R15 tires, providing a smooth and stable ride. The rear spoiler not only adds to the vehicle's sleek design but also improves aerodynamics.

Inside, the Honri Ve 3.0 is equipped with advanced features designed to enhance the driving experience. The vehicle includes a rear-view camera for easier parking and maneuvering, a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) for added safety, and a 220V AC charging gun for convenient home charging.

British Council awards Leadership Excellence Awards to Outstanding Headteachers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The British Council hosted the School Leadership Excellence Awards in Multan, Islamabad and Peshawar to recognise the achievement of 423 outstanding Head teachers in Federal, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa towards enhancing leadership empowerment, promoting good governance, inclusive leadership and driving instructional excellence in their schools.

The events were attended by the Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Mr Faisal Khan Tarakai, Director General, Federal Directorate of Education – Mr Tanwir Ahmed, Education Secretary South Punjab – Dr. Ubaid Ullah, Director General Education, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation – Mr Mahesh Ahuja along with the British Council team.

James Hampson, Country Director of the British Council in Pakistan

said: "Our Schools Connect Leadership programme for headteachers is specially designed to improve school governance and enhance quality, access, engagement, and learning. Our focus is on building capacity of headteachers so that they can play an efficient and effective role in creating a more inclusive and enabling environment for quality education in Pakistan. Congratulations to all the headteachers who participated in the training and earned the School Leadership Excellence Award."

Faisal Khan Tarakai, Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said: "Our collaboration with the British Council has empowered some of our school heads with the skills needed to lead their schools towards excellence. This partnership underscores the importance of international connections in enriching our educational landscape, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

The partnership between the British Council, Federal and provincial govern-

ments has enriched the educational landscape, inclusive leadership practice and inspired school heads to lead educational reform.

Despite many challenges, 131 head teachers from all seven Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated with 84% female head teachers. Head teachers developed instructional leadership knowledge and skills through school-based projects resulting in 39 award winners from Merged Districts.

The British Council Schools Connect programme is designed to bring about school system development and reform for quality and inclusion. It responds to demand from Pakistan for connection to UK expertise on key educational themes and facilitating these connections through policy dialogue, advocacy and technical assistance. Schools Connect supports inclusive and quality education for all learners, including for girls and marginalised children, and enhances the professional knowledge of school sector policy makers and leaders.

In collaboration with Education



Ministries, the British Council has introduced Leadership Standards for Head Teachers. This is the first time such Standards have been introduced in Pakistan. A scoping study with Federal and provincial senior practitioners, educators and with UK expertise, recommended school leadership standards under a leadership competency framework.

The Leadership Excellence Award ceremony celebrated the achievement

of head teachers in collaboration with Federal, South Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government partners; Federal Directorate of Education, Secondary Education Department, Directorate of Professional Development of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation. Out of 1,500 head teachers, 423 competed and won the prestigious award.

The British Council's technical assistance is also aimed at empowering parent teacher councils in KP and schools councils in Punjab at the community level to address educational challenges and promote inclusivity. This comprehensive approach ensures better governance, community engagement, and support for girls education and marginalised students, ultimately creating a brighter future for all students in Pakistan.

An Indonesian Flying School offers training and more pilot for Pakistani Airlines

Spokesman epot

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia received a visit paid by the CEO of Mitra Aviation Perkasa and Perkasa Flying School of Indonesia, Mr. Septo Sudiro. His visit to Pakistan aimed to strengthen the civil aviation cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan, including pilot training and pilot supplies.

"As far as I know, there are currently around 25 Indonesian pilots working in various Pakistani airlines. My company is able to provide highly skilled aviation workers from Indonesia to meet the needs in Pakistan, including pilots and aircraft engineers," Mr. Septo said to the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Rahmat Hindiarda and the Embassy's Economic Team.

Established in July 2013,

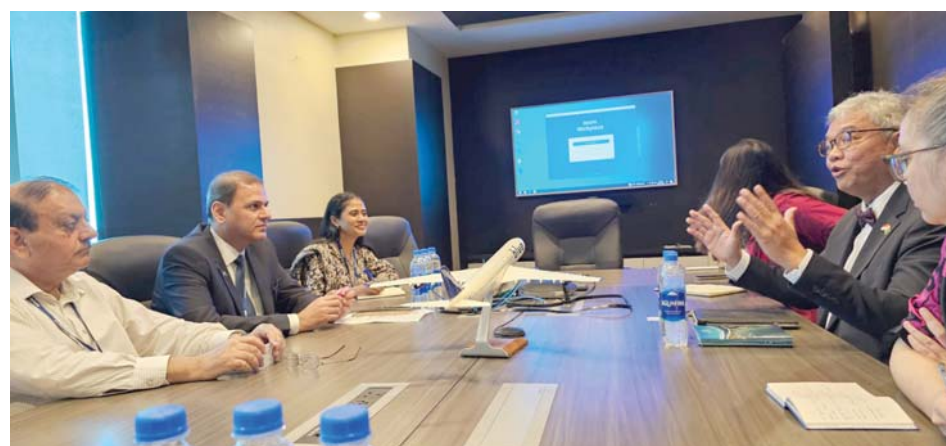


Perkasa Flying School has an ideal training base in Indonesia located at Tunggul Wulung Airport of Cilacap, Central Java as well as Nusawiru Airport of Pangandaran, West Java. The training base accommodates ground and flight training. The Perkasa Flying School is one of the largest international pilot schools in Indonesia with a PSC-141-017 pilot certificate and focuses on preparing pilot students who are ready to take on

roles as commercial pilots.

