



US Election 2024: Biden leads Trump in key battleground states, new poll shows

President Joe Biden is ahead of former president Donald Trump in two key battlegrounds — Michigan and Wisconsin — however, he faces challenges in swing states and trails behind his nemesis in Pennsylvania, a new poll showed, mostly due to his debate debacle.



World's largest indoor ice, snow theme park opens in China's Harbin

Tourists visiting Harbin, China's "Ice City" in its northernmost Heilongjiang Province, now have a new attraction to explore, namely an indoor ice and snow theme park that opened on Saturday. With a construction area of 23,000 square meters, the park has clinched the Guinness World Record as the world's largest indoor ice and snow theme park. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presides over a meeting regarding Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority, and Pakistan National Shipping Cooperation on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz calls for minimising clearance time at Port Qasim, Karachi Port Trust

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has stressed the need for minimising clearance times by installing modern equipment and machinery at the Port Qasim and Karachi Port Trust. "Modern system in ports and further improvement in accessing them, Pakistan can earn billions of dollars in foreign exchange," he said while presiding over a meeting regarding KPT, Port Qasim Authority, and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation on Sunday. PM Shehbaz's one-day visit to the port city comes after his trip to Tajikistan where he invited the Central Asian country to "avail the facilities of Pakistani seaports"

for transit trade. During the visit, the two sides expressed satisfaction over the "steadily expanding bilateral cooperation" in all areas of mutual interest. Upon arrival at Faisal Base, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori welcomed the premier. He is also expected to meet with a business leaders' delegation from the export and import sectors. This is Prime Minister Sharif's second visit to Karachi in less than four months. On April 24th, he visited the city for a day, paying respects at Mazar-e-Quaid and holding a meeting with the Sindh cabinet. "Steps should be taken to reduce the customs clearance time by installing modern equip-

ment and machinery at Port Qasim and Karachi Port," he said and directed the relevant authorities to take special initiatives to tap the full potential of maritime trade and to spur the economic growth. He also called for ensuring the installation of state-of-the-art scanning machinery at the ports besides taking steps on priority to fully benefit from the ports' potential. To ensure uninterrupted delivery of goods to and from the KPT, the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to keep open the Lyari Expressway for cargo traffic for 24 hours a day. "The Malir Expressway should be connected to the port to further improve the delivery of goods."

PM Shehbaz directed the authorities to increase the capacity of supply of goods to and from KPT through the railway. "Fees for LNG ships at Port Qasim should be reduced and fixed according to prevailing rates at the international level," the prime minister said and added that a comprehensive action plan for the regulation of shipping lines should be prepared and presented on priority. He directed the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation to formulate and present a comprehensive plan to reduce its cost and make its operations effective. PM Shehbaz said that he held meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of the Central Asian countries

during his recent visit to Kazakhstan. Pakistan, he said offered the "most suitable sea trade route" for the Central Asian states. Central Asian states have expressed deep interest in using Pakistan's ports for trade, the prime minister said and added that Pakistan could earn foreign exchange reserves worth billions of dollars by introducing modern systems in the ports. He stressed that the development of the existing ports in Karachi would increase exports from value addition industries. He highlighted that the private sector's development, ease of doing business, and facilitation of investors were among the government's priorities.

President calls for shunning differences; promotion of national unity, interfaith harmony

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has stressed upon the nation to nurture the qualities of affection, forbearance and tolerance by shunning all differences and play role for strengthening of national unity and interfaith harmony in the country. In a message on the advent of new Islamic year 1446 Hijrah, the president felicitated the nation on the arrival of new Islamic year and prayed for the peace, stability, progress and prosperity of the county, President Secretariat Press Wing, on Sunday said in a press release. The president said that Muharram-ul-Haram signified special importance in the Islamic history, adding that prayers and the worship of Allah Almighty in this month had been of great significance. This month called for avoidance of sins, following the Islamic teachings and devotedly worshipping of the Creator, besides reminding about holding of introspection of the Islamic teachings, he added. President Zardari said that Muharram-ul-Haram also reminded them of the unprecedented sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his faithful companions and gave a lesson for the real



objective of struggle in life which was linked with sacrificing everything in the path of religion. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions laid down their lives while facing the evil and atrocious forces of cruelty and in this way, they had always been referred as beacons of determination and sacrifices, he added. The president said this month gave them lesson to stand against forces of cruelty and evils by raising standards of righteousness while facing ordeals of life. The president said the new Islamic month provided them an opportunity to transform their lives in accordance with the Islamic teachings and stressed upon the need to discern between the virtue and evil and create awareness and understanding of Islamic teachings.

Police raid Omar Ayub's house in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A joint team of Mianwali and Islamabad police conducted a raid at the residence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Omar Ayub Khan in Islamabad's F-10 sector, but failed to arrest him as he was not present at the residence. The raid was conducted in connection with an anti-terrorism case filed against Omar Ayub Khan, for which the Sargodha Anti-Terrorism Court had issued warrants for his arrest. Omar Ayub Khan confirmed the raid on X (formerly Twitter), stating that the Sargodha ATC had issued non-bailable arrest warrants against him, prompting the



raid by Islamabad and Mianwali police. The opposition leader further alleged that the federal and provincial governments, in collaboration with their agencies, are attempting to arrest him due to his involvement in the "Form 47" campaign, a political maneuver aimed at destabilizing the current government. He asserted that the PTI's struggle for Imran Khan's return to the Prime Minister's office will continue.

Targeted attack kills close colleague of Chaudhry Aslam in Karachi

Bureau Report

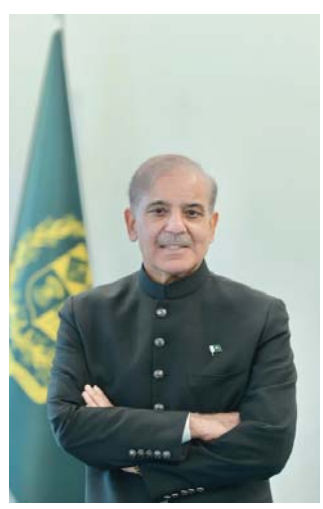
KARACHI: Senior Counter-Terrorism Department officer DSP Ali Raza — a close colleague of late Chaudhry Aslam — was killed when unidentified men on a motorcycle opened fire at him and fled the area in Karachi's Karimabad area on Sunday, police said. He was posted as DSP Investigation for CTD. Raza succumbed to his injuries at the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. According to an eyewitness, the incident unfolded when two suspects on a motorcycle, wearing helmets, opened fire on DSP Ali Raza's vehicle. When DSP Ali Raza stepped out of his vehicle and started moving towards the gate, the suspects opened fire, hitting him with three bullets. The attack also left three of the security guards injured. They stated that as the assailants were fleeing the scene, they also shot at the area's security guard.

Senior police officials and the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) unit have recovered eleven bullet shells from the crime scene, indicating the use of a semi-automatic weapon in the attack. Investigations have revealed that DSP Ali Raza was a "close colleague" of the late Chaudhry Aslam, a senior police official who was killed in a Taliban bombing 10 years ago. Raza had actively participated in operations against Lyari gang violence and terrorism during his distinguished career. The slain DSP had also served as the station house officer (SHO) at various police stations, including the CTD, underscoring his extensive experience and expertise in law enforcement. According to police, DSP Raza did not usually carry a security guard with him during his off-duty hours. The slain officer used to visit his friends in the evenings and socialising without any additional security measures.

PM felicitates nation, Ummah on new Islamic year; prays for an end to oppression in IIOJK, Palestine

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his good wishes to the nation and the Ummah on the beginning new Islamic year and prayed for the peace, stability, progress and prosperity of both. In a message on the new Islamic year 1446 Hijrah, he also prayed for relief of those Muslims facing atrocities across the globe including oppressed Kashmiri people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister prayed that the shadows of oppression and atrocities on these areas might recede and there might be a dawn of peace, progress and prosperity. The new year also reminded them of the unforgettable sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in the battle of virtue and evil while strictly adhering to the principles of truthfulness and justice and they would be always remem-



bered for their supreme sacrifices, he added. He further said that their unwavering courage, sacrifice and passion against oppression had been an unprecedented example in the world. "That incident also remind them of those sublime characteristics including sympathy, justice and unity which are ingrained in our faith and encourage us to stand against injustices and oppression by contributing

towards a society based upon values of peace, harmony and mutual respect," he added. The prime minister stressed upon to follow the supreme qualities set by our Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and his companions. He also emphasised upon shunning of all differences by promoting tolerance and mutual respect in the society and called for the creation of a society based upon principles of social justice, equality and sympathy. He opined that the new Islamic year provided them an opportunity to lead a life in accordance with the Islamic teachings. The prime minister said that the economic challenges had been reduced and the country's economy was on the right track but they were cognizant of fact to further strive for making life of the common man easier, provision of equal opportunities to all and taking the country on the path of progress and prosperity. He called upon the nation to set aside their differences and work for the bright future of Pakistan with unity.

Achakzai believes Imran Khan's release will help lower 'political temperature'

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan's release would help lower the "political temperature", Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai has said. "Imran Khan is not one man. He is the leader of Parliament's biggest party. Release him. He won't run away and come to Parliament. The temperature will go down when he comes out," he said while appearing on Rubaroo aired on Aaj News on Sunday. He was responding to a question related to Khan's arrest. Achakzai mentioned that a United Nations panel



has expressed concerns over the PTI founding chairman's imprisonment. Last week, the Geneva-based UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said Khan's detention is arbitrary and in violation of international law. The "appropriate remedy would be to release Mr. Khan immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law," it said in an opinion.

Sit in Islamabad to continue until demands of people are met: Hafiz Naeemur Rehman

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Talking to the media at Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Center, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that Haq Do is allowing the people to hold sit-ins on July 12 regarding loadshedding and bills, because people are selling everything. The rulers are no longer thinking. Electricity is becoming more expensive day by day due to the IMF.

