



Fight against terrorism instead of becoming facilitators, Bilawal tells KP govt

After the federal government announced hosting an APC to discuss the newly-launched anti-terror operation, Azm-e-Istehkam, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has blamed the former PTI-led government for making grave mistakes in past which led to the resurgence of terrorism in the country.



'Explore the Silk Road, an Ongoing Epic of Civilization'

China Cultural Center in Pakistan and the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan have officially launched Nihao! China- 2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Online Season in Pakistan. "Nihao! China"-2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season series of activities were organized by the Network of International Culturalink Entities (NICE), ... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Development in Balochistan

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif talking to the media after the signing of agreement to solarise agricultural tubewells of Balochistan on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM-Agreement-Solarization

28,000 tube wells in Balochistan to be converted on solar power: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that under an agreement reached between the Federal and Balochistan provincial governments, a total of 28,000 agricultural tube wells in the province would be shifted to solar system within three months. Talking to media after the agreement signing ceremony, the prime minister said the federal government would provide 70 percent funds while 30 percent would be contributed by the provincial government for Rs 55 billion solarization project. The prime minister met the provincial cabinet in which the federal ministers and Governor

Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhel and Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti were present, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Earlier, the prime minister witnessed an agreement signing ceremony between the federal and the provincial governments for shifting of electricity run tube wells to solar powered mechanism. The prime minister tasked the chief minister to complete the solarization project within three months. He opined that the completion of project would ensure prosperity of the farmers and bring a large area of cultivable land under farming, adding that with functioning of the solar powered

tube wells, the farmers would get uninterrupted power supply throughout the day. During his address to the provincial cabinet, he termed the agreement as 'a deep structured change' firmly rooted in the government's conceived reforms agenda, he said that a huge sum of Rs500 billion would be saved from going down the drain. The prime minister said that the federal government would be absolve of paying Rs80-90 billion burden which was provided as subsidy to the province due to non-payment of bills and still the farmers community was getting 2 to 6 hours power supply. With the solarization process, the issue would be resolved forever, he expressed the hope.

The prime minister said that throughout the world, the utilization of solar capacity was tapped for generation of environment friendly power which was considered as the inexpensive source of power. He said that the government was taking steps on priority basis for the provision of solar power and assured that the federal government would work closely with the provincial government for the uplift of the province. The prime minister said that they had reserved 10 percent of additional quota for the students of province in a batch of 1,000 graduate students being sent to China on government scholarships to seek the latest training in the agriculture sector.

While 10 percent additional quota for the students of Balochistan was also allocated in the training programme to be imparted by Huawei to 300,000 students in IT sector, he added. He further informed that the federal government had already set aside funds in the fiscal budget for Danish schools in the province, adding that they were keen to broaden Danish schools to the divisional level so that students in the entire province could be benefitted from the education facility. The prime minister said that when the young people of Balochistan were equipped with the latest education, the country and province would move on path of progress.

President directs completion of Kachhi Canal project within 1.5 years



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the authorities concerned to ensure completion of the Kachhi Canal project within 1.5 years to irrigate around 713,000 acres of land in Balochistan province. The president, while chairing a meeting on the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that the federal government would provide funding for the project to ensure its timely completion on a priority basis, a President House press release said. In the meeting, the president was briefed about the construction of six strategic canals for the Green Pakistan Initiative, Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, and senior military officials attended the meet-

ing. President Zardari was informed that the construction of six strategic canals, viz. Chashma Right Bank Canal, Kachhi Canal, Rainee Canal, Greater Thal Canal, Cholistan Canal, and Thar Canal, would help enhance the agricultural potential of Pakistan by increasing the cultivable area as well as the livestock and fisheries potential of the country. He directed to kick-start work on strategic canals for GPI and ensure their early completion, besides lining them with concrete to prevent seepage and wastage of water. He urged the need to develop Pakistan's irrigation sector along modern lines to conserve water, reduce water losses, and enhance water availability. He also underlined the need to promote drip irrigation in the barren areas surrounding the canals.

