

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے عبد اللہ علیؑ نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے منبر
نے بیان کیا ان سے زہری نے ان سے سام
نے ان سے عبد اللہ بن عمرؓ نے کہ رسول اللہ
ﷺ کے زمانہ میں اس پر پڑتی کہ جب ظہر
کے ذکر یوں ہی خریدیں میں نے اپنے اور قتلے
اس کو ای جگہ دو سرے کے ہاتھ چھڑا لیں ہاں
دونوں اٹھا کر اپنے ٹھکانے لے جائیں پھر تجھیں
تو کچھ مزہ ہوگی۔
(8852) (بیگناری صدف نمبر 8852)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited



Armed Forces, Services Chiefs pay tribute to Havildar Lalak Jan on his 25th martyrdom anniversary

RAWALPINDI: According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, on this day, Havildar Lalak Jan demonstrated unwavering courage and selflessness, laying down his life in the line of duty during the Kargil conflict. "His valor and altruism continue to inspire future generations of brave soldiers. The highest honor is bestowed upon those who sacrifice their lives for the nation's defense. The nation remains forever grateful to its valiant soldiers."



Crescent not sighted, first Muharram on Monday

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Saturday announced that the first Muharram-ul-Haram 1446 AH would fall on Monday, July 8, 2024 as the crescent has not been sighted from any nook and cranny of the country. According to the notification issued here, the ministry has made this announcement in pursuance of the decision of Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, in its meeting held in Quetta.

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New era of Pak-China cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on implementation of Agreements and MOUs agreed upon during PM's visit to China.



Photo: PID

New era of Pak-China cooperation in diverse fields to boost economic prosperity, regional connectivity: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that a new era of cooperation with China commenced in areas of information technology, communication, minerals and mining; and energy which would boost economic progress, regional connectivity and the bilateral ties.

Chairing a meeting to review implementation of agreements and MOUs between the two countries reached during PM's recent visit to China, the prime minister said that he would not tolerate any disruption in the implementation of the same, declaring that he would personally supervise the process.

Referring to time-tested Pak-China friendship, he said that China had always supported

Pakistan in difficult and hard times.

"China has emerged as the strongest economic power and Pakistan can emulate from its development," he added.

The prime minister observed that recently a delegation of Chinese shoes manufacturing companies had visited Pakistan with regard to relocation of their plants in Pakistan, adding that such companies had the capacity to invest about 5 to 8 billion dollars in Pakistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He said that the local shoes manufacturers association was in constant contact with the Chinese companies in this regard.

Moreover, he said about 12 renowned Chinese companies related to agriculture sector would be taking very active part

in the Food and Agri Expo being held in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers including Jam Kamal Khan, Attaullah Tarar, Abdul Aleem Khan, Sardar Awaiz Khan Leghari, Dr Musadik Malik, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State Shaza Fatima Khawaja, PM's Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jahanzaib Khan and relevant authorities.

The prime minister also reviewed progress on sending a total of 1,000 Pakistani students on government scholarships to China for seeking the latest training in the agriculture sector.

He also directed for sending of students from the backward areas of Balochistan province on priority basis, besides other students from the four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir on merit.

The prime minister further directed for sending of students in the upcoming educational semester.

The meeting was apprised that owing to the agreements and MoUs signed during prime minister's recent visit, more than 100 Chinese companies were in contact with the Pakistani counterparts for the business and investment purposes.

The meeting was also informed by the ministry of IT on the progress made for imparting of technical training, one-stop operation for business facilitation, smart governance and smart city by Huawei to a total of 3,00,000 students.

The prime minister directed WAPDA authorities for the establishment of safe center for the foolproof security arrangements of Chinese nationals working on Dasu and Diamer Bhasha dams.

He asked for immediate implementation of all directives.

The prime minister was also apprised of the progress on different projects related to communication infrastructure, power and Gwadar.

He directed for expediting work on steps for the development of Gwadar port, airport and industrial zone for transforming Gwadar into regional corridor hub.

The prime minister also asked for accelerating negotiation process with the Chinese manufacturing companies for relocation of solar panels and accessories units into Pakistan.

President congratulates Dr Masoud Pezeshkian on his election as President of Iran

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday extended his heartfelt congratulations to Dr Masoud Pezeshkian on his election as the President of Iran.

Pakistan and Iran enjoy fraternal ties and I hope that under your leadership our relations will grow further stronger, the president said in a statement.

He expressed his eagerness to work together for the peace



and prosperity of the region.

PM felicitates Dr Masoud Pezeshkian on his victory in Iran's presidential election

City Desk



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday extended congratulations to Dr Masoud Pezesh-

kian on his victory in Iran's presidential elections.

"I look forward to working closely with President-elect Dr Pezeshkian to further strengthen Pakistan-Iran bilateral ties and promote regional peace and stability," the prime minister wrote on his official 'X' account.

He said as neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran enjoyed a close and historic relationship. "We must ensure a bright future for our two peoples through mutually beneficial cooperation," he added.

Pezeshkian wins runoff vote to become Iran's 9th president

IRNA

TEHRAN: Masoud Pezeshkian won the runoff presidential elections held on Friday to become Iran's 9th president.

Out of a total of 30,530,157 votes counted, Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon, won 16,384,403 votes while Jalili stood behind his rival with 13,538,179 ballots. The turnout was reported to be 49.8%.

Pezeshkian, 69, had served as a lawmaker in the Iranian Parliament for five 4-year terms. He was also the vice speaker of Iran's 10th Parliament. The president-elect served as Iran's minister of health for four years during the administration of



then-President Mohammad Khatami.

The early election was held on June 28 across Iran with the participation of four candidates.

Masoud Pezeshkian and Saeed Jalili won more votes than other hopefuls; meanwhile, the runoff election was planned for a week later as none of the candidates managed to get the majority of votes to become the president of Iran.

PTI Islamabad power show postponed after NOC cancellation

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday postponed the party's Islamabad power show after the federal capital administration cancelled the No Objection Certificate (NOC).

Islamabad Chief Commissioner suspended the no-objection certificate (NOC) issued to PTI for public gathering just a day before the scheduled meeting.

Speaking to media, PTI chairman Barrister Gohar said that PTI got a green signal for the power show four months after the request for the NOC was made, but the commissioner cancelled the NOC.

He stated that the commissioner has no authority to

suspend the NOC, however, the party has approached the Islamabad High Court against the suspension, and a hearing is expected on Monday since the Chief Justice is not available due to the weekend.

Gohar said that the court will hear their plea and allow PTI to proceed with the power show.

Earlier today, a contempt plea was filed in Islamabad High Court against the suspension of NOC for PTI Islamabad power show.

The plea was filed by the Coordinator of Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Aein Khanzaada Hussain against the suspension of the NOC for Tarnol Jalsa.

The petition urged the court to initiate contempt of court proceedings against

'Awaam Pakistan': Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah Ismail launch new party

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Miftah Ismail and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Saturday formally launched a new party named Awaam Pakistan.

Speaking at the ceremony in Islamabad, the former finance minister Miftah Ismail said that Awaam Pakistan would not follow the "hereditary politics".

The newly formed party also announced its slogan 'Awaam Pakistan: Badlein ge nizam' (People of Pakistan: We will change the system).

The former finance minister invited people to join them and rebuild Pakistan. "If you believe that we have the right to move forward [...] then join us," Ismail said.

Addressing the ceremony, former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi lamented that politics has become more about self-preservation than serving the public interest.

Abbasi expressed his disappointment with the priorities of politicians, stating, "It is upsetting that we worry about our seats more than our country." He questioned the moral authority of those who prioritize their political survival over the nation's well-being.

However, Abbasi offered a glimmer of hope, suggesting that the public's desire for a better future could be the catalyst for change.

He presented his new political initiative, Awaam Pakistan, as an unconventional alternative to traditional political parties. Abbasi emphasized that Awaam Pakistan is not a structured political party but an idea that prioritizes ability and influence over mere electability.

The former Prime Minister took a job at traditional political parties, stating that anyone can assemble a group of electables and call themselves a political party.

"Electables are a part of politics, but not all electables are recognizable," Abbasi continued.

"In contrast, Awaam Pakistan aims to bring together individuals who possess the ability and influence to drive meaningful change," he said.

Abbasi clarified that the initiative has not yet extended invitations to join but will do so when the time is right.

The launching ceremony was attended by former governor of KP, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, former health minister Dr Zafar Mirza, ex-provincial minister Zaem Qadra and other politicians.

It is pertinent to mention here that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah Ismail, and other leaders have been working on this project since leaving their respective parties in 2022 and 2023 due to policy disagreements.

Prior to this, they formed the Political Mavericks group, which conducted nationwide seminars under the banner of "Reimagining Pakistan" in 2023 to address the country's challenges.

Pension is a huge burden on government

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance, Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Saturday termed the pension for retired employees as a burden on the government.

Addressing industrialists and businessmen at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Aurangzeb highlighted several critical economic issues and measures.

He stressed that the federal cabinet's decision not to take salaries had not substantially alleviated the treasury's burden.

He highlighted that the substantial expenditure reduction would be achieved through the closure of ineffi-

cient departments.

The Finance Minister also mentioned plans to reduce the policy rate this year, noting that while making emotional speeches is easy, practical ground-level work presents a challenge.

The minister outlined the government's goal to raise the tax-to-GDP ratio to 13% within the next two to three years. He acknowledged the objections raised by small businessmen regarding new taxes, stating that these taxes were necessary as small businesses had previously not been taxed.

Aurangzeb assured that tax authorities possess comprehensive data on non-filers and instructed industrialists to avoid entertaining any

Continued on Page 8

High Court Bar Association Multan host a tea party in the honor of former LHC CJ

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Speaking at the tea party ceremony given by High Court Bar Association Multan in honor of former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Mr. Justice Muhammad Amer Bhatti, former Chief Justice of Punjab High Court said that Multan bar is my mother and teacher bar Multan bar. And it is because of the lawyers here that I have reached the point which I cannot forget. Multan Bar and its lawyers are prominent throughout Pakistan. Multan Bar's support helped in delivering justice quickly. Addressing the young lawyers, he said that they 'To become a successful lawyer and develop, make sure to respect the seniors and sit as much as possible in their company and make friends with legal books. These are the books that made us successful lawyers. Vice President Ali Raza Alvi, General Secretary Syed Anis Mehdi, Chairman Drug Court



Lahore Naveed Ahmad Rana, Mian Abbas Ahmad, Additional Advocate Syed Arbab Shah, besides Muhammad Hussain Babar, Nadeem Tard, Mian Shahid, Ch. Muhammad Akram, Chairman Drug Court Bahawalpur Makhdoom Mashuq Hussain, Safdar Sarsana, Chaudhry Saleem Ansari, Khalid Ghani, Sahibzada Saleem and a large number of lawyers participated.