He said that when the people come out, no one will be able to reach the airport. They think that they will flee to London, America and Dubai, once the people come out of their houses, then it is not possible. The big landlords and vassals do not pay taxes, 375 billion rupees are being paid by the salaried and small farmers, while the feudal class is paying only 5 billion. Elites are imposing themselves on the country.

Civil and military people will not give tax if they buy and sell plots. These elites have looted the country and people are trying to shift industries to other countries. This is a budget that affects all people. These views are expressed by Amir. Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naeemur Rahman addressing a press conference in Multan. Amir

Jamaat-e-Islami South Punjab Rao Muhammad Zafar, Secretary Sohaib Amar Siddiqui and Amir Jamaat-e-Islami District Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi were also present on this occasion. Hafiz Naeemur Rahman said that the agenda of the political parties is not for the people but for their own interests.

We are staging a sit-in to give the nation relief.

The clear demands of our sit-in are that the free electricity of the elite should be stopped, free petrol should be stopped, electricity, gas, flour and sugar are being taxed and then the salary is also being taxed. Taxes on electricity bills should be abolished. Talking about South Punjab, Hafiz Naeemur Rahman said that the Secretariat was created, we believe that a separate province should be completed. These governments destroyed the small farmers, the government did not buy wheat, the money for sugarcane is not received for 6 months, agriculture was the only sector that was developing but now it is being destroyed.

This year, cotton was harvested 25 percent less, which is the lack of confidence of the farmers. No action was taken against anyone in the wheat scandal, properties were bought in



Dubai for three thousand billion, those who bought properties in foreign countries gave a money trail. Judges should make decisions according to Form 45 so that a government with the votes of the people comes. He further said that the problem of IPPs has not been solved which would give relief to the public, 2500 billion is being given to IPPs for free, which is wrong, people are shifting to solar.

After which the capacity charges will increase, they are also incompetent and corrupt mafia who have been robbing Pakistan for 70 years. The government has never been serious for the relief of the people, IPPs are being awarded, Jamaat-e-Islami is very serious for the youth, we are conducting IT courses, youth can earn money by doing IT courses, nothing is done by giving a laptop. It should be learned that every

Pakistani, every political party worker is invited to participate in the sit-in.

In order not to create misunderstandings among the people, in response to a question, he said that this is the beginning of the movement, in which the people have to be given relief first, after that this movement will continue for the restoration of the constitution. Now some people have said that it is a good thing that the

judge's decisions should be spoken, so that the rule of law and the constitution can be established. Pakistan's biggest asset is the youth.

In the question related to the military operation, he said that we cannot support military operation, as a result of which hatred increases among the people for the army. All circles should understand that this increases hatred and distance.

Dharna

KARACHI: Workers of Pakhtun Tahaffuz Movement sitting on dharna outside Karachi Press Club in the Port City.



Photo: Online

Make Sahiwal a plastic bag-free city: Shoaib Iqbal Syed

Javed Shouket Vaince



SAHIWAL: To make Sahiwal a plastic bag-free city, the relevant departments have taken actions on a daily basis, Commissioner Shoaib Iqbal Syed.

On the direction of the Punjab government, the actions of the environment department of Sahiwal against the use of plastic bags are ongoing. 42 kilo polythene bags were seized during checking of different areas. Actions are underway on behalf of the Department of Environment, Sahiwal, to implement the ban on the use of plastic bags by the Punjab government.

Assistant Director Sawira Hasan along with the team of Environment Protection Authority checked various grocery shops, bakeries and hotels at Bahirwala Adda, Tufail Shaheed Road, Iqbal Nagar, Baba Farid Park, Arif Road During the checking, about 42 kilo polythene bags less than 75 microns were taken into custody and a fine of Rs 50,000 has also been imposed on the violators.

Inner Wheel International Club Provides Full Assistance to Deserving Families in Rainy and Summer Season

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman of District Inner Wheel International Club 343 President Mrs. Shaheen Moazzam Khakwani has said that in today's era of inflation, serving the suffering humanity, providing financial support to them is charity, giving ration to the poor's house, medicines in hospitals and during summer season. Giving a water cooler is very important for our future. All the clubs in our district are engaged in the service of poor people. He expressed these views while addressing the installation ceremony. Ayesha Mazhar and Secretary Mrs. Jaina Ijaz said that the government does not have enough resources, we have to move forward, and it is becoming popular at the international level.



The newly Elected Chairman of 2024-2025 Shaheen Muazzam Khakwani, Secretary Mrs. Jaina Ejaz and other office bearers wore collars and other office bearers were badged in the ceremony by Sadia Kirmani, Tahira Tahir, Shahida Rehman, Rifat Shahid, Shahida Durrani, Tahira Najam and others. The functionaries of all the clubs from all over South Punjab participated in the event.

Martyrs who offered their blood, sweat and tears for noble cause occupy a special place in our hearts: Saghar

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Mehmood Ahmad Saghar, while paying tributes to Shaheed Burhan Wani and his associates on their martyrdom anniversary, has said that the supreme sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri martyrs would continue to inspire the Kashmir's incoming generations.

"The Martyrs who offered their blood, sweat and tears for the noble cause occupy a special place in our hearts", Saghar said, adding that it were the sacrifices of these martyrs that brought Kashmir issue out of the cold store and put it at the center stage at global level.

Hailing Burhan's role in imbuing a new spirit in the ongoing resistance movement, the DFP leader said that Shaheed Burhan not only rejuvenated the freedom movement but also fortified masses' faith in their ability to achieve the cherished goal of freedom from India's occupation.

Reiterating his commitment to uphold the martyrs' mission, he said the valiant people of Kashmir won't let anyone to betray these sacrifices.

"The ongoing liberation struggle will continue till the dawn of freedom", he said, adding the armed struggle would cease to exist once the Indian government sheds its traditional policy of intransigence and agrees to resolve the Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

Regarding the Indian government's propaganda about so-called normalcy and development in Kashmir, Saghar said that New Delhi has always used its media as a tool to peddle its baseless propaganda to mislead the international community on Kashmir.

Saghar, while urging the international community to take stock of the worsening situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that it was high time that the world community must shun its policy of indifference towards Kashmir and stop looking Kashmir through the Indian prism.

"Kashmir issue is a political dispute that needs to be resolved through peaceful means of dialogue and diplomacy", he added.

First monsoon rain exposed defects in the newly constructed Nishtar Hospital 2 Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The first monsoon rains exposed defects in the newly constructed Nishtar Hospital 2 Multan could not withstand the first monsoon rains, President Pakistan Medical Association South Punjab Professor Dr Masood Al Rauf Hiraj Said the rain exposed the fortress of substandard work, the hospital was filled with water due to leaking roofs, the outer wall collapsed, Pakistan Medical Association alleged in the construction. Demand for inquiry on corruption



monsoon rains in Multan's Nishtar 2 Hospital opened the fortress of non-standard construction work. In this regard, a delegation of Pakistan Medical Association headed by President Prof. Dr. Masood Al Rauf Haraj visited Nishtar Hospital 2 Multan, where during the meeting with the

management of Nishtar Hospital 2 including IDP officers, non-standard work and construction work. They have demanded to take notice from the higher authorities on the alleged corruption, while the delegation told the officers that the AC system has been inoperative in Nishtar Hospital 2

for the past several months, the washrooms are inactive, and rain water is running in almost every ward, corridors, and offices, has been admitted while there is a severe shortage of staff, besides, Nishtar Hospital 2 has become a hotbed of problems instead of providing relief.

Provision of foolproof security to the Muharram processions and Majalis is fundamental duty of Police: RPO

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan has said that in view of the upcoming Muharram ul Haram, Punjab Police has completed security arrangements for Majalis and processions in all districts of the Region Faisalabad, a comprehensive and improved strategy has been devised for the security of mourning processions and Majalis. Foolproof security will be provided for Majalis and processions in all the districts. Dr Abid Khan said that 1119 Majalis and over 4402 processions will be held across the region during the ten days of Muharram. More than 45144 officers and personnel will perform security duties to secure the Majalis from the 1st to the 10th of Muharram. As many as 40686 Police personnel have been deployed for the protection of mourner's processions. Talking about categories of Majalis, he said that 146 Majalis falls in A- category, 263 B category and 263 falls in C category. While talking about Muharram processions, as many 325



A category, 945 B category and 3132 are of C category.

Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan said that the personnel have been deployed according to the number of processions and Majalis on each day of Muharram. RPO said that over 16895 volunteers will also assist in the security arrangements of processions and as many as 8345 volunteers have been deployed

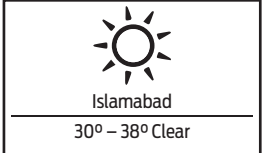
for the security of Majalis.

Further, RPO Faisalabad Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan has directed CPO Faisalabad and District Police officers Jhang, T. T. Singh and Chiniot to ensure proactive coordination with peace committees and organizers of processions and gatherings to resolve all issues beforehand. In all districts, processions and

Majalis will not be allowed at any other place except the approved routes and venues. Moreover, RPO directed that strict implementation of Loudspeaker Act will be ensured. In view of the risk of incitement, the movement of persons included in the Fourth Schedule will be closely monitored.

RPO said that the security SOPs of the Home Department should be implemented properly. CCTV cameras, metal detectors and walk-through gates will be used for checking at sensitive locations. RPO said that control rooms will be active in all districts, maintaining round-the-clock coordination with the central police officer's main control room.

Moreover, he also directed City traffic officer to regulate traffic and make effective mechanism to have smooth flow of traffic. Further, the provision of beverages and healthy food is the responsibility of District heads.



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 & Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

Speaker, Dy Speaker extend warm felicitations to Muslim Ummah on occasion of new Islamic year

ISLAMABAD, JUL 07 (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Sunday extended their warm felicitations to the Muslim Ummah on the advent of the new Islamic year Hijri 1446.

On this occasion, the Speaker said that this day was a divine blessing, affording an opportunity to rejuvenate faith, resolve and recommit to noble values of peace, justice and compassion. He expressed the hope that this occasion would inspire people to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity and the pursuit of excellence.