Federal Minister Finance meets with the Sir Michael Barber



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a meeting with the Founder & Chairman Delivery Associates Sir Michael Barber at Finance Division today. The meeting was also attended by Development Director British High Commission Ms. Jo Moir, Senior Governance Advisor Mr. Matt Clancy, Governance Advisor BHC Mr. Naveed Aziz, Senior Economic Advisor Mr. Louie Dane and officials from Finance Division. Sir Michael Barber appreciated the Federal Budget 2024-25 and the structural reforms in taxation implemented by the Government of Pakistan. Recognizing the challenges involved, he discussed

the priority areas of Pakistan's homegrown economic plan. Sir Michael reaffirmed the commitment to continuing support, building on previous collaborative efforts with Pakistan. The Finance Minister thanked Sir Michael for his acknowledgment and appreciated the support of UK government. He outlined key priority areas for the Government comprising of taxation reforms, energy sector reforms, and restructuring of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Emphasizing the importance of structural reforms within the framework of the IMF program. The meeting concluded with a commitment to enhance collaboration between both parties, focusing on mutual strategic goals and sustainable economic development.

'Courts were captive to Martial Law': SC on Zulfiqar Bhutto's 'unfair' trial

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan has observed that the murder trial of former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was 'unfair and lacked due process', noting that the country and the courts were captive to Martial Law. The Supreme Court issued a 48-page detailed opinion on a presidential reference filed by former president Asif Ali Zardari more than a decade ago. Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, a nine-member larger bench consisting Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Musarrat Hilali heard the reference. The reference filed in April 2011 on behalf of former president Asif Ali Zardari sought an opinion under the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction on revisiting the death sentence awarded to the PPP founder. In the detailed opinion issued today, the SC said the proceedings of the trial by the Lahore High Court (LHC) and of the appeal by the Supreme Court of Pakistan "do not meet the requirements of the Fundamental Right to a fair trial and due process enshrined in Articles 4 (right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with the law) and 9 (security of person) and later guaranteed as a separate and

independent Fundamental Right under Article 10A of the Constitution". In its opinion, the Supreme Court rendered its view on all the questions posed in the reference one-by-one, explaining that during the course of performing their core duty to administer justice "in accordance with the Constitution and the law", judges were bound to do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. There have been some cases in our judicial history, the opinion explained, that created a public perception that either fear or favour deterred the performance of our duty to administer justice in accordance with the law. It explained that the Trial and Appellate Courts, which conducted the trial and heard the appeal, were not true courts under the Constitution. "The country was captive to Martial Law and so too were its courts. When Judges take oath of allegiance to dictators, the courts are no longer of the people," it added. The opinion said that in its advisory jurisdiction, the apex court cannot reappraise the evidence and undo the decision. Moreover, the opinion noted that the Trial Court, which had tried and convicted Zulfiqar Bhutto, and the Appellate Court, which had dismissed his appeal, were operating when there was no constitutional rule in the country and "one man's will became legislation and his person had replaced the entire

democratic order". "The expression of such incredulous admiration undermined the credibility of the Appellate Court. Was it not obvious that General Zia-ul-Haq would be the direct beneficiary of a guilty verdict. If Mr. Bhutto was acquitted he may have proceeded to prosecute General Haq for the crime of high treason. Haq's personal survival depended on Mr. Bhutto being found guilty. The continuation of usurped power required Mr. Bhutto to be convicted," it added. The Supreme Court, including the three Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court who acquitted Zulfiqar Bhutto had also declared, 'that the Fundamental Rights stand validly suspended since 5th of July 1977'. "Therefore, and admittedly, the trial was conducted and the appeal heard without Mr Bhutto having the constitutional protection of the Fundamental Rights and other rights guaranteed in the Constitution," it added. It added: "Any single one of the aforesaid noted transgressions may have vitiated the trial and the conviction, however, cumulatively they destroyed any semblance of due process and fair trial, and revealed that innocent men were rushed to the gallows". In March 1979, nearly two years after his government's ouster by General Ziaul Haq, a seven-judge SC bench had, in a split four-to-three verdict, upheld the LHC's awarding of a death sentence to the former premier.