Rain in Faisalabad and at the mercy of the city of Vasa

Abul Majid

FAISALABAD: After the rain, not only eight bazar but the whole city of Faisalabad was submerged in water, due to which the work of WASA came to the fore and the claims of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were left unanswered. The city of Faisalabad, submerged in Punjab, has become an example, this was said by the central president of Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan, Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra while talking to the media after calling an emergency executive meeting. All the members of the board participated in this meeting and the Prime Minister of Pakistan has demanded that the basic rights of the second largest revenue generating city from the third largest city of Pakistan be given. And the officers holding all the major positions of its institutions should be changed so that those who obstruct the development of Faisalabad city get a lesson.

Press conference of SSP Investigation Abdul Wahab in Faisalabad



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The dead body locked in a drum has been traced from the canal in the area of Police Station Sadar, case number four hundred and seven 2024 Bajram 302, 363, 201, the body of the victim in Police Station Sadar Sadar After being investigated from various aspects, the buyer of the drum was identified. The accused put the body in a drum and put it in the car and threw it in the Chameril Jhal canal. Muhammad Imran was arrested, After arrested Police the tracing the blind murder with modern methods, the four accused have been arrested. after the press conference of SSP Investigation Abdul Wahab, the family members of the victim garlanded the entire team for their good performance and appreciated the good performance of SSP Investigation Abdul Wahab and the police team.

DC Attock imposes 90-day ban on public speaking during Muharram

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The Deputy Commissioner of Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has imposed a ban on public speaking for 37 religious scholars and zakreens from various sects in the Attock district for 90 days under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order 2017 to maintain peace and order during Muharram. These individuals include Mufti Inamullah Attock, Maulana Tariq Attock, Qari Chan Muhammad Hazro, Maulana Abdul Khaliq Hazro, Maulana Obaid-ur-Rehman Hazro, Maulana Jan Muhammad Kamra, Maulana Hussain Ahmed Fateh Jang, Maulana Abdul Khaliq Fateh Jang, Sardar Ahmed Khan Fateh Jang, Jehan Khan Fateh Jang, Shujauddin Attock Khurd, Maulana Iftikhar Ahmed Farooqi Pindigheb, Qari Muhammad Hayat Pindigheb, Qari Mushtaq Pindigheb, Waqar Hussain Karbalai Pindigheb, Qari Ghulam Haider Jand, Maulana Muhammad Asif Jand, Maulana Abdul Rasheed Jand, Khan Muhammad Jand, Baqir Ali Naqvi Jand, Amjad Hussain Jand, Molvi Shamsuddin Basal, Maulana Nasir-ud-Din Basal, Syed Ameer Hussain Shah Basal, Habibullah Attock, Shehzad Chishti Attock, Rafiqat Haqqani Attock, Mudasar Shah Attock, Zafar Iqbal Attock, Maulana Azhar Mahmood Azhari Hazro, Maulana Mehdi Shah Zaman Hazro, Syed Liaquat Ali Shah Hazro, Muhammad Mushtaq Hazro, Ehsanullah Haq Hazro, Sahibzada Muhammad Jabir Majid Jand, Syed Amjad Shah Fateh Jang, and Professor Najm-ul-Hassan Pindigheb.

DS Railway Kashif Butt distributed insurance checks to widows of railway employees



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent Railway Multan Kashif Farooq Butt distributed insurance checks To Railways Employees widows. According to the details, the insurance amount was paid to 12 widows of employees who died on duty. Regarding distribution of insurance checks, DS Railway Multan Kashif Farooq Butt himself distributed the checks to the widows of railway employees who died while performing their duties in the committee room of DS office while Divisional Personnel Officer Nabila Aslam was also present on the occasion.. Widows thanked DS Railways by receiving insurance checks. On this occasion, DS Railway Multan said that Railway DS Office Multan is always trying to protect the rights of employees.

FIA arrests former national bank officer over corruption

Hussna Sommro

LARKANA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Larkana Circle has arrested Ghulam Mujtaba Meher, a former officer of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), for allegedly embezzling funds amounting to Rs 10.41 million. The arrest was carried out following directives from Deputy Director FIA. According to Nisar Abbasi, the FIA inquiry officer, Ghulam Mujtaba Meher is accused of embezzling the significant amount from Mehrna funds. The action was prompted by complaints filed by Waqar Hussain and several other users, leading to the registration of a corruption case against the former bank officer. The FIA's decisive move reflects its ongoing efforts to clamp down on financial misconduct and ensure accountability within financial institutions. The investigation into the case continues, with further actions expected to follow based on the findings.

Waterlogged

FAISALABAD: The roads including Jhal bridge, Fawara Chowk, People's Colony waterlogged after heavy rainfall in the city.



Photo: Online

Promotion of peace and order and brotherhood is the responsibility of all of us: Bishop Yousuf Sohan

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Chairman of Catholic Commission for Inter-religious and Inter-Church Dialogue of Pakistan, Bishop Yousuf Sohan has said that the promotion of peace and order and brotherhood is the responsibility of all of us. It should be because happiness belongs to everyone.

Today, it is a matter of happiness for us that in the Eid Milan party ceremony organized in honor of the Muslim county in the Catholic Church, scholars, intellectuals, journalists and people associated with civil society are participating. If we meet in the same way. If we continue to participate in each other's happiness, we can become the best nation in the world, he



expressed these views yesterday at the Eid meeting organized by the Catholic Commission for Inter-Religious and Inter-Church Dialogue Pakistan and Multan Diocese Harmony Forum at the Catholic Church Multan. Speaking at the ceremony, on this occasion National

Executive Secretary Catholic Commission for Interfaith and Inter-Christian Dialogue Samuel Clement, Senior Journalist Shaukat Ashfaq, Father Daniel Taj, Father Salman Johnson, Professor Abdul Qudous Sahib, Sarfraz Clement, Allama Dr.

Muhammad Arshad Ali Baloch, Prof. Abdul Majid Vato, Makhdoom Aun Raza Shamsi, Allama Syed Mujahid Abbas Gardizi, Allama Abdul Hanan Haicari, Rao Mohammad Arif Rizvi, Basharat Abbas Qureshi, Pir Obaid Sadrpuri, Chaudhry Muhammad Shafiq, Shahbaz Nazim, Tariq Amir Abbasi, Hiina Salman, Imroz Gul. Salman Khizr, Shazer Gill and others also participated while speaking on this occasion, National Executive Secretary Catholic Commission for Inter-religious and Inter-Catholic Dialogue Samuel Clement has said that for the establishment of sustainable peace in the society, people of all religions should get Efforts are needed so that our country can become the cradle of peace and order.

Halwa of Sonda a traditional legacy of Thatta

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: Sonda, a small town located approximately 40 kilometers from Thatta, is renowned for its centuries-old graveyard and picturesque location along the banks of the Indus River. Additionally, Sonda is famous throughout the province for its traditional sweet dish, Halwa, which has a unique taste that tantalizes the taste buds of sweet-tooth lovers. Tourists, picnickers, and others who visit Thatta's historical sites make a stopover in Sonda to indulge in the delicious Halwa from Haji Sher Muhammad's shop, whose grandfather established the recipe over 70

years ago. The old shop, previously located on the main road, has been relocated to an adjacent street in Sonda town. "My grandfather, Hussain Jakhro, established the shop around 65 years ago, and his Halwa soon gained recognition across Thatta district and other cities in Sindh due to its delicious taste and pure ingredients," says Sher Muhammad, the current owner. He adds that people send this Halwa to their loved ones living abroad as a treat. The confectioners responsible for making this special recipe have been asked by the owner to keep the ingredients used for making Halwa a secret.

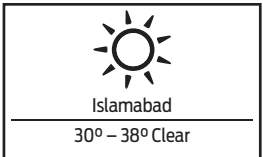
Man who harassed women with obscene pictures arrested

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Cell nabbed a man from Rawalpindi over his alleged involvement in harassing women by sharing their obscene videos. The FIA spokesperson said that the Cybercrime Circle took action and arrested the accused involved in online harassment. The FIA spokesperson maintained that the accused, Shahzeb Ejaz, shared obscene images and material of multiple women. The accused had also shared objectionable photos of a girl on WhatsApp and sent them to her family members as well. According to the FIA, the accused was involved in blackmailing the victims for money.

The FIA spokesperson said that two mobile phones and three WhatsApp accounts were recovered from the accused. He added that multiple fake Facebook accounts were also traced. The initial investigations revealed that the accused had recorded videos of multiple victims and was blackmailing them for money. Earlier, a man arrested from Karachi for allegedly making obscene videos of his wife for dark websites, made shocking revelations. During the interrogation, the suspect said that he was contacted by the website operators via WhatsApp. The accused added in his statement that he is unsure of how the proprietor of the website obtained his WhatsApp number.

The suspect added that he had installed a camera in the bathroom to record videos of his wife two years ago but later removed. He added that he did not upload any videos of his wife to the website. The police said that the suspect's wife alleged that he was pressuring her to have relations with his friends. According to the police, the suspect's wife said that he had also tried to make obscene videos of their daughter. The police are investigating the suspect's mobile phone and laptop. Earlier, the District Central Police of Karachi arrested the suspect, claiming to be affiliated with the international secret organization illuminati, involved in some heinous crime.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 3:21 am
 Zohr 12:13 pm
 Asr 5:12 pm
 Maghrib 7:22 pm
 Isha 9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Punjab bans pillion riding under section 144 in Muharram

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab home department has imposed Section 144 to boost security throughout the province during the holy month of Muharram.

According to a notification issued by the department, the display of firearms and ammunition will be banned at public places without permission during the month.

There will be a ban on pillion riding of motorcycles from 7th to 10th of Muharram. The ban will not be applicable over elderly citizens, women and the forces personnel.