The Company offers a solution of the pilot possible shortage in Pakistan due to the flight boom and tougher competition among airlines at the global stage. The pilot school fee in Indonesia is considered as reasonable. Moreover, considering as the largest Muslim country in the world, Indonesia is definitely suitable for Pakistani students.

"Perkasa Flying School is offering a cooperation program



to Pakistani airlines to train their cadet pilot in Indonesia, through innovative financial scheme up to 50:50 that will surely create greater number of reliable pilots in Pakistan," he added.

Given its status as the largest archipelagic country in the

world, Indonesia continues to improve its civil aviation sector to increasingly meet safety standards issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other relevant aviation partners.

Indonesia reached the effective

implementation score of 80.34 for ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program-Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA). Based on this significant achievement, the President of ICAO Council awarded Indonesia the Council

President Certificate on 17 May 2018.

Previously on August 2016, the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) decided to put Indonesia on "Category 1" rating after significant improvement shown by the Indonesian Government on IASA Safety Audit. In addition, on June 2018, the European Commission updated the "EU Air Safety List" which cleared all airlines certified in Indonesia from the list.

Prior to his visit to Islamabad to meet his counterparts from Airblue and Serene Air, he visited Karachi to meet the Director General of Pakistan Aviation Authority (CAA), Capt. (Retd). Saif Anjum and representative of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in Karachi.

"Pakistani Airlines business should start to 'Look to the East', Mr. Septo Sudiro suggested.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
78,824.33	78,528.25	
Day's High	Day's Low	
79,536.22	78,427.79	
Index Value	Change	
10,804,011,171	+379.37	
Percentage	Time	
+0.48%	1 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,166.76	+2.64	
Percentage	Time	
+0.032%	1 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,187.95	+69.09	
Percentage	Time	
+0.18%	1 Jul, 12:48 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,631.06	+47.98	
Percentage	Time	
+0.12%	1 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.2	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.01	748.01
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.29	38.69
Danish Krone	39.98	40.38
Euro	293.4	296.9
Hong Kong Dollar	35.63	35.98
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.9	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.27	913.27
Malaysian Ringgit	58.99	59.59
New Zealand \$	169.34	171.34
Norwegians Krone	26.14	26.44
Omani Riyal	722.52	730.52
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	72.95	73.75
Singapore Dollar	202	204
Swedish Korona	26.27	26.57
Swiss Franc	309.01	311.51
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	74.85	75.65
UK Pound Sterling	349	352.55
US Dollar	277.75	280.6

Move will increase business cost of textile sector: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that OGRA and the Ministry of Energy should not take controversial decisions that will harm one sector while benefiting another.

He said that the decision taken to give cross-subsidy to the fertilizer sector in the heat of the budget should be withdrawn as it will have disastrous effects on employment and the economy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said important government institutions should avoid such disastrous decisions.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that textiles are the most important sector of the country's economy,



providing the most foreign exchange and employment after agriculture.

The textile industry contributes around 65% of our national exports, 46% of industrial produc-

tion, 38% of industrial employment, and 9% of the Gross National Product.

The textile value chain consists of multiple industrial sub-sectors. The value chain is quite long, from cotton picking to a finished garment of the latest fashion. The end product of one sub-sector is the raw material for the other. Each sub-sector in the value chain contributes to value addition and employment generation.

Therefore, the decision to cross-subsidy the fertilizer sector at the cost of the textile sector should be reversed.

The business leader said that the decision to extend the subsidy to the fertilizer sector had been made at a time when the industrial sector is forced to buy the most expensive electricity in the region, gas prices are skyrocketing, and interest rates are ruining the business.

Illegal imposition of Rs 50 billion cross-subsidies to the fertilizer sector, including the accrued differential of Rs27 billion from November 2023

through March 2024 and the monthly differential of Rs3.8 billion from April 2024 through September 2024 — in ring-fenced RLNG tariffs from June 2024 onward will have a destructive impact on the economy.

The government, via ECC decisions on June 6, 2015, and June 14, 2016, has also identified pricing components and parameters of RLNG to Ogra through the DG Gas office, effectively ring-fencing RLNG prices and ensuring no additional or undue charges are made to consumers, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the government should ensure that no additional or unnecessary charges are taken from the consumers, but this is not happening.

Important government institutions should bring stability through justice in all sectors of the economy. Otherwise, there will be instability among the main pillars of the economy, which is outside everyone's interest.

