



Armed forces, nation aware of digital terrorism by enemies, united in defeating notorious designs

😂 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The 265th

stan. it said. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) hkam", which was aimed at

designs of the enemies of Paki- discussion on various aspects regional peace and security. of the operation "Azm-e-Iste-

The forum expressed soli- in curbing all illegal activities darity with the people of which hamper investors' confi-Corps Commanders' Conference General Syed Asim Munir harnessing the national counter Kashmir and Palestine, and condemned serious human the General Headquarters, an nised manner to dismantle the rights violations, war crimes and genocide being perpetrated in tion on the Pakistan Army's

edly assisting the government

congratulates Keir **Starmer on victory** in UK election

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday congratulated the Labour Party leader Keir Starmer on his victory in the parliamentary election in the United Kingdom.

The president wrote on his X timeline that Pakistan looked forward to working with the new UK government to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

President expressed the hope that Keir lenges faced by the world.

Starmer would play his role Zardari in addressing the shared chal-

PM felicitates Keir Starmer on victory in UK general elections



itated Sir Keir Starmer on the landslide victory of the Labour Party in the UK's general elections.

In his social media post on X, the prime minister said he looked forward to working closely with the new UK government.

"Looking forward to working closely with the new UK government, under Sir 腾 City Desk Starmer's wise and able leadership, to further strengthen ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister and broaden the Pakistan-UK Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felic- partnership.

(CCC) on Friday underscored that the onslaught of politically motivated digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators, duly abetted by their foreign cohorts against state institutions was meant to induce despondency in the nation and sow discord through peddling of blatant lies, fake news and propaganda.

The armed forces along with in the country. the nation were, however, fully aware of all such machinations and stood united and committed in defeating the notorious the country and had a detailed

presided over the CCC) here at Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of, Shuhada (martyrs) of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and the citizens who had laid their lives for peace and stability

The conference undertook a comprehensive review of internal regional security situation,

terrorism efforts in a synchronexus of terrorism and illegal spectrum for enduring stability

and economic prosperity. The forum noted with concern the unwarranted criticism by some quarters and deliberate misrepresentation of the vision, only for furthering their vested interests.

It also deliberated upon reaffirmed its commitment to

Kashmir and Gaza. It affirmed that the military leadership was cognizant of the full spectrum of the challenges and resolved to shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of

the resilient people of Pakistan. The forum reiterated to continue full support of ongoing and external security situation of especially Afghanistan and efforts in uplifting the socioeconomic growth and wholeheart-

dence, economic stability and growth.

Expressing full satisfaccommitment to national security, the COAS stressed upon maintaining high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness.

The Pakistan Army had always been fully prepared to thwart all internal and external challenges and play its due role in the stability and prosperity of Pakistan, regardless of the challenges posed, he added.

PTI members to attend APC, says Imran Khan

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI members conference (APC) on the er Imran Khan said on Friday.

"PTI members will attend the APC only to listen to the government's stance, as this is a national issue," he said in an informal interaction with journalists at the Adiala Jail. "They will participate for the sake of the country."

that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been considering issued after the Central Apex convening the APC to take Committee on National the political leadership into Action Plan in Islamabad. confidence over the counterterrorism campaign 'Oper-

the premier might summon the APC next week.

Last month, PM Shehbaz would attend the all-parties approved a reinvigorated national counter-terrorism counter-terrorism operation campaign by launching Azm-i-Istehkam, party found- the operation 'Azm-i-Istehkam'. It was approved with the consensus of all stake-

holders including provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. "Azm-i-Istehkam will inte-

grate and synergise multiple lines of effort to combat the menaces of extremism and On Thursday, Aaj News terrorism in a comprehenwhile citing sources reported sive and decisive manner," according to a statement

But opposition parties

expressed concerns over ation Azm-i-Istehkam' after the operation and called for returning to Pakistan from taking Parliament into confithe Shanghai Cooperation dence before taking any such Organisation. It is expected decision.

PM's visit to Central Asian states achieves a major milestone: Tarar

😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar Friday said that the government had achieved a milestone with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent official visit to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, especially on diplomatic and economic fronts.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation received a splendid reception during his visits interest in increasing partnership to the Central Asian states," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

The Pakistani ports were the mainstay of the discussions of the prime minister with the top officials of the Central Asian states that were landlocked countries and had a keen

with Pakistan, he said.

The land and railway routes also came under discussion to promote bilateral trade between them, he added.

For giving a boost to Pakistan's bilateral trade with the two Central Asian states, the provision of facili-

ties to the business community was also discussed during the meetings, he noted.

Tarar said PM Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kazakhstan was held in a welcoming and friendly environment.

With President Putin, he said, the discussion encompassed promoting cooperation and partnership between the two countries' diverse economic sectors including agriculture, mining, petrochemicals and others.

The delegations exchange was expected between the two countries which would eventually increase the bilateral trade, he added.

Continued on Page 3



Commerce Desk

would further burden the financially strained citizens, the gories except Electric Vehicle National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) notified on Friday the Rs3.33 per unit in a notification. hike in the fuel cost adjustment

charges for May.

"The above adjustment of ISLAMABAD: In a move that Rs.3.3287/kWh shall be applicable to all the consumer cate-Charging Stations (EVCS) and lifeline consumers," Nepra said

The electric shock comes a day

the per-unit price of electricity from July.

As many as 32.5 million consumers would pay an additional amount of at least Rs580 billion in this fiscal year which is over and above the existing cost

after the government approved of electricity. Many believe such adjustment shall be shown up to 51% or Rs7.12 increase in an increase in tariff was due to the mismanagement and wrong energy policies of past three decades.

According to the notification, the additional charges would be included in the July electricity bills for consumers. "The said

separately in the consumers' bills on the basis of units billed to the consumers in the month of May 2024. XWDISCOs shall reflect the fuel charges adjustment in respect of May 2024 in the billing month of July 2024," it said.

Advance tax not applicable on petrol pumps, says FBR after govt, dealers talks succeed

😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: There would be no additional tax on petrol pumps, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) said on Friday night after successful negotiations between the government and the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association.

"It is clarified that the provisions of tax collection under Section 236H are not applicable on dealers/retail outlets of oil marketing companies as the income of such person fall under the purview of Final Tax Regime in terms of section 169 of the Ordinance and it is full and final discharge of tax liability by the dealers/retail outlets of OMCs," the FBR said in a memorandum.

The Petroleum Division had sought clarification their cooperation.

from the FBR over excluding OMCs from the applicability of Section 236H.

The FBR said that the petroleum dealers operate in the regulated sector under a fixed margin and the authority collected income tax from them under Section 156 of the Income Tax Ordinance.

The Directorate General Oil sought clarification after petroleum dealers/retail outlets complained that they were facing hardships after the scope of Section 136H was extended to all sectors of the economy through the Finance Act.

While reacting to the development, the association thanked the authority, the Petroleum Division secretary, and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Association chairman for

Islamabad administration cancels NOC for PTI's July 6 rally

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters hold portraits of former prime minister Imran Khan, as they protest against the alleged skewing in national election in Peshawar on March 10, 2024.

In a move to "ensure public safety," the Islamabad administration has cancelled the no-objection certificate (NOC) for the PTI rally scheduled to be held in the federal capital on Saturday (today).

The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by the chief commissioner who

discussed concerns over public security and the observance of Muharram.

In a statement, the Islamabad administration said the safety and security of the public was "their top priority."

On Thursday, the district administration granted permission to PTI to hold a rally on July 6 in Turnol, Islamabad.

According to the party's social media platforms, the PTI leadership was preparing for the rally and calling upon its supporters to turn up in big numbers for the public gathering.

The Spokesman

National Saturday, July 6, 2024

Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami says PM has no credibility to take economic decisions

🐞 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has said that the government has no public support and no credibility to take economic and important decisions For Public. The Prime Minister proudly announced that the budget was prepared in consultation with the IMF. People cannot be left at the mercy of the situation, if the lava explodes, anarchy will follow, as usual, undemocratic forces can take advantage, they want to start an organized movement, give relief to the people. The agenda of the July 12 sit-in is the increase in expensive electricity, gas, petroleum levy and heavy taxes on the salaried class. Full support of traders is required for the protest movement, before

with the traders, there is no other option but peaceful democratic resistance, democratic freedom in the country, proportional representation and zakat and usher instead of usury. Want a system.

He expressed these views while consulting the leaders of business organizations of Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad on the protest movement in Mansoora and later talking to the media. Secretary General Amirul Azim, Secretary Information Qaiser Sharif, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Lahore Ziauddin Ansari Advocate, General Secretary Pakistan Business Forum Khalid Usman and business leader Ejaz Tanveer were also present on the occasion. The business leaders assured

Amir Jamaat of full support for or after the dharna they will call the sit-in and shutdown and said sible, now we have to struggle,

for shutterdown in consultation that they appreciate the decision of the Jamaat-e-Islami leadership to fight for people's rights, and the consultation will continue in the future

Hafiz Naeemur Rahman said that the budget comes every fortnight in the country, the rulers are not ready to reduce their privileges, taxes are not imposed on the landlords, the demand for electricity decreased when the people installed solar panels. The benefit is going to the IPPs instead of the public and the industry, private companies are getting billions of rupees in capacity charges even without generating electricity. Military civil bureaucracy, politicians, family parties are lavishing on state resources, the country has been destroyed in 77 years, those who are in power are respon-



electricity prices. There should be, taxes on salaried employees should be reduced, taxes on exports should be abolished. He said that at this time the stage of saving the country is facing, we e-Islami will emerge as a major ized movement, our unity is mercy of the imposed ruling elite.

there is no other option, reduce are not doing politics for personal power in the coming days. reasons, our politics is worship, we have to get people out of despair, businessmen should help us, our platform is here for them, start membership drive. Jamaat-

Amir Jamaat said that at this

with people, traders, workers, farmers and youth, raising voice time no one is talking about the for women's rights. He appealed people except Jamaat-e-Islami. to the businessmen to unite and Why didn't we get the share? start the struggle for rights, the Jamaat-e-Islami is an organ- country cannot be left at the

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Nagvi, Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci and others cutting the ribbon during launching ceremony of 1st ever environment friendly E-Buses in the Federal Capital.



RPO Sahiwal Visited At Offices and Chinese Engineers Residents

😂 Javed Shoukat Waince

SAHIWAL: Sahiwal **Regional Police Officer** Mehboob Rasheed visited the offices and residences of Chinese residents in Sahiwal and instructed to improve the security. **Regional Police Officer** Mehmood Rasheed and District Police



Officer Faisal Shehzad made a detailed visit to check the security of the Chinese working on various projects in Sahiwal. The police officers said that in the context of ongoing development projects in Sahiwal region, the security of Chinese residents and citizens is the first priority. The head is performing. The District Police and Special Protection Unit (SPU) are carrying

out the security of residences, offices, working sites of Chinese citizens with utmost zeal. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a great example of Pakistan-China friendship. He said that strict implementation of the SOPs issued by the Home Department is being ensured for the security of foreign nationals. He further said that a safe environment is being provided to all foreign nationals. And foolproof security is being provided to offices, working sites and residences. Movement of foreigners is being made foolproof by route clearance and security.