The Speaker said that the Muslim Ummah was facing numerous challenges, including conflicts, terrorism and economic inequality, which required united efforts to address. He emphasized the need for Muslim countries to stand together in solidarity and work towards peace, stability and prosperity.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination and urged the international community to play its role in resolving the conflict.

The Speaker prayed that the new Islamic year may bring peace, prosperity and harmony to the country and the world at large, and urged the people to work together for the progress and development of the country.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa said that the new Islamic year heralds new hopes and opportunities.

He urged the people to harness this momentum to propel themselves towards a brighter future, built on hard work, dedication, and service to humanity. He also stressed the need for unity and cooperation among Muslim countries to overcome the challenges faced by the Ummah.

PPDA's Hassan Shah lauds ministers, other top officials

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hassan Shah, spokesman of Reforms Group of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Sunday lauded the ministers and other top officials for resolving the issues confronted by the fuel merchants.

He said that we have successfully convinced the government that imposing a 0.5 percent advance turnover tax on petroleum retailers was a misinterpretation of the law.

Hassan Shah said that dealers held marathon meetings with top government functionaries

including Dealers met with Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Pervez Malik, Federal Board of Revenue Chairman Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Petroleum Secretary Mr. Momin Agha, Chairman OGRA, MD PSO and other officials.

Dealers convinced them that 0.5 percent advance turnover tax was double taxation as the outlets were already paying advance fixed withholding tax at Rs1.04 per liter as final income tax.

Dealers supported the new taxation measure introduced by the government to boost revenue and cover its financial shortfall as challenging revenue collection



targets will help it clinch an IMF bailout but clarified that filling stations could not survive the blow, said Hassan Shah, Spokesman of PPDA.

Dealers told government officials that the new turnover tax would strangle petroleum retailers as petrol pumps were already operating at meager margins, and record inflation had made the retail business unviable, dealers said.

Hassan Shah said that Secretary Income Tax Policy of FBR Muhammad Sajid Ahmad, in office memorandum (C. No.1(6)S(ITP)/2019/123126-R), clarified that tax collection under section 236H does not apply to dealers/retail outlets as their income falls under Final Tax Regime.

According to Hassan Shah, about 95% of dealers across Pakistan paid no attention to the senseless strike call by some Karachi-based dealers known for their clandestine links with the Oil Marketing Companies.

The government officials involved in the matter were very pleased with the positive attitude of the majority of the dealers.

At the same time, government officials were annoyed with a small group of dealers hailing from Karachi who have always tried to reap personal benefits through pressure tactics, he informed.

He also lauded the role of PPDA Reforms Group leaders Nauman Butt, Nadeem Aziz Khan, Khawaja Atif Ahmad, Humayun Khan, and Zaheer Ahmed Paracha who played a very positive role in resolving the tax issue.

The leaders said, "We found the minister and all the officials of ministry, OGRA, FBR very patient, tolerant and cooperative and we hope that they will cooperate with us in future as well."

The advance tax issue has been resolved amicably. The petroleum fuel merchants will continue to strive to obtain their rights by engaging in dialogue with the official circles, said Shah, adding that conversations are always better than political demonstrations.

PCC receives prime plots from cbd punjab at landmark possession ceremony



City Desk

LAHORE: Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) hosted an official possession ceremony for Plot #4 and Plot #5 of Lahore Prime CBD Punjab Quaid District. The possession of the plots was given to Pakistan Consortium Company Reit Fund (PCC). The event was attended by distinguished members of PCC including Gohar Ijaz, Mian Amir Mehmood, Naeem Butt, and representatives from Habib Rafiq Group. On behalf of CBD Punjab, CEO Imran Amin, Chairman Board Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, and senior officials of CBD Punjab were present to mark this significant milestone.

CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin, emphasized the strategic importance of this development in his address, stating, "In the next five to ten years, our vision is to create a master plan and development projects that not only instill confidence and trust within the business community but also lay down a robust infrastructure foundation. The trust bestowed upon us by the business community, represented by Gohar Ijaz, is a testament to our commitment to delivering high-quality infrastructure. This project is a pivotal step towards realizing that vision."

While addressing the ceremony Chairman Syed Azfar Ali Nasir said, "We have worked diligently to build an organization that introduces customer-friendly policies and earns the trust of the business community. The support from our consortium and the public sector has been instrumental in reaching this milestone. Today, we are proud to see Pakistan's first super high-rise infrastructure taking shape."

Business Tycoon Gohar Ijaz, representing PCC, added, "The possession of these plots is a significant milestone for us and reaffirms our commitment to contributing to Punjab's economic growth. The collaboration with CBD Punjab will enable us to develop state-of-the-art infrastructure that will attract further investment and foster a thriving business environment."

The technical and commercial teams, along with partners such as NLC and NESPAK, have played a crucial role in this development. The project includes the construction of a four-kilometer road connecting Main Boulevard to Walton, incorporating advanced elements like vertical electric conduits approved by LESCO, rainwater harvesting systems, and smart services. The cost of this infrastructure development is estimated at 25 billion PKR, reflecting the significant investment in creating a business-friendly environment.

Jalala Bridge blast 'cowardly' attack on innocent people: Qaumi Watan Party

Tariq Khan Yousafzai



MARDAN: A veteran worker of Qaumi Watan Party, a social personality and candidate for farmer councilor from NC TOS has said in a statement that as a lowly worker and representative of Qaumi Watan Party, I strongly condemn the Jalala Bridge blast. No matter how much the tragedy is condemned, the protection of life and property of the people is the primary responsibility of the government, the people of Takht-

hai and Jalala are the people of peace, targeting innocent and innocent citizens is a cowardly act, on the one hand inflation and On the other hand, the insecure people are not economically stable and their lives and property are not protected, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is constantly suffering losses at the hands of terrorists. The tourism industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been severely damaged. Due to the decline in tourism, the hotel industry has declined, resulting in reduced employment opportunities and reduced commercial activities. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a region that has much to interest international and domestic tourists. He further said that there have been several terrorist attacks on Qaumi Watan Party leaders, in which many workers have been martyred. It is not hidden from anyone. In this difficult time, Qaumi Watan Party is an equal participant in the grief of the grieving families.

AIOU admissions to commence from July 15

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing the admissions for the Autumn 2024 semester (first phase) across the country from July 15. Admissions in first phase include Matric, FA, BS (face to face), MS, MPhil, and PhD programs. Prospectuses and admission application forms for all the programs will be available online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) on July 15, 2024

Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has instructed the regional heads of university to enable facilitation centres to support students. SWIFT Centers have also been established across the country to provide information and support to students. Details of all swift centres are available on website.

Sunset

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of sunset in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Islamabad police arrange workshop on road safety for students

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police arranged a workshop for students of Islamabad Model College for girls F-7/4, to acquaint them with road safety tips and better awareness about traffic rules. More than 250 students attended the workshop and efforts of the force in ensuring a safe road environment in the city were highlighted.

The Education Wing of Islamabad Police informed the students as to how special measures are being taken to curb various traffic violations in the city and also informed about traffic rules and regulations.

It was informed that educational teams of police visit various organizations as this



exercise is helpful in providing a disciplined traffic system to the masses. It was told that personnel of the force have not only helped to establish a disciplined traffic system in the Capital but also reduced the ratio of accidents.

They were briefed about the history of the traffic police force, its targets and achievements. Students were told about safety measures while walking along the road, road crossing code, causes of accidents and how to protect one-self, defensive

driving and its requirements, practice to prevent risky situations on road, planning for a long journey, positioning car or lane discipline, right of way on junctions and road markings, safe overtaking, traffic sign boards and traffic light signals and perils of using mobile phone and not fastening seat belts while driving.

On this occasion, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, emphasized that children are the future builders of any nation. He stated that these children will eventually lead the country, making it the duty of Islamabad Traffic Police to educate them about road safety and traffic rules. He highlighted that the ITP is diligently fulfilling this responsibility.

First Sikh marriage act; a milestone in history and step toward peaceful and secured state

The First Sikh Marriage Act is a landmark legislation that marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's history. Enacted in Punjab, Pakistan, this law allows Sikhs from around the world to register their marriages in the country, a move that showcases Pakistan's commitment to recognizing and protecting minority rights.

The credit for this achievement goes to Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, the first Sikh Minister, who played a crucial role in drafting and presenting the bill to the cabinet for approval. His dedication and perseverance have paved the way for

this historic legislation, which will have far-reaching implications for the Sikh community in Pakistan and worldwide.

With an estimated 17,000 to 20,000 Sikhs residing in Pakistan, this law is a significant step forward in recognizing and protecting their rights. The larger Sikh community in India, where such legislation does not exist, will also benefit from this move. Pakistan has become the first country to introduce this law, positioning itself as a pioneer in promoting minority rights and setting a precedent for other nations to follow.

The enactment of this law has multiple benefits for Pakistan. Firstly, it demonstrates that Pakistan, a

country founded on Islamic principles, is not neglecting its minority populations, comprising 2% of the country's population.

This move will garner global recognition for Pakistan, showcasing its commitment to inclusivity and diversity. The legislation will also have diplomatic implications, presenting Pakistan as a secure and conscious state for minorities, attracting tourists and fostering a positive image of the country.

This historic legislation contributes to Pakistan's foreign policy, showcasing the country as a peaceful and harmonious nation.

It sets a precedent for further initiatives that promote interfaith harmony, cultural diversity, and minority rights. By embracing and celebrating its diverse populations, Pakistan can become a beacon of tolerance and understanding, resonating with the global community.

The First Sikh Marriage Act is a

testament to Pakistan's growth and maturity as a nation, recognizing the importance of inclusivity and diversity. As we move forward, we must continue to promote and celebrate our diverse heritage, fostering a society that values and respects all its citizens, regardless of faith, religion, or background.

This legislation also highlights the importance of interfaith dialogue and collaboration. By working together, different religious and cultural groups can achieve great things, promoting understanding and peaceful coexistence. Pakistan has the potential to become a model for other countries, showcasing the benefits of inclusivity

and diversity.