Kenyan court announces verdict in Arshad Sharif murder case



Spokesman Report

KENYA: The High Court in Kenya's Kajiado has awarded 10 million Kenyan shillings to the family of slain Arshad Sharif, a Pakistani journalist who was 'mistakenly' shot and killed by Kenyan police officers in October 2022. Arshad Sharif, senior journalist and former ARY News anchor, was shot dead in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on October 23 where he was living in self-exile. The official police statement later expressed "regrets on the unfortunate incident." While delivering her judgement today, Justice Stella Mutuku ruled that the use of lethal force against Arshad Sharif by shooting him in the head was unlawful and unconstitutional. Arshad Sharif's wife Javeria Siddique through her lawyer, Advocate Dudley Ochiel, requested the court to order the Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecutions, Inspector General of

Continued on Page 8

Ambassador Amiri Moghadam's Message on the Anniversary of Abdul Sattar Edhi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: July 8th is the Demise Anniversary of Abdul Sattar Edhi. He was a dedicated man and a treasure for the Pakistani society. He was a humanitarian, philanthropist and ascetic who founded the Edhi Foundation, which runs the world's largest ambulance network, homeless shelters, animal shelters, rehabilita-



tion centres, and orphanages across Pakistan. He is remembered for his dedication to Pakistan society. May God Bless his Soul.

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell organizes rally to pay homage to Burhan Wani

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: On the occasion of the death anniversary of Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed, a rally was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell from Burhan Wani Chowk to Alambardar Chowk.

In the rally, Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Wajahit Rasheed Baig, Senior Leader PPP Shaukat Javed Mir, Hurriyat Leader Mushtaqul Islam, Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Sajjad Latif, Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Mohammad Aslam Khan, Media Coordinator Sardar Ali Shan, Dr. Muhammad Yunus Mir, Dr. Manzoor, Ghulam Rasool Magre, and a large number of political party leaders, civil society and administration participated. In the rally, tributes were paid



to Burhan Wani Muzaffar Shaheed for his struggle for the freedom movement of Jammu and Kashmir on this occasion addressing. Speakers said that the Burhan Wani mission will be continued till the completion of the freedom movement.

The participants in the rally were

carrying banners and placards with anti-India and pro-independence slogans. On this occasion, while paying homage to Burhan Wani, the participants shouted anti-India slogans and said that they reject India's oppressive policies.

Human rights organizations take

notice of Indian aggression. India was using every possible tactic to suppress the freedom movement.

The United Nations should take note of the Indian aggression and fulfill the long-standing demand for a referendum under strong pressure from India.

Azad Kashmir to mark Burhan Wani's 8th martyrdom anniversary

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and prime minister Chudhary Anwar ul Haq have paid rich tributes to Shaheed Burhan Muzaffar Wani and his associates on their eighth martyrdom anniversary.

In their separate messages, the duo, while highlighting the martyred commander's role in imbuing a new spirit in the freedom movement, termed him as a shining star and a powerful symbol of resistance against the Indian occupation, who raised the banner of revolt

against India at a tender age and spearheaded the movement with utmost courage and diligence.

Hailing the Kashmiri martyrs' matchless struggle and sacrifices for the noble cause, they said, "The sacred blood of the Kashmiri martyrs will never go in vain."

They regrettably noted that since the past several decades the Indian rulers have shamelessly used its military might and repressive policies to crush the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self determination guaranteed to them by the international community.

They said that the mass uprising triggered after the martyrdom of

Burhan Wani not only rendered the Indian government's narrative on Kashmir irrelevant at global level but also proved it beyond any reasonable doubt that the ongoing freedom movement was indigenous.

The duo also lauded the Kashmiri people's resilience in the face of the Indian state terrorism.

Termining the Kashmiris' ongoing liberation movement as a legitimate political struggle, they said, it was quite unfortunate that Kashmiris were being subjected to cruel treatment merely for demanding fulfillment of their promised right and implementation of the UNSC resolutions that calls for holding plebi-

scite in the region.

"The right to self-determination is an inalienable right of the people of Kashmir", they said, adding that it was high time that influential world governments and institutions must come forward and play their much needed role to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully.

They said that the international community must play its due role to help stop human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir and pressurize the government of India create a conducive atmosphere for the resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

DC Bagh announce public holiday on annual anniversary of Mujahid e Awwal

Abdul Majeed Tahir

BAGH: Deputy Commissioner Bagh Mudassar Farooq has ordered a public holiday in Bagh district on the occasion of the annual anniversary of the former president of the state and former prime minister of Azad Kashmir Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan on July 10, 2024. According to the details, on July 10, the annual anniversary celebrations of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, Quran recitation will be held and political and other dignitaries will be addressed the function.