Nishtar University workshop on endoscopy, colonoscopy and endoscopic ultrasound

TMA, village and neighborhood council protest against non-receipt of funds in Abbottabad

👺 Sohail Abbasi

ABBOTTABAD: Abbottabad village and neighborhood council chairmen staged a protest against non-receipt of funds to local body members, threatened to lock the offices of VCs, Tehsil and Assistant Director if their demands were not accepted. The members of Circle Tanaloal Tehsil Council have also decided to respond to the call of the Provincial Action Committee. They demanded from the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to restore the Zahid Khan, Salim Khan, Aftab Ahmed, powers of the local body and release funds. Tehsil Councilor Sardar Saeed.



Waqar Gul, Muhammad Iqbal, Waseem

Mughal, Sher Khan, Naseer Khan, Raja Naseer, Wali Rahman, Raja Zeeshan, Khan, Dildar Awan, Aamir Fazal, Nazir Sikandar Ayaz, Sardar Shabbir and

others announced a joint struggle without party affiliation and gave a deadline to the provincial government. Village and neighborhood chairmen further said that two years of the local council have been wasted. Funds should be given. The protestors said that on one hand the government is lamenting the lack of funds while on the other hand it has increased its benefits and salaries. The TMA has been demanded to be held accountable. Earlier, the members of Tehsil Council took out a rally and raised slogans against the government for not getting funds. Various demands were listed including restoring 2019.

Shah pays eulogizing tributes to Shaheed Burhan Wani and his colleagues on their martyrdom anniversary

😂 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Senior Hurriyat leader and chairman Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabir Ahmed Shah has paid eulogizing tributes to Shaheed Burhan Muzaffar Wani and his associates on their martyrdom anniversary being held on 08 July.

In his message from Tihar jail, the incarcerated leader, while Lauding the supreme sacrifices of the martyred commander and his other associates who embarrassed martyrdom while fighting the occupation forces on the day, said, "Their unparalleled sacrifices for the freedom movement will serve as a beacon to illuminate our pathway to freedom".

Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to uphold the martyrs' mission, the jailed

anniversary with a renewed commitment to continue ongoing freedom struggle till they achieve their cherished goal of freedom from India's occupation.

Terming Shaheed Burhan Wani as the icon of resistance, Shah said, "Shaheed Burhan Wani left behind a proud legacy that will continue to inspire the Kashmir's incoming generations".

"The way he rejuvenated the freedom movement in his short life will serve as an inspiration for the coming generations", he maintained.

He said that Wani family has set a great example of courage and commitment towards the national cause.

' The martyrs of Kashmir and their supreme sacrifices can never be forgotten", Shah said, adding that the leader appealed the Kashmiri masses memories of those children, young and to observe the martyred commander's elders were still fresh in our hearts who



faced the deadly bullets and pellets during the mass uprising triggered after the martyrdom Burhan and his colleagues.

"Thousands of martyrs, who laid down their precious lives during the ongoing liberation struggle, will continue to live in our hearts and minds", he said, adding their memories won't fade away from our minds. Shah regrettably noted that during the 2016 uprising hundreds of political activists especially the young boys who were arrested and booked under draconian laws continue to languish in different jails in and outside Kashmir.

Urging the international community to take effective notice of the matter, Shah said that the world bodies must take up the issue with government of India to help secure early release of all Kashmiri prisoners who have been detained before and after 5th August 2019.

Reiterating his party's call for resuming talks to find out an amicable solution to the Kashmir conflict, Shah said that it was high time that the Indian government should revisit its policy and create a conducive environment wherein all the stakeholders could sit together to bring about a solution to the lingering dispute that has been the main cause and consequence of bloodshed and unrest in the region.

腾 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A Two-day Endoscopy, colonoscopy and endoscopic ultrasound workshop was organized under the auspices of Nishtar Hospital Multan Department of Stomach and Liver, in which more than 8 doctors were trained in endoscopy and colonoscopy. This workshop will be held under the leadership of Associate Professor Dr. Yasir Abbas Zaidi, Head of Gastroenterolo-



gy Department, Nishtar Hospital, Multan. Assistant professors Dr. Shehryar Kanjo and Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Sanwan of the Department of Stomach and Liver Nishtar Hospital performed the duties of the course director. In this workshop, the local and foreign gastroenterologists of the Department of Stomach and Liver, Prof. Dr. Ghayasul-Nabi Tayyab, Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba and Dr. Muslim Ateeq gave special lectures. Participated and conducted various advanced courses. On this occasion, the first endoscopic ultrasound machine of South Punjab was inaugurated by Acting Vice-Chancellor Nishtar University Professor Dr. Khalid Hussain Qureshi and Principal Nishtar Medical College Dr. Rashid Qamar Rao. Poor patients will benefit and more help in diagnosis and treatment of difficult gastrointestinal diseases.

At the end of the workshop certificates were distributed to the guests and participants of the workshop.

Three killed, seven injured in remote control explosion near Takht Bhai bridge

😂 🛛 Tariq khan Yousafzai

MARDAN, TAKHTBHAI: A remote control explosion occurred near the Takht Bhai Jalala bridge on a mobile vehicle of an ASP under training as a result of which three people were killed and seven people including two police personnel were seriously injured. DPO Mardan arrived at the hospital along with a heavy police force and started a search operation and investigation. As soon as a large number of people reached the scene and the hospital, according to the incident, on Friday near Jalala bridge in Takhtbhai area, under training ASP Hamid Ehsan Shergarh was coming to Mardan from Jalala bridge. Two security guards constables Bilal Khan and Gulab Syed on duty along with ASP were injured in the blast, while Sher Aslam Khan son of Ghatand Suknawadi, Samiur Rehman son of Khaista Rehman Sukna Shringal who was riding in a high-speed Ching Chi were injured. Kale Takhtbhai Orusim Khan son of Muhammad Yasan Gujargarai died. A nine-year-old girl named Lababa, daughter of Bilal Ahmed, Sakna Gadar, child of Khashar, son of Sardar Khan, aged eight years old, resident of Hathian, Masma Noor Jahan, wife of Ayub Khan, resident of Gadar Gul, Jana, resident of Gadar Sawaldhir and Yusuf Khan Jalala, are among the victims of the explosion. But there is also a police post. As soon as the explosion was reported, DPO Mardan Zahoor Bafrafridi reached the spot along with heavy bomb disposal squad and jammers and started a search operation and started further investigation. All police officers, including the PO, refrained from giving details.



The Spokesman 3



Islamabad 30º – 38º Clear

SERVICES

Namaz	Timings
Fajr	3:20 ar
Zohr	12:12 pr
Asr	5:12 pr
Maghrib	7:22 pr
lsha	9:04 pr
EMER	
Rescue (Police)	

Bomb Disposal 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance...... 1122 & & Rescue Services 4451122 ...9266044 Motorway Police .

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596 Rawalpindi . 9270601-20

ENQUIRY Edhi Ambulance

...115 PIA Flight Info PIA Cargo. . 9280979 Railway Inquiry 117 WASA Rawalpindi5555489

HOSPIT	ALS
CMH	5611111
MH	
MH	
Cantt Hospital	
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	
Polyclinic	
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-4
CDA	9208301-0
Met Office	9250360-
RDA	555586
TMA	577088
Cantonment Board	9270151-
Islamabad Metropoli	tan
Corporation	920922
Dotobar 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
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-89266316
Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

PM's visit to CentralAsian...

Continued from Page 1

He termed the meeting between the two head of states "productive".

PM Shehbaz Sharif, the minister said, also held discussion with the presidents of Belarus and Uzbekistan on road and rail links and stressed on

Meta holds Govt Digital Transformation Workshop at Ministry of IT & Telecom

😂 🛛 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Meta organised a workshop on Digital Transformation for government partners in Pakistan at the the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication on Friday.

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Secretary IT Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood, Additional Secretary Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam, and DG International Coordination Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi were present on the occasion.

The purpose of the Government Digital Transformation workshop was to engage social media and PR representatives of respective Ministries and government departments to brief them about how they can improve and accelerate their digital media presence and build the connection and engagement with the people of Pakistan by using Meta Platforms (Facebook and Instagram). The Meta representatives provided an overview of the Commu-



nity Standards (Bullying and Harassment, Hate Speech and Misinformation) and the available safety tools, products and

resources. Officers and officials of the Ministry of IT & Telecom, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), National Information Technology Board (NITB), Ignite, Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB)

and Universal Service Fund (USF) participated in the workshop.

Meta team present on the occasion comprised Head, Safety Policy Dr. Priyanka Bhalla, Lead Public Policy Dania Mukhtar, Manager Public Policy Tabeer Ather, and Partner Manager, Meta Guillin Cathrine Zhou.

The question and answer session was also held at the end of workshop.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Senate Standing Committee Finance and Revenue Senator Saleem Mandviwalla presenting a shield to Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, during 8th annual Mango Festival at a local mall in the Federal Capital.



Zong 4g has Partnered with LESCO to Serve their Business Communication Needs



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator, has initiated a strategic partnership with Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) to bolster business communication services and address LESCO's telecommunications needs.

The partnership was officially formalized during a signing ceremony at LESCO HQ, led by Mr. Farhan Zakir, ZONG 4G's Regional Director of Corporate Sales. This collaboration represents a significant milestone for Zong's corporate clientele. Through this collaboration, Zong 4G aims to provide necessary telecom services to LESCO by leveraging its cutting-edge technology and comprehensive business solutions, including GSM, MBB, inter-office connectivity, and smart meter connectivity. Following LESCO's tender for telecom requirements, Zong emerged as the successful bidder, securing the contract and solidifying this strategic partnership.

"This collaboration marks an important milestone for Zong 4G, underscoring our commitment to enhancing business communication services with innovative technology and reliable support. By joining forces with LESCO, we aim to deliver unparalleled telecom solutions that will drive operational efficiency and contribute to the digital transformation of the energy sector in Pakistan." Director Govt. & Corporate Sales, Zong 4G quoted while expressing enthusiasm for this partnership.

Group CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bill Winters Visits OICCI, Highlights Economic Challenges and **Opportunities**

腾 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Bill Winters, Group CEO of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), visited the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) on Friday. During an interactive session with the top executives of OICCI member companies, Bill Winters shared that "We see a greater potential in Pakistan and will continue to invest more as per the opportunity. There are excellent opportunities for talented young people", Bill continued to add "and the government need to make it easier for brilliant Pakistanis to work from Pakistan for the leading companies across the globe".

Bill Winters is a leader in climate finance. Under his leadership Standard Chartered Bank chairs the Net Zero Banking Alliance and the Taskforce for Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets.