The section 144 will remain in effect from 1st to 10th of Muharram.

Provocative speeches and slogans will be banned under section 144.

There will be ban on building bunkers on rooftops of houses and storing stones, bricks, bottles or garbage on roofs, along the routes of Muharram processions.

The Punjab Home Department earlier issued stringent security guidelines for Muharram, aiming to ensure peace and security during the religious observances across the province.

According to the home department, a total of 37,376 Majalis and 10,426 processions are scheduled to take place, each under a detailed security plan.

CM Maryam Nawaz to launch 'Punjab Honahar Merit Scholarship Program'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Facilitate private sector for the promotion of higher education," said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif while chairing a special meeting of the Higher Education Department. She added, "Private sector's participation will provide opportunities for higher education to the youth of remote areas."

Chief Minister approved 'Punjab Honahar Merit Scholarship Program,' and directed the authorities concerned to increase the number of meritorious scholarships from 4000 to 25000. She said, "100% fees of the students doing BS from government and 08 selected private universities will be paid from the scholarship."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed immediate establishment of new universities in Jhelum, Vehari and Bahawalnagar. She reviewed recommendations for the establishment of universities under public private partnership, and agreed to facilitate private sector in this regard. She also directed to immediately launch laptop scheme.

Chief Minister decided to introduce new market-driven disciplines in



colleges with less number of students. She also directed to introduce a fool-proof system for the appointment of Divisional Directors and Principals purely on merit through an online portal system. A plan for providing new

buses to government colleges was also presented to the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "It is advisable to constitute a high-level ministerial committee to review affairs of the private universities. She decided to establish Punjab Board Coordination Commission for reforms in the affairs of education boards."

Madam Chief Minister expressed pleasure over the successful program of MD CAT and E CAT free classes in 90 colleges of Punjab. She said, "The scope of free MD CAT and E CAT classes in colleges should be gradually expanded for the students from remote areas." She appreciated the performance of Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat and Higher Education Department.

Earlier, Secretary Higher Education Dr. Farrukh Naveed gave a detailed briefing in the meeting.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat attended the meeting. Chief Secretary, Chairman P&D, Finance Secretary, Principal Secretary to CM and other officers concerned were also present.

Alam-e-Hazrat Abbas Alamdar

ISLAMABAD: Shopkeeper displays different stuff including Alam-e-Hazrat Abbas Alamdar (AS) and other things in preparation for the upcoming Islamic Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram at Bari Imam Sarkar area for the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Mehran Commercial Enterprises Achieves Milestone with First Export Order from Australia!



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mehran Commercial Enterprises (MCE) has reached a significant milestone by securing its first export order from Australia. This accomplishment comes from partnering with a prominent Australian auto parts import group, known for its contributions to both the local and international student communities, including educational opportunities and overseas employment facilitation.

During recent discussions, the Australian group highlighted their need for skilled auto technicians. Mashood Khan emphasized that Pakistan's automotive industry, with nearly 40 years of experience, has a highly skilled workforce ready to meet this demand. The Director of the group appreciated the potential influx of Pakistani auto-skilled workers to Australia. MCE has voluntarily agreed to support this initiative, demonstrating their commitment to international collaboration and skill development.

This achievement marks a significant step in strengthening the relationship between MCE and the Australian group, paving the way for future growth and opportunities.

Karachi Express escapes major disaster near Hyderabad

Bureau Report

Karachi Express narrowly escaped an accident due to a technical fault on Saturday morning.

Karachi Express, travelling from Karachi to Lahore, escaped accident at Kotri when coach number 16 began to emit smoke, causing panic among passengers.

DS Railway Naser Khalili told the media that the fault caused by an overheated axle.

The issue was resolved and the train departed with a 2-hour delay, he said.

Earlier on June 26, Faisalabad-bound Millat Express escaped a major disaster when four of its bogies were derailed near Kotri railway station. According to details, four bogies of Millat Express, en route to Faisalabad from Karachi, had been derailed near Kotri junction due to brake failure.

Several passengers suffered minor injuries due to the derailment of the train bogies while no loss of life was reported in the accident.

Following the incident, the rail traffic on the Up Track was suspended.

TAAP opposes recent increase in taxes on air tickets

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP) has declared the recent increase in taxes on air tickets as illegal, stating that the sharp rise has plunged the industry into a severe crisis.

During a press conference held at their office, former chairman and member of the executive committee Nadeem Sharif emphasized that the industry could face destruction due to these measures.

APJC Chairman Muhammad Hanif Ranch criticized the government's actions over the past five days, asserting that they have violated existing laws. He labeled the tax increases as arbitrary and detrimental to the travel and tourism sector.

TAAP officials expressed deep



concerns over the impact of the tax hike on air tickets, noting that bookings for economy class tickets abroad have surged by 150%, while first-class ticket prices have increased by 40%. The association warned that

these measures could lead to the default of numerous travel agencies across the country.

Travel agents nationwide are currently protesting against the government's decision, highlighting the dire financial

strain placed on the industry. The association has called for immediate intervention to prevent further damage and to safeguard the livelihoods of those dependent on the travel and tourism sector.

Xi Jinping Outlines Vision for SCO's Future at Summit

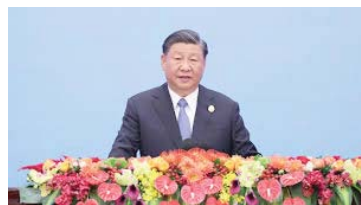
Sadaf Sajjad

In a significant address at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping presented a comprehensive five-point proposal aimed at strengthening the organization's role in fostering regional cooperation and development. The proposals, which touch on key areas of mutual concern for SCO member states, reflect China's ambition to play a leading role in shaping the future of this influential Eurasian bloc.

President Xi's first two proposals focused on creating "a common home of solidarity and mutual trust" and "a common home of peace and tranquility." These points underscore the importance of unity and security in a

region that has faced numerous challenges, from territorial disputes to terrorism. Notably, he emphasized that "real security is premised on the security of all countries," a statement that appears to advocate for a collective approach to regional stability, potentially in contrast to unilateral or alliance-based security arrangements.

The third proposal, centering on building "a common home of prosperity and development," outlined specific initiatives through which China aims to bolster regional cooperation. These include the establishment of demonstration bases for agricultural technology exchange, local economic and trade cooperation, and environmental innovation. In a move that highlights China's technological ambitions, President Xi also invited SCO members to utilize the Beidou



Satellite Navigation System and participate in the International Lunar Research Station project. These offers seem designed to expand China's technological influence while addressing practical development needs within the SCO region.

Recognizing the importance of people-to-people exchanges, the fourth proposal called for building "a common home of good-neighborliness and friendship." The commitment to host 1,000 young people from SCO

countries for exchange opportunities in China over the next five years suggests a long-term strategy to foster understanding and create networks among future leaders in the region.

The final proposal, advocating for "a common home of fairness and justice," touched on broader geopolitical themes. President Xi's call for "an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization" can be interpreted as a veiled criticism of the current international order, which China and some SCO members view as dominated by Western powers. The suggestion that the SCO should contribute to "eliminating the deficits in peace, development, security and governance" positions the organization as a potential alternative or counterbalance to existing global institutions.

President Xi emphasized the SCO's past successes and future potential, framing solidarity and cooperation as key to the organization's ability to navigate global changes. As China prepares to assume the SCO presidency, his commitment to work with partners in the "spirit of solidarity and cooperation" signals an intent to further consolidate China's leadership role within the bloc. However, the success of this vision will ultimately depend on how well it aligns with the individual interests of other SCO member states. The proposals reflect China's broader foreign policy objectives, including the promotion of a multipolar world order and the expansion of its technological and economic influence.

The coming years will be crucial in determining whether the SCO, under China's guidance, can evolve into a

more influential player on the world stage. If successful, President Xi's vision could reshape regional dynamics and potentially offer an alternative model of international cooperation. However, challenges remain, including managing diverse national interests within the bloc and navigating complex relationships with non-member countries.

As the SCO moves forward, the balance between cooperation and competition, both within the organization and with external powers, will be critical. The implementation of President Xi's proposals and their impact on regional stability, economic growth, and global power dynamics will be a key area of focus for policymakers and analysts alike in the years to come.

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Status of Pak China Collaboration & Efforts For The Progress of Aquaculture Sector

China and Pakistan have long-standing ties spanning decades. These relations rely on trust and cooperation, which exist between these two countries. Chinese and Pakistani societies have very warm and friendly attitude towards each other. Such an environment facilitates increased cooperation and further diversification of existing good relations. Pakistan gets substantial financial support from China to develop various sectors including agriculture. These two countries have started to boom their development through joint ventures; therefore, several agreements of cooperation have been signed between them. One of the most important agreements between these two countries is free trade agreement of 2007, which entirely changed the pace of cooperation between them. As a result, trade volume reached up to 20 billion USD (United States Dollar) in 2015 between the two states. Mutual trade has continuously grown, 19% on average, from 2012 to 2017.

In November 2018, the Government of Pakistan (GOP) made a request to China to collaborate in the agriculture sector under CPEC during Prime Minister's Imran Khan's maiden visit

to China. Consequently, cooperation in the agriculture sector was one of the areas mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between President Xi and Premier Khan during his visit. Building on that MOU the two countries signed a comprehensive framework agreement for agricultural cooperation in May 2019. Fisheries and Aquaculture was one of the main area mentioned in the agreement.

The value of agricultural trade between the China and Pakistan during Calendar Year (CY)2020 was \$79.5 million. Chinese agricultural exports to Pakistan during this period were \$385 million, agricultural imports from Pakistan were \$410 million, led by rice (\$187 million), seafood products (\$166 million), oilseeds (\$12 million), tree nuts (\$8 million), and pulses (\$4 million).

Pakistan is a coastal country geographically located in South Asia. Its coastline is stretched between Iranian border on the West side and Indian border on the East side. Full length of Pakistan's coastline is 1,120 km making it an ideal

habitat for fin and shellfish resources. The total area of Pakistani marine waters, including exclusive economic zone, is 240,000 km in which fishery resources are explored and exploited. Pakistani main fishery resources are comprised of 20 large, 15 medium sized pelagic and 250 demersal fish species. In Pakistan, fisheries play a vital role in the economic uplift by employing thousands of people. It is reported that 400,000 people are

associated directly with fisheries sector in Pakistan, whereas 600,000 people work with auxiliary industries. Fisheries sector supports around one million people along the entire coastline of Pakistan. Marine fisheries form the main fisheries sub-sector in Pakistan as about 70% of fisheries production belongs to it.