RPO Faisalabad Dr Abid Khan visits Jhang to evaluate the security during Muharram



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Dr Muhammad Abid Khan visited the District Jhang to ascertain the security situation during Muharram ul Harram. He conducted meeting with DPO Jhang and DCO Jhang, Commissioner Faisalabad Silvrat Saeed also accompanied him. DPO Jhang briefed about the overall security situation. RPO Dr Abid Khan emphasised that strict compliance of Procession routes and timing of Majalis will be observed. The violators will have to face the legal action. Moreover, he also visited the routes of major processions. He said that DPO should keep coordinating with head of Majalis, License holders, members of peace committees and notables to observe Muharram peacefully. Further, the irritants of routs should be resolved. Moreover, DPO should exercise zero tolerance against ulemas who are banned, gagged and banished from District. DPO briefed that In order to keep an eye on procession routes, CCTV cameras have been installed. Monitoring rooms have been established. While talking about Regional control room, Dr Abid Khan Said that district and regional Control rooms have been established and will be functional round the clock till the peaceful culmination of Muharram ul Harram.

REEDS with the support of Tearfund-DEC implements program to support flood-affected people in Dadu



Azad Baloch

DADU: REEDS with the support of Tearfund-DEC is implementation "Enhancing Disaster Resilience of the Flood Affected Communities in Sindh Pakistan-Phase - II" in District Dadu. In order to create awareness and minimize the effects of waterborne diseases, REEDS raised community awareness around WASH through interaction street theaters. Street Theaters were performed in project villages of UC-Kamal Khan and UC-Bahawalpur. Street theater is a powerful and effective tool for engaging communities, igniting conversations, and fostering behavioral changes. Dadu-REEDS with the support of Tearfund-DEC is implementation "Enhancing Disaster Resilience of the Flood Affected Communities in Sindh Pakistan-Phase - II. Organized Two days workshop on Business Management skill Training(BMST) at Reeds District office Dadu in which 48 deserving benefactrices participated were build up capacity to strengthen their small business, and supported with cash Grant as they can sustain their life's after flood, Mr. Sajid Ali along with reeds team Dadu participated in activities.

EFP and ILO collaborate to end forced labor in agricultural sector

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) underscores the critical importance of eliminating forced labor from the informal sector to ensure sustainable business practices. Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali highlighted this imperative during a capacity-building session organized by the EFP in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) under the BRIDGE Project in Hyderabad.

Mr. Nazir Ali also briefed the participants on the Employers Federation of Pakistan's (EFP) ongoing efforts to underscore the importance of eradicating forced labor from the agriculture sector. This initiative aims to protect workers' rights, enhance business sustainability, and foster sustainable economic development. He emphasized the necessity for businesses to adopt clear and transparent policies that encompass all stakeholders in their product and supply chains to eliminate forced labor effectively.

Qazi Wajid Mahesar, President of the Mehar Agriculture Employers (Landlords) Association (MAEA) expressed gratitude for the session organized by EFP and ILO. The event focused on addressing forced labor issues among small-scale agriculture landlords in Sindh, aiming to enhance understanding and develop viable solutions.

Mr. Mahesar acknowledged the challenges faced by agriculture, including water scarcity, seed availability, and soil degradation, which exacerbate vulnerabilities among farmers and small landlords. He urged governmental support for robust policies to mitigate forced labor and improve working conditions within the sector.

Ghulam Sarwar Uttero, Regional Director of the Labour Directorate in Hyderabad, commended the EFP's initiatives in combating child and forced labor. He highlighted the importance of the Sindh Bonded Labour System Act of 2015 and emphasized the role of vigilance committees in enforcing labor laws at the district level.

Rally

MUZAFFARABAD: Members of Sunni Ulema Council are holding a rally in connection of first Muharram-ul-Haram, the day of Martyrdom of 2nd Muslim Caliph Hazrat Umar Farooq (R.A), passes through a road in the city.



Photo: Online

Ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply during Muharram

Correspondent

HYDERABAD: A meeting was held between delegations of the central organization Azza Anjuman Haidari Kadamgah Maula Ali, the registered organization Azza, and HESCO Chief Operating Officer Zulfikar Ali Memon to ensure the uninterrupted supply of electricity during Muharram. The HESCO administration has made special arrangements during Muharram, including the formation of mobile teams equipped with complete T&P to ensure continuous electricity supply during the days of mourning.