As the oldest chamber in South Asia, OICCI provided a platform for Winters to discuss the Pakistan franchise and other markets operating in a challenging economic environment. During the meeting, Bill Winters addressed the future of globalization, climate change and international trade, considering recent geopolitical tensions and conflicts. Additionally, he highlighted the transformative role of emerging technologies such as AI, blockchain, and quantum computing, emphasizing the adoption of digital currencies by regulators M Abdul Aleem, OICCI CE/Secretary General, gave a briefing to Winters on the history and legacy of the chamber. Highlighting the positive contributions of foreign investors to Pakistan's economy, he emphasised that OICCI members not only contribute one-third to the tax revenue of Pakistan but are also highly regarded for their efforts on the transfer of technology and managerial skills. Many of our senior members and past presidents have over the years been engaged by the government towards driving reform and lead the government organisation towards change.

Souvenir

increasing bilateral trade and provision of facilities to the business community.

He called the meetings as of the utmost importance where the prime minister represented Pakistan and his vision unequivocally.

Tarar said the meetings would usher in arrival of delegations in Pakistan which would eventually have a greater impact on the economy in coming days.

He said an important agreement was signed between Pakistan and Tajikistan for high-level strategic partnership during the visit, thanking the President of Tajikistan who expressed real warmth for the people of Pakistan.

"There is a huge potential for solidifying partnership between Pakistan and Tajikistan through trade and investment which will not only benefit the people of both the countries but also further boost their economies."

Reverie of Highlands" by Gaynor Shaw Launched at Islamabad Serena Hotel

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under the banner of Cultural Diplomacy, hosted the book launch of "Reverie of Highlands" by Gaynor Shaw at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. The event celebrated Shaw's journey through the northern regions of Pakistan, capturing the enchanting landscapes, vibrant culture, and resilient people through her lens as an artist and photographer. The book launch was attended by diplomats, cultural patrons, tourism enthusiasts, and members of the literary community, making it a signif-

icant cultural event. Gaynor Shaw, the wife of former Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr. Geoffrey Shaw, has artfully documented her experiences highlighting its significance in emphasizing the impor-



and insights in this compelling book. "Reverie of Highlands" is a tribute to the beauty inspiring speech from Shaw and diversity of Pakistan's northern areas, reflecting her her journey and the creation deep connection and appre- of her book. ciation for the region. Former

Pakistani diplomat Aizaz Australian High Commis-Ahmad Chaudhry shared sioner his impressions of the book, addressing the audience,

promoting Pakistan's cultural tance of cultural exchanges heritage, followed by an and the role of such works herself, offering insights into The event continued with

Neil Hawkins

in fostering understanding and appreciation between nations. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, underscored the hotel's commitment to supporting cultural and literary initiatives, marking the formal launch of this remarkable publication.

Winters has also been engaged with OICCI previously, particularly at the Pakistan Climate Conference in 2022 and 2023, where he emphasized sustainable climate resilience.

Man gunned down over land dispute in Pindigheb

腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A man was gunned down over land dispute in Langarial village in the limits of PindighebPolice station on Friday. Police sources said AzharMehmoodhas some dispute with Faisal Hayat over some piece of land. On Friday, when Azhar went to village shop to purchase some grocery, Faisal intercepted him and after exchange of hot words, he took out his pistol and showered bullets over him resultantly he died on the spot. On getting information, Police shifted the body to tehsil headquarters hospital for autopsy. Later police arrested the nominated accused and recovered pistol utilized in the murder and launched further investigation.#

BOP Expanding its Horizons to Go Global: New Offices Planned in UAE and Bahrain

😂 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab (BOP) is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in its strategic expansion plan. In a recent Board of Directors meeting held on July 1, 2024, the decision was approved to establish a representative office in the United Arab Emirates risk management practices and robust (UAE) and a Wholesale Banking Unit capital adequacy ratio of 17.5% that is a (WBU) in the Kingdom of Bahrain, subject to approval from State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and other regulators.

Since its inception in 1989, BOP has emerged as a leading force in Pakistan's the bank aims to achieve the milefinancial sector. This expansion marks a critical step for BOP. By establishing sive expansion from a network of 662 a presence in these key international markets, BOP aims to foster stronger financial ties and offer its customers and convenience for its customers across enhanced banking solutions that meet Pakistan.

their evolving needs.

The recent reaffirmation of BOP's credit rating by the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) underscores the bank's strong financial health and stability. PACRA reaffirmed BOP's long-term rating at 'AA+' and shortterm rating at 'A1+', reflecting its sound significant improvement over its CAR of 12.27% in 2021.

Currently, BOP is set to close 2024 with over 900 branches, and by 2025 stone of 1,000 branches. This aggresbranches in 2021 underscores BOP's commitment to enhancing accessibility

BOP's journey has been marked by tremendous strides in recent years, showcasing its commitment to innovation and growth. Key milestones include the successful launch of its credit card business, providing customers with flexible payment options and attractive rewards. BOP has also introduced POS and acquiring services, enhancing its payment solutions for merchants and consumers alike. Simultaneously, emphasis on bringing BOP's technology infrastructure up to speed has attracted substantial investments in building robust digital infrastructure, incorporating core and mobile banking platforms such as the new Temenos DigiBOP platform, the most advanced in the market, offering cutting-edge digital banking solutions, AI-powered data analytics, and varied automated

During the last couple of years, BOP also successfully upgraded its Core Banking System, completed digital payment rails by launching acquiring business and RAAST use cases, and enhanced product offerings through FDA and corporate credit cards. The bank also digitalized account opening processes and launched SME e-Qarza, digital personal loans, and smart credit cards, enhanced its contact center and WhatsApp banking capabilities, and migrated over 1 million wallets to the new branchless banking system along with transitioning 400,000+ customers to the new mobile app platform. The above transformation has resulted in the share of BOP's digital transactions rising dramatically from 16% in 2021 to 65% in 2024.

solutions to enhance process efficiencies.

Furthermore, BOP has become a key prestigious awards over the past few partner in various Government digital banking initiatives, including PSPA disbursements, the BISP mandate for three clusters, upcoming CM Punjab Kissan Card, NADRA payment solution provider, and E-stamping mandates across Pakistan. Additionally, BOP is also implementing ticketing solutions for Mass Transit schemes for Punjab Mass Transit Authority across Punjab, furthering its commitment to providing innovative and accessible financial services. These initiatives demonstrate BOP's unwavering dedication to advancing its product offerings and technological capabilities while supporting national development programs.

In recognition of its outstanding performance, BOP has garnered several

years. The bank has been honored with the Best Bank for Small and Medium Businesses for the past 2 years 2022 & 2023 at the Pakistan Banking Awards and has also received accolades from prestigious international forums like The Digital Banker and Asiamoney for its excellence in SME, digital banking and other financial services. These awards reflect BOP's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional banking experiences and innovative solutions to its customers.

BOP's continuous efforts and strategic investments have positioned it as a leader in digital banking in Pakistan. These achievements underscore BOP's resilience and proactive approach in overcoming challenges and driving innovation in the banking industry.

Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, July 6, 2024

	4	The Spokesman
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A digital corridor helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs

hinese e-commerce companies are helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs to expand their businesses across the country.

"Our platform could be said to be the Pakistani version of Pinduoduo. As an e-commerce platform targeting price-sensitive users, groceries and daily necessities are within our scope," Fahad Raja, co-founder of Pakistani e-commerce platform Deal Kart, introduced himself at the EuroAsia Pakistan Digital Economy Forum held in Beijing.

"As a global giant, Pinduoduo has not yet started operations in Pakistan. But that's not a problem, we are building a Pinduoduo for ourselves." Raja said that Chinese companies, especially e-commerce companies, are closely related to his career, CEN reported.

"In terms of payment, logistics, technology and the like, Chinese companies have attracted global attention, making great achievements. For us from emerging markets, there are too many experiences and even too little time to learn, thus more connections are in urgent need."

Another young entrepreneur, Shahada Salam, mentioned that CPEC ensures the transportation efficiency of Pakistan's supply chain.

"In my country, most of the hardware comes from China, such as biometric equipment needed to solve security issues, thus this corridor is very helpful for the timely supply of hardware and technology products."

Nowadays, more and more Chinese companies have set up offices in the special economic zone located in my hometown, Islamabad, including manufacturing and supply chain departments. We are also inviting a large number of Chinese technology companies to set up offices there, so that we could better assist them expand their business throughout the country, and then from Pakistan to the Middle East, Europe, Africa... In the future, this will become an amazing 'digital corridor'.

A total of more than 200 representatives from all walks of life in China and Pakistan attended the forum, all of whom looking forward to a more shining digital future that both two countries can benefit from.

Addressing on the Global Digital Economy Conrence 2024. Shaza Fatima Khwaia. Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication of Pakistan, said that the global landscape has witnessed a digital revolution in recent years, positioning the IT sector as a cornerstone of economic development, innovation, and social transformation.

PTI: From Hardships to Hope

six months prior that PTI's iconic election symbol would be taken away. However, PTI, preoccupied with the aftermath of the May 9th incidents and the subsequent arrests of their leaders and workers, did not heed this warning or take preventive measures. Consequently, they lost their election symbol.

In another interview, after a dramatic gesture of prostrating on the footpath near the Supreme Court, Vadha warned PTI of even harder times ahead. But when confronted a PTI leader about Vadha's another horrific prediction, he replied that they are already in deep trouble their mandate was stolen, they deprived of governance in Federation and provinces, their leader is incarcerated, their party is in shatters, what else could be additional hardships which could befallen on PTI?. Same was the question in others' minds. But the answer came in the shape of the Punjab Government's decision to file a case of high treason against the PTI leadership.

In an article titled "What was Wrong with Imran's Video on X," I pointed out that the video could not have solicited the angry reaction from the Pakistan Army, if it had merely attributed the reasons for the surrender of the Pakistan Army to the Indian Army to poor leadership, cowardice, lack of sound planning, logistic failures, and compromising the supply chain, without accusing the army of committing high treason as alleged in the video. This lack of diligence on PTI's part may cost them heavily. The Punjab Government has used this video and the incidents of May 9 as a basis to lodge a case of high treason against the PTI leadership and pursue it relentlessly, creating Zaidi, and other leaders for lacking a

aisal Vadha had warned if he somehow succeeds in securing his to secure the release of the party founder. several international laws and norms. release in over 200 other cases.

The second indication of PTI's increasing troubles came on July 4th, when the scheduled meetings between the PTI leadership and Imran Khan were canceled without any explanation. Additionally, Imran Khan's freedom to communicate with his party leaders was restricted. When the jail administration was asked about the reason for these actions, they cited orders from the "high command." When pressed further on who constituted the "high command," they

na

Qamar Bashir

ambiguously replied that PTI knew them very well. The fourth issue PTI

is facing is the delay in the constitution of the Election Tribunals, even after five months have passed since the elections. This delay, successfully employed by the government, highlights PTI lead-

ership's failure to use their legal expertise to ensure the timely notification of these tribunals. Instead, the ordinance regarding the tribunal's composition was challenged in the Lahore High Court and subsequently in the Supreme Court. In compliance with Supreme Court orders. further proceedings have been postponed until August 2024. This delay aligns with the government's objectives to buy time and allow the opposition to settle with the current election outcomes, rather than pressing for redressal of their election grievances.