In conclusion, the First Sikh Marriage Act is a landmark legislation that marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's history. It showcases Pakistan's commitment to recognizing and protecting minority rights, promoting interfaith harmony, cultural diversity, and inclusivity. As we move forward, we must continue to promote and celebrate our diverse heritage, fostering a society that values and respects all its citizens, regardless of faith, religion, or background."

Writer is student at University of Sargodha.



Analysis

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Power of Drama in Pakistan's Public Diplomacy

Sumaiya Khurram

Pakistan's drama industry holds a profound cultural significance, serving as a cornerstone that reflects the country's identity and extending its influence far beyond national borders. Productions like "Humsafar" and "Zindagi Gulzar Hai" exemplify this global appeal, captivating audiences worldwide with their compelling narratives and emotional depth.

At its core, Pakistani dramas act as powerful cultural ambassadors, portraying Pakistan's rich heritage, traditions, and societal nuances. These narratives often delve into themes deeply rooted in Pakistani culture, such as intricate family dynamics, societal norms, and historical contexts. By showcasing these aspects on an international stage, dramas not only entertain but also educate global audiences about Pakistan's cultural complexity.

One of the significant impacts of these dramas is their ability to challenge stereotypes about Pakistan. Through authentic storytelling and nuanced character portrayals, dramas like "Humsafar" present a multifaceted view of the country, countering simplistic or negative perceptions that may prevail in global media. This portrayal fosters appreciation and curiosity among international viewers, encouraging a deeper understanding of Pakistan's diverse cultural landscape. Moreover, Pakistani dramas often

address contemporary social issues with sensitivity and realism. They tackle topics ranging from gender roles to class divides and religious influences, sparking discussions both locally and internationally. This engagement with social issues not only enhances the entertainment value of these shows but also positions them as platforms for meaningful dialogue and reflection on broader societal challenges.

The quality of production in Pakistani dramas has also been a contributing factor to their global success. With improvements in cinematography, direction, and acting, these shows have garnered praise for their aesthetic appeal and narrative depth. This high production value, coupled with compelling storytelling, has attracted viewers from diverse cultural backgrounds, further expanding the reach and influence of Pakistani entertainment on the global stage.

In the digital age, the accessibility of Pakistani dramas through streaming platforms has further broadened their audience base. Platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video have enabled viewers worldwide to access these shows, transcending geographical boundaries and introducing international audiences to Pakistani culture in an unprecedented manner.

Economically, the success of Pakistani dramas abroad has also had positive implications. It has contributed to export revenue and increased tourism, as fans of these dramas express interest in visiting Pakistan to experience the locales and cultural richness depicted on screen.

Ultimately, Pakistani dramas possess a unique potential as a tool of public diplomacy. They not only entertain but also educate and reshape global perceptions of Pakistan, showcasing its cultural vibrancy and societal complexities in a manner that fosters cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. As the industry continues to evolve and innovate, harnessing this potential becomes increasingly crucial for promoting a positive global image of Pakistan and strengthening international relations through cultural exchange.

Moreover, Pakistani dramas explore universal themes that resonate universally, transcending geographical boundaries. Themes of love, sacrifice, ambition, and social justice depicted in these shows appeal to audiences worldwide, creating empathy and understanding across cultures. Addressing issues like gender equality, class disparities, and ethical dilemmas through compelling storytelling not only entertains but also sparks meaningful conversations on global platforms. This contributes to a broader dialogue on social issues and reinforces Pakistan's stance as a progressive and empathetic society.

The advent of digital platforms and satellite television has significantly amplified the global reach of Pakistani dramas. Platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime, along with regional broadcasters, have facilitated the widespread dissemination of these shows, making them accessible to diverse audiences globally. Strategic partnerships with international broadcasters and targeted marketing efforts further

enhance their visibility and impact. Leveraging social media platforms for promotional campaigns and engaging with fan communities worldwide fosters cross-cultural dialogue and strengthens Pakistan's soft power on a global scale.

To fully capitalize on the potential of Pakistani dramas in public diplomacy, concerted efforts from government bodies, industry stakeholders, and cultural institutions are essential. Investing in infrastructure, production quality, and talent development ensures that Pakistani dramas maintain their competitive edge internationally. Initiatives such as international film festivals, cultural exchange programs, and collaborative productions with foreign counterparts facilitate deeper cultural engagement and mutual understanding.

In conclusion, Pakistani dramas represent a powerful medium for public diplomacy, capable of challenging stereotypes, promoting cultural understanding, and projecting Pakistan's image positively on the global stage. By strategically positioning these narratives and aligning them with broader diplomatic goals, Pakistan can not only entertain global audiences but also build enduring connections and foster goodwill worldwide. This approach not only enhances Pakistan's cultural influence but also strengthens its diplomatic relations and global standing in the 21st century.

Writer is student of Fatima Jinnah women university. She can be reached Sumaiyakhurram@icloud.com



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

Israeli war in Gaza enters 10th month amid continuing bombardment of Palestinians

Israel carried out deadly air strikes in besieged Gaza Strip on Sunday as its genocidal war in the Palestinian territory entered its 10th month, according to media reports.

The Gaza Health Ministry said at least 55 Palestinians were killed and more than 125 others injured in strikes targeting central and southern Gaza as suffering of the people intensified.

The fighting and bombardment in the Palestinian strip raged on unabated on Sunday, with medics and emergency services reporting yet more deaths in several strikes.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said the bodies of six people including two children were taken to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah.

Paramedics said six people were killed in one strike on a house in Gaza City and three in another elsewhere in Gaza's largest urban area.

Meanwhile, Egypt's Al-Qahera News reported that Cairo was "hosting Israeli and American delegations to discuss the outstanding points" for a ceasefire and hostage release deal, citing an unnamed high-level official source.

Mediators were in contact with Hamas amid "intensive Egyptian meetings this week with all parties to push efforts" for a truce, said a news report late Saturday, without giving further details or dates.

Israel has also said it would send a delegation in the coming days to continue talks with Qatari mediators, even though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman said Friday that "gaps" remained with Hamas. Israel's jets have targeted a group of civilians on Street 8 of Gaza City's Sabra neighborhood, killing at least two people, according to reports.

In another development, Israeli occupation forces have reportedly killed more than a dozen Palestinian detainees, hours after releasing them from a detention center.

Israeli drones were firing in Gaza City's Shujaiya district, which has been largely evacuated and rocked by intense battles for two weeks.

The war has uprooted 90 percent of Gaza's population, destroyed much of its housing and other infrastructure, and left almost 500,000 people enduring "catastrophic" hunger, UN agencies say.

Harmful Propaganda Against Women's Education in Pakistan - II

Violations of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) Chishti's actions also violate multiple sections of the Pakistan Penal Code:

Section 500: Defamation, which punishes anyone who defames another person.

Section 504: Intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of the peace.

Section 509: Word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman.

The language and messages used in Chishti's video were intended to insult women's modesty, especially including the use of derogatory terms such as "Kanjari". His words and gestures are deliberately designed to degrade and humiliate women, attacking their dignity and self-respect.

Psychological and Emotional Abuse
 In addition to this Chishti's videos constitute psychological and emotional abuse by propagating harmful stereotypes, spreading misinformation, and verbally attacking women who pursue education, work and participate in cultural activities. This type of content is designed to degrade women, cause emotional distress and potentially lead to harmful psychological effects. The Punjab Protection of Women from Violence Act, 2016 provides legal remedies for women facing such

abuse, which includes various forms of violence, including psychological and emotional harm.

Role of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)

However, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) is empowered to monitor, review and ensure implementation of measures to protect women from discrimination and violence, including against crime enmity. Chishti's videos, which promote hate speech against women and discourage their participation in education and culture, fall under the purview of NCSW. The Commission can initiate investigations, recommend legal action and advocate for policy changes to protect women from such discriminatory and violent content.

The 2014 National Action Plan (NAP) highlights the importance of countering hate speech and extremist content, whether online or offline. Hence, videos or type of content similar to Chishti's video falls under the category of extremist content that NAP aims to combat. Interpreting the NAP in relation to Chishti's actions, it is clear that his conduct not only violated specific laws such as PECA and PPC, but also contradicted the broader national strategy to counter extremism and hate speech in Pakistan.

Call to Action

In light of the above information, it is important that the Ministry of Human Rights, the National Commission on the Rights of children and the Ministry of Interior to take the following measures:

Investigate and Prosecute:
 Initiate a thorough investigation into Hasan Iqbal Chishti's activities and prosecute him under the relevant provisions of the law.

Remove Harmful Content: Work with digital platforms to ensure the immediate removal of all such videos and prevent future dissemination of similar content.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch campaigns to educate the public about the importance of women's education and the legal repercussions of hate speech.

Hasan Iqbal Chishti's dissemination of hateful and discriminatory content through his videos not only violates many provisions of Pakistani law but also goes against the principles laid down in the National Action Plan 2014 to combat extremism and hate speech. His actions undermine efforts for gender equality, women's empowerment, and the basic right to education guaranteed by the state. Swift and decisive action by relevant authorities will ensure respect for women's legal rights and strengthen Pakistan's commitment to gender equality and human rights. By addressing this issue quickly, we will ensure that everyone can live and thrive without fear of discrimination or violence.

Writer is Human Rights Advocate

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

More Chinese fishery products trade companies are expected to operate in Pakistan in near future. Development of free trade zones in both the countries is planned which promises brighter mutual trade future. Export of fishery products can be boosted to 1 billion USD in coming years if there is a persistent increase in fisheries production. The production can be amplified by putting a ban on the catch of juvenile fish from breeding places, the introduction of modern methods of fish caught in inland areas and promoting intensive fish culture all around the country.

Fisheries sector is gradually gaining momentum in Pakistan. Seafood export exhibits a rising trend during the last two decades. Since the EU ban on the export of fishery products in Pakistan, there is a growing trend of adaptation of international standards in handling, processing, and transportation of seafood. Export of fishery products can be enhanced by increased cooperation through high commissions and embassies by promoting fishery products exhibitions and stimulating public and private sector partnerships.