Price hike

ISLAMABAD: A filling station displayed new prices of petrol and diesel in the Federal Capital. Petrol price jacked up by Rs7.45 per litre, Diesel increased by Rs9.56 to Rs277.45 per litre; new prices come into effect from July 1.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

CCP approves 100% acquisition of Medialogic Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has green lit a merger within the TV ratings and streaming market. The approved transaction entails the acquisition of 100% shareholding of M/s Medialogic Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd pursuant to Share Purchase Arrangement (SPA).

M/s. Medialogic Pakistan (pvt) Ltd is a Pakistani private limited company that provides media research services to broadcasters and advertisers. Since 2007, Medialogic Pakistan has remained a key provider of media accreditation in the Television industry. The data provided by Medialogic Pakistan plays a significant role in forming the basis of media decisions taken by broadcasters, advertisers

and media agencies across Pakistan.

The CCP's Phase I competition assessment identified 'Media Research' as the relevant product market. CCP's analysis further confirmed that although Medialogic Pakistan holds a considerable market share in relevant market, yet the market-conditions will remain unchanged post-transaction.

With this approval, CCP expects Medialogic Pakistan will be even better positioned to deliver the optimum measures of consumers' rapidly changing behaviours across all channels and platforms.

CCP while implementing a mandatory Merger Regime reviews mergers and acquisitions of shares or assets, including joint ventures under Section 11 of the Act, thus keeping it at par with international jurisdictions.

ICCI delegation to meet Chief Minister Punjab on establishment of Industrial Estate: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) will extend all out support to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry with regard to the establishment of its own Industrial Estate in the outskirts of the twin cities for the promotion of businesses, creation of jobs and attraction of foreign investment.

This has been stated by Amina Faisal, General Manager Business Development PIEDMC while speaking at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during her visit and meeting with its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari here on Monday.

She said that business community is the key stakeholder of country's economy, therefore it deserves each and every facility for the cause to overcome the economic woes of the country, adding that ICCI-PIEDMC collaboration will go a long way for the economic development of the motherland.

Earlier, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry apprised the visiting guest about ICCI's endeavors for the much need Industrial estate to facilitate the business community of the capital city which is determined to help the government to come out of the existing economic crunch. He went on to say that very soon a ICCI delegation will hold a meeting with Chief Minister Punjab with regard to the establishment of the Industrial Estate.



He added that Punjab government and especially the PIEDMC support for the materialization of the project will be of paramount significance and will definitely prove an encouraging step for the business community of Islamabad.

He also apprised her about the successful manners in which the ICCI organized the two day All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference and she on her part highly appreciated the Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI for the initiative.

Former President FPCCI Zubair Malik acquainted her about the problems of the business community by saying the Public-Private Partnership for the flourishing of businesses is need of the hour.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Nilla Dulla is the nearest possible place available for the Industrial estate and that if PIEDMC takes its ownership or otherwise extends its maximum possible support for fulfilling the plan will be a precious gift of Punjab government for the business community of Islamabad.

Former President Shaikh Tariq Sadiq also made the mention of the difficulties being faced by the community by underlining the need for the availability of the level playing field. Those among other were also present on the occasion include former SVPs, Raffat Farid, Khalid Chaudhry and Sanaullah Durrani.

UBL, Lucky Cement sign USD-based loan facility for PKR 8 billion



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: United Bank Limited (UBL) recently concluded a USD-based Standby Letter of Credit Facility (equivalent to PKR 8 Billion) for Lucky Cement Limited (LCL), marking a major milestone in the collaborative relationship between one of the largest business houses and a leading bank. The signing ceremony was held at Lucky Cement Limited's Office located in Karachi. Participants included senior executives from both institutions including Ms. Nadia Tabassum – Deputy Head – CIBG & FIS, UBL, Mr.

Raeel Rafique, GM – Treasury, LCL, Mr. Owais Jamal, Head – Agency and Trustee Services, UBL and Mr. Aftab Ahmed, DGM – Treasury, LCL. Mr. Atif Kaludi, CFO – LCL appreciated UBL's management of the transaction during the ceremony, "We are immensely grateful to UBL for their exceptional service in arranging this facility for us. UBL has distinguished themselves through their initiative, efficiency, and competitive cost. This partnership has proven invaluable, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with such a reliable and forward-thinking financial institution".

Petroleum dealers reject call for strike

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Monday, the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) rejected a call for a nationwide strike on July 5 by some Karachi-based oil retailers.

Some so-called leaders have unilaterally issued the call under the pretext of additional tax on dealers, which is baseless and deceitful, PPDA leaders said.

How can dealers go on strike when no new tax has been imposed on them in the recent budget? Hassan Shah, spokesman for PPDA,

He added that the budget has slapped advance income

tax on Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs); therefore, they should fight their own battle and stop using dealers for their own interests.

He said that all petroleum dealers across the country have condemned the meaningless call of a nationwide strike on July 5.

Hassan Shah said that compromised leaders have reaped enough benefits by compromising on the interests of petroleum dealers, and now no one can use us to forward their interests.

We will not blackmail the government by becoming hired thugs. Still, he observed that we would go to any extent to resolve



our legitimate issues.

According to Hasan Shah, even after the imposition of this tax, oil marketing companies are supplying fuel at the old rates, as evidenced by the invoices. These companies have persuaded some dealer leaders to protest because those companies are not able to

protest on their own. OMCs should strive to resolve their issues on their own and avoid trying to use petroleum dealers, he underlined.