HESCO has arranged for continuous electricity supply from 7 PM to 5 AM across 171 feeders in Hyderabad during Muharram, with 65 of these feeders located in Hyderabad city and Mobile teams have been formed under emergency protocols to ensure immediate response to any technical issues. These teams, led by Chief Operating Officer Riyaz Ahmad Pathan, will be



available 24/7, especially around the crossings of Azadari processions. The meeting included key HESCO officials and representatives from mourning organizations, including In-charge PDC Ghulam Sarwar Unar, Exen Operation Division Vehicle Accounts Syed Aqib Abbas Shah, Deputy Manager (PR) Muhammad Sadiq Kubar, and officials from Anjuman Haidari and Azza (Registered) District Hyderabad. A control room has been set up at HESCO headquarters to monitor and address any technical issues promptly. Exen Latifabad, Ghulam Farooq Tunio, Exen Latif II Syed Mukhtiar Shah, Exen Ghazi Syed Aqib Abbas Shah,

and Exen Phuleli Salahuddin have been instructed to visit all Imambargahs in Hyderabad, check for electricity-related issues, and resolve them immediately while staying in touch with Anjuman officials to support continuous electricity supply, it has been suggested that markets close early during Muharram and that lights on billboards and signboards be switched off.

All line staff holidays have been canceled during the mourning days of Muharram, and emergency measures have been implemented to ensure full staff availability.

HESCO is responsible for both electricity transmission and bill collection. Consumers are requested to pay their HESCO dues promptly, use electricity legally, and switch to energy savers instead of ordinary bulbs. HESCO is committed to ensuring a smooth and uninterrupted electricity supply during the holy month of Muharram, and we appreciate the cooperation of all concerned parties.

Pakistan Tehreek Shariat Party demands end of violence in Mardan

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN (TAKHT BHAI): The Central Amir of Pakistan Tehreek Shariat Party, Haji Muazullah Khan Hasanai has said that the establishment of peace in the current situation is the need of the hour. Due to terrorism, our region has been affected for a long time and thousands of innocent people have died. The forces have to unite on one pitch and fight a strong war against terrorism. He was addressing a large protest demonstration of Aman Pasoon. He said that our province has been completely destroyed due to the scourge of terrorism and till now Thousands of precious lives have been lost. He said that the establishment of peace is the need of the hour and until peace is established here, this province and the people will be forced to live in the shadow of fear and oppression and will remain behind other nations in the field of development.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:22 am
Zohr 12:13 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:21 pm
Isha 9:03 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima chairs first meeting of Functional Committee on IT & Telecom

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja chaired first meeting of Functional Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication held at committee room of Ministry of IT on Monday.

Secretary IT Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood was also present in the meeting.

Member IT Syed Junaid Imam, Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim, and authorities from Finance Division, Ministry of Commerce, State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) participated in the meeting.

Secretary General P@SHA Nadeem Malik briefed the chair about cash reward scheme for IT industry.

The meeting deliberated upon bringing



a scheme alternative to cash reward for IT exporters. A committee was formed to mull over bringing scheme in place of cash reward for IT industry. The

committee members include Member IT Syed Junaid Imam, Secretary General P@SHA Nadeem Malik, and a representative from State Bank of Pakistan.

AIOU provides free Matric education to people Of GB, Balochistan and FATA

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, AIOU has stated that as part of a national initiative to enroll out-of-school children, AIOU is setting an exemplary role. In this regard, AIOU is providing free education up to matriculation level for children for the areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan Province, and the merged tribal districts (formerly FATA). It should be noted that the university's autumn semester for 2024 is commencing from July 15. The Vice Chancellor has directed the heads of the relevant regional offices to ensure that this message reaches every household in these three regions so that out-of-school children can benefit from this university facility and illuminate their lives through education.

Additionally, the university provides fee concessions for those students who are unable to continue their education due to financial constraints. For availing this facility, individuals can contact the nearest regional office of the university. AIOU also offers free education to prisoners and transgender individuals so that they can be empowered to become productive and positive members of society. It is clear that the university provides education to prisoners within jail premises. The aim of providing free education to prisoners is to reform criminals in such a way that they can start a new life as civilized, useful, and positive citizens of society after completing their sentences. More than 1,200 prisoners have already been connected to the educational network of the university.