To add insult to injury, the party is facing steep criticism from former PTI stalwarts like Ch. Fawad Hussain, Mr. another reason to keep Imran Khan in jail, concrete and coherent political strategy

According to these critics, in the absence of a political strategy, which is the current situation, there is no chance of Mr. Imran Khan's release in the near or distant future.

Interestingly, PTI's leadership failures at home were compensated by its gains abroad.

The overseas party supporters demonstrated exactly what is lacking in PTI's current leadership in Pakistan. They set an initially elusive target, built strong teams across the United States and

successfully convinced Congressman Rich McCormick of Georgia and Congressman Dan Kildee of Michigan, along with over 100 co-sponsors from both parties, to introduce a resolution demanding an independent investigation into allegations of election irregularities and the release

of Imran Khan. The resolution passed with unprecedented success, receiving 368 votes in favor and only 7 against.

This remarkable achievement was widely acknowledged by the media, analysts, and commentators worldwide. Even PML(N) veteran leader Mr. Irfan Siddique termed it a significant accomplishment for PTI, unparalleled in Pakistan's history.

The U.S. chapter of PTI did not stop there, but inundated the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention with complaints, dossiers, and evidence. Their relentless efforts culminated in a significant achievement: convincing the UN Working Group to declare that the detention of former Prime Minister Imran Khan was "arbitrary" and violated

The working group concluded that Khan's prosecution lacked legal basis and appeared politically motivated to disqualify him from running for office besides expressing the concerns about the broader campaign of political repression against Khan and his party.

Another pivotal element in the puzzle surrounding PTI's challenges and potential emancipation is the ongoing case sub-judice before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, SIC versus Election Commission. From observing the proceedings, it is abundantly clear that neither the Chief Justice nor the brute power of the state will influence or scuttle the judgment of any member of the larger bench. We can expect a decision that may surprise both the executive and the government alike. This decision is likely to have a significant impact on the composition of the National and Provincial Assemblies, and consequently, on the composition of the government in the Federation and the province of Punjab.

It goes without saying that both the government and the supra-executive are also monitoring the historic proceedings of the Supreme Court and have likely already begun developing contingency plans to salvage their majority in the National Assemblies and their governments.

It is up to PTI to set aside their internal petty and egoistic differences and develop their own contingency plans to reap the maximum benefits from the energy generated in their favor by the U.S. Congress, the United Nations Working Group, and the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

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



Recognizing the immense potential of this sector, "both Pakistan and China have made substantial strides in harnessing its capabilities", she added.

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

Motives behind Initiating Operation Azm-e-Istehkam - III

fabric. Its eradication is not merely a stances and security challenges. priority but a necessity for Pakistan's stability, development, and interna- terrorist attacks, the United States tional reputation. Terrorism directly initiated the global "War on Terror." threatens national security by desta- This extensive campaign included bilizing regions, undermining govern- military actions in Afghanistan

Militant groups, often operating from remote and cross-border safe havens, challenge state authority through targeted violence and bombings. The economic repercussions are severe, deterring foreign investment, disrupting busi-

ture, healthcare, and education to security and rehabilitation efforts.

Abdul Basit Alvi

Persistent terrorism impedes Pakistan's potential as a regional economic hub and undermines social cohesion in 2014. The operation aimed to by fostering distrust and exacerbating combat jihadist groups affiliated with ethnic and religious tensions through sectarian violence and targeted killings. Moreover, terrorist attacks violate fundamental human rights, including Despite successes in disrupting terrorist the right to life, security, and freedom networks, Operation Barkhane underfrom fear. Persistent terrorism damages Pakistan's international reputation and strains diplomatic ties with neighboring countries and global allies.

errorism has profoundly wide have undertaken significant oper- 2015. The operation, supported by impacted Pakistan for ations to address terrorism within their regional partners and international decades, exacting a borders. These efforts vary widely in heavy toll on its people, their scope, strategies, and outcomes, economy, and social reflecting diverse geopolitical circum-

Following the September 11, 2001, ance, and instilling fear among citizens. against the Taliban regime, which

harbored Al-Qaeda, the group responsible for the attacks. The objective was to dismantle terrorist networks, promote democratic governance, and stabilize the region. However, the prolonged engage-

ment underscored the ness activities, and diverting resources complexities of nation-building and from essential sectors like infrastruc- the difficulties of countering insurgencies in a volatile environment. In response to escalating terrorism in the Sahel region of Africa, particularly Mali, France initiated Operation Barkhane Al-Qaeda and ISIS, providing logistical support, intelligence sharing, and military assistance to regional partners. scores the importance of regional cooperation and addressing underlying socio-economic grievances to achieve lasting stability. In response Pakistan is not alone in its efforts to to the Boko Haram insurgency, Nigeria combat terrorism. Countries world- launched Operation Lafiya Dole in

assistance, aimed to reclaim territory held by Boko Haram, rescue abducted civilians, and promote stability in the northeastern region. While progress has been made in weakening Boko Haram's operational capacity, challenges persist in addressing humanitarian crises and promoting reconciliation among affected communities. Russia has also conducted extensive counter-terrorism operations in the North Caucasus region, particularly in Chechnya and Dagestan, to suppress separatist movements. These examples show that no country allows terrorists to destroy its peace and attack the innocent people.

Peace and stability is very important for development and prosperity of the countries. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development and prosperity within any nation. Across the globe, countries that have achieved significant economic growth and social progress have often done so in environments characterized by political stability, social cohesion, and robust institutions. Peace lays the foundation for economic growth by creating a conducive environment for investment, entrepreneurship, and trade. In peaceful societies, businesses thrive, job opportunities increase, and infrastructure development flourishes. Investors are more willing to commit resources to long-term projects, knowing that their investments are protected from the risks posed by conflict and instability. To be continued

Guardians of Peace: Pakistan's Azm-e-**Istehkam Operation Ensures Stability**

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

n a world where peace is paramount, Pakistan's Azm-e-Istehkam operation stands out as a beacon of hope. This operation, known as the Guardians of Peace, plays a vital role in ensuring stability and security within the nation. The Azm-e-Istehkam operation, launched by Pakistan's armed forces, aims to combat terrorism and ensure the safety of its citizens. Through strategic military actions and intelligence operations, this initiative has successfully targeted extremist groups, dismantling their networks and preventing potential threats. By maintaining a strong presence in volatile regions, the Guardians of Peace have been able to restore a sense of security and stability in areas that were once plagued by violence and unrest. The dedication and bravery of the personnel involved in this operation have been instrumental in safeguarding the nation and fostering a climate of peace.

Pakistan, a country facing numerous security challenges, has been striving to ensure stability and peace within its borders. In this pursuit, the Pakistani military has been playing a crucial role in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation. One such operation that has been instrumental in maintaining peace and security in the country is the Azm-e-Istehkam operation. Azm-e-Istehkam, which translates to "resolve of steadfastness," is an ongoing military operation launched by the Pakistani armed forces in the tribal areas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The operation initiated in response to the increasing threats posed by terrorist organizations operating in the region. These groups, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Al-Qaeda have been responsible for numerous attacks on civilians, security forces, and government installations.

The main objective of the Azm-e-Istehkam operation is to eliminate these militant groups and restore peace and stability in the region. The operation has been successful in targeting and dismantling the infrastructure and networks of these terrorist organizations. Through targeted military strikes, intelligence-based operations, and coordinated ground offensives, the Pakistani military has significantly weakened the capabilities of these groups.

Moreover, the operation has also focused on winning



the hearts and minds of the local population by providing humanitarian assistance, building infrastructure, and promoting socio-economic development in the region. Pakistan military has shown firm determination and commitment in the face of numerous challenges, demonstrating their dedication to protecting the nation from internal and external threats. The threat of terrorism remains a significant challenge for Pakistan. The country continues to face security threats from various terrorist groups, both local and foreign. Therefore, it is essential for the Pakistani government and military to remain vigilant and continue their efforts to counter the menace of terrorism.

Pakistan's Azm-e-Istehkam operation exemplifies the solid commitment to safeguarding the nation and its people. Through their relentless efforts in combating terrorism and maintaining stability, these guardians have proven to be instrumental in upholding peace within the region. As they continue to stand as protectors against threats, their dedication serves as a beacon of hope. Azm-e-Istehkam operation is a testament to the resilience and resolve of the Pakistani armed forces in safeguarding the country's security and sovereignty. The guardians of peace in Pakistan have been able to ensure stability in the region and protect the nation from external threats. It is imperative for all stakeholders to continue working together to build a peaceful and prosperous future for Pakistan.

Writer is associate with International Islamic University, Islamabad-Pakistan

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Saturday, July 6, 2024

International

Xi kicks off state visit to Tajikistan, eyeing new heights in bilateral cooperation

🐞 Xinhua

DUSHANBE: Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived here on Thursday night, commencing his state visit to Tajikistan following a busy schedule at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon welcomed Xi at the Dushanbe International Airport with a grand ceremony, where around 1,500 Tajik youths in traditional attire dancing and waving the national flags of China and Tajikistan.

Upon arrival, Xi expressed his anticipation for discussions with Rahmon to formulate new plans and arrangements for the development of China-Tajikistan relations in light of the new circumstances.

Xi said with concerted efforts from both countries, this visit is expected to be a complete success, elevating all-round cooperation between China and Tajikistan to new heights.

President Xi's state visit to Tajikistan will inject new and heads of state. During Xi's visit strong momentum into developing and strengthening the awarded the Order of the Crown



"These initiatives and joint deci-

comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, Both countries pledged to build a China-Tajikistan development Rahmon told Xinhua in a recent community and security commuinterview.

nity Rahmon also said the In May 2023, during the China-Tajikistan relations have China-Central Asia Summit, the entered a new historical stage, two leaders jointly announced opening up new prospects for the building of a China-Tajikistan extensive cooperation.

Recent years have seen close community with a shared future featuring everlasting friendship, interactions between the two solidarity and mutual benefit. to Tajikistan in 2019, he was sions to create a community have

already yielded tangible results," said Abdugaffor Abdujabbor, former head of the International Relations Department of Tajikistan's Culture Ministry

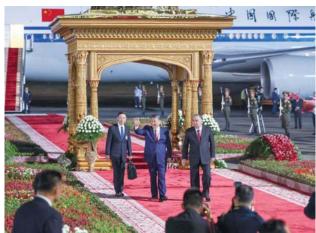
Abdujabbor highlighted two China-assisted edifices on Rudaki Avenue, the main thoroughfare of Dushanbe: the government building and the Parliament building, referring to them as new landmarks of the capital.

"This is the fruit of the friendship between our two leaders," he told Xinhua. "They share a great sympathy, pure friendship, and mutual understanding."

"Xi's words are matched by his actions; what he said is always felt in practice," he added.

Tajikistan is a neighbor of China. Trade between China and Tajikistan doubled from 2013 to 2023. China has become the largest source of investment in Tajikistan and its second-largest trading partner.