PPDA leaders, including Khawaja Atif Ahmed from Lahore, Numan Butt from Rawalpindi, Humayun Khan from Khaneval, Zaheer Ahmed Paracha from Layyah, Zaheer Ahmed Paracha, Wasim Butt and Haji Abdul Karim from Karachi, Haji Sawab Gul and Amjad Shinwari from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Nadeem Aziz Khan from Gujranwala said that now the dealers will not be used for anyone and they will make their own decisions.

Fly Emirates to Dubai and enjoy a complimentary stay in a luxury 5★ hotel

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: Emirates has today announced an exciting new offer for holidaymakers planning to visit or stopover in Dubai this summer. Starting from 1st July 2024 to 21st July 2024, travellers who purchase an Emirates return ticket in First Class or Business Class will be able to enjoy a complimentary two night stay at 5-star luxury hotel JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai. While those travelling in Premium Economy Class or Economy Class can enjoy a complimentary one-night stay.*

This special offer is valid for all return tickets to or stopping over in Dubai for more than 24 hours, for travel dates between 4th July 2024 and 15th September 2024. The offer is available on bookings made on emirates.com, the EK App, or via Emirates ticketing offices and call centres or participating travel agents, made at least 96 hours in advance of passengers' arrival.

Boasting two iconic towers standing at 355 metres, the JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai is the world's tallest 5-star hotel, providing visitors with some of the most breathtaking views of the city's skyline.

The iconic property is centrally located beside the Dubai Water Canal, with some of Dubai's most impressive attractions less than a 10-minute drive away, such as The Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, The Dubai Fountain and Dubai Opera.

The hotel plays host to an impressive collection of more than 12 award-winning restaurants, bars and lounges for diners to choose from, allowing guests to indulge in rich and diverse dining experiences.

While for those looking to rejuvenate, visitors can pamper themselves at the tranquil Saray Spa, featuring a traditional hammam Turkish bath, the UAE's only Dead Sea flotation pool, 17 treatment rooms, a state-of-the-art health club, and other fitness facilities.

JS Bank PACRA Rating Upgraded to "AA" for Exceptional Financial Performance

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan – JS Bank, a premier financial institution renowned for its dedication to excellence and innovation, has received "AA" rating from the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA). This prestigious rating reflects JS Bank's strong financial performance, robust risk management practices, and commitment to excellence in the banking sector.

PACRA's "AA" rating signifies high credit quality, affirming JS Bank's sound financial health and serving as a testament to the bank's prudent financial policies, solid capitalization, and strategic foresight.

In the words of Basir Shamsie, President and CEO of JS Bank, "Our rating upgrade to 'AA' from PACRA is an honour that reflects the relentless dedication of our team. This milestone reinforces our pledge to deliver innovative and reliable financial services to our valued clients. Our focus remains on driving growth through digital transformation and maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance."

Looking ahead, JS Bank remains committed to its mission of enhancing financial inclusion, supporting economic growth, and delivering value to its stakeholders.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 team named

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Players from four different nations have been named in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Team of the Tournament.

Rohit Sharma has been named as captain the team of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 after leading India to their second victory in the competition.

Sharma finished as the second top run-scorer in the competition, scoring 257 runs in eight innings. The pick of his performances came in the win over Australia, when he smashed 92, before adding 57 in the semi-final success against Australia, said a press release.

He was joined at the top of the order by Afghanistan wicket-keeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz, the only man to outscore the Indian opener.

Rahmanullah made 281 runs as Afghanistan progressed to the semi-finals for the first time in their history, making half-centuries in three matches. His 60 against Australia proved pivotal as Afghanistan progressed from the



Super 8s.

In at No.3 was Nicholas Pooran, the West Indies wicket-keeper batter, who scored 228 runs at an average of 38, including a 53-ball 98 in victory over Afghanistan.

The second Indian player in the XI was Suryakumar Yadav, the hard-hitting batter rewarded for some crucial innings, notably in the semi-final against England, 47, and the Super 8s win over Afghanistan when he smashed 53 off just 28 balls.

At No.5 was the sole Australian in the team, with Marcus Stoinis included after a stellar tournament. Stoinis contributed with bat and ball, scoring his 169 runs at an average of over 40, and a strike rate in excess of 160. He also chipped in with 10 wickets across the tournament.

The next all-rounder comes from

India, Hardik Pandya scoring 144 runs at an average of 48, while also picking up 11 wickets with the ball, and bowling the all-important final over to seal victory.

His teammate Axar Patel was similarly influential with bat and ball. The left-arm was promoted up the order in the final, scoring an invaluable 47, while his three for 23 helped secure victory over England in the semi-final.

Rashid Khan comes in at No.8, the Afghanistan all-rounder excelling in the Caribbean with 14 wickets at an average of 12.78 and an economy rate just over six.

He is followed by Jasprit Bumrah, the standout performer across the entire tournament. It was his spell that swung the final back India's way, and he finished with 15 wickets at an average of just 8.26, with a remarkable economy rate of 4.17.