Several projects are already on the way through CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), a derivative of the "Belt and Road Initiative". Transfer of knowledge and technology is one of the key elements of this initiative. These efforts include research collaboration in cage farming and shrimp production.

Joint efforts related to marine resources through research institutions are also planned. Moreover, cooperation is also planned related to the development of fisheries sector in the areas of increased production, handling, processing, storage, transportation, post-harvest losses, trade models etc. After the EU ban in 2007 on Pakistani fishery products, the export market diverted to China, South Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, Malaysia, and some West African countries. Even after the removal of this ban in 2013 these markets are still efficiently continued to cater. Now, China is the biggest importer of Pakistani oyster, crab, shrimp, and lobster and for fish, it is the second largest market. There is a growing trend of mutual fishery trade between China and Pakistan. Fishery products of 16 different originating from Pakistan are reaching Xinjiang Uyghur, China through the "Belt and Road Initiative" roads. The fishery products were packed and transported by the first Chinese company "Yufei International Fishing Co" having a business license in Pakistan. The company aims to sell fishery products in China and in future Dubai and Iran as well.

To be continued



Analysis

Dr. Rehana Kausar

Expanding cooperation in education

The Round-Table Exchange Meeting of Belt and Road Cooperation in Education, Science-Technology and Talents was held between the delegation of University of Sargodha and Chinese institutions & enterprises represented by China Association for International Science and Technology Cooperation (CAISTC), Beijing International Economic Research Center (BIERC), Zhongguancun Talent Association (ZTA), Glodon Company Limited in Beijing.

Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas, Vice Chancellor, University of Sargodha made an introduction of his university to the participants and expressed the willingness to have deeper cooperation in education, science, etc. with the Chinese side.

Prof. Dr. Ghulam Yasin, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Sargodha, pointed areas of mutual interest and collaboration between China and Pakistan under the Belt and Road Initiative i.e. cultural exchange and social integration, sustainable development and social policy, migration and mobility, and education and workforce development.

He proposed to enhance bilateral science and technology cooperation mainly in renewable energy, healthcare, environmental protection, and IT by establishing joint research centers, exchanging student and faculty, developing curricula, China Economic Net reported.

According to Prof. Dr. Aamir Ali Chaudhry, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Sargodha, higher education institutions in Pakistan and China can take the lead in fostering collaborative research and joint exchange programs in areas like agriculture biotechnology, food and industrial biotechnology, bioinformatics, renewable energy, nano-materials, informatics, infrastructure development and environmental sustainability. "In recent years, BRI taken by China is a step to bring whole world under one umbrella and to provide equal opportunities for people of all countries to get benefits for their growth and development," he said.

At the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Sargodha and SupperAccuracy Science & Technology Co., Ltd. Based on the MoU, KylinRay advanced Technology will be introduced to Pakistan, a Cancer Research Center is being planned, and medical education activities will be held. It's learned that more cooperative opportunities in construction science and technology, talent training, etc. among the participants are being discussed after the meeting.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

Echoes of History: Understanding the Complex Relationship Between Poland and Russia

Haqifa Nasir

Poland and Russia have complex, distrustful and antagonistic relations because of their complex history. On 17 September 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the East, sixteen days after Germany invaded Poland from the West. The victory of the Soviet Union in World War II led to the establishment of the Polish People's Republic. Many Poles believed that the Soviet invasion was an act of aggression and was responsible for the subsequent decline of Poland. However, Poland received complete independence from Russia in 1989, following the collapse of communist regimes across Eastern Europe.

Many of the Polish people still retain the traumatic memories of their ancestors from the 1940s when Soviet leader Stalin took away land, property and business from Polish people and sent about 1.7 million Poles to slave labor camps in Siberia, Kazakhstan and Arkhangelsk Oblast. Polish people are still afraid that Russia might take their land, property, and businesses away from them akin to the Past. Thus, they leaned more toward the West so their sovereignty wouldn't be compromised. Poland joined the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Poland's following European policies show a clear difference from Russia's regressive policies. In reality, Russia is envious of Poland's achievements and developments and how well it is doing with Europe.

However, in the 2000s Poland and Russia had cordial relations. Between 2000 and 2004, Putin and Kwasniewski convened 10 times for official and working visits, enhancing interaction within the governmental and social sectors. Export between both countries increased rapidly, with Russia being the 3rd

largest exporter to Poland and the ninth-largest importer of Polish goods. Many people in Russia and Poland want to work together. About 76% of Polish people and 75% of Russians have positive feelings about working together. Poles admire Russian artists like the singer Bulat Okudzhava, and Poland has produced acclaimed versions of Russian works.

The relations between both states have never improved substantially. In April 2003 Poland announced plans to manage a zone in Iraq, Russia initially mocked the idea, seeing it as a small country acting beyond its capacity. However, after the Orange Revolution, Russia felt that Poland might also go against Russia which could further deteriorate Russia and West relations. Polish people still hold Russophobia. Things like Russian songs, movies and books (some might be exceptional) are banned in Poland. Poles view Russia and Germany as aggressors; however, the key difference is that Germans acknowledge and take responsibility for their actions, whereas Russia does not. Until they realize this Russia and Poland cannot have good relations

In 2014, Poland supported Crimea, and again in 2022, it stood with Ukraine against Russia. In both instances, Russia's frustration and disappointment grew, intensifying their hostilities further. Poland also expelled Russian diplomats, alleging they were spying. The state security spokesman Stanislaw Zaryn said "These are people who...operate using their diplomatic status, but in reality conduct intelligence activities against Poland". Russian Ambassador Sergei Andreev was called to the Polish foreign ministry and handed an official letter informing the expulsion of 45 employees working at the Russian embassy in Poland. On 9th September 2022 Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland jointly restricted entry to Russian citizens holding Schengen visas. Factors that led to the restriction of visas for Russians were geopolit-

ical Tensions, Security Concerns, and alignment with EU policy, Reciprocity and Diplomatic Relations and Domestic Security Measures. Russia has always considered Poland inferior, insignificant and less valued due to its size but Poland now is ready to challenge Russia back.

In Nov 2023 former president of Russia Dmitry Medvedev made a strong statement saying Russia now sees Poland as a serious threat and an enemy. Medvedev warned that if Poland continues its current actions, it could face severe consequences, including losing its status as an independent country.

Poland is planning a strategy called Shield-East to fortify its borders with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad and Belarus. This plan involves installing a high-tech system to detect and halt drones and building strong fortifications along a 700-kilometer (430-mile) stretch of the border. The goal is to complete this project by 2028 to protect Poland from any hostile actions, like the illegal crossing of migrants, which is a concern for the European Union (EU). This plan exhibits that European countries are becoming more worried about possible threats from Russia, especially after the Russian unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

In simple terms, the relations between Russia and Poland are complicated due to their extensive history of conflict and disputes. Although they have an occasional economic and cultural connection their long-standing issues such as territorial conflict and divergent political objectives limit their cooperation. As Poland is strengthening its borders and improving relations with Europe and Russia asserting its influence, the chance of them resolving their differences seems slim. The current situation between both states is due to their complex history and lack of trust which affects their relationship.

Writer is pursuing my Bachelor's degree in International Relations at Fatima Jinnah Women University.

Addressing the Harmful Propaganda Against Women's Education in Pakistan - I

A disturbing issue recently came to light on social media, regarding a YouTube video featuring Hasan Iqbal Chishti, a resident of Samundri, Punjab. The video went viral, attracting 60,000 views and causing widespread outrage among the public, especially women's rights activists. Chishti's video is characterized by abusive language and misogynistic content, specifically targeting girls seeking education, work, and passionate about singing and dancing. This article examines the legal and social implications of Chishti's actions, highlighting the urgent need for intervention by relevant authorities.

The Content and Its Impact

Chishti's solo performance in the video spread negative propaganda against women's education, encouraging viewers to refrain from educating women. The language used by him is objectionable and constitutes hate speech, undermining women's fundamental rights and having a detrimental impact on their mental health and social status. As we all know education is a fundamental right and the foundation for women's development and empowerment in Pakistan. It is vital to achieving gender equality, improving economic opportunities and promoting a progressive society. Content like Chishti's video threatens this progress by perpetuating harmful stereotypes and encouraging discriminatory practices.

Legal Violations

The negative propaganda against women's education propagated by Chishti violates many laws and regulations in Pakistan, starting with

Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan. This states that the state must ensure free and compulsory education for all children between 5 and 16 years of age. Chishti's video actively discourages girls' education, which is in direct contradiction to this constitutional provision. Its actions create a hostile environment for girls seeking educational opportunities,

impacting their psychological health and preventing them from pursuing their right to education.

Apart from the constitutional violations, Chishti also violated several sections of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) of 2016. Under Section 20, which deals with insulting the dignity of a natural person, the video Chishti's website also contains false and defamatory statements that damage the reputation of women, constituting online defamation and harassment. Article 21, which provides for offenses against the modesty of individuals and minors, was applied because the video offended the modesty of women by implying that their pursuit of education and participating in cultural activities such as singing and dancing is shameful. Furthermore, Chishti's actions amounted to cyber harassment within the meaning of Article 24, as he used information systems to threaten, harass, and coerce women to abandon their educational and cultural activities. The continued dissemination of hateful content targeting women demonstrates a blatant violation of these provisions, requiring legal action to protect the dignity and rights of women.

To be continued



Analysis

Sameen Rehman

High Commission of Malaysia presents ASEAN Movie Night in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Friday, 5 July 2024, the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad held the grand finale of the ASEAN Movie Nights programme. This programme was initiated under the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) aimed at promoting the rich film and culture heritage of ASEAN member countries in Islamabad. The final series showcased Malaysia's action-packed film "PASKAL." Based on the true story of the Malaysian Armed Forces' heroic efforts in rescuing the merchant ship MV Bunga Laurel from pirate attack in 2011, the film captivated the audience with its gripping narrative and action-packed performance.

Officiating the event, the High Commissioner of Malaysia, His Excel-



lency Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, underlined the key



message of the film, stating, "PASKAL is not just an action movie; it is a testament to Malaysia's patriotism, sense of belonging, the exceptional capabilities and professionalism of our military, and the sophisticated quality of our film industry."