Tajikistan was among the first countries to support the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Xi in 2013 and sign related cooperation agreements with China. Under the BRI framework, a



The Spokesman 5

series of China-Tajikistan coop- said. Both countries have suffered eration and aid projects have been implemented in key areas such as infrastructure, metallurgy, energy, cement, and the cotton textile industry.

"The space for practical cooperation between China and Tajikistan is broad, and the prospects are promising," Chinese Ambassador to Tajikistan Ji Shumin told Xinhua.

The two countries firmly support each other on issues concerning their core interests, Ji a noticeable increasing interest of Central Asia.

in China, in the study of the Chinese experience of modernization, Chinese culture and language," said Abdurakhim Juraev, professor at the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics in Khujand.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of Tajik students attending Confucius Institutes in their country or studying in China. Take the Confucius Institute at the Tajik National University as an example. Since its establishment in August 2008, the institute has trained nearly 39,000 Chinese language learners.

The Luban Workshop in Tajikistan, co-founded by China's Tianjin Urban Construction Management and Vocation Techcomprehensive, cooperative, and nology College and Tajik Technical University, has been training skilled professionals, contributing to Tajikistan's vocational many young people can speak education, industrialization, and Chinese, and it's common to hear modernization efforts. The visit of President Xi, said Juraev, will give new impetus to cooperation between the two countries and will contribute to the overall prosperity

Meeting

Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, and Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, Chairman PTA, during a meeting at PTA Headquarters Islamabad to discuss measures for safeguarding BISP beneficiaries on Friday.



Kazakhstan Highlights Afforestation Efforts at Global Conference

in Mandarin.

added.

from the "three evil forces" of

terrorism, extremism, and separa-

tism and advocate for a common,

sustainable security concept, he

On the streets of Dushanbe,

locals greeting visitors from China

with "Nihao," which means "hello"

"In Tajikistan, there has been

😂 News Desk

ASTANA: Advisor to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Special Representative on International Environmental Cooperation Zulfiya Suleimenova emphasized Kazakhstan's commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem preservation, essential for sustainable development, at the first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation (CIAR-1).

Held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, the conference highlighted Kazakhstan's achievements, including increasing forest cover from 3% to 5% and expanding protected natural areas to nearly 11% of the country's territory.

Kazakhstan plans to plant two billion trees by 2027, with 843 million planted between 2021 and 2023. Efforts to restore degraded lands include establishing saxaul plantations on 1.1 million hectares of the Aral Sea's dried bed and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Develplanting 15 million trees in urban areas. opment.

According to a statement from the

tion activities in Kazakhstan adhere to reforestation, and sustainable economic scientific recommendations and envi-

ronmental requirements. "A national headquarters has been created to analyze and control these works. Public monitoring of tree planting is carried out using an interactive map," she said.

On the sidelines of the conference, Suleimenova held bilateral meetings with President of Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Congo's Minister of Forestry Rosalie Matondo, and Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and the Congo Basin Arlette Soudan-Nonault. These discussions focused on bilateral cooperation and international collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

Experts at the conference warned about the catastrophic consequences of uncontrolled deforestation on the climate, the planet, and human health, highlighting the urgency of achieving

Conference chairman Sassou-Net

development, emphasizing the importance of preserving forests and biodiversity to combat climate change.

The conference concluded with a Declaration urging the UN General Assembly to include this issue in its upcoming session in New York. Adopting the Global Strategy on Afforestation and Reforestation underscored the vital role of forests in climate change mitigation and sustainable management, aiming to mobilize financial resources and improve access to science, technology, and innovation to support global afforestation and reforestation efforts.

The conference, organized by the Congolese government, the African Union Commission, the UN Forum on Forests, and the African Forest Forum, brought together over 2,000 delegates, including heads of state and government, representatives from regional and subregional political and economic organizations, the global scientific community, international forest, climate and biodi Embassy of Kazakhstan to Ethiopia, called on the international community versity organizations, NGOs, civil society

Suleimenova stressed that all afforesta- to unite in addressing afforestation, organizations, and the private sector.

President of Uzbekistan familiarizes himself with development work in Shusha

hectares

腾 News Desk

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirzivovev to participate in the informal summit of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS).

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev welcomed the head of Uzbekistan.

Together with other heads of delegations from OTS member countries, under the guidance of the Azerbaijani president, they reviewed the reconstruction work being carried out in Shusha.

Shusha is considered the of 23 buildings, is about 8

main jewel of Karabakh, the center of Caucasian art, and the cradle of Azerbaijani music. This city is the birthplace of arrived in the city of Shusha many prominent figures in science, culture, and art. Since 2021, Shusha has held the status of the cultural capital of Azerbaijan, and in 2023 it was declared the cultural capital of the Turkic world.

This year, the cities of Khiva and Shusha became sister cities. The guests visited a residential complex that was built in Shusha for the first time in the last thirty-two years. The area of this complex, consisting



The leaders then familiarized the construction progress of a take place tomorrow, on 6 July.

new mosque, whose foundation was laid in 2021.

The President of Azerbaijan briefed the guests on the work carried out and the future plans for the development of the city's infrastructure.

The presidents also visited the Govhar Agha Mosque, the first mosque built in Shusha in the 19th century. The guests highly appreciated the results of the restoration of this historic site.

The working visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Azerbaijan continues, and the main themselves with the project and events of the OTS summit will

Pakistani envoy delivers masterclass on science diplomacy

😂 Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Amna Baloch on Friday delivered a masterclass on science diploma-



cy at the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Summer School. In her lecture at Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub, the ambassador elaborated on the challenges and opportunities besides showcasing Pakistan's landscape and avenues of engagement.

The Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub is a pioneering nonprofit public-private partnership that positions Barcelona as a global lab in science diplomacy for cities around the world with a mandate to elevate the role of science, technology and cities in foreign policy.

Digital ads trucks flash messages around Washington demanding end to India's occupation of Kashmir

😂 Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Digital advertising trucks Thursday displayed around this capital city pointed messages like "Kashmiris Reject Indian Occupation: UN Resolutions Only Solution" on July 04, the American Independence Day.

The Trucks were rented by the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, a Washington-based advocacy body, and put on road as most Americans were out of their homes, flocking to parks, parades, fireworks shows and barbecues for a brief respite from the daily drumbeat of unsettling news at home and abroad.

The holiday, which marks the July 4 signing of the Declaration of Independence from Britain in 1776, is a day when Americans traditionally celebrate with displays of old-fashioned patri-

otism.

The electronic screens on the trucks carried messages such as: "Americans Celebrate Independence Day: Kashmiris Treat Indian Occupation with Dismay;" "No Election, No Selection: UN Resolution the Only Solution;" "Freedom of Kashmir only Solution: Enslavement Not an Option;" "Indian Forces on Killing Spree: Kashmir Need to Be Set Free;" "Kashmir Facing Existential Threat: United States Needs to Act;" "India Involved in Genocide: Kashmiris Demand

Plebiscite;" and "Freedom For All: Freedom for Kashmir." Digital advertising trucks are

considered to be the most effective way to spread a message as the brightly lit words on the screens catch attention of the people walking on the streets and those coming in and out of buildings.

Washington included: National Mall where tens of thousands of visitors were gathered to celebrate the Independence Day,

the Capitol Hill; The Washington Monument; The White House; Museums; and various embassies. In a statement, Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, WKAF' President, said, "We

Americans of Kashmiri ancestry are grateful to the United States for having rendered moral and diplomatic support at the international level in our struggle against Indian occupation sine 1947."

"July 4th," he said, "is especially relevant to Kashmiri Americans as we continue to relish the fruits of complete freedom here in the US. Our people back in the colonized Kashmir keep encouraging us here in this country to cherish its independence while

The route of digital trucks in they resist to exist under a dehumanizing regime."

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, WKAF's Secretary General, warned, "Today Kashmir is at the brink of genocide."

In this regard, Dr. Fai urged world leaders to use their moral authority to persuade the violators of the international laws to abide by these principles.

"Today, on its Independence Day, the United States should support the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people as it is in conformity with the statement made at the UN General Assembly by President John F. Kennedy on September 25, 1961 "That continuing tide of self-determination, which runs so strong, has our sympathy and our support...My Nation was once a colony, and we know what

colonialism means; the exploita-

tion and subjugation of the weak



by the powerful, of the many by the few, of the governed who have given no consent to be governed, whatever their continent, their class, or their colour."

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, a Kashmiri-American scholar. said that Americans of Kashmiri origin, though limited in numbers consider themselves extremely fortunate to be the citizens of this

country. "We feel highly indebted to this country for the magnanimity in providing fair opportunity to succeed and realize our dreams. But while we are enjoying the benefits of freedom of expression in USA, we are and Sardar Zubair Khan also pained by the repression and gross injustice in Indian occupied Kashmir, that is the place of our origin."

Dr. Khan added that since year 2019, when Indian government by act of parliament abrogated article 370 and 35A, a sinister design to change the demographics of the region is being actively pursued. Hundreds of thousands of fundamentalist Hindus from India are being provided domicile certificates and settled in the region. The goal is to change the Muslim majority character of Kashmir that can lead to outcome in their favour down the road, in case plebiscite is held.

Sardar Zulfiqar Roshan Khan, Kashmiri-American activist, Sardar Shoaib Irshad, Joint Secretary, Kashmir American Welfare Association (KAWA) called fot implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir to usher in peace and stability in the region.

Economy/Commerce

Saturday, July 6, 2024

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share **Index Fluctuation**

Current Prev. Close 80,212.79 80,282.80 Day's High Day's Low 80,627.49 80,080.25 Index Value Change 11,896,114,334 -70.01 Percentage Time -0.09% 5 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm Europe: FTSE 100 Index Index Value Change 8,203.93 -37.33 Percentage Time -0.45% 5 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average Index Value Index Value Change 39,266.94 -41.06 Percentage Time -0.10% 5 Jul, 1:31 pm GMT-4 Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average Index Value 40,912.37 -1.28 Percentage Time -0.0031% 5 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9 Open Market Forex Rates States	Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
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Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.25	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.12	748.12
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.3	38.7
Danish Krone	40.08	40.48
Euro	294.3	297.8
Hong Kong Dollar	35.60	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	907.61	916.61
Malaysian Ringgit	58.89	59.69
NewZealand \$	169.24	171.24
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.34	77.04
Saudi Riyal	73.40	74.2
Singapore Dollar	202.15	204.15
Swedish Korona	26.4	26.7
Swiss Franc	309.11	311.61
Thai Bhat	7.57	7.72
U.A.E Dirham	75.00	75.80
LIK Pound Sterling	350	353

Economy will collapse if tax targets failed: 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 Friday that the increase in basic electricity tariff and fixed charges is unbearable for public and businesses.

The Spokesman

Due to the continuous increase in the price of electricity, the livelihood of the people and the rights of traders and industrialists to do business are being taken away, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain asked how the government would collect taxes when the economy

doesn't work. Talking to the business community, the ployment, inflation, and tax targets will fail veteran business leader said that business expansion, investment, reduction in unem-

Mango Festival

ISLAMABAD: Visitors looking mangos on the stalls, during 8th annual Mango Festival at a local mall in the Federal Capital.

miserably due to the government's policies.