The final Indian player in the XI is Arshdeep Singh, who was outstanding in his second World Cup. His 17 wickets were the joint most of any player, including a crucial two for 20 in the final. The only man to match Arshdeep's

wicket tally was Fazalhaq Farooqi, of Afghanistan, the final player in the XI. His four for 17 helped beat New Zealand in the group stages, as Afghanistan progressed ahead of the Black Caps.

Runners-up South Africa provide the 12th man in the team, with Anrich Nortje having been outstanding for the Proteas. He took 15 wickets at an average of 13.40 and an economy rate under six.

The team of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 (in batting order) includes Rohit Sharma (captain) India, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wicketkeeper) Afghanistan, Nicholas Pooran West Indies, Suryakumar Yadav India, Marcus Stoinis Australia, Hardik Pandya India, Axar Patel India, Rashid Khan Afghanistan, Jasprit Bumrah India, Arshdeep Singh India, Fazalhaq Farooqi Afghanistan and 12th player Anrich Nortje South Africa.

The selection panel consisted of commentators Harsha Bhogle, Ian Bishop and Kass Naidoo and ICC General Manager of Cricket Wasim Khan.

Shaheen Afridi reacts to national team's "surgery" reports

A Sports

Pakistan ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Monday, reacted to the reports regarding a "major surgery" of the national men's team following their dismal run at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

The left-arm pacer interacted with the media here and was asked to opine on a "major surgery" expected in the national team's setup.

"Whose surgery. Is somebody ill?" asked Shaheen. "Keep me out of politics. Please ask questions related to cricket," he insisted.

The pacer then claimed that he did not know about any potential change in the team.

Shaheen Afridi also commented on India winning the recently-concluded T20 World Cup 2024 after beating South Africa in a nerve-testing final and termed them a deserved winner.

"I watched the match and enjoyed it and both the teams played well. On the day whichever team



handles the pressure wins. India played a good brand of cricket and deserved to win," Shaheen Afridi told reporters.

The left-arm pacer then acknowledged the need to address the shortcomings of the team following their early exit from the mega event.

"Strong teams compete in the World Cup and they come after going through a

process. I think we need to correct few things and if we work hard, results will be with us," Afridi said.

It is pertinent to mention that the Pakistan team is in hot water following their dismal run in the T20 World Cup 2024.

The 2009 champions, in a first, were knocked out from the group stage of the tournament, majorly because of

their upset defeat against the USA, followed by a gut-wrenching defeat against arch-rivals India.

The back-to-back defeats had put Pakistan on the verge of an early exit from the tournament while the abandonment of the crucial group-stage fixture between USA and Ireland officially marked the end of their campaign in T20 World Cup 2024.

Junaid wins Tenpin Bowling C'ship



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Junaid Shafiq emerged victorious in the 2nd Islamabad Tenpin Bowling Ranking Championship held at Leisure City Bowling Club, Jinnah Park.

Muhammad Faheem secured the second position in the highly competitive event.

The championship concluded with a closing ceremony where President, Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Ijazur Rehman, distributed prizes among the players.

Muhammad Hussain Chatta and Shahzad Akhtar secured third and fourth positions in the championship, respectively.

The championship saw a large turnout of players from Islamabad, showcasing their skills and competing for top honors.

25th Men's National Baseball Championship Officially Commences at GHQ Rawalpindi Baseball Ground

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 25th Men's National Baseball Championship, organized by the Pakistan Federation Baseball, officially kicked off today at the GHQ Rawalpindi Baseball Ground.

The opening ceremony was graced by Deputy Director Lt. Col. Nabil Rana of the Army Sports Directorate, who attended as the Chief Guest. He was warmly welcomed by Syed Fakhr Ali Shah, the General Secretary of the Pakistan Federation Baseball, amidst enthusiastic applause from the assembled players.

In the inaugural matches, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa triumphed over Sindh with a 15-run lead. Key players Owais, Atif, Abdullah, Yahya, Hameed Tariq, and



Qasim each contributed two runs, while Musa, Moazzullah, and Abdul Rehman added one run apiece.

The second match saw WAPDA

securing a victory against Islamabad with a score of 10-4. Muhammad Wasim Ali led the charge for WAPDA with 3 runs, followed by Abidullah and Zakir with two

runs each, and Sadam Hussain, Imran Nazim, and Nouman Zulfiqar each adding one run. Islamabad's efforts were highlighted by Jibran, Tariq, Shafiq, and Wahid, who each scored one run.

The third match featured a face-off between the Army and Police teams.

During the ceremony, General Secretary Syed Fakhr Ali Shah presented a bouquet and an honorary shield to the Chief Guest, Lt. Col. Nabil Rana. In return, the Chief Guest awarded a shield to Moazzam Khan Klair, Executive Director of the Pakistan Federation Baseball. Also in attendance were Shahzada Butt and Shakhawat Shah. General Secretary Syed Fakhr Ali Shah extended his heartfelt thanks to the Army Sports Directorate for their unwavering support.