The Hon. Attaulah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting graced the event as chief guest. The Minister noted with great satisfaction over the excellent state of relations between Pakistan and Malaysia. He shared the similarities between Malaysia and Pakistan in nation building and patriotism. He lauded the High Commissioner of Malaysia and

ACI for the Movie Nights programme, adding that both Malaysia and Pakistan should collaborate in future project/programme, especially in cultural exchange and film industry.

The event drew a huge audience of over 200 guests from a cross-section of the society ranging from the Dean and Ambassadors of the Diplomatic Corps, ASEAN Heads of Mission, senior government officials, university students and friends of the media, reflecting the strong interest and support for Malaysia's and ASEAN's cultural and cinematic exchange. During the event, the guests enjoyed Malaysian traditional cuisine

and snacks including fried rice, fried beehon, classic boiled and spicy chick-peas, fried banana balls, and Ice Cream Malaysia, among others.

The ASEAN-Malaysia Movie Night programme was a resounding success, bringing together diverse communities and fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation to each of ASEAN countries' unique cultures and stories through the cinematic experience. In his concluding remarks, the High Commissioner of Malaysia suggested that this programme should be held annually for a much wider cultural engagement and understanding between ASEAN and Pakistan.

Paskal: The Movie on Patriotism

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Most of us have grown accustomed to watching Hollywood military action movies about special elite forces with the likes of Navy SEALs (1990), Black Hawk Down (2001) and Act of Valor (2012).

And now, it's about time we finally get our very own and first special elite forces movie ever made in Malaysia. The result is Paskal: The Movie, where the title actually refers to the special elite forces of Pasukan Khas Laut (Naval Special Warfare Forces) operated under the Royal Malaysian Navy units. The movie itself is inspired by true events of Paskal's two successful missions in Angola back in 1998, as well as the MT Bunga Laurel hijacking in the Gulf of Aden in 2011.

It's hard to believe that Adrian Teh is calling the shots as the director of



this movie. After all, we are talking about the same filmmaker whose forte mainly lies on comedy such as Ice Kacang Puppy Love (2010), The Wedding Diary (2012) and King of Mahjong (2015).

But he proves to be quite adept at directing his first action movie ever. Given its ample budget of RM10 million, I appreciate the way he aims as much realism as possible in every aspect of technicality to mirror



the real-life operation and standard protocol of the Paskal team. This is particularly evident during the thrilling final action set-piece set in the oil rig, which also happens to be the biggest highlight of the movie. Teh also manages to capture the intensity of the Paskal training sequence, even though he shouldn't

have reduced them into a filler-like montage.

Now, for the story. I'm glad that Paskal: The Movie neither suffers from the cringe factor on national pride nor the heavy-handed, flag-waving patriotism commonly associated with the military action movie. Except for the fact that it lacks char-

acter development — something that Adrian Teh should have spent more time polishing Hairul Azreen's leading role of Lt. Commander Arman Anwar as well as his fellow teammates. Which is why it's hard for me to root with any of them, even when one of the characters sacrificed himself to save others.

Beyond Efficacy Numbers: Navigating the Nuances of Vaccine Effectiveness

Royaam Ahmad

Abstract:

Vaccine effectiveness extends far beyond efficacy numbers, hinging on diverse factors such as immune response, strain variation, and population characteristics. This study explores the feasibility of a standardized system for measuring vaccine effectiveness by aiming to address the complex interplay of these factors. Employing a qualitative analysis of secondary sources, the research seeks to formulate a hypothesis for the question through inductive reasoning. The discussion emphasizes the multifaceted nature of vaccine effectiveness, mentioning immune response, herd immunity, variant strains, and population characteristics. While mathematical models offer promise, they do not apply nicely due to the nuanced nature of vaccine effectiveness. Instead the study brings forth a theoretical framework, integrating vaccine characteristics, target population attributes, vaccination execution factors, epidemiological dynamics, and behavioral/social influences. This formula of 5 interconnected points is aimed at providing a more nuanced understanding of vaccine effectiveness. However, it remains subordinate to the evolving nature of vaccine research.

Introduction

Vaccines are one of our most forefront kinds of public health intervention when it comes to infectious disease. A vaccine, at its core, is a less potent form of a pathogen (disease causing agent), introduced into the body so it can trigger and essentially "train" the

natural immuneresponse. Two of the subject terms of this paper are Efficacy and Effectiveness. Vaccine Efficacy (VE) is measured in a controlled clinical trial and is based on how many people who got vaccinated had an immune response compared with how many people who got a placebo (dummy vaccine) and still developed an immune response. Conversely, Vaccine Effectiveness (VEff) reflects the real-world impact, capturing how well a vaccine protects against disease in a broader population under everyday conditions. The aim of this study is to delve into the nuances and give more structure to the latter concept

Literature Review

There is much existing research on what factors into the overall practical effectiveness of a vaccine besides the efficacy number. One of which is the immune response itself. Vaccine efficacy trials assess the development of antibodies (the response) against a specific pathogen (the trigger, in our case, the vaccine). However, the quality and durability of the immune response can vary among individuals, impacting real-world effectiveness as factors like age, sex, underlying health conditions, and prior infections do influence immune response (Huang et al., 2021). Then comes the fact that immunity itself is not a constant. Vaccine efficacy trials often measure effects for a defined period. However, vaccine induced immunity may wane overtime, requiring booster shots to maintain effectiveness. This is also the reason vaccines like the one for

year after year. (Monto et al., 2005) The phenomenon of Strain Variation is yet another grey spot in measuring VEff. Vaccines are redesigned to target specific antigens of a pathogen. However, mutations and genetic changes can bring variation in the pathogen's genetic code, giving rise to variants, known as "strains", which in turn can potentially reduce vaccine effectiveness years down the line as a vaccine may have only been made for the original strain. (Rose & Singer, 2008) Population Characteristics: Factors like socioeconomic privileges, access to healthcare, and adherence or lack thereof to vaccination schedules can influence vaccine effectiveness with different populations. Another factor worth mentioning here is Herd Immunity, in which the more members of a population are immunized against a disease, the safer the whole population is, inclusive of non-immunized individuals. What can be gathered from this is that there seems to be a reasonably clear picture of the many factors that can determine how effective a vaccine turns out to be, efficacy being one of them. This variety begs the question of whether there is a way to reliably account for all such factors when talking about the effectiveness of a vaccine or not. That is the question this research will aim to answer. What would a standardized system for measuring vaccine effectiveness

be like? Methodology: Owing to the non-contemporary nature of the topic, a qualitative analysis using data from secondary sources was chosen as the appropriate approach. Information was collected directly from a database of existing primary and secondary literature, making use of literature mapping to find relevant articles with varying degrees of content overlap, and to look at potential knowledge gaps. Once a gap was found and a research question was formulated, the intent was to use inductive reasoning to form a hypothesis



For the question via qualitative synthesis. Discussion: One fact remained prominent throughout the literature review, the multi-faceted nature of vaccine effectiveness. While efficacy trials provide valuable information, they are just one piece of the puzzle. Considering such factors as immune response, herd immunity, duration of protection, variant strains, and population characteristics paints a more complete picture of a vaccine's real-world impact. The question is how to do that. What way is there to take into consideration as many factors as

possible before reporting a number? Ideally, the case calls for a mathematical model to incorporate said factors into the process of coming up with a VEff Number. To that effect, Sagy et al. (2023) conducted a study on Real World Effectiveness of Single-Dose Monkeypox Vaccines, in which they accounted for predisposition to clinical as well as socioeconomic risk factors. Taken verbatim from their paper, "We used a Cox proportional hazards regression model with time-dependent covariates to estimate the association between vaccination and mpox while adjusting for sociodemographic and clinical risk factors." (Sagy et al., 2023). It was a longitudinal cohort study that followed the participants over a 90 day period. They found VEff to be at 86% however, in the same paper, the authors note that this was a preliminary finding and more research is needed. Further, a 90 day period does not pan out to be long enough when faced with changes in immune response or vaccine sensitivity that are genetic in nature and may manifest with no proper trend. It would seem that there are simply too many factors, and incredibly nuanced ones at that, to make a universally applicable model for computing effectiveness. The next best case would be a comprehensive theoretical model. The problem is multifaceted one so it is better tackled with a multifaceted solu-

tion. If we can establish number of points such that they cover most of the discussed factors, it could help us get a better glimpse of ground level VEff. Keeping in mind the articles reviewed and the points established so far, the following five points can be synthesized to be the cornerstones of the model. Vaccine Characteristics: This aspect is about the properties of the vaccine itself, factoring in its ability to trigger an immune response (immunogenicity), the strength and duration of response, and any potential side effects. Target Population: The individuals receiving the vaccine, as factors such as age, underlying health conditions, and prior exposure to the disease all influence how well a vaccine works for an individual. Execution Factors: This aspect relates to the implementation of a vaccination program. Focusing on vaccination coverage (the percentage of the population vaccinated), making sure doses are delivered at the right time with the right interval, and the appropriate handling of the vaccine in logistic settings. Epidemiological Dynamics: Considering the characteristics of the disease itself and its transmission patterns. Ease of spread, emergence of new variants, herd immunity, et cetera. Behavioral and Social Factors: Comprising the societal context surrounding vaccination. Vaccine hesitancy, the anti-vaxx sentiment, access to healthcare services, misinformation are examples of social or behavioural elements that influ-

ence vaccination rates and in turn, vaccine effectiveness. This 5-point formula relies on the interconnectedness of its points to encapsulate the array of factors that govern effectiveness of a vaccine. For example, a vaccine's immunogenicity (how much of an immune response it triggers) can influence its effectiveness in different age groups. High vaccination coverage contributes to herd immunity. Conversely, vaccine hesitancy can lead to lower coverage, weakening overall effectiveness. Thus the points tie back to themselves to establish a cohesive formula to gauge VEff figures better, assisting in both understanding and navigating shifts in effective vaccination. That said, it is pertinent to acknowledge that this is an evolving model and research on vaccines is always advancing. This model only aids us to see and understand ground level vaccine effectiveness for what it is, a complex idea with multiple interconnected layers to it. Conclusion: Reiterating the research question of whether a standardized system to measure vaccine effectiveness is feasible or not, this study finds the answer to be in the affirmative though closer to more of a theoretical framework rather than a robust mathematical model. Vaccine effectiveness is a nuanced phenomenon with multiple increasingly nuanced aspects. A general yet-specific approach like the 5 point formula in this study seems a reasonable way to tackle an issue of such nature.