He said that the government did not consult



Pakistan-US has a deep-rooted history of collaboration and

the businessmen and industrialists before the budget, which is a recipe for an economic disaster.

The business leader noted that petroleum dealers are on strike. In contrast, oil marketing companies, alternative medicine, exporters, gems and jewelry, salaried employees, the lubricant industry, construction, real estate, and other business sectors are protesting.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that people are fed up with inflation and don't have money to pay utility bills. The pressure is increasing on the people, while those from whom taxes should be collected are not even being looked at, which is the worst exploitation.

He added that since the tax defaulters, tax evaders, electricity thieves, and failed governexemption, all the burden of their luxury is falling on the taxpayers and the people.

Mian Zahid Hussain said the government has increased the basic electricity tariff by Rs 5.72 per unit. The basic tariff per unit of electricity for domestic consumers has been set at Rs 48.84 paisa, which will increase from Rs 65 per unit due to adjustments and other taxes, which will put an additional burden of about Rs 600 billion on consumers.

He further said that the increased fixed electricity charges for various categories have also been approved. A 150% increase in monthly fixed charges for commercial customers has been approved, after which the fixed charges will increase from Rs 500 to Rs 1250.

On the other hand, the monthly fixed charges for industrial customers have been increased from Rs 440 to Rs 1250. Similarly, a 100% ment institutions have been given an open increase in monthly fixed charges for agricultural tubewell consumers has been approved. It will be increased from Rs.200 to Rs.400.

> **Meta Drives Conversations** on Responsible Content Creation with the Pakistani **Facebook Community**



😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Meta has collaborated with Ali Gul Pir-Pakistani content creator and comedian-to host a four-episode weekly podcast #CreatewithCare. It has been designed to foster candid conversations with the Facebook community about building connections for positive experiences and

creating content thoughtfully. The last episode of the podcast was recorded live at a Meet & Greet event that Meta hosted. Content creators, Amtul Baweja and Mansoor Qureshi participated as guests and discussed the importance of sharing with care online.

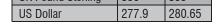
Dr. Priyanka Bhalla, Meta's Head of Safety Policy for South Asia, joined the conversation and discussed tools that are accessible to Facebook

on the platform. She said, "At Meta, we want people to have safe, positive experiences online. We provide tools and resources to help them enjoy their time on our platforms while staying safe and away from harmful content and unwanted contact."

At Facebook, people can explore the things that matter to them and connect with people who share their interests. The event in Karachi is part of Meta's initiative to connect with the Facebook community in Pakistan. It was attended by content creators, Facebook Group admins, digital publications and small business owners who started their journeys on Facebook. Check out Ali Gul Pir's

podcast #CreatewithCare

podcast in collaboration with



milestone with the

opening of its 500th Branch in Karachi

Soneri Bank

Spokesman Report

into the banking fold.

KARACHI: Soneri Bank is proud to

branch, located in Karachi, Khaya-

announce the grand opening of its 500th

ban-e-Shamsheer. This milestone event

underscores Soneri Bank's commitment

to bringing banking services closer to our

objective of bringing the unbanked sector

The grand opening ceremony was a

Ahmed, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, as

Chief Guest, and attended by distinguished

members of Soneri Bank's leadership. The

Jameel Ahmed, Governor of SBP, and Mr.

Amin Feerasta, Chairman of Soneri Bank,

alongside several high-ranking dignitaries

expansion efforts stating, "Soneri Bank's

journey to this milestone is commendable. Their dedication to enhancing banking services aligns with our vision of a robust

Mr. Jameel Ahmed praised Soneri Bank's

Mr. Amin A. Feerasta, Chairman, Soneri Bank, expressed his enthusiasm for the new branch and its offerings saying, "Today, as we

celebrate the opening of our 500th branch, we reinforce our dedication to innovation, growth, and excellence in customer service."

Mr. Muhtashim Ahmad Ashai, President

& CEO of Soneri Bank, stated, "The opening of our 500th branch is a testament to our

collective commitment to delivering the best

banking experience to our customers." and

Mr. Ahsan Mushahid, Deputy CEO, Soneri

Bank, shared his appreciation for the team's efforts stating, "We are immensely proud of

our team for their dedication and hard work

in reaching this remarkable milestone."

from the Soneri Management Team.

and inclusive financial sector."

ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Mr.

significant event, graced by Mr. Jameel

customers' doorsteps and supporting SBP's

celebrates a

partnership: ICCI President

Facebook: Episode 1, 2, 3 users to keep themselves safe and 4.

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States have a long history of partnership and cooperation, and both have always worked to strengthen it with each passing day. This has been stated by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while addressing a cake-cutting ceremony held here at the National Press Club in connection with the 248th Independence Day of the United States

He said that the United States is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners. Numerous bilateral trade agreements and investments have been made in multiple sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, technology, and manufacturing. Both nations have cooperated closely on security and counterterrorism efforts, with Pakistan playing a crucial role in regional stability and counterterrorism operations.

He further said that educational programs and scholarships, such as the Fulbright Program, have enabled thousands of Pakistani students to study in the USA, fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchange. He added that the US has been a significant provider of humanitarian aid to Pakistan, especially



during natural disasters like earthquakes and floods.

The ICCI President made mention of USAID and other American organizations' contributions in development projects in Pakistan, including healthcare, education, and contributing to the nation's progress.

He expressed the hope that in the days to come Pak-US relationship will continue to grow in all the fields especially people to people and business to business which will go a long Phil Remus shared suggestions way in further strengthening this collaboration engagement. It is noteworthy that a dele-

Assembly Deputy Speaker Phil

Ramos and Chairman of the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee, Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, also participated in the celebration and emphasized the need to increase the bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States infrastructure development, in different spheres including education, health and people to people contacts for promoting socio-cultural integration. They also urged the enhance-

ment of media cooperation on oth sides. Deputy Assistant Secretary

on how to improve the existing bilateral ties and also proposed to declare New York as a twin gation led by New York State province with Punjab and as well as Sindh.

Phil Ramos praised the Pakistani community's contributions to the US by emphasizing the need for strong educational foundations and people-topeople contacts to overcome barriers and foster closer ties between the two nations. Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, Chairman

American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), stated that the Pakistani community is keen to invest in their homeland and called for maximum facilitation and cooperation for the initiative.

Alec Brook Cressey, Member of the New York Assembly, said that Pakistan has a better education system for nurses and Pakistani professional nurses can work in the USA on good salaries, adding that "We have identified schools in New York and Pakistan for cultural exchange and Paki-

stani students can learn history from an American teacher and American children as well can learn from a Pakistani teacher."

President Pakistan Union of Journalists Afzal But said that People to people contacts and cooperation between the journalist communities of both sides must for enhancing this relationship.

Meanwhile on the occasion, Secretary NPC, Nayyer Ali and Finance Secretary NPC, Waqar Abbasi also spoke on the different expectations of Pakistan US relations.

LHC Upholds CCP **Powers to Conduct Enquiry in another Case**

😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Lahore High Court vide Order dated 29-05-2024 has vacated a stay order that it had earlier granted to four poultry feed manufacturers against the show cause notices issued by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) for, prima facie, cartelisation and price coordination of

poultry feed. The vacation of the stav order has enabled the CCP to proceed against M/s Hi-Tech Feeds, Islamabad Feeds, Kausar Feed Mills and Mukhtar Poultry Feeds. In 2020, the CCP took

suo motu notice upon concerns raised and complaints made regarding a parallel increase in poultry feed prices. An enquiry was initiated and data was gathered from market sources which showed that there CCP's Bench were stalled. was indeed a simultaneous increase in price by poultry

cion of collusive decision making and a violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act. 2010.

During the enquiry, the CCP also conducted search and inspection of two major poultry feed mills based in Rawalpindi and Lahore. The enquiry report was concluded on the basis of available evidence and show cause notices were issued to nineteen feed companies for, prima facie, violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Out of those nineteen, the specified four companies, while employing legal tactics tried to delay the proceedings initiated by the CCP by filing writ petitions against the showcause notices. The stay was granted by the Court against the show cause notices and as a result, the proceedings before the CCP has made early

applications in all cases feed mills. The average of injunctions whereby quantum of increase in CCP has been stopped prices also appeared to be from conducting enquiries similar, which raised suspi- against cartels and mafias.

Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited Partners with Dewan Farooque Motors for Motor Takaful Coverage

😂 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar General Takaful Limited (PQGTL), a lead-Farooque Motors Limited (DFML) to offer motor Takaful coverage for vehi-

wide network.

This collaboration will see PQGTL provide Takaful coverage for both the electric vehicle, offered under the ing provider of Shariah-compliant banner of Eco-Green Motors Limited General Takaful solutions in Pakistan, (EGML), and trucks sold through the announced partnership with Dewan nationwide distribution network of DFML.

"We are looking forward to having cles distributed through their nation- a lasting partnership with Dewan

expanding our Takaful coverage to electric vehicles and a wider range of commercial vehicles," said Mr. Saqib Zeeshan, CEO of PQGTL. "This partproviding innovative and Shariah-compliant solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers."

Ms. Saleha Hassan, Head of

Farooque Motors Limited for Marketing at DFML, said, "We are protection." pleased to collaborate with Pak-Qatar General Takaful to offer our customers commitment to expanding its reach with added comfort of comprehen- and providing Shariah-compliant sive Takaful coverage for their vehinership aligns with our commitment to cles. This partnership ensures that base across Pakistan. Whether for dependable commercial vehicles or access to exceptional motor Takaful coverage for diverse customer needs.

The partnership highlights PQGTL's Takaful solutions to a broader customer our customers, whether they require commercial logistics or personal commuting, PQGTL's motor Takaful eco-friendly electric vehicles, have solutions aim to deliver comprehensive

Sports Saturday, July 6, 2024

Pakistan team's 2024-25 home int'l cricket season announced

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the details of men's 2024-25 home international cricket season.

The national team will compete in three Test series and participate in the first ODI tri-series in 21 years in the lead up to the eight-team ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on home turf, said a press release issued here Friday.

In the curtain-raiser series of the 2024-25 home international season, Bangladesh will play two Tests in Rawalpindi (August 21-25) and Karachi (August 30-September 3). The internation team will play nine Tests, nine T20Is Champions Trophy 2025 final, proposed for 9 March.

In between, Pakistan will host England for three Tests in Multan (October 7-11), Karachi (October 15-19) and Rawalpindi (October 24-28), and the West Indies will visit for two Tests in Karachi (January 16-20) and Multan (January 24-28). Additionally, New pate in an ODI tri-series in Multan from February 8-14.

Bangladesh last played a Test in Pakistan in February 2020, while England England, South Africa and the West

😂 Metropolitan Football Cup

swept the three-Test series in December 2022. The 2025 series will also mark the West Indies' first Test tour to Pakistan since November 2006 when Brian Lara captained the side against Inzamam-ul-Haq men. Pakistan last hosted the West Indies for a Test series in October 2016 in the United Arab Emirates.