Martyr's anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Members of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) shouting slogans during protest against Indian army on the eve of death anniversary of Burhan Muzaffar Wani, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Burhan Wani's 8th Martyrdom Anniversary

Mushaal pays tribute to Wani, vows to fight until Kashmir free

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, paid glowing tribute to popular youth leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani on his 8th martyrdom anniversary and reiterated the resolve that they would continue the struggle of their Kashmiri forefathers, martyrs and ghazis until they broke the shackles of Indian subjugation.

In a video statement on Monday, Mushaal, a former Special Assistant to the Prime

Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment said that Kashmiris on both sides of line of control were commemorating Wani's martyrdom anniversary with renewed commitment and resolve that they would not accept Indian occupation in any circumstances.

She lauded that Burhan Wani's legacy of resistance against Indian occupation, which injected renewed vigor into the struggle for freedom and ignited a fervent spirit, dedication, perseverance and courage among Kashmiri youth against Indian subju-

gation that would be written in gold words in the history of Kashmir freedom struggle.

The senior hurriyat highlighted that brutal Indian occupation troops continued their acts of state terrorism with complete impunity, adding that since Wani's extrajudicial killing on July 8, 2016, they had martyred 1,934 Kashmiris, including 286 in fake encounters and custody, rendering 159 women widowed and 393 children orphaned.

She stated that at least 30,063 people were injured due to the use of brute force, including bullets, pellets, and

teargas shells, by Indian military, paramilitary, and police personnel against peaceful demonstrators and mourners in the occupied territory.

Mushaal went on to say that Wani exposed the brutal, fascist face of Indian government, notorious armed forces across the globe, who unleashed a reign of terror on the innocent Kashmir.

However, she made it clear that Kashmir freedom fighters would continue the just Kashmir freedom fight till their last breath and would not accept the Indian slavery come what may.

FAO and PMD will host scientific forum on flash droughts and Early Warning Systems



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Pakistan (FAOPK), in collaboration with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), will convene a Scientific Forum to address the emerging challenge of flash droughts and enhance early warning systems (EWS) for disaster preparedness on 10 July 2024 in the City of Islamabad.

Under the ECHO-funded Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP), FAOPK is spearheading efforts to integrate anticipatory action (AA) into Disaster Risk Management (DRM) planning in Sindh province, focusing on districts prone to droughts like Tharparkar, Umerkot, and Dadu. This initiative aims to strengthen local capacities and integrate AA protocols into government DRM frameworks, thus enhancing resilience against climate-induced shocks.

The forum will feature presentations by international experts on innovative approaches such as the South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS), and Earth-observation-based composite drought indices tailored for Pakistan's agricultural landscape, as well as recommendations to enhance decision-making capabilities of practitioners, and provide guidance to humanitarian in anticipatory action attempting to account for flash drought in drought preparedness and response plans.

Discussion will explore the potential of integrating dynamic vulnerability indicators and satellite-derived data to enhance predictive accuracy and inform timely humanitarian interventions.

TikTok releases its Q1 2024 Community Guidelines Enforcement Report

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In its continuous effort to foster a secure and positive online environment, TikTok has unveiled its latest Community Guidelines Enforcement Report for the first quarter of 2024. This release



highlights TikTok's unwavering commitment to transparency, safety, and inclusivity, reflecting its dedication to building trust and ensuring a safe platform for its global community.

During the January-March period of 2024, TikTok's proactive measures led to the removal of 166,997,307 videos worldwide, representing about 0.9% of all videos uploaded on the platform. A substantial portion of these, 129,335,793 videos, were identified and removed through automated detection technologies, while 6,042,287 videos were reinstated upon further review.

In a bid to enhance transparency, TikTok has now disclosed the number of comments removed and filtered by our comment safety tools for the first time. TikTok has removed and filtered 976,479,946 comments using comment safety tools during this three-month period.

In Pakistan alone, the platform took action against 20,207,878 videos for breaching its Community Guidelines in the first quarter, underscoring its resolve to combat violations effectively. Moreover, TikTok aggressively pursued spam accounts and related content, implementing robust measures to prevent the proliferation of automated spam accounts.