Author is student of Forman Christian College University

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
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	Change
39,266.94	-41.06
Percentage	Time
-0.10%	5 Jul, 1:31 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
40,912.37	-1.28
Percentage	Time
-0.0031%	5 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
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
New Zealand \$	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

Restaurants, caterers, bakers say income tax on property valuation not accepted under any circumstances

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry said in a joint statement with business leaders that income tax calculated on the basis of property valuation will not be accepted under any circumstances. Fixed tax should be implemented. Traders across the country should be registered under fixed tax. The tactics of bringing the businessmen and the government face to face should be avoided, because in this way the purpose of taxation will

not be achieved. On Saturday, the important meeting of Tajar Dost Scheme was held at RTO office Rawalpindi through video link. Which was presided over by Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana. Representatives of business organizations across the country participated in the meeting. Where different suggestions were presented. On this occasion, President of Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association, Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, along with other business community, made it clear that the income tax calcu-

lated on the basis of property valuation will not be accepted under any circumstances. Tax is always calculated taking into account the annual income. Income tax is never levied under valuation. The common proposal of the business community is to implement fixed tax. Businessmen across the country should be registered under fixed tax. Regular categories should be created so that the country receives tax and the business community does not face any problem. Which is the annual tax budget of the FBR and which is the target of the country's



economy, should be imposed fixed tax. The tactics of bringing the businessmen and the government face to face should be avoided, because in this way the purpose of taxation will not be achieved.

Mango Festival

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy in UAE interacts with guests on the occasion of Mango festival held in Pakistan Association Dubai.



Photo: PID

Saudi Group to invest in Retail Oil Sector in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a recent development, Saudi Group Asyad Holding through UAE-based Wafi Energy Holding Limited has acquired 77.42% shareholdings and control of Shell Pakistan Limited.

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, thus solidifying the said transaction to boost the retail oil sector in Pakistan.

M/s Shell Pakistan Limited, listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, maintains a substantial business footprint in retail supply of motor fuels and lubricants across Pakistan. Whereas,



M/s Wafi Energy LLC is a wholly-owned affiliate of Asyad Holding Group which specializes in the management and operation of fuel stations in Saudi Arabia. The Group has established M/s Wafi Energy Holding limited to flex its wings for investment purposes in Pakistan. The CCP's Phase I competition assessment identified 'Retail Fuel, Vehicle Lubricants and Industrial Lubricants' as the relevant product markets. It was also revealed that Shell Pakistan

has distinct shares in all three relevant markets but that will remain unchanged post-transaction.

The analysis further confirmed that Wafi Energy Holding Limited will not gain dominant position in the relevant markets even after attaining the direct control of Shell Pakistan. Therefore, the CCP has swiftly authorized the said acquisition under Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Chairman CCP, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, while signing the Order expressed that this development is expected to boost competition by elevating service standards in the retail fuel supply chain and thus, contribute immensely in flourishing Pakistani markets.

Punjab P&D Board reviews updated status of ADP

Commerce Desk

LAHORE : Planning and Development Board Punjab (P&D Board) Secretary Dr Asif Tufail has presided over a meeting with planning & development officers of P&D headquarter, divisions and districts to review the updated status of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for financial year 2024-25.

According to P&D Board's spokesman here Saturday, the secretary directed the officers to complete the approval process of all unapproved development schemes from the authorized forums ie DDC (District Development Committee), DDWP (Divi-



sional Development Working Party), DDS (Decision Support

System) and PDWP (Provincial Development Working Party) till July 31, 2024. He added that PC-I of all schemes should be uploaded on SMDP (Smart Monitoring of Development Projects) so that the funds could be released in time and transparency should be ensured.

Dr Asif Tufail directed that special care must be taken for the CM (Chief Minister) initiatives, and its approval and implementation should be done on priority. "The officers concerned should visit and observe the working on all development schemes to ensure transparency and merit in the implementation process," he concluded.

Predatory IPPs contracts should be declared null & void

News Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, informed that federal government should cancel all agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs); and, procure electricity for the national grid from cheaper and cost-effective sources - without any strings vis-à-vis capacity charges.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, informed that exorbitant and unbearable electricity tariffs have led to widespread industrial closures and massive job losses. There is an installed generation capacity of over 40,000 MW; while peak demand and transmission capacity is merely 25,000 MW - resulting in a significant excess and utilized generation capacity, he added.

Acting FPCCI Chief apprised that PKR. 2 trillion capacity payments to 40 companies are paralyzing the national economy; and, IPPs continue to receive payments in the name of capacity charges even in the instances when there is no electricity is generated or supplied. Capacity charges

constitute two-thirds of the total cost of electricity; while fuel costs comprise of only one-third.

Mr. Magoon maintained that studies reveal that IPPs have been enjoying returns exceeding 73 percent in dollar terms; which is unusually high and predatory when compared to international standards and practices.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon elaborated that guarantees indexed to the US dollar mean any depreciation of the Pakistani rupee increases returns for IPPs - adding debilitating financial burden on the government and the public alike.

Mr. Magoon stated that cost comparisons with similar projects in other countries suggest many IPPs were funded through inflated invoicing on capital goods; which lead to perpetual returns on ghost equity. FPCCI demands that a comprehensive review of IPP agreements; price re-evaluation within legal bounds and improved oversight to prevent over-invoicing are utmost needed. Examining the energy infrastructure for clauses related to misinformation and fraud is also required.

Petroleum dealers thank FBR, OGRA for withdrawing double tax on petroleum dealers



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Officials of Petroleum Dealers Association of Pakistan have thanked Chairman OGRA, DG and FBR officials for withdrawing double tax on petroleum dealers in the federal budget and said that we are already paying this tax and No tax can be collected twice. Chairman Sami Khan has tried to use the shoulders of dealers for his own interests, in which he has failed miserably. Expressed indifference to the announcement of the strike, will continue to solve the problems of milk dealers with the government, Secretary of Petroleum Dealers Association Pakistan Engineer Khawaja Atif Ahmed, Nauman Butt, Mohammad Zaheer held an emergency press conference at the

National Press Club Islamabad. Ahmad Paracha, Mian Amjad Shah, Hussain Shah and Humayun Shah said that for the past few days, misunderstandings were being created regarding the petrol business, it is a regulated business in which dealers' margin is Rs.864 paise in which our All expenses are included and our 12% tax is also deducted from it. In the federal budget, an additional tax of 0.5% was imposed on petroleum dealers which was imposed due to misunderstanding because we are already paying this tax and according to the law no Also the tax cannot be collected twice, we put this point before the authority and we are thankful to them that they understood our point and FBR has announced to withdraw this additional tax.

Revisit all IPPs contracts: ICCI Presidents urges Government

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that the country has suffered immense irreparable damage due to the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which have not only made Pakistan indebted, but has made the lives of masses problematic, restlessness and miserable.

In a statement issued here on Saturday he demanded that the federal government should immediately revisit all the contracts with IPPs and procure electricity from cheaper sources without

capacity charges, adding that the crippling impact of high electricity tariffs is the widespread industrial closures and substantial job losses.

He said that the main reason for the electricity crisis in Pakistan is the contracts made with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) along with electricity stealing and the consequences are always borne by the traders and the people in the form of non-availability and expensive electricity. The federal government should formulate a strategy to deal with IPPs and ensure affordable electricity prices for industries and domestic users in the national

interest.

ICCI President blamed 1994 Power Policy for trapping Pakistan's energy sector in unfavorable contractual agreements with IPPs, leading to a spiraling circular debt that reached PKR 2.64 trillion by February 2024 and the dollar-linked guarantees benefit IPPs at the expense of the government and the public. Any depreciation of the Pakistani rupee translates to higher returns for IPPs, further straining the national budget.

He said that the total capacity production of the IPPs is 48000 MW and yesterday's (Friday) production



was 20,000 MW whereas the demand was 22000 MW and the question is as

to where the rest of the production is being used, adding that country's total defence budget is Rs.2150 billion but astonishingly Rs. 2500 billion have been earmarked for the IPPs.

He went on to say that during the last two days Rs.10/- per unit has been increased for domestic consumers and Rs. 18/- for commercial units. Moreover, the peak hours' time has been enhanced by two hours which led to Rs. 12 billion burden on the consumers. Consumers have to pay Rs.1500 billion due to the fixed tax from Rs. 200 to Rs.1000. Furthermore the consumers are paying Rs. 2 billion due to the over-

billing. He warned that the recent surge in electricity prices could lead to social unrest and business frustration. To address this situation, the ICCI proposes a comprehensive review of IPP agreements, price reevaluation within legal boundaries, and stricter oversight to prevent overbilling.

He demanded that all those who entered into these agreements and benefited from them should be investigated and punished as per the law so the supply of cheap and quality electricity to the people and the business community can be made possible.

PCB allocates Rs. 12,800m for upgradation of stadiums ahead of ICC Champions Trophy

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Board of Governors (BoG) of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Saturday approved Rs. 12,800 million for upgradation of the cricket stadiums in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, to be held in Pakistan.



The BoG took important decisions for development of domestic and women cricket in the country during its 72nd meeting at the Board Room of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Gaddafi Stadium, here on Saturday. The meeting was chaired by Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi. The BoG also approved enhancing the annual budget for women cricket from

Rs. 70 million to Rs. 240 million, besides raising the central contracts of the women cricketers. The meeting also set aside Rs. 450 million for the promotion of domestic cricket in the country. It was also decided that the PCB will look after 12 cricket grounds across the country besides providing funds for the upkeep and sala-

ries of staff of 100 cricket grounds in Pakistan.

The meeting was briefed on the preparation for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 to be held in Pakistan next year. The Chairman PCB emphasized the need of completing the upgradation work on the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, National Bank Cricket Stadium Karachi and Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, adding that the international standards will be met in the upgradation.

Mohsin Naqvi said that the upgradation of the stadia will ensure better facilities for the cricket fans. He directed to work on new venues for the domestic tournaments. The Chairman apprised the BoG of

various initiatives to strengthen domestic and women cricket. Various proposals were reviewed for the betterment of domestic cricket in the country.