Apart from the home international fixtures, the men's team will tour Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa from November 4 to January 7, playing two Tests, nine ODIs and nine T20Is.

In the period from August 2024 to March 2025, the Pakistan men's cricket tional season will culminate with the ICC and, at least, 14 ODIs. The number of ODIs may increase based on their performance in the ODI tri-series and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

Alongside international cricket, the PCB will be involved in planning and delivering an expanded and more competitive PCB Domestic Cricket Season 2024-25, as well as women's domestic and international cricket Zealand and South Africa will partici- events and competitions. The HBL Pakistan Super League 2025 is also being planned for April/May 2025.

The nine Tests against Bangladesh,



Indies will be part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. To date, Pakistan has played five Tests in two series against Sri Lanka and Australia, winning two and losing three. This has placed them in fifth position on the points table with 22 points. India leads the table with 74 points after three series, followed by Australia (90 points from four series), New Zealand (36 points from three series), and Sri Lanka (24 points from two series).

With each of the top nine Test-playing nations scheduled to play six series (three home and three away) in the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 cycle, strong performances in the upcoming four series could put Pakistan in contention for a place in the final, scheduled for Lord's in June 2025.

Karachi, Multan and Rawalpindi will share the seven Tests and four ODIs between them. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium is currently undergoing rede-

On this occasion, Chairman Mansoor

Sheikh approved the formation of a five-

trials, selection and other administra-

tive affairs of the Saddar Town Football

of preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, but is expected to be ready to stage most of the high-profile matches from February 19 to March 9. The ICC will announce further details of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in due course. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said, "It

was critically important for us to finalize, lock and announce our 2024-25 home international cricket season now. This ensures that both the men's cricket team managements and the PCB event staff have sufficient time to prepare, plan and deliver these series to our very high expectations and standards, showcasing Pakistan as an outstanding cricket nation and the PCB as a thoroughly professional organization.

"By announcing the complete schedule of home international matches, we are also inviting and encouraging our passionate local and traveling cricket supporters to plan their holidays. They will not only be entertained with some exciting and intense cricket, but also have the opportunity to explore this beautiful country, which has so much to offer.

"These series are a vital part of our strategy to strengthen Pakistan's position in international cricket and ensure long-

sign and redevelopment work as part term sustainability for the sport in our captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said, country. Through the 2024-25 home international cricket season, the PCB aims to promote, grow and develop the game by attracting new fans and audiences. This is also an excellent opportunity to commercially leverage the series and maximize revenue generation, which will be reinvested into player welfare, infrastructure development and enhancing the profile of our domestic and women's cricket.

The Spokesman

"The visits by five top cricket playing nations in the lead-up to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, followed by seven countries participating in the event proper over the next eight months, also highlight Pakistan's standing and stature in international cricket. We deeply value the participation of these teams and players, who will bring immense talent and competitive spirit to our fields."

Bangladesh Cricket Board Chief Executive Nizam Uddin Chowdhury said, We thank the PCB for confirming the schedule for Bangladesh's tour of Pakistan for the ICC World Test Championship matches. The series presents a significant test for us, but it is also a chance to showcase our progress in this format."

"As a team we are looking forward to returning to Pakistan for the ICC World Test Championship.

"Plaving in Pakistan is always a challenging but an exciting prospect, and we will have to be at our very best to compete against a formidable home side in their backyard."

England and Wales Cricket Board Chief Executive Richard Gould said, We're really excited to be returning to Pakistan for this three-match men's Test tour in October.

"Our last men's Test tour of Pakistan produced some memorable matches and I'm sure fans can look forward to more exciting cricket across this forthcoming series."

Cricket West Indies Chief Executive Johnny Grave said, "We are pleased to be visiting Pakistan next January for the final Test Series in the current cycle of the ICC World Test Championship.

"Whilst we have toured Pakistan many times in recent years, it will have been almost two decades since we last played Test cricket there. The 2006 series also had Tests in both Karachi and Multan, and we look forward to returning for a competitive series against Bangladesh men's cricket team another proud Test cricketing nation."

Chairman Saddar Town forms committee for trials and selection of Saddar Town team

😹 Sports Desk

KARACHI: Chairman Sadar Town Mansoor Ahmed Sheikh has said that football is the most played and watched sports in the world. District South in Pakistan is called the nursery of football.

In the past, many players from here have played at the international and national levels. These players have lofted the flag of the coutry at international level and have won laurels. More steps will be taken to promote football in Saddar Town.

He expressed these thoughts while addressing a meeting held in his office regarding the formation of the football team of Saddar Town for the Metropolitan Football Cup to be started this month under the auspices of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

Jokhio, Chairman Sports Committee so that they can raise the name and flag



Hamid Hussain, Director Administraof their town, city, province and Pakistan tion Muhammad Raisi and Director in the future. Sports Asif Azim were also present on this occasion

Chairman Mansoor Ahmed Sheikh said that we are trying our best to provide ample opportunities to our Municipal Commissioner Noor Hasan young players to express their talents

chairman of the committee while the other members include the names of Muhammad Raisi, Asif Azim, Sadrtown Youth Councilor Umar Farooq and Muhammad Ilyas.

Chairman Mansoor Sheikh instructed the committee that the selection of the team should be done on the basis of merit and fitness.

Municipal Commissioner Noor Hassan Jokhio said that the importance of youth in a healthy society cannot be ignored.

Playgrounds help the youth in entertainment, mental and physical development. Our effort is not only to increase the playgrounds but also to provide more facilities in the existing grounds member committee for conducting so that more and more players can have opportunities to express their talents in football. Later, teams will be prepared Team for the Metropolitan Football Cup. in the town for other sports as well, he In which Hamid Hussain is the concluded.

Punjab Pervez Iqbal visits NPŠC Gymnasium Hall 🐞 Sports Desk

Director General Sports



LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal visited Sports Board Punjab's Summer Camps at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall and witnessed a large number of young children participating in badminton and table tennis summer camps.

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal was accompanied by Director Admin M Kaleem, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Administrator NPSC Gymnasium Hall Mustfa Shah and other officials during his visit.

Talking to media on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that he is glad to watch hundreds of young school going children taking part in multiple sports activities in summer camp. "It seems that Punjab government's objective of conducting this summer camp is going to be fulfilled. I have met several children and their parents and they are very happy and satisfied with the summer camp arrangements and quality of coaching".

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal further said that Sorts Board Punjab has arranged summer camps of 12 games in Lahore in which qualified coaches and trainers are imparting valuable training to young camp probable. "Some of the children are participating in any sports activity for the first time and they learning basics of different games from our expert coache

Pakistan Women Cricket squad, Shaheens to train from July 8

🐞 Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan women's cricket team and Pakistan Shaheens will begin preparations for their respective assignments by training and practice sessions in Karachi from 6 and 8 July, respectively

Shaheens will depart for Darwin, Australia on 14 July to face Bangladesh 'A' in two four-day matches. On the tour. Shaheens will also feature in two one-day matches and will take part in a nine-team T20 tournament, which will be played from 19 July to 18 August.

Pakistan women's team will travel to Sri Lanka on 16 July



to feature in ACC Women's Asia Cup, which commences from 19 July, according to a PCB communique on Friday.

Inter Departmental National Kabaddi C'ship from July 12 😂 Spots Desk

ISLAMABAD: Inter Departmental National (Asian Style) Kabaddi Championship 2024 will roll into action from July 22, at Liaquat Gymnasium Islamabad.

Secretary General Pakistan Kabaddi Federation, Muhammad Sarwar Rana said on Tuesday that seven teams of various department's will take part in the championship including Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Wapda, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan Railways and Pakistan Police.

The managers' meeting will be held on July 11. The final match will be played on July 14.

Sarwar Rana said that the players, who would perform well in the championship would be included in the national team. The selected players will participate in the Asian Indoor Games to be played in Thailand in November this year.

Players, parents satisfied with summer camp arrangements: DG Sports

😂 🛛 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: DG Sports Punjab Pervez Igbal said that the Punjab government's objective of conducting this summer camp is going to be fulfilled. "I have met several children and their parents and they are very happy and satisfied with the summer camp arrangements and quality of coaching, he said this during his visit to Summer Camps at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on Friday. He witnessed a large number of young children participating in badminton and table tennis summer camps at this venue.

Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Administrator NPSC Gymnasium Hall Mustfa Shah and other officials accompanied DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal during his visit.

Talking to media on this occasion, DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that he is glad to watch hundreds of young school going children taking part in multiple sports activities in summer camp. "Sports Board Punjab has arranged summer camps of 12 games in Lahore in which qualified coaches and trainers are imparting valuable training to young camp probable. Some of the children are participating in any sports activity for the first time and they are learning basics of different games from our expert coaches".

Merino extra-time goal sends Spain past Germany to Euro semis

🐞 A Sports

After a fiery yet goalless first half, Spain's Dani Olmo latched onto an inch-perfect pass from Spanish wunderkind Lamine Yamal to give La Roja the lead on 51 minutes. Niclas Fuellkrug struck the post with 14 minutes remaining but with the hosts staring at an early exit, Florian Wirtz slammed in a Joshua Kimmich knock-down in the 89th minute to take the game to extra time.

With a minute remaining in extra time and the game looking set for penalties, Olmo lofted a cross for Mikel Merino, who headed Spain into the semi-finals and on course for a recordbreaking fourth Euros crown.

hosts' hope of a summer fairytale Euros victory after a decade of poor performances at major tournaments, while also lowering the curtain on Toni Kroos' stellar career.

The battle between the two most

successful Euros nations, with three in place of Wirtz. titles apiece, was billed as a final come early, with the in-form Spaniards against Nagelsmann's reborn hosts.

Spain nominated Kroos as Germany's most dangerous pre-match but the midfielder had a huge, even if unintended impact early, colliding with Pedri, who was then subbed off with a leg injury for Olmo.

Germany, with the oldest squad at Euro 2024, struggled with Spain's speed during the first half, frequently coming into duels a fraction too late, but the two best chances of the opening half fell to the hosts – and both to Kai Havertz.

The Arsenal forward leapt highest to head a cross directly at Unai Simon Germany's exit brings to an end the early and then scuffed a tame shot at the goalie later in the half with just the 'keeper to beat.

After a goalless first half, Nagelsmann took off surprise starter Emre Can for the pink-haired Robert Andrich, while the ineffective Leroy Sane was hooked

The substitution who would make his mark however was Olmo, who gave Spain the lead six minutes into the second half, slicing through the sleepy Germany defence to perfectly place a Yamal pass past Manuel Neuer in the bottom left corner.

The goal kicked Germany into gear with Wirtz particularly dangerous.

The Bayer Leverkusen starlet linked with Fuellkrug on the counter with a quarter of an hour remaining but the striker, under heavy attention from the Spanish defence, could only hit the post.

With 10 minutes remaining, Nagelsmann made his final substitution, bringing veteran Thomas Mueller from the bench.

But it was Wirtz – 13 years his junior who made the difference, skimming a Joshua Kimmich header across the grass and in at the far post in the final minute, sending the game to extra time.