The fisheries sector would benefit by the proposed establishment of fish feed production units and hatcheries to meet the growing demand, promotion of aquaculture in saline inland and coastal areas of Sindh and Baluchistan. As an example, Mufeng Biological Technology Co. has built a cold storage central near the Khunjera Pass from which seafood imports (e.g., squid, shrimp, pomfret and bonefish, etc.) could be exported to China's Xinjiang region and distributed through the interior. The storage center would also process orders that would arrive at Gwadar Port en-route to China.

Out of China's approximately US\$ 99.6 billion in food imports, Pakistan's share is only around 0.37% (roughly

US\$ 0.4 billion). Pakistan can enhance its exports through various CPEC initiatives and by tapping into the growing food import dependence of China in general. The MNSFR, in its 2018 Food Security Policy, envisages the development of nine agricultural development zones along the CPEC. These zones are envisaged to develop clusters and infrastructure in an effort to produce commodities deemed exportable to China. These commodities include cereals, dairy, eggs, meat, honey, tobacco, fisheries, seafood, and fruits. Chinese collaboration is expected, with private sector leading the initiative. The focus would be to harness the latest R&D to innovate and upgrade the processing techniques and post-harvest operations, and to develop marketing tools to better promote the produce.

Due to the rapid pace of CPEC and trade liberalization between the two countries, a new era of enhanced fishery trade between China and Pakistan is imminent. After EU

ban, China is the largest emerging potential market for Pakistani fishery products. Fishery exports from Pakistan to China are gaining momentum. Although, fishery trade is getting pace, however, fishery production augmentation in Pakistan is direly needed to be coordinating with revised policies related to technical barriers to fishery trade. Since, China and Pakistan share cordial relations, which are improving continuously, therefore, it is the need of the hour to formulate joint fisheries business policies and find fishery trade expansion possibilities.

In the end, I hope that increased interaction between technical and business community of both countries in the fisheries and aquaculture sector will result in increase trade which will in turn stimulate the era of economic prosperity in both Pakistan and China.

Writer is Senior Scientific Officer, Aquaculture & Fisheries Program, National Agriculture Research Centre, Islamabad



Sameen Rehman



Dr. Rehana Kausar

World's largest indoor ice, snow theme park opens in China's Harbin

Xinhua

HARBIN: Tourists visiting Harbin, China's "Ice City" in its northernmost Heilongjiang Province, now have a new attraction to explore, namely an indoor ice and snow theme park that opened on Saturday.

With a construction area of 23,800 square meters, the park has clinched the Guinness World Record as the world's largest indoor ice and snow theme park.

According to the park manager, the facility features nine themed areas showcasing lifelike ice sculptures illuminated by colorful lighting. The theme park maintains a constant temperature to accommodate visitors throughout the year.

The park will complement Harbin Ice-Snow World, a landmark outdoor ice and



snow theme park covering 810,000 square meters, thereby transforming Harbin into an all-season resort destination.

Harbin, with its cold



winters, is celebrated for its annual ice and snow festival.

The Harbin Ice-Snow World received an average of over 30,000 visitors daily last winter.

Saudi students switch up a gear in high-octane F1 finals

Students from different schools worked in groups for the past six months, developing prototypes under the supervision of 38 professionals. (Supplied)



Photo: Online

Renowned journalist and social leader Baig Raj received a grand welcome in Sydney

Spokesman Report

SYDNEY: Renowned journalist, anchor and analyst Baig Raj Sahib, who came from Pakistan, received an unprecedented welcome in Sydney. On the evening of July 5th 2024, a grand ceremony was held in his honour at a restaurant in Sydney, which was organized by Tariq Mirza, writer and columnist and founder of Allama Iqbal Study Circle, and Akhtar Mughal, the poet and founder of Bazam e Farogh Fun o Adab. The ceremony was presided over by Consulate General Of Pakistan Qamar Zaman, compared by Akhtar Mughal and welcome address by Tariq Mirza who emphasized some critical issues of human being. Qasim Khan recited the Holy Quran. The president of Pakistan Association,



Chaudhry Iqbal, presented a bouquet of flowers to the visiting dignitary. Sohail Ahmed, Chief Executive of Glow Media Events presented memento souvenirs to chief guest Baig Raj, Consulate General Qamar Zaman and writer and host Tariq Mirza. The highlight of the event was that all major Pakistani organizations and prominent personalities of the community attended the

reception. The persons who spoke on this occasion were, Tariq Mirza and Akhtar Ali Mughal, the Hosts, Shafaq Jafri, the President of Aus Pak Women's Association, Raja Muhammad Aslam of Hum Watan Media Group, Ejaz Khan the founder and President of Pakistan Australia Association, Hamid Saroha, the President of Pakistan Association, Arshad Naseem Butt, the President

of Pakistan Australia Friendship, Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, the President of Pakistan Association, Baig Raj the Chief Guest, Qamar Zaman, the Consulate General of Pakistan, who spoke on the occasion. The speakers welcomed the guest and appreciated his services, while some speakers also spoke on the volatile situation in Pakistan and Palestine. On this occasion, a commemorative shield was presented to Baig Raj Sahib by the Bazam e Farogh Fun o Adab and Allama Iqbal Study Circle Australia. The chief guest also cut his birthday cake, kindly gifted by Hamid Saroha. Finally, there was a lavish dinner at the Himalaya restaurant. Overall, it was a memorable event which Baig Raj Sahib journeyed from Melbourne to Sydney to especially attend.

Islamic Development Bank expands its activities in Uzbekistan

News Desk

TASHKENT: Uzbek Ambassador Nodirjon Turgunov met with the Director General of the Project Planning Department of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Anas Aysam.

During the meeting, issues of enhancing cooperation between Uzbekistan and the IsDB were discussed, including preferential financing for major projects being developed in the country, support for women and youth, and the attraction of technical and humanitarian assistance.

Anas Aysam noted that the unprecedented changes observed in Uzbekistan in recent years have garnered significant interest from countries worldwide. He emphasized that the fundamental reforms initiated under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan are yielding effective results and are of great importance



in strengthening the country's position on the international stage.

It was highlighted that following the successful implementation of the 2018-2022 cooperation strategy between Uzbekistan and the IsDB, a new strategy for 2022-2026 has been developed.

The parties exchanged views on the possibilities of financing projects in the fields of transport, logistics, education, agriculture and water management, ecology, livestock, and other areas.

Programs aimed at supporting women and youth in Uzbekistan were welcomed, and the prospects for expanding IsDB's participation in these initiatives were considered.

Additionally, it was decided to organize a practical visit for IsDB representatives to Uzbekistan to continuously monitor the implementation of projects financed by the bank and to discuss future plans.

Almaty-most expensive city in Central Asia

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: According to Numbeo rankings, Kazakhstan's Almaty remains the most expensive city in Central Asian region in H1 2024, Kazinform News Agency reports.

Founded in 2009, Numbeo is the world's largest database of cities and countries worldwide, compiled based on user reviews, prices for renting, food, restaurants, and other indicators.

The ranking covers 218 cities, with the Swiss city of Geneva occupying top position and Pakistan's Karachi at the bottom.



The city of Almaty was ranked 164th, while Astana was positioned 176th.

Almaty has the highest Cost of Living Index among

Central Asian cities, with Astana standing second. Kyrgyz capital Bishkek and Uzbek capital Tashkent hold the 3rd and 4th lines respectively.

As for Asian region as a whole, the cities of Almaty and Astana are ranked 32nd and 36th respectively. According to the ranking, Singapore is the most expensive city in Asia.

As of January 2024, Almaty and Astana were ranked 279th and 296th among 370 cities.

The ranking is based on six key indicators. Since January 2024, both Kazakh cities have seen decrease in the Cost of Living index. In Almaty, it fell from 35.9 to 34.2, while in Astana it dropped from 33.6 to 31.9. Housing rent indicators decreased in both cities too.

SCO Summit: A Turning Point for Eurasian Geopolitics

Sabah Aslam*

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) latest summit marks a pivotal moment in the geopolitical landscape of Eurasia and beyond. As the organization welcomes Belarus as a full member and reaffirms its commitment to regional security and development, the SCO is solidifying its position as a formidable player on the global stage, potentially reshaping the balance of power in international relations.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's opening remarks paint a picture of an organization that has matured significantly. The SCO's evolution over the past quarter-century from a regional security bloc to a comprehensive partnership

framework is a testament to its adaptability and growing relevance in a rapidly changing world order. This transformation reflects the changing dynamics of global politics and the increasing importance of Eurasian nations in shaping international affairs.

The emphasis on the "Shanghai spirit" and principles is particularly noteworthy and deserves closer examination. In an era of increasing global polarization, the SCO's ability to foster cooperation among diverse nations—from China and Russia to India and Pakistan—is remarkable. This unique approach to international relations, rooted in mutual respect and shared interests, offers an alternative model to Western-dominated institutions. It suggests a different path for global governance, one that prioritizes regional cooperation and cultural understanding over

ideological alignment.

However, the SCO's expanding influence raises important questions that demand careful consideration. As it grows in size and scope, can it maintain the cohesion that has been key to its success? The addition of Belarus, while expanding the organization's reach, also introduces new dynamics that will need to be carefully managed. The integration of new members with potentially divergent interests could test the organization's ability to maintain unity and purpose.

The summit's focus on security issues, particularly countering terrorism and organized crime, reflects the persistent challenges facing the region. Yet, it's the emphasis on information security that truly captures the zeitgeist of our times. In an age of hybrid warfare and digital threats, the SCO's efforts in this



domain could have far-reaching implications for global cybersecurity norms. The organization's approach to these issues could set precedents for how regional blocs address transnational threats in the digital age.

Critics may view the SCO's rise with suspicion, seeing it as a counterweight to Western influence. However, such a perspective overlooks the legitimate aspirations of Eurasian nations to shape their own destiny. The SCO's growth reflects a broader trend of regionalization in global politics, where countries seek to build partnerships based on

geographical proximity and shared challenges. This shift challenges the traditional dominance of Western-led institutions and suggests a more multipolar future for global governance.