Hazara Lions, Rawalpindi's Nomi Railway completes T-Twenty career



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Hazara Lions Cricket Club Rawalpindi's captain, Nomi Railway, started his T-Twenty career in January 2020. He has played 202 matches, taking 404 wickets and scoring 2010 runs. Asad Khan Jadoon congratulated Nomi Railway on completing 400 wickets and 1000 runs in T-Twenty matches and awarded him a trophy and a cash prize. All players of Hazara Lions Cricket Club, Rawalpindi thanked Asad Khan Jadoon and assured him that they would continue to perform their best in the future and utilize all resources to win every match and ensure their success.

PCB Inter District U-19 (Karachi Region) Zone-IV, Zone-VI and Zone-VII won their Matches

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-IV, Zone-VI and Zone-VII won their 2nd Matches in the PCB Inter District Under-19 (Karachi Region) at various Cricket grounds.

The highlights of the days play Brilliant Batting by Saad Khan 84, S. M. Fahad 83, Huzaif Ahsan 75 and deadly bowling by Huzaif Saud 5/21, Rehang Shah 5/37 and Ismail 4/10.

Scores in Brief: Zone-IV beat Zone-V by 5 wickets in their 2nd Match at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-V 92 all out in 23.1 overs. Sufyan Usmani 22, Umar Farooq 22, Huzaifa Saud (sla) 5/21, Areeb Ahmed ((sla) 3/18, Muzmmil Khan (mf).

Zone-IV 96/5 in 23.4 overs. Masood Ali 30 not out, Alan Khan 26 not out.

In the 2nd Match at UBL Sports Complex Zone-VI winning their Match after beating Zone-II by 68 runs. Zone-VI 287/9 in 50 overs. Huzaifa Ahsan 75 8x4 2x6, Hamza Qureshi 48 7x4, Abdullah Alam 46 8x4, Abdul Rehman Niazi 26. Rehan Shah (rmf) 5/37.

Zone-II 219/9 in 50 overs. S. M. Fahad 83 12x4 2x6, Zain Jaffery 39, Abdullah Waheed 35. Huzaifa Ahsan 2/45, Saad Sakhawati 2/51.

In the last Match of the day Zone-VII also beat Zone-III by 160 in their 2nd Match at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VII 276 all out in 50 overs. Saad Khan 84 8x4, S. Kashan Faheem 54 4x4 3x6, Iraq 38, Ismail 28, Ahtisham ul Haq 21.

Ahmed Mohiuddin (ob) 4/22.

Zone-III 116 all out in 35.5 overs. M. Salman 35, Ahmed Mohiuddin 28, Zunair Ali Khan 26. Ismail (ob) 4/10, Zaid Hasan 2/28.

Carlos Alcaraz wins Wimbledon opener as Murray wants 'closure'



Carlos Alcaraz defeated 269th-ranked qualifier Mark Lajal at the start of his Wimbledon title defence on Monday as Andy Murray decided whether or not to call a halt to his All England Club singles career.

As action got underway, Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka was heading home after withdrawing from the tournament with a shoulder injury.

Alcaraz, still only 21, is chasing his fourth Grand Slam title and hopes to become just the sixth man after Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back.

Opening the Centre Court programme, Carlos Alcaraz recovered from a breakdown in each of the first two sets to see off the dreadlocked Lajal 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 6-2.

"He played a really good match, he obviously surprised me a little bit because I didn't have the chance to see him play a lot," said Carlos Alcaraz.

This time last year, Lajal was losing a first-round match at a second-tier Challenger event in the United States and earning a paltry \$780 — on Monday he banked \$75,000.

Two-time Wimbledon semi-finalist Sabalenka, ranked third in the world, is one of eight players to have pulled out since the draw was made.

She had admitted she was not 100 per cent fit after suffering a shoulder injury at the Berlin Open and has been replaced by Russian lucky loser Erika Andreva.

"Heartbroken to have to tell you all that I won't be able to play The Championships this year," wrote 26-year-old Sabalenka on X.

All-round Shanaka propels Falcons to sink Sixers in LPL 2024 opener

A Sports

PALLEKELE: Dasun Shanaka backed brilliant bowling figures of 3/20 with a quickfire knock to lead Kandy Falcons to a resounding victory over Dambulla Sixers in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 opener here on Monday.

Set to chase 180, the Falcons amassed 183/4 in 17.2 overs, courtesy of Dinesh Chandimal's anchoring half-century, followed by Shanaka's fireworks.

The home side, however, had a shaky start to the pursuit as they were reduced to 26/2 in 3.1 overs after opener Andre Fletcher (0) and wicketkeeper batter

Mohammad Haris (5) perished cheaply.

Following the early hiccup, Chandimal knitted an important partnership for the third wicket with Kamindu Mendis.

The duo added 56 runs to the total until Chamindu Wickramasinghe dismissed Mendis in the 10th over.

Mendis scored 27 off 22 deliveries, laced up with four boundaries.

Chandimal was then involved in yet another crucial partnership for Kandy Falcons when he partnered with Angelo Mathews to add 29 runs for the fourth wicket before finally perishing in the 13th over.