Mikel Oyarzabal, on for Williams,



curled a 104th-minute shot just wide of the post and Wirtz did the same a minute later with the goal beckoning. Germany appealed strongly for a

penalty in the second period of extra time, after a goal-bound Jamal Musiala shot clearly connected with Marc Cucurella's outstretched hand

After the penalty drama, Olmo curled in a cross for Mikel Merino, who leapt high to head the ball past Neuer and put Spain into the Euro 2024 semi-finals.



The Spokesman

Saturday, July 6, 2024

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy on Friday.



Photo: PID

Cabinet body approves six months' extension in Refinery **Policy 2023**

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on Energy, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday, approved the extension of six months in the Refinery Policy 2023 regarding the upgradation of the existing refineries.

The committee directed the Ministry of Petroleum to take into confidence the oil refinfor small water projects of the eries established in the country and prepare a comprehensive private sector. plan for their upgradation on

a priority basis.

2023 to May 2024.

billion till May 2024.

The committee

under the Power Policy 2015

The committee was also ment in the electricity sector presented with a detailed and quickly resolving the tariff report on the circular debt of and other issues. the power sector from July

The prime minister decided to resolve complaints regarding The report stated that the the electricity supply of the volume of the power sector's people of Gilgit-Baltistan. circular debt was Rs 2,655

He constituted a committee to prepare a plan of action to ensure the uninterrupted approved the Standardized supply of electricity in Gilgit Security Package Document Baltistan.

committee also The approved setting up a support of law enforcement agencies unit with two-year tenure to and officials of DISCOs for the

This initiative is aimed at increase the efficiency of elec-

also

promoting private invest- tricity distribution companies, prevent electricity theft and timely collection of bills.

After the Federal Cabinet's approval, the first support unit would be established for the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO).

committee The also approved an incentive package for recovery of unpaid and overdue electricity bills.

Under the package, rewards would be given to the personnel recovery of unpaid and overdue

electricity bills.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Dr Musadik Malik, Ahsan Iqbal and Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik. Coordinator to the PM Rana Ehsaan Afzal, NEPRA Chairman Waseem Mukhtar, OGRA Chairman Masroor Khan, and other high officials.

general elections in Pakistan,

rejecting the February 8 polls

Addressing a press confer-

ence, Fazlur Rehman claimed

that the government has 'no

powers' to address their

concerns and that the elec-

tions held on February 8 were

He demanded that the

right to vote be restored to

the people and fresh elections

be held under a transparent

US Congress's recent resolu-

tion on Pakistan's elections,

saying that it has raised ques-

tions about the legitimacy of

the polls. He questioned the passage of such resolution.

Fazl also referred to the

as 'unacceptable'.

not transparent.

system.

Palestinian Medical Students to complete education in Pakistan: **Ishaq Dar**



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House

in Senate and Foreign Minister, Sena-

tor Ishaq Dar on Friday informed

the Upper House that Palestini-

an medical students will complete

their medical education in Pakistan. He informed the House that some

UK based groups had approached

him as Foreign Minister that Pakistan should facilitate the Palestini-

an medical students of final year in

completing their degrees because the

infrastructure in Gaza has complete-

He said upon receiving requests,

he wrote to Pakistan Medical and

Dental Council (PMDC) to find

a way out that Pakistan can help

those students. He said the PMDC

in response to his request, had

agreed to accommodate all those

medical students from Palestine in

腾 City Desk

ly destroyed.

tion of their education. "Palestinian students will come to Pakistan in 20 to 30 batches for completion of their medical education which is very humble contribution of Pakistan" said Ishaq Dar. The foreign minister said the

administrative control for comple-

stance of Pakistan's government on Gaza is very clear and Pakistan approached all available forums to promote its stance on Gaza. He said first of all Pakistan raised the issue of Gaza in Organization of Islamic Country (OIC) meeting which took place in Gambia, later in the D-8 meeting which took place in Istanbul and demanded at every forum that Israel's atrocities in Gaza must be stopped.

He said that Pakistan also supported that the humanitarian aid should be given free flow in Gaza and Pakistan in this regard had sent nine consignments so far as an aid for the brothers and sisters in Gaza. Pakistan has also demanded that the proceedings against Israel's war crimes should be started in the International Court of Justice and the genocide of innocent Palestinians should be stopped. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif in his recent visit to Astana categorically supported Gaza and condemned the medical collages under PMDC's Israel's war crimes, he expressed.

Family of 2022 car accident victim end Islamabad sit-in after talks with police



woman.

ISLAMABAD: Family and relatives of spot and fled from the scene. The 2 car accident case victim ended their sit-in outside the National Press Lahore High Court official returned Club in Islamabad on Friday after negotiations with the police. "The DIG has assured us of resolving our reservations and arresting the murderer of my son within 10 days," Rafaqat Ali Tanoli, the father of Shakeel Tanoli who was killed in a traffic accident, told reporters. He returned to the National Press Club after being released. He was arrested by the Islamabad police on Thursday after protesters marched towards D Chowk - the iconic square. Rafaqat Ali's son Shakeel Tanoli and his colleague Hasnain Ali both were waiters at Savor Foods. They were going home on June 8, 2022 midnight when they were hit by a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) allegedly driven by a

The woman left the vehicle on the police took the car into custody. But a

😂 City Desk

Fazalur Rehman, Shahid Khaqan term budget 'IMF influenced'

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and chief Awaam Pakistan-a newly formed political party-Shahid Khaqan Abbasi called on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman.

The JUI-F spokesperson said that both the leaders Pakistan's political situation. "The leaders expressed concern over the increasing inflation and lawlessness," the spokesperson added.

The JUI-F spokesperson said that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Maulana Fazalur-Rehman also expressed reservations about the budget 2024-25.

➢ Correspondent

in this regard.

example of.

MANSEHRA: Khyber Pakhtunkh-

Gandapur on Friday warned his polit-

ing 'Haqeeqi Azadi (True Freedom),

vowing that PTI would resist any move

Addressing a public gathering in

Mansehra, the PTI leader declared that

anyone who tries to become Gen (retd)

Qamar Javed Bajwa will be labeled a

traitor. The minister also warned that

those who try to violate the Consti-

tution will be hanged and made an

speech by saying that he is waiting

for just one call from PTI founder

the charge. He also took a dig at

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Imran Khan to take action and lead

Pervez Khattak, saying that if he testi-

fies falsely, he will not be able to enter

Ali Amin Gandapur concluded his

wa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin

ical opponents against suppress-

leaders were of the view that tional Monetary Fund (IMF) budget for the fiscal year instructions. 2024-25 is not for the people,

He said that both the but is 'based on' Interna- also reiterated that the party

The JUI-F spokesperson

would not accept 'fake' general elections 2024.

Earlier, Maulana Fazlur asking whether this was a Rehman demanded new diplomatic failure.

CM Maryam Nawaz to establish AliAmin Gandapur Punjab Development Authority warns against suppressing 'Haqeeqi Azadi' 😂 🛛 Bureau Report

establish Punjab Development Authority, and sought a list of all illegal housing schemes in Lahore. She said,"Every housing scheme will be reviewed and decided upon whether to regularise it or not."

approved remodeling and beautification of MM Alam Road, and directed Market and Hali Road area. She also directed to construct, renovate and areas, and said, "Uniform roads and tuff tiles should be installed."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved Karim Block to Motorway Signal Free Corridor 46 billion revenue generation target present.

Plan, under which 02 underpasses will be constructed on 6-ways road

for LDA.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was apprised, "An online service is being launched for the citizens to get their residential maps

> ment plots worth billions of rupees have been recovered as a result of checking and sifting of records." Madam Chief Minister directed LDA authorities to complete the process of sifting and checking of records as soon as possible. She also reviewed a proposal to commercialize various important roads of the city.

Madam Chief Minister said,"Special attention should be given to the development of LDA City." She also visited the Global Village.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, SACM on Political Affairs Zeeshan Malik, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary to CM and other relevant officers were also

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the car back on superdari (interim disposal).

In 2023, Rafaqat informed the court that the suspect and the heirs of Hasnain settled the matter out of court. He claimed that the family members of the suspect also came to his house in Mansehra district and warned him of dire consequences if he pursued the case.

"If our demands are not met, we will return to D-Chowk," Rafaqat said and reiterated the sit-in was called off after assurances from the DIG.

While appearing on Aaj News show Rubaroo via video link from the protest site, he said: "We will protest until the murderer of my son is arrested."

RCCI warns of nationwide protest and shutter down strike for anti-business budget

😂 Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: An emergent consultative meeting was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the impact of the recently passed fiscal Budget 2024. President RCCI Saqib Rafiq along with Group Leader Sohail Altaf, chaired the meeting. In the course of the meeting, representatives from the ICMA and tax bar associations provided a comprehensive overview of the measures outlined in the budget, including tax rates, FBR additional powers, penalties for filers, non-filers, and late filers, double taxation, and advance tax.

President Chamber Saqib Rafiq informed that a charter of demands will be presented to the government prior to any calls for organized nationwide protests and strikes. A decision was made to seek the support and collaboration of all small and large factions of trade organizations and chambers across the country in preparation for a potential nationwide strike. It was emphasized that the budget was formulated without considering the prevailing ground realities and without consulting relevant stakeholders.

Group leader Sohail Altaf expressed concerns regarding the impact of the budget on various stakeholders, including shopkeepers and indus-

tries. Mr. Altaf cautioned that instead of implementing reforms and providing a roadmap for industrialization and increasing exports, the government has disincentivized the industry and especially exports by bringing exporters into the Normal Tax Regime as opposed to the Final Tax Regime previously. Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, former presidents, Executive Committee Members, Women Members and a large number of RCCI members were also present on the occasion.

Representatives from the Anjuman e Tajran, Sheikh Siddique, Shahid Ghafoor Piracha, Sheikh Hafeez, Arshad Awan, Raja Jawad from Gujar Khan, Asif Idrees-Former President RCSTSI, leaders of different markets, representatives from the Tax Bar Associations and ICMA, including Tanseer Bukhari, Chairman of the RCCI Standing Committee on Tax Affairs, Faraz Fazal, President of RITBA, Shehzad Malik, President of ICMA, and Mian Ramzan, were present at the meeting. Key individuals from various sectors and industries, including poultry, pharmaceuticals, mobile, furniture, travel and tourism, stationery, marble, construction, property, gems, and jewelry, were also in attendance.



Earlier, DG LDA Tahir Farooq gave a briefing about the working projects rehabilitate Gulberg and its adjoining and performance of LDA. He briefed Madam Chief Minister, "LDA will collect many times more revenue this financial year as compared to last year." Madam Chief Minister set Rs

LAHORE,: Chief Minister Maryam from Karim Block to Motorway. She Nawaz Sharif became the first female also approved commercialization of Chief Minister to visit LDA Head- various roads in Lahore, and directed

Madam Chief Minister the authorities concerned to operate Complexes at Minar-e-Pakistan and a Tram in Liberty, Main Market, Mini China Scheme.