As the summit unfolds, the world would do well to pay close attention. The decisions made in this gathering could significantly influence the balance of power in Eurasia and beyond. The SCO's ability to navigate complex geopolitical waters while promoting economic cooperation and cultural exchange will be crucial in determining its long-term impact. Its success or failure could have ripple effects across the global political landscape.

Moreover, the SCO's growing economic initiatives, such as efforts to increase trade in local currencies and develop regional infrastructure, could have significant

implications for the global economic order. These moves, if successful, could challenge the dominance of the US dollar and Western-led financial institutions, potentially leading to a more diversified global economic system.

The organization's stance on global issues such as climate change, technological development, and public health crises will also be worth watching. As the SCO countries represent a significant portion of the world's population and economic output, their collective approach to these challenges could significantly influence global policy directions.

In conclusion, the SCO summit is not just a regional affair but a barometer of shifting global dynamics. It represents the growing confidence of Eurasian nations in charting their own course and potentially

reshaping the global order. Whether this leads to increased stability and prosperity or new forms of competition remains to be seen. What's clear is that the era of a unipolar world order is fading, and organizations like the SCO are at the forefront of shaping what comes next. As we move further into the 21st century, the role of such regional organizations in global affairs is likely to grow, presenting both challenges and opportunities for the international community.

* Sabah Aslam is the Founder and Executive Director of IICR. A security analyst and human rights activist, she brings expertise in international relations to her work. Currently pursuing a PhD in Political Science and International Relations, Aslam combines academic rigor with practical advocacy to address global challenges.

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

Anjum Nisar says more hike in energy tariff to hit trade and industry hard

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the government to give priority to the economic recovery, emphasizing the necessity of joint efforts to tackle Pakistan's economic difficulties, as economy is expected to grow by 1.9 percent in the current fiscal year.

Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar warned that inflation would remain elevated at about 25 percent during the same period before easing a bit in the next financial year.

He said that the country has been facing significant economic challenges in recent years, grappling with high inflation, fiscal deficits and external debt pressures.

He expressed confidence in the country's ability to overcome these challenges and highlighted the government should fulfill the commitment to eradicating poverty and unemployment.

The government should remain steadfast in its commitment to guide Pakistan through its current economic and political challenges, with a focus on unity, effective governance, and public welfare.

Continuous increases in power prices are shameful

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Sunday, Dr Muhammad Hanif Mughal, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, said that persistently raising the cost of power is a reprehensible business practice.

As a result of the continued hikes in the power tariff, the economy is being destroyed, and the nation is becoming mentally ill, he said.

Talking to party workers, Dr Hanif Mughal said that many politicians and bureaucrats are the slaves of those who own IPPs; therefore, they are making decisions that are putting the nation's security at risk.

He said that continuously increasing the price of electricity is extremely dangerous for the country's future. The power sector is destroying the economy as rising inflation and unemployment have made people's lives



miserable.

He noted that commoners have not been able to educate their children; they have not even been able to provide milk and bring food

to the table.

People are forced to pay huge bills even after being deprived of electricity. Still, despite this, electricity prices are continuously increasing so that the interests of politicians and IPP owners can be furthered.

He said that the basic electricity tariff has been increased by 7 rupees 12 paise per unit while taxes and fixed charges continuously increase. The government has also started increasing the prices of petroleum products, making the lives of the masses difficult.

Dr Hanif Mughal said that the present government has no clear strategy to run the country, which affects its credibility. Increasing the privileges of the elite and the burden of taxes on the common man has risked the political future.

Such decisions are sinking Pakistan into a quagmire, and as a result of which, the coun-

try's security may be at stake, he underlined.

Dr Hanif Mughal said that the budget had reflected the true nature of the rulers. Half of the population of the country is living below the poverty line, and their patience is running out.

He expressed concern over the disproportionate taxation policies, asserting that such measures often lead to significant reductions in disposable income for the average citizen.

He said Pakistan's interest payments had reached unmanageable levels due to irresponsible spending.

He also criticized the lack of measures to combat smuggling and the absence of economic benefits reaching the people of remote areas.

He warned that if timely measures are not taken, public unrest and protests will increase, which may prove dangerous for the country's stability.

Ambassador on Trade & Investment

Mr. Mohammad Hanif Channa Minister Trade & Investment Embassy of Pakistan Washington DC USA giving appointment letter to Mr. Najeeb Choudary Founder & Principal Metro Management USA Ambassador on Trade & Investment Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) on behalf of Sheikh Atif Ikram President FPC-Cl. Malik Sohail Hussain Chairman Coordination FPCCI & Secretary General USPICC, Mr Sadique Sheikh Founder President & Chairman USPICC and Zahid Hussain Editor In Chief Dunya Newspaper USA are also present at the occasion in Pakistan Embassy Washington DC.



Businesses nationwide support operation Azm-e-Istehkam

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, on Sunday, said people in business across the country support Operation Azm-e-Istehkam because it is a serious effort to eradicate terrorism from the country.

The country cannot develop until the end of terrorism; therefore, he said this operation and its success have become imperative.

Talking to the business community, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that criticism of some political parties on this operation is unjustified.

The business leader said that all aspects of the operation should be considered seriously and that past mistakes should not be repeated so that the challenges faced by the nation could be tackled.

He said that the armed forces should find a lasting solution to the problem of law and order in the country and



rid the country of the scourge of terrorism, regardless of the criticism of certain quarters.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that some politicians and other circles are expressing reservations and making speculations in this regard which are against the country's interests.

There will be no investment until there is peace in the country, without which the government will become bankrupt as it cannot be run on loans forever.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that few neighbouring countries are using their land and resources for terrorism in Pakistan, due to which, despite the sacrifices of the armed forces, the incidents of terrorism are happening almost on a daily basis.

Govt to review all contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs): M Akram Farid

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Central Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) M. Akram Farid while addressing an emergency meeting of employers said that the government Renegotiate the contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and get electricity from other sources without any capacity charges. M. Akram Farid expressed serious concern about the large-scale closure of various industries due to exorbitant electricity rates and said that as a result there will be an increase in unemployment across the country, more than half of the industry has been



shut down due to exorbitant rates of electricity, the steel industry, whose main source of energy is electricity, is on the brink of collapse, iron and steel. Industry is the largest industry and it is the mother of all industries as it contributes to national development and

also supports other secondary industries and is considered indispensable for sustainable growth and economic development worldwide.

Akram Farid added that the government should take decisive action to before the current disillusionment leads

to complete economic collapse, he termed the capacity charges of IPPs as unfair, saying that IPPs are being paid even though there is no generation or supply of power. Two-thirds of the cost, with the remaining one-third being fuel costs, previous research has shown that IPPs enjoy a return on investment of more than 73 percent in dollar terms, which is Abnormally high by international standards, Pakistan's energy sector has been mired in difficult contractual arrangements with IPPs since the 1994 Power Policy, initially attracting private investment in the energy sector. These agreements, designed to mitigate the crisis, increased the

revolving credit, which reached Rs 26.40 trillion in February 2024. The incentive structure provided to IPPs, including guarantees in US dollars, means that Depreciation of the Pakistani Rupee increases the profits for IPPs, which puts a heavy financial burden on the government and the public, although the return on equity for IPPs was initially fixed at 18% and later in 2002. This was reduced to 12% in the Power Policy, but this is high compared to international standards. Furthermore, a cost comparison with similar projects in other countries suggests that many IPPs are capital goods flown. Funded through invoicing,

resulting in no real underlying equity, Pakistan is burdened with chronic returns on ghost equity. Furthermore, significant misreporting and overbilling by IPPs has This problem is exacerbated because their tariffs are guaranteed under international law under take-or-pay contracts. For example, the actual oil consumption of many oil-based plants is less than the bill of IPPs. Efforts to audit these discrepancies are often hindered by IPPs through legal means such as stay orders. Similarly, operation and maintenance costs are very high where the actual expenditure is Rs 50 crore, the bill is Rs 1 billion 50 crore annually.

5G-AI Revolution: Huawei leads next-level human facilitation towards intelligent future

Raziq Ali Shah

ISLAMABAD, JUL 7 (APP):: In the coming decade, the transformative potential of 5G and AI technologies promises to revolutionize every facet of human existence. From smart kitchens that anticipate our culinary needs to autonomous vehicles that redefine travel safety and efficiency, the integration of advanced AI into daily life will streamline processes, enhance productivity, and elevate experiences.

In the recently concluded Mobile World Congress in Shanghai, where the transformative potential of artificial intelligence took center stage, Huawei emerged as the vanguard of the 5G AI revolution, pioneering next-level human facilitation and ushering in an intelligent future.

The event, a convergence of global leaders and tech giants, highlighted groundbreaking advancements poised to redefine connectivity and human interaction in the era of 5G and AI.

Among the prominent unveilings was Honor's breakthrough technology designed to combat deepfake scam calls—an increasingly prevalent threat in the age of generative AI. These fraudulent calls, which manipulate audio and video to deceive victims, underscore the critical need for AI-driven solutions to safeguard authenticity. Honor's real-time detection system, set to debut this year, employs AI to scrutinize minute details

such as eye contact and lighting, swiftly alerting users to potential scams.

George Zhao, CEO of Honor, emphasized the empowering potential of on-device AI, addressing concerns over AI's impact on authenticity and security. His remarks echoed sentiments shared by industry leaders who see AI as pivotal in shaping the future landscape.

At the forefront of these discussions was Huawei, whose executives outlined a vision where AI's omnipresence is supported by robust telecom networks, particularly the forthcoming 5.5G. David Wang, Huawei's Executive Director, stressed the integral role of advanced network infrastructure in realizing AI's full potential across industries. He highlighted the evolution towards 5.5G, citing its enhanced capabilities in bandwidth and latency, which promise tailored experiences and heightened connectivity reliability.