Dinesh Chandimal remained the top-scorer for the Falcons with 40-ball 65 which included six fours and three sixes.

His dismissal did not bother the Falcons as much as Shanaka charged on the Sixers' bowlers from the word go and steered his side to glory in the 18th over.

Shanaka scored a blistering 46 off 15 deliveries with the help of three fours and five sixes while Mathews offered a supporting hand with a 20-ball 37.

Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Akila Dhananjaya, Mustafizur Rahman and Nuwan Thushara picked one wicket apiece for the Sixers.

Earlier, after being sent into

bat first, Dambulla Sixers registered 179/4 on the board at the back of Mark Chapman's 91.

The Sixers had a disastrous start to their innings as they lost their top four batters inside five overs with just 25 runs on the board.

Chapman and Wickramasinghe then launched an astounding recovery with an unbeaten 15-4 run partnership and took their side to a competitive total.

Mark Chapman top-scored for the Sixers with 91 in 61 balls, peppered with eight fours and four sixes while Wickramasinghe made a 42-ball 62, hitting four fours and three sixes.



Dasun Shanaka led the bowling attack for the Falcons with three wickets while

Mohammad Hasnain took one.

The six-wicket victory put

the LPL 2024 standings while

Dambulla Sixers sank to the bottom.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Executive Committee Members of P@sha (Pakistan IT Industry Association) led by Chairman P@sha Mr. Muhammad Zohaib Khan



Photo: PID

Aurangzeb promises relief for salaried class, says rupee to remain stable

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government will provide relief for the salaried class at the first opportunity it gets, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said.

The minister added that the government was working hard to bring retailers into the tax net. He added that the new punitive actions will lead non-filers to think three, four or five times about why they are not part

of the net.

Aurangzeb also said that the government hopes to achieve a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund in the ongoing month.

The minister admitted

that Pakistan only has enough dollars to last a few months leading to the country running back to the IMF again and again. He said that an extended program with the IMF would be a stamp of approval for the economy's

stability.

While claiming that the currency would remain stable, Aurangzeb said that IMF or no IMF, Agriculture and IT are two sectors with potential of immense growth for the Pakistani economy.

Ambassador Asim inaugurates Pakistan Pavillion in Paris

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad has inaugurated 'Pakistan Pavillion' in Texworld Evolution Paris which would continue till July 3.

Pakistan Pavillion is showcasing attractive textile products of 12 exhibitors from Pakistan enthusiastic to work with international customers, a press release on Monday said.

Ambassador Asim inaugurates Pakistan Pavillion in Paris

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Embassy's Trade and Investment Section aimed to project country's prowess in textile world and open new vistas of growth and development by facilitating business to business (B2B) contacts with potential clientele, it was added.



IFA actions against contaminated milk; destroys 14,000 ltrs milk

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Monday took action against contaminated milk in the Federal Capital and destroyed 14,000 liters of unsafe milk.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique said that numerous complaints about adulterated milk prompted the operation.

Acting on a tip-off, IFA teams intercepted vehicles transporting adulterated milk at a motorway toll plaza.

The IFA, along with food safety teams, also conducted inspections at Bara Kahu and Simbly Dam areas of Islamabad and checked 20,000 liters milk. Upon which 14,000 liters of milk found contaminated which was destroyed.

The crackdown also led to the sealing of four major milk centers involved in the sale of adulterated milk, she added.

This operation was part of the IFA's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and quality of food products in Islamabad, she said.

The Deputy Director emphasized the importance of these measures to protect public health and prevent the sale of harmful products.

The crackdown would continue as the IFA works to address food safety concerns and respond to public complaints.

Dr Tahira urged citizens to report any instances of food adulteration to help maintain the quality of food in the city.

More than 80,000 Palestinians displaced in new Israeli attacks on Gaza City: UN

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Escalating Israeli military attacks in northern Gaza have now forced an estimated 84,000 people to flee the eastern Gaza City in a matter of days, while also cutting off access to a key aid distribution hub, UN humanitarian officials Monday.

The exodus from Gaza City's eastern Shujaiya district follows days of reported intense bombardment by the Israeli military, whose tanks have been sighted "around 100" metres east of Salah El Din road, the main north-south axis.

"People in this area tell us about the looming famine, and how people are eating tree leaves or only have flour to survive on," said the UN aid agency assisting Palestine refugees, UNRWA.

In a written exchange with UN News, a media website, Senior Communications Officer Louise Wateridge described the destruction in affected areas, which spans some seven square kilometres – as "apocalyptic – most people have lost their homes, either completely or partially, and have to flee with very few belongings; essentially what they can carry in their hands. Many

people have lost members of their families".

"Pregnant women and persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable as they cannot easily move during forced displacements, as well as huge concern for thousands of unaccompanied and separated children," Ms. Wateridge added. The violence has also prevented the agency from accessing its distribution centre in Gaza city's Tuffah neighbourhood, "due to its proximity to the front line".

Of the approximately 84,000 people currently displaced, some 10,600 have found shelter in a total of 27 locations including UNRWA schools, where pop-up health points are available and under increasing pressure to cope with demand.