Chief Operating Officer (CEO) PCB and Secretary BoG Salman Naseer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) PCB Javed Murtaza briefed the BoG on the salient features of the budget.

The BoG members including Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhter Zaman, Sajjad Ali Khokhar, Zafarullah, Tanvir Ahmed, Tariq Sarwar, Dr. Anwar Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, Meraj Mehmood, Usama Azhar and PCB's Director Domestic Cricket Abdullah Khurram Niazi attended the 72nd meeting.

Wheel-Chair Tennis camps ends amidst great fun

Sports Desk

PESHAWA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wheel-Chair Tennis Development Coaching Camp concluded here at the synthetic Tennis Courts of the Peshawar Sports Complex on Saturday.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tennis Association under the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Development Initiative Coaching Camp organized the camp, wherein more than 30 wheel-chair players including male and female participated.

Haji Malik Umar Daraz Khalil, who was the chief guest on this occasion, distributed certificates to the players participating in the camp along with Badminton Association General Secretary Haji Amjad Khan, Senior Vice President of Table Tennis Association, Kifayatullah, Vice President of KP Tennis Association, Umar Ayaz Khalil, Malik Imtiaz Khalil, Maulana Tariq, Maulana Humayun, Arshad Hussain and Muhammad Farooq.

A month-long coaching camp organized under the auspices ITF Wheelchair Tennis Department program in which 30 wheel-chair players from different parts of KP participated. Along with them, Level-2 coaches Nauman, Shehryar Khan, Zakir Ullah, Roman Gul, Shakirullah also supervised this camp.

Among the female players participating in the camp are Tajmina, Gul Meena, Rubina, Hasna, Sana, Gulnaz, Bina, Lubna, Gulshan, Mahnoor, Jannat Ul Mawa and male players include Engineer Irfan Khan, Akmal Khan, Zakirullah, Ehsan, Abdullah Jan, Salman Khan, Abdullah, Mubeen, Habib-ur-Rehman, Irfan Khan, Zakir Khan, and Shams Smith.

Women cricket squad makes preparations for Women's Asia Cup

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Women Cricket team has started preparations for the Women's Asia Cup here on Saturday.



According to a spokesman of Pakistan Cricket Control Board (PCB), the players participated in the training session in the net area of Hanif Mohammed High Performance Centre under the supervision of Head Coach Mohammad Waseem.

Zone-VI Dominates PCB Regional Inter Dist U-19 (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by right arm leg spinner Usman Bin Arshad 7/12, Medium Pacer Rizwan Ullah 6/13, Abdul Hadi 5/13.

Scores in Brief: Zone-VI won their 5th match after beating Zone-IV by 10 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-IV 133 all out in 38.2 overs. Musab Amir 25, Muhammad Waqas 23, Masood Ali 21. Abdul Moiz (rlb) 4/36, Haroon Arshad 2/11.

Zone-VI 137/0 in 15.1 overs. M. Abdullah Alam 80 7x4 5x6 notout, Abdul Rehman Niazi 46 5x4 1x6 notout.

In the 2nd Match Zone-VII beat Zone-I by 101 runs at Nya Nazimabad ground. Zone-VII 229/9 in 50 overs. Syed Kashan Faheem 72 7x4 3x6, Saad Khan 52 7x4, Aithisam ullah Haq 30, Muhammad Omar 21. M. Asif Farooq 2/15, Faraday Akbar 2/38, Azmeer Rauf 2/49, Kantar Masood 2/57.

Zone-I 128 allout in 39.5 overs. M. Asif Farooq 29, Amanullah 19, Usman Bin Arshad (rls) 7/12.

In the 3rd Match Zone-V beat Zone-III by 65 runs at UBL Sports Complex. Zone-V 100 all out in 28.4 overs. Muhammad Hassan 32. Abdul Hadi 5/13, M. Soban Sadiq 4/34.

Zone-III all out 35 in 8.5 overs. Rizwan ullah (mf) 6/13, Muhammad Hazik 4/21.

PCB chief summons ex-cricketers for 'feedback' on domestic cricket

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has summoned more than two dozen former cricketers to hold consultations regarding the country's existing domestic cricket system, sources told Geo News on Saturday.

Around 30 to 35 international cricketers, the sources added, will meet Naqvi on Monday and will provide feedback and suggestions regarding improvement in the domestic cricket structure to make it more attractive.

Meanwhile, the cricketers will also be taken into confidence over three new tournaments by the name of "Champions".

The expected meeting comes as the national side has been under scrutiny and subjected to severe criticism owing to their dismal performance in the T20 World Cup 2024 where the Men In Green failed to even progress to the Super Eight stage.

During the tournament, the Green Shirts showcased below-par performance in all three fields and suffered an upset loss against the minnows United States and a subsequent disappointing defeat against India, resulting in their early elimination from the tournament.

25th Men's National Baseball Championship: Exciting matches continue on fifth day

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 25th Men's National Baseball Championship organized by Pakistan Federation of Baseball continued on the fifth day with thrilling matches. CEO Naqash Sports Naqash Jatt attended the event held at GHQ Rawalpindi Baseball Ground as Chief Guest. Pakistan Federation Baseball General Secretary Syed Fakhar Ali Shah gave him a warm welcome and all the players gave enthusiastic applause.



The day started with a match between Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan WAPDA. HEC scored 0 runs while Pakistan WAPDA managed to score 4 runs. For Pakistan WAPDA Umair Imdad Bhatti, Fazl ur Rehman, Muhammad

Zakir and Waqas Ismail scored one run.

In the second match, the Pakistan Army team showed their skill and defeated Islamabad by 15 runs to 0. Shahzad, Asad Ali, Faqir Hussain, Wasim Akram and Muhammad Younis scored 2 runs each and Nazir Ahmed, Muhammad Hussain,

Chingiz, Mohammad Wasim and Abdullah scored 1 runs.

During the ceremony, General Secretary Syed Fakhar Ali Shah presented a bouquet and honorary shield to the chief guest. Syed Fakhar Ali Shah thanked the chief guest and encouraged the players saying that whichever team does not

make mistakes will be closer to winning the final match. The final will be played on July 7.

Major Ali Tahir, Aamir Imdad Bhatti, Amjad Nawaz Khan, Umar Zaheer Butt and Hamza Ashraf were also present on the occasion, adding to the dignified presence of the event.

Nissanka, bowlers aid Jaffna Kings to thump Dambulla Sixers



Sports Desk

DAMBULLA: Pathum Nissanka and Avishka Fernando scored half-centuries before a combined bowling effort led Jaffna Kings to a comfortable 30-run victory over Dambulla Sixers in the eighth match of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024.

Chasing a mammoth total of 219, the Sixers managed 188/8 in the allotted 20 overs despite Reeza Hendrick's gutsy half-century.

The opening batter looked in control and dominated the Kings' bowlers from the word go but the lack of support from the other end resulted in his efforts going in vain.

Hendricks carried his bat till the 18th over and scored 80 off just 50 deliveries, laced up with a dozen boundaries including three sixes.

Besides him, New Zealand international Mark Chapman had a notable contribution for the Sixers with a 17-ball 30 while Chamindu Wickramasinghe made an unbeaten 20.

Tabraiz Shamsi, Asitha Fernando and Pramod Madhusan bagged two wickets each for the Kings while Azmatullah Omarzai and Fabian Allen picked one apiece.

Earlier, Nissanka and Fernando scored brisk half-centuries as Jaffna Kings finished at 218/5 after being put into bat.

Nissanka came out all guns blazing and hit the Sixers' bowlers all around the ground. He smashed nine fours and four sixes on his way to a 53-ball 88.

Pathum Nissanka, alongside Fernando, recovered the Kings from 62/2 in 7.4 overs to 162/3 in 16.4 overs.

Meanwhile, Fernando batted until the final over and walked back after scoring 57 in 30 balls, hitting three fours and five sixes.

Later, Azmatullah Omarzai (19*) and skipper Charith Assalanka (13) made vital contributions with brisk cameos.

Mustafizur Rahman was the pick of the bowlers for the Sixers with two wickets, followed by Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Dushan Hemantha and Nuwan Thushara, who shared three wickets between them.

The 30-run victory powered Jaffna Kings to the top of the LPL 2024 standings with six points in four matches while Dambulla Sixers remained at the bottom after being winless in three matches.

Openers star as Pakistan set India to chase 244 in World Championship of Legends

Sports Desk

BIRMINGHAM: Sharjeel Khan and Kamran Akmal came out all guns blazing and powered Pakistan Champions to 243/4 against India Champions in the eighth match of the World Championship of Legends at Edgbaston here on Saturday.

India captain Harbhajan Singh's decision to put Pakistan into bat did not prove beneficial as their bowlers received thrashing by the latter's openers.

Akmal and Sharjeel hit the India Champions all around the ground and recorded a belligerent partnership with both scoring half-centuries.

The duo had taken Pakistan Champions to 132 for no loss at the halfway mark as 250 looked like an achievable total. Pacer Anureet Singh then drew a much-needed success for India Champions when he finally got rid of threatening Sharjeel.

The left-handed opener smashed seven fours and five sixes on his way to a 30-ball 72.

Walking out to bat at No.3, Sohaib Maqsood made sure the Pakistan Champions did not lose momentum and added further to the misery of the India Champions.

He was involved in an important second-wicket partnership with Kamran



Akmal, who fell victim to Pawan Negi in the 14th over.

Kamran remained the top-scorer for the Pakistan Champions with 77 off 40 deliveries, laced up with nine fours and four sixes.

Maqsood then joined forces with active senior all-rounder Shoaib Malik and formed yet another crucial partnership for Pakistan Champions.

The duo of Maqsood and Malik added 41 runs for the third wicket before RP Singh dismissed him in the 18th over.

Maqsood scored a brisk 51 off 26 deliveries, peppered with two fours and five sixes.

Pakistan Champions then sustained another blow to their batting expedition when hard-hitting all-rounder Shahid Afridi walked back for a golden duck.

Malik then combined with Aamer Yamin (5*) to add valuable runs at the backend. He scored an unbeaten 25 off 18 balls with the help of two fours.

For India Champions, Pawan Negi, RP Singh, Dhawal Kulkarni and Anureet Singh made one scalp each.