The summit also tackled challenges posed by AI's growing demands on processing power and heat dissipation. Sue Ryan of Frote Systems underscored the industry's push for innovative cooling solutions like AirJet, vital for maintaining AI-driven devices' performance in increasingly compact form factors.

Lara Dewar of GSMA noted a significant shift where AI, once a supporting technology, now steers the wheel of innovation across sectors

like automotive IoT. The exhibition showcased AI-integrated vehicles and IoT advancements poised to revolutionize daily life and industry practices alike.

Huawei's Li Peng delved deeper into the transformative impact of 5.5G, emphasizing its role in unlocking new potentials through enhanced uplink speeds and low-latency networking. He envisioned 5.5G as a catalyst for industrial applications, enabling precise AI-driven functionalities crucial for sectors like transportation and logistics.

Looking ahead, Huawei's strategic focus on the mobile AI era was clear. Wang highlighted upcoming milestones such as the commercial deployment of 5.5G and the integration of AI into diverse devices by 2024. This convergence, Wang asserted, would usher in a new era of intelligent services, where AI assistants seamlessly integrate into daily life, from personalized content generation to enhanced user interactions.

The exhibition floor buzzed with demonstrations of Huawei's latest innovations, showcasing their commitment to advancing 5G-A networks and AI-powered devices. Strategic partnerships with global operators underscored Huawei's dedication to driving industry-wide collaboration and shaping the future of mobile technology.

As the summit concluded, the consensus



was clear: AI's pervasive influence will reshape industries and societal norms, ushering in an era where connectivity is not just ubiquitous but intelligent. Huawei's leadership in advancing 5.5G and AI integration underscores its pivotal role in steering this transformative journey towards an interconnected, intelligent world.

In conclusion, the Mobile World Congress

Shanghai 2024 not only highlighted technological marvels but also set the stage for collaborative efforts aimed at harnessing AI's potential for societal benefit. As Huawei and other tech giants forge ahead, the promise of an AI-driven future beckons—a future where innovation knows no bounds, and connectivity transcends mere communication to become truly transformative.

Former Squash Champion Jansher Khan calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi here on Sunday called on former squash world champion Jansher Khan at his residence.

The meeting was attended by former British amateur squash champion Atlas Khan, former world number 10 player Amjad Khan and squash coach of Directorate General Muhammad Wasim.

The Governor said that the services of Jansher Khan and his family in making Pakistan famous in the world were unforgettable. He said that the promotion of sports activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was very important. The youth of our province are keeping sports activ-



ities alive with their pocket money, he said.

The Governor KP said that steps were being taken for the promotion of sports

in the province under the auspices of the Governor's House. He said through this way, we can be able to show the world at our face of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan.

In the meeting, matters of promotion of squash and other sports in the province were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Jansher Khan said that for the promotion of sports, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi's actions were worthy of praise. There is no shortage of talent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there is a need for the patronage of the government and the society. It is very important to take measures at the government level for the patronage of squash players, Jansher Khan said.

Jason Gillespie vows to bring 'consistency' in Pakistan's Test team

Sports desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie reached here on Sunday for his first assignment in the role and held a press conference, addressing the key issues of the Green Shirts.

The former Australian pacer was appointed the red-ball head coach in April and will take charge from the home Test series against Bangladesh, scheduled in August.

In his first press conference, he expressed his excitement to work with Pakistan's senior team, while also confirming that he will be touring to Darwin with Pakistan Shaheens.

"I am excited to work with the Pakistan cricket team and will also travel to Australia with the Shaheens," Gillespie stated.

The former Australian appreciated the Green Shirts' talent, however, he pointed out that the major concern is the team's inconsistency, which was also evident on their tour of Australia, where they lost 3-0.

"During the last tour to



Australia, Pakistan lost the series 3-0 but they played well. There were moments in the series where they were also dominating the opponents," he added.

"The Pakistan cricket team is very talented but the lack of consistency in performances is the main problem, we will see how we can bring continuity and consistency in performances."

He also emphasized the importance of fitness in modern cricket and stated that there would be no

compromise on fitness. "In international cricket, you have to remain fit; there are no excuses for fitness," he stated.

Along with fitness, Jason Gillespie also highlighted the concerns with Pakistan's fielding performance while vowing to improve it.

"There is a general opinion that Pakistan's fielding is their weak point, so that would be my priority.

For me, the goal is to see how we play against quality sides."

The head coach also opened up about his conversation with Test captain Shan Masood and white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten.

"I have talked to Shan Masood [Pakistan's red-ball captain] one to two times, I'm hoping we will play positive cricket," Gillespie shared.

"If a player is good for the team, he will definitely be selected. I'm in contact with Gary Kirsten [Pakistan's white-ball coach] for players' workload management."

Chairman PCB summons Sarfaraz Ahmed to Lahore

Sports desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has summoned former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed to meet in Lahore, according to sources.

The wicketkeeper batter is scheduled to meet the chairman to discuss the ongoing issues of the national men's cricket team.

It is pertinent to mention Naqvi recently shared that former players will take the decision regarding the future of white-ball captain Babar Azam.

"No decision [on captaincy] has been taken so far related to Babar Azam," said the PCB chief, adding that he is seeking advice from former cricketers on how to improve cricket in Pakistan.

"I'm only speaking to those former cricketers who are interested in the betterment of Pakistan cricket," he added.

The PCB chairman also shared that he called head coach Gary Kirsten and assistant coach Azhar Mahmood for a discussion on the Pakistan team's performance in the mega-event.

The Babar Azam-led Pakistan team were knocked out from the group stage of the T20 World Cup, majorly because of their upset defeat against the USA, followed by a gut-wrenching defeat against arch-rivals India.

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



Hockey is our national sport and it is necessary to activate this stadium for its development



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The closure of the hockey stadium in Madinah Town, Faisalabad is mainly due to maintenance and repair works. The stadium was neglected for a long time, due to which its condition deteriorated. The temporary closure of the stadium has been decided for improvement and provision of modern facilities so that it can be reopened in the future in a better condition. The purpose of this closure is to renovate the stadium, provide new grass and other necessary facilities. Government officials say that the repair and rehabilitation work will be completed soon so that the players can practice and compete in the stadium again.

Its condition is very bad. Dirty water is flowing, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Faisalabad Division Sports Officer, District Sports Officer and District Hockey Association should think about this. It has become a meeting place for car dealers.

Hockey is our national sport and it is necessary to activate this stadium for its developments

Sohail sisters to feature in African Powerlifting C'ship

Tahir Amin Malik

Three powerlifter sisters have left for South Africa to participate in Asian Pacific African Combined Powerlifting Championship with the support of Sports Board Punjab.

The three sisters Sybil Sohail, Veronica Sohail and Twinkle Sohail will represent the country in the grand event. Sports Board Punjab has provided all possible facilities on the instructions of Provincial Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar.

The air tickets, kits and other facilities have been provided to the three sisters to participate in the event. The sisters' weight category competitions are scheduled on July 9 and 10, while the three sisters will also compete in the Equipped Powerlifting event on July 13.

Arshad Nadeem falls short of medal in Paris Diamond League

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan's star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem fell short of winning a medal on his return to the field as he finished fourth in the Paris Diamond League on Sunday.

He started with a 74.11-meter throw on his first attempt, followed by an 80.28-meter throw on the second try.

The star athlete's third throw went for 82.71 meters, which placed him in the top three, however, he was surpassed by the Czech Republic's Jacob Vadlejch, who threw at 85.04.

Nadeem needed a big throw in his fifth attempt to trump Vadlejch, but he failed to do so, achieving an 84.21-meter throw, thus ending in fourth position.

Germany's Weber Julian won the gold medal in the javelin throw competition, courtesy of an 85.91-meter throw, which he achieved in his fifth attempt.

Following the Paris Diamond League, Arshad Nadeem will represent Pakistan in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024.

Before departing for the event, the star athlete shared that he is eager to end Pakistan's medal drought at the Olympics.

"It has been too long that Pakistan has not won any medal at the Olympics, what was it, 1992 that we won it last in hockey? I am aiming to win that medal really, and I will do all that I can in my power to achieve that," stated Nadeem.



LPL 2024: Hendricks, Perera steer Dambulla Sixers to defeat Colombo Strikers

A Sports

DAMBULLA: Reeza Hendricks and Kusal Perera scored half-centuries to steer Dambulla Sixers to an eight-victory against Colombo Strikers in a high-scoring Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 clash here on Sunday.

Set to chase 186, Dambulla Sixers achieved the target in 17.5 overs to register their first win in the LPL 2024.

Hendricks and Perera set the tone for Dambulla Sixers with their belligerent stroke play,



scoring 63 runs in the first six overs.

Perera completed his half-century in 33 balls while

Hendricks took 34 balls to reach the milestone.

However, Taskin Ahmed removed both batters in three balls to break the 154-run opening pair.

Perera top-scored with 80 runs from 50 balls, with the help of eight boundaries and four sixes, while Hendricks struck 54 off 39.

With 31 remaining off 30 balls, Mark Chapman (23*) took charge and finished the game with three sixes off Matheesha Pathirana in the 18th over.

Earlier Colombo Strikers' openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Angelo Perera also gave a quick start with a 73-run partnership in 51 balls before the latter got run out.

Angelo Perera departed after scoring 41 off 27 with six boundaries and one six. Meanwhile, Gurbaz (36) fell prey to Dushan Hemantha in the 11th over with 87 runs on the board.

The Strikers soon slipped to 125-5 before Glenn Phillips and Chamika Karunaratne added 59 runs in 25 balls for the sixth wicket.

Abhishek Sharma's ton powers India to thump Zimbabwe in second T20I

A Sports

HARARE: Abhishek Sharma scored a blistering century to help India thump Zimbabwe by a huge 100-run margin in the second T20I to level the three-match series here at Harare Sports Club on Sunday.

India, after suffering a narrow loss yesterday, bounced back in the second match of the series as they bundled Zimbabwe for 134 while defending a massive 234.

Mukesh Kumar drew first blood for India during their defence as he removed Innocent Kaia (4) in the first over.