Others are staying in government schools, buildings and open areas, the UN agency spokesperson continued.

To help those forcibly uprooted by the latest escalation in the conflict, sparked nine months ago by Hamas-led attacks and hostage-taking in multiple locations across southern Israel, the UN agency has already distributed water, food parcels and flour.

"The distribution of nappies,

mattresses and tarpaulins is also planned today," said Ms. Wateridge, who noted that some fuel for the agency's needs had been delivered on Sunday via the fence road separating Gaza from Israel.

A limited quantity of diesel had also entered the enclave to run hospital generators and desalination plants but needs remain huge, humanitarians have warned repeatedly.

According to the latest update from the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, access constraints, insecurity and ongoing hostilities have continued to "significantly impede" the delivery of essential humanitarian assistance and services across Gaza.

"This includes critical food and nutrition aid, medical care, shelter support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services for hundreds of thousands of people in need," OCHA said on Friday, noting that the Israeli authorities had facilitated fewer than half of the more than 100 planned humanitarian assistance missions, coordinated to reach northern Gaza this month. "The rest were either impeded, denied access, or cancelled due to logistical, operational or security reasons."

Tira, Lakki Marwat: Nine terrorists sent to hell in separate operations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On 1 July 2024, nine terrorists were sent to hell by security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Tira, Khyber District, where seven terrorists including HVT, Terrorist Commander Najeeb @Abdul Ur Rehman and Terrorist Commander Ishfaq @Muavia were sent to hell by the Security Forces.

The killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area and were wanted by Law Enforcement Agencies. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the



killed terrorists.

In another operation, conducted in Lakki Marwat District, own troops effectively engaged terrorists' location in which two more terrorists were sent to hell.

Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any terrorist found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

PTI vows stern action against violators of party discipline

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee decided to take stern action against those who violate the party discipline and deviate from its policy.

The PTI Core Committee met in Islamabad and 'devised' a mechanism to take disciplinary action against those who violate the party policy.

The Core Committee also rejected the resignation tendered by Secretary General Omar Ayub and the PTI founder will take the final decision on the matter.

Speaking to media representatives after the meeting, PTI leader Shibli Faraz there is 'no grouping' within the party. He; however, admitted that there are 'three or four people who create the chaos'.

Shibli Faraz said that during the PTI Core Committee meeting, the party bigwigs discussed disciplinary action against the discipline violators.

"No compromise would be made on the party discipline," he made it clear.

Speaking on the occasion, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali

Khan said that the Core Committee members suggested Omar Ayub to withdraw his resignation.

The PTI Chairman said the party founder would also be requested to accept the Core Committee's recommendations.

"There are some disciplinary issues in every political party. There is no grouping in the PTI," Barrister Gohar said.

Earlier on June 28, PTI parliamentary party rejected the resignation forwarded by party's secretary general Omar Ayub Khan.

The decision was taken during a parliamentary party meeting of PTI and SIC at the Parliament House. The meeting was attended by Omar Ayub Khan, Barrister Gohar, Asad Gohar, Ali Muhammad Khan and other party leaders.

The parliamentary body through a resolution rejected NA opposition leader's resignation as PTI secretary general. The resolution also paid rich tribute to the NA opposition leader for running the party's affairs during testing times.

The huddle also decided to send a message to the PTI founder about the decision of the parliamentary party.

AJK PM inquires after Ch Majeed's health

Bureau Report

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Monday inquires after Ch Majeed's health on Monday.

Prime minister Haq, while extending his best wishes to the former PM wished for his good health and early complete recovery.

The PM also appreciated the former premier's significant role in the development of Azad Kashmir. On this occasion, Ch Majeed congratulated the AJK prime minister for presenting a balanced new fiscal year AJK budget.

Majeed also appreciated Anwaar-ul-Haq led coalition government's good governance and people-friendly initiatives, especially the introduction of Social Protection Endowment Fund in Azad Jammu Kashmir.

'MQM-P would demand President Zardari's resignation'

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) senior leader Dr. Farooq Sattar said that if the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) demands the resignation of Sindh governor, his party would also seek the resignation of President Asif Ali Zardari.

Speaking to media Dr. Farooq Sattar said that the PPP diverted from the main issue by demanding Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori's resignation.

He also praised Governor Tessori's service to the people of Sindh, saying he has risen above party affiliation to serve the public. He condemned PPP's behavior as "non-political" and accused them of trying to shift the focus away from the real issue.

5Es Framework to foster ...

Continued from Page 1

of support and provide guidance on approvals and assignments.

The meeting aimed to leverage Kearney's expertise to drive economic growth and stability in Pakistan.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of collaboration and concerted efforts to achieve the country's strategic goals.

Tarar responds to Khaqan...

Continued from Page 1

members of the national and the provincial assemblies. He said they have quoted an extremely exaggerated figure on the basis of misinformation.

The Minister further said the government is working on the agenda of introducing reforms to cut expenditure. He said department like Paki-

stan Public Works Department is being dissolved on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He said a committee on down and right sizing has also been formed under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. Besides, the government is actively pursuing privatisation of State-Owned Enterprises like the Pakistan International Air Lines.