Notably, approximately 93.9% of videos that violated the guidelines were removed within 24 hours of posting, and the proactive removal rate for the quarter stood impressively at 99.8% globally. In a global effort to safeguard younger users, TikTok also deleted 21,639,414 accounts suspected of belonging to individuals under the age of 13.

TikTok's Community Guidelines are meticulously crafted to cultivate an environment that is safe, inclusive, and authentic for all users, without exceptions. The guidelines are enforced uniformly across all content and users, with TikTok striving for consistency and fairness in its enforcement actions.

ICCI to organize Sports Economy Seminar: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has emphasized the necessity of developing a comprehensive sports policy to address the country's ongoing decline in sports.

He made these remarks during a meeting with Shahid Islam, Deputy Director General (Technical) of the Pakistan Sports Board, who recently visited the ICCI.

Bakhtawari highlighted the sports industry's significant role in the economic development of many countries, urging the government to strengthen this sector for improved economic growth. He reminisced about the times when Pakistan excelled in sports like squash and hockey but pointed out that the country has lost its prominence in these fields due to continuous neglect. He noted the lack of attention to sports activities at the grassroots level in schools and colleges as a major contributing factor.

To address this concerning trend, Bakhtawari stressed that the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) must explore employment opportunities for athletes in various departments, promote sponsorships for sports activities, and encourage sports-based admissions in educational institutions.

In response, Shahid Islam, DDG of the Pakistan Sports Board, pledged his full support to the ICCI for the 'Sports Economy' seminar. He also mentioned that an ICCI Display Centre at the Pakistan Sports Board would significantly boost the export of sports products through exhibitions.

The meeting was also attended by former President FPCCI Zubair Ahmed Malik, former Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry, Imtiaz Abbasi, Irfan Chaudhry, Chaudhry Nasir Mehmood, Zafar Iqbal Gujjar, and Shahid Abbasi.

All Pakistan Private School Management Association pledges to keep up fight for quality education

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Private School Management Association reiterated its commitment that every member of the organization will play a key role in expanding the scope of the organizational struggle for the promotion of quality education and training. Apsma will be worked on a priority basis to make it a representative organization of private sector across the country. The interests of private educational institutions will be defended on every platform. Despite the sharp increase in inflation and the payment of tax on all essential items, no additional tax will be accepted on private educational institutions.

The government should consult the heads of private educational institutions at the



federal and provincial levels before finalizing the policies. Pakistan is our country, the role of private educational institutions in its construction and development is commendable.

An important consultation meeting was held at Amblem Higher Secondary School System Satellite Town Rawalpindi under the management of All Pakistan Private School Management Association. In which the divisional, district, tehsil and city officials of the association, Central Senior Vice President Muhammad Farqan

Chaudhry, North Punjab President Ibrar Ahmed Khan, Colonel R. Fawad Hanif, Divisional President Qazi Noorul Hasan, Malik Hafeezullah, Shahid Latif, Mushtaq Haider, Mohammad Ejaz, Sakina Taj, Maimoona Ismail, Chaudhry Zahoor, Moin Akram, Zohaib Abrar, Tawqeer Ahmed, Muhammad Ashraf Iqbal, Prof. Sharif Sajid, Taseer Mehmood, Abrar Advocate and many other members participated. On this occasion, the officials during the meeting presented suggestions for the promotion

of education and making the performance of Apsma more effective.

Ibrar Ahmad Khan said that all your problems will be solved by the Rawalpindi Division with the support of the Central leadership. He said that free-of-cost teachers' workshops will be organized in the future, educational institutions will be strengthened with the help of agreements with various institutions. Apsma congratulates the Chairman of Rawalpindi Education Board for his education friendly efforts. He said that due to the efforts of the central leadership, the notification for holding the summer camp has been issued. Building fitness certificate issues were taken up by Apsma, which led to the possibility of a re-introduction of the old system. The regulatory authority was abol-

ished by the central president Kashif Adeeb Javadani along with the previous government.