Brian Bennett played a nine-ball cameo of 26 runs with one boundary and three sixes, including back-to-back sixes

against Kumar. However, Kumar got the last laugh as he bowled Bennett on the next ball.

Avesh Khan dismissed Dion Myers (0) and Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza (4) in the next over to reduce the batting side to 46-4 in four overs.

Johnathan Campbell scored 10 off 18 in a scratchy 26-run partnership with opening batter Wesley Madhevere before Washington Sundar ended the former's brief stay on the crease.

Madhevere and Luke Jongwe added 41 runs for the eighth wicket, however, the target was out of reach with the required run-rate going over 20 runs.

Ravi Bishnoi castled Madhevere, who top-scored for Zimbabwe with 43 off 39, which

included three boundaries and one six.

Meanwhile, Jongwe was the last wicket to fall as the hosts bundled for 134 in 18.4 overs. He scored a 26-ball 33 with four boundaries.

Avesh Khan returned with bowling figures of 3-15, while Mukesh Kumar claimed 3-35.

Earlier in the day, Indian captain Shubman Gill opted to bat first, however, he fell in the second over after scoring a mere two runs.

Ruturaj Gaikwad joined Abhishek Sharma on the crease and together they wreaked havoc on Zimbabwe bowlers.

They constructed a partnership of 137 runs for the second innings in 76 balls with Sharma being the chief contributor.

Sharma, playing his second

T20I game, scored his maiden century in the format in 46 balls with a six off Wellington Masakadza. However, he got out in the next ball, finishing with 100 off 47 with the help of seven fours and eight sixes.

Rinku Singh joined hands with Gaikwad and carried the momentum, adding 87 runs in six overs to help their team score a massive 234-2 in their allocated 20 overs.

Gaikwad scored an unbeaten 77 off 47 with the help of eleven boundaries and one six, while Singh scored 48 off 22 with five sixes and two fours.

For Zimbabwe, Blessing Muzarabani and Wellington Masakadza claimed one wicket each.



Visit

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Director General ANF, Major General, Abdul Moeed and senior officers of the Force posing a group photo during the Federal Minister for Interior visited at Anti-Narcotics Control Headquarters



Photo: PID

Mohsin Naqvi visits ANF Headquarters

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi here on Sunday visited Anti-Narcotics Control (ANF) Headquarters. The minister was welcomed by Director General (DG) ANF, Major General, Abdul Moeed and senior officers of the Force.

Mohsin Naqvi visited the Martyrs Memorial at ANF Headquarters and laid floral wreath. He offered Fatiha and paid tribute to the great sacri-

fices of the martyrs. The interior minister chaired an important meeting at the ANF Headquarters where he was briefed on counter narcotics achievements of ANF, current drug situation, ANF performance, functions and operations and major challenges being faced with regard to trafficking of narcotics.

Mohsin Naqvi appreciated the performance of ANF for effective operations against drug mafia across Pakistan despite the lack of resources and manpower. It was decided

in the meeting that an effective crackdown would be launched against the drug mafia to save the new generation from the scourge of drugs. The authorities were directed to formulate a comprehensive plan in this regard.

Strict action will be taken to stop supply of drugs, especially ice, to the students of the universities, colleges and hostels of public and private universities, the meeting decided.

It was also decided that the provinces would be taken into

confidence, in this regard. A joint meeting of federal and provincial departments would be held at the end of this month. The provincial ministers of Excise and Inspector General of Police of the provinces would be invited to attend the meeting.

The minister also sought a plan to stop the online purchase and sale of the drugs. Mohsin Naqvi directed the ANF to develop cyber drug control mechanism. He said that the scourge of drugs, especially ice, had destroyed many

families. Multi-pronged measures must be taken urgently to control the growing drug addiction, he added. For the sake of the children, everyone has to fight this scourge with full force and determination, he said adding, "Today, if we contribute to end of this scourge, it will be a great work."

Later, the minister also planted a sapling in the lawn of the Headquarters.

Federal Interior Secretary, Khurram Agha and the ANF officers were also present on the occasion.

Pakistan Army rescues Samina Baig from K2 base camp

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army on Sunday successfully rescued renowned mountaineer Samina Baig, who was on an expedition to summit the world's second highest peak K2, from the base camp after her health deteriorated.

Samina became the first Pakistani woman to summit the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, in 2013 at the age of 21 and has since set off on a number of expeditions around the world.

She has also claimed Nanga Parbat, and the Seven Summits in seven continents.

Currently, Samina Baig was part of an eight-member



Pakistan-Italy joint women's K2 expedition team. She was forced to abandon her climb on July 5, 2024, due to severe

health issues.

She was shifted from the K2 base camp to Shigar's Askole area earlier in the day after

undertaking a lengthy journey on horseback while in critical medical condition.

Due to inclement weather,

the Pakistan Army's rescue flight was unable to reach the base camp, and Baig was instead transported to Skardu by road early this morning.

A team of Pakistani Army doctors is now ready to provide Baig with medical care at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Skardu. According to sources, Baig's health has improved slightly due to the decrease in altitude.

The decision to further transfer Baig from Skardu will be made after assessing her health condition.

It may be noted that K2 summit is 8,611 meters high which only comes second to Mount Everest which trails it by 200 meters

CM Maryam directs authorities to remain on high alert during monsoon

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has alerted administrations of different districts across the Punjab province in the wake of expected rains and directed authorities to take all the precautionary measures.

The Chief Minister directed district commissioners, assistant commissioners and wasa officials to remain in the field till the complete drainage of rain water and utilize all resources to ensure relief work on time in case of any flood-like situation.

She also directed to completely implement standard operating procedures of provincial disaster management.

Muharram: Over 16,000 personnel to be deployed in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has devised a special security plan including deployment of over 1600 personnel during Muharram-ul-Haram.

The plan was chalked out at a high level meeting chaired by IG Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi in Islamabad today.

From 1st Muharram till 2nd Rabi-ul-Awwal, 181 processions and 965 majalis will be held in Islamabad during which over 16,000 police officials will perform security duties.

The processions will be monitored by Safe City cameras while armored vehicles will be deployed to deal with any emergency. Strict checking will be done at the entrance and exit points of the city.

All roads and streets in the route of the procession will be



closed with barbed wire and special checking will be done and disposal squad will clear the route of the procession before its start.

All gatherings and processions will be video recorded by drone cameras.

Locals and non-locals

will be allowed to enter the procession after thorough search. Entry of vehicles and motorcycles will be completely prohibited in the procession.

People joining the processions and majalis will be checked by metal detector

while walk-through gates will also be installed at entrances and exits.

Earlier, the police also held meetings with scholars of different schools of thought, members of the peace committee and intellectuals before the meeting.

PM felicitates Julian James on his promotion to rank of Major General



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on

Sunday congratulated an officer of Pakistan Army belonging to the Christian community, Julian Moazzam James, on his promotion to the rank of Major General.

The prime minister expressed his good wishes to Major General James for his future, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Major General James's professional capabilities and his hard work and passion had been a beacon of guidance for the young generation, he added.

The prime minister further said that the contributions of the Christian community for the progress and prosperity and defence of the country were unforgettable.

Governor KP underscores railway line expansion to Uzbekistan under CPEC

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday highlighted the plans to extend railway connectivity to Uzbekistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said this during discussions with Sajid Hussain Turi, former federal minister and provincial vice president of Pakistan Peoples Party at the Governor House.

The proposed expansion aims to lay tracks from Rawalpindi to Kohat and from Kohat to Parachinar, ultimately connecting to Uzbekistan.

The Governor expressed optimism that this initiative would significantly benefit both regions, enhancing economic ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.



Regarding local concerns, Governor Faisal Kundi addressed the issues related to Kohat division, including delayed project of Kohat University campus in Parachinar.

He assured of resolving these issues promptly, promising to engage with the Higher Education Commission's officials for necessary actions.

Governor Kundi affirmed his commitment to elevate regional matters to the federal level for expeditious resolution.

Khattak unfazed by Gandapur's threats, says he will testify 'honestly' if called

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pervaiz Khattak has rejected threats from Ali Amin Gandapur, saying he will testify truthfully in the 190 million pounds reference case against former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Speaking informally in Nowshera, Khattak said, "Whether it's Imran Khan or anyone else, if I'm called to testify, I will speak the truth. I will tell everything I saw and the events that unfolded before me."

He further stated, "Ali Amin Gandapur and I know each other very well. I have never lied and I will not lie. Some people cannot tolerate the truth."

Addressing Gandapur's threats, Khattak said, "Ali Amin Gandapur keeps making threats. He was also part of the cabinet and should also be called to testify."

Khattak also asserted his independence, adding that he fears no one but Allah.



"I have received notices from NAB and I will face them according to the law. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is my province and no one can stop me."

He further emphasized that he owes no favors to anyone, stating, "I formed the government in 2013 through my own hard work, not through any favors. I was not made Chief Minister by anyone's grace."

It is worth noting that Ali Amin Gandapur had threatened Khattak the previous day, stating that he would not be allowed to stay in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa if he testified against Imran Khan.

Pakistan 'reports' over 5641 dog-bite cases in one week

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A staggering 5,641 dog-bite cases have been reported across Pakistan in just one week.

According to sources, Punjab topped the list with 3,264 cases, followed by Sindh with 1,601 cases.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 615 cases, while Balochistan saw 80 cases. Meanwhile, 75 cases were reported in Azad Kashmir and 6 in Gilgit-Baltistan, sources added.

Last month, a shocking increase was reported in the number of dog bite cases as 7,957 cases were reported in one week across Pakistan.

In a significant development, the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in Karachi launched its own anti-rabies vaccine (ARV), namely DowRab, for the dog bites victims in Sindh.



The reports indicated that around one million individuals in Pakistan are bitten by stray dogs every year, leading to an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 deaths from rabies.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad, the country needs over 2 million doses of anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) on an annual basis, with a significant portion being imported from India.

Currently, Pakistan is grappling with a critical shortage of anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) attributed to pricing disputes.