It is pertinent to mention that both Pakistan Champions and India Champions are thus far unbeaten in the ongoing World Championship of Legends, winning both their fixtures.

England Women crush New Zealand in T20I series opener

Sports Desk

SOUTHAMPTON: Danni Wyatt's quickfire half-century, followed by Sarah Glenn's brilliant bowling figures of 3/16 led England Women to a thumping 59-run victory over New Zealand in the first T20I here at The Utilita Bowl on Saturday.

Put into bat first, England Women notched up a massive total of 197/3 on the board, courtesy of a marathon second-wicket partnership between Wyatt and Nat Sciver-Brunt.

Earlier, openers Maia Bouchier and Wyatt gave England women a solid start with a 61-run stand.

The opening partnership ended when Lea Tahuhu dismissed Bouchier on the fourth delivery of the eighth over.

Bouchier made 32 off 26 balls with the help of five fours.

Wyatt was then joined by Nat Sciver-Brunt at the crease and the two combined to form a match-defining partnership.

They added 82 runs to the total, conceding just 45 deliveries, before Edan Carson got rid

of Sciver-Brunt in the 16th over.

Nat Sciver-Brunt fell agonizingly short of her well-deserved half-century as she scored a quickfire 47 off just 23 deliveries, hitting nine fours.

Meanwhile, Wyatt carried her bat till the 18th over until Tahuhu struck again to draw curtains on her brilliant.

Danni Wyatt remained the top-scorer for England women with a 51-ball 76 which featured a dozen boundaries including a six.

Tahuhu was the pick of the bowlers for New Zealand with



two wickets while Carson took one.

In response, New Zealand only managed 138/9 in the allotted overs despite Suzie Bates' gutsy innings up the order.

Bates remained the top-scorer for the White Ferns with a 33-ball 43, laced up with five boundaries and a six.

Besides her, Emilia Kerr was the other notable run-getter for New Zealand with a 26-ball 38 while the rest made modest contributions in the run chase.

Notably, the second Women's

T20I of the five-match series between England and New Zealand will take place on June 9 in Hove.

England Women's T20I Series Schedule against New Zealand Women

9 July: 2nd Women's IT20 - The 1st Central County Ground, Hove

11 July: 3rd Women's IT20 - The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence

13 July: 4th Women's IT20 - The Kia Oval, London

17 July: 5th Women's IT20 - Lord's, London

New season

TEHRAN: Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian has thanked the Iranian nation for turning out to vote and opening a "new season" in the country.



IRNA
Amin Jalali

Photo: IRNA

Pezeshkian thanks Iranian voters for opening 'a new season'

IRNA

TEHRAN: Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian has thanked the Iranian nation for turning out to vote and opening a "new season" in the country.

"You created an opportunity for Iran and brought back hope and joy to the atmosphere of dissatisfaction, distress, and melancholy in society. I am grateful to all of you," Pezeshkian said during a speech Saturday at the Mausoleum

of the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, where he pledged allegiance to the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.

He stressed that he did not make any promises on the campaign trail that he could not deliver on. "The great test of navigating Iran through the constraints, challenges, and crises lies ahead of us."

"Today is the beginning of a new season, the season of the people remaining on the scene and committing to returning

to their demands, and the season of me acting on my commitments," Pezeshkian said.

The president-elect said that he considers all the votes that were cast for him a heavy weight around his neck, promising to be "a listening ear for your words and the voice of the voiceless and the marginalized."

"I will pursue the advancement of dialogue, convergence, and national consensus in the government... to address

the issues of society in all economic, social, cultural, political, and social spheres," he pledged.

Pezeshkian also thanked Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for opening up the stage for a more competitive and healthier presidential election.

Former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarfi, who heavily campaigned for Pezeshkian, also addressed the crowd.

He promised that Pezeshkian will be the president of all the people of Iran, including those who voted for his rival, Saeed Jalili.

This great people who orchestrated the "roaring tide of change" with their presence at the ballot boxes will remain alongside Pezeshkian, Zarfi said. "The people of Iran are the champions in this field and will remain the champions. Greetings to the people of Iran and greetings to Pezeshkian," he added.

E&P sector firms announce \$5 bn investment in Pakistan's oil, gas sector

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The local and international firms of Pakistan's oil & gas exploration and production (E&P) sector, expressing confidence over the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday, announced an investment of US\$5 billion during next three years in the country.

The announcement was made in a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at PM House.

A delegation of oil and gas exploration and production sector companies told the meeting that during three years, around 240 places would be excavated with an investment of \$5 billion to explore petroleum and gas in Pakistan.

The prime minister consti-



tuted a committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar that would include experts, secretaries and

the relevant authorities.

The committee, after consultation with the representatives of the sector, would formulate

proposals to create attractive policy for the exploration and development of petroleum and gas reserves in Pakistan.

Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jamil Ahmed told the meeting that on the prime minister's special instructions, all the remittances (profit of the business) had been sent to the respective countries of the oil and gas production companies.

The meeting was attended by Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, Federal Ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Engineer Amir Muqam, Ahsan Iqbal, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, Coordinator to PM Rana Ehsaan Afzal, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Amjad Zubair Tiwana, representatives of domestic and international companies and relevant high officials.

Pakistan embassy displays mangoes at an event in Paris



Spokesman Report

PARIS: Embassy of Pakistan proudly showcased world famous Pakistani Mango at an annual event of Polo-de Paris, France

Mango Mousse, Mango ice-cream & freshly cut Mango enjoyed by guests & members of the famous Polo de Paris located in Bois de Boulogne for over 130 years, a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy in France

said on Saturday.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad thanked Jean-Luc Chartier, President Polo de Paris and the entire Club team for this wonderful opportunity to introduce Pakistani Mangoes to French friends.

The guests described the sweetness and aroma of Pakistani Mangoes unmatched and were eager to know about the different varieties of mangoes in Pakistan.

Mango Festival held at Pakistan Association Dubai

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The Pakistan Association Dubai, in collaboration with the Pakistan Business Council and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai, organized a grand Mango Festival event in Dubai.

The event was attended by a large number of guests including diplomats, dignitaries, prominent members of the Pakistani community and government officials.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Ambassador of Pakistan to United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, and Consul General of Pakistan Hussain Muhammad. The event started with recitation of verses from the Quran followed by playing of the National Anthem.

Faisal Niaz Tirmizi while addressing on the occasion said, "This is the most anticipated event of the year. Mangoes like citrus are indigenous to the Indus Valley, which

constitutes Pakistan". Thanking the participants for attending the festival, the Ambassador said that presence of so many people was testimony of this special fruit which is eagerly awaited in summer.

Hussain Muhammad said that Pakistani mangoes are deeply rooted in our culture and heritage and is a symbol of our hospitality and tradition.

The ceremony concluded with, presentation of mementos by Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Minister for Culture Tourism Antiquities Archives Govt of Sindh, Pakistan.



Chairman Senate congratulated to Masoud Pezeshkian on Elected as a President of Iran

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani congratulated to Masoud Pezeshkian on Being Elected as a President of Iran.

Chairman Saint Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Further said that the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran are centuries old.

It is hoped that Pakistan-Iran relations will be strengthened under the leadership of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Pakistan will work together with Iran for the peace and prosperity of the region. Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that terrorism is an important problem in the region. Due to terrorism, Pakistan and Iran are directly affected. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that the governments of Pakistan and Iran have to work together to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. We are in equal touch with the government of Iran to meet the shortage of Sui gas in Pakistan.

NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker extend warm felicitation to newly Elected Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Honourable Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah have extended the heartiest felicitation to newly elected Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian. In their congratulatory messages, they expressed their hope that the newly elected president would further cement ties between both brotherly neighbouring nations. They also expressed their hope that the newly elected Iranian President would lead Iran and its people to the path of Prosperity and development.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has also said that the strategic geographical position of both countries offers significant opportunities for regional and global connectivity. He underscored that there were untapped potentials that both nations should be explored. The speaker



underscored the pivotal role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral relations. He expressed that enhancing people-to-people contacts is pivotal for strengthening ties between both countries. He added, "Enhanced parliament to Parliament contacts are pivotal for achieving the goal of expanded economic cooperation and mutual prosperity."

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah has also said that Pakistan and Iran are bound by historic long religious traditions and values. He said that there was a vast opportunity to expand trade and business ties for mutual development and prosperity.

Deputy PM Dar chairs meeting to discuss agenda item for 52nd CCI meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired the meeting of a Committee constituted by the Prime Minister.

The meeting deliberated and discussed the proposed agenda items and firmed up the agenda for the upcoming 52nd meeting of the Council of Common Interests, according to a Foreign Office press release.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political & Public Affairs Rana Sana Ullah Khan.

Federal Secretaries of Power, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Finance, Water Resources, Petroleum, Human Rights, Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony, and Overse

PTI's rally permission revocation purely administrative issue: Rana Sanaullah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday that the cancellation of permission for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) rally is purely an administrative matter.

Holding rallies and mobilizing people are the essence of democracy. However, PTI should consider the sensitivity of the time (Muharram) before calling for a rally, he said while talking to a private news channel.

The local administration would have a proper justification as to why they revoked the permission, he added.

During Muharram, when the administration was fully occupied with ensuring security for the processions, it was unwise to gather people for other events, he further added. In response to a query about the All Party Conference (APC), he mentioned that the government has invited all stakeholders to participate in it.

Pension is a huge burden on ...

Continued from Page 1

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) personnel. Additionally, Aurangzeb noted that the caretaker government has consistently supported various initiatives, despite the industry's struggles due to difficult economic decisions. He promised to consider the recommendations from businessmen regarding the budget.

Addressing the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) issue, Aurangzeb criticized the previous PTI government's insufficient efforts and expressed a desire to resolve the matter. He also pointed out that 60% of the total tax revenue is allocated to the provinces, with taxes on farmhouses and large houses being imposed in consultation with provincial governments.

PTI Islamabad power show ...

Continued from Page 1

the officials as the NOC was cancelled despite the court order.

The petition named the Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Inspector General, and Superintendent of Police (SP) Tarnol, among others, as respondents.

According to the petition, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad on July 4 had informed the court that an NOC has been issued to PTI.

Later when the PTI leader Amir Mughal was taking the officials to the power show site, he was arrested by police outside the DC Office, the petitioner added.