With Apsma's effort, registration matters will be re-transferred to CEO Rawalpindi. Murtaza Ali Shah, director of Amblem Higher Secondary School System, said that we have to give importance to training along with education. The role model of our children should be the life of the Prophet (PBUH). Mrs. Sakina Taj President Women's Wing said that teachers and students of private education should also be members of Apsma. Meritorious students should become ambassadors of Apsma. Divisional President Abrar Ahmed Khan along with the members prayed collectively for the development of the country and the success of the organization at the end of the ceremony.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Azm-e-Istehkam: PTI's Tightrope Walk

The Founder of PTI, who has been incarcerated for a year and is sick and tired of facing one peril after another, had threatened to go on a hunger strike to portray his resilience against the alleged brutalities of the establishment against him and his party suddenly caved in and decided to attend the government-launched and establishment-supported All Parties Conference (APC), aimed at garnering support for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam which was stiffly resisted by all political parties, including PML, Jamaat-e-Islami, JUI, and many others, soon after its launch late last month.

This knee-jerk decision, which seemed similar to the decision to dissolve the PTI governments in KP and Punjab provinces that cost PTI heavily, surprised not only PTI's own leadership, but also the government and the establishment.

The government, which had been preparing contingency plans to deal with PTI's anticipated refusal, gleefully welcomed the decision and may now instead be preparing contingency plans to shift the proportional burden of the operation to PTI.

Meanwhile, PTI's leadership, stunned by the decision, is grappling with the issue of taking a U-turn from opposing the operation and APC to supporting the operation in the national interest, and developing arguments in favor of participating in the APC. Their narrative that under the guise of this operation, the state would intensify its victimization of PTI leaders and workers and further crush the already weakened and truncated party now needs to be turned in the opposite direction.

I have my doubts that when PTI is knee-deep in dealing with internal strife and the race to win the favor of Imran Khan and be rewarded for the hardships faced by them, especially after May 9th, they may have done the intensive background research and developed the pros

and cons of this important decision, which may end up determining the future of PTI as a whole.

There were many fundamental conflicting points that needed to be thoroughly debated before announcing the decision. For example, whether this decision aligns with PTI's declared stance that the government, formed based on an allegedly rigged election, is illegal and lacks the people's mandate, therefore PTI will not negotiate with the government on any issue. Accepting participation in the All Parties Conference would grant much-needed legitimacy to the government and erode PTI's stated position.

They should have deliberated and focused on the question of how the establishment would perceive PTI's decision. Would they take it as a sign of weakness and term it a victory and success of their strategy of punishing PTI, its leaders, and its workers? Or would they perceive it as a sign of PTI's subjugation before the establishment? Alternatively, they might see it as a friendly gesture from PTI towards the establishment and reciprocate by easing the pressure on PTI.

But a more important question than the above two questions was how the people who had voted for PTI would perceive this decision. How would the people of KP province and Balochistan, who have been the major victims of terrorism and previous military operations, would perceive this decision? The operations which forced them to leave their homes and hearths, deprived them of their livelihoods, displaced women from their homes, and disrupted children's schooling and neighborhoods.

It could be anybody's guess that the said operation will be more intense in Balochistan, which is currently facing a simmering insurgency. Baloch human rights groups have launched world-

wide campaigns against the issue of missing persons, alleging that the state has abducted individuals without judicial review. This operation would most likely be seen as an intensification of the campaign against insurgents and terrorists, who are mostly ethnic Baloch, further alienating the Baloch population.

Similar situations exist in KP province. During all previous operations, the main battleground has been and will be KP province. The people of KP have, unfortunately, been the victims of cross-border terrorism and domestic terrorism and have also faced mass internal displacement, which no other province has faced to such an extent.

The people of KP province, as suggested by news items circulating on both traditional and social media, albeit unverified, have expressed their opposition to the operation. The dilemma for both PTI and JUI is that KP province is their stronghold. This dilemma is even more significant for PTI, which has a government in KP province. Therefore, it is crucial for PTI to first gauge the opinion and pulse of KP and Balochistan in particular, and Punjab and Sindh in general, while crafting their narrative if they finally decide to join the APC.

An even bigger question before PTI than the above three questions is: who would represent PTI in the said meeting? This question is crucial because the chairman, who is the ultimate authority in PTI, is in jail and will most likely not be permitted to attend the meeting due to the fear of a mass public gathering to welcome him, even if for a brief period.

The second-tier leadership, headed by Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Shafiqat Mahmood, Asad Umar, Ch. Fawad Hussain, Ali Haider Zaidi, Zulf Bukhari, and Hammad Azhar, are either in jail, in hiding or have been disowned by the PTI.

Therefore, it is most likely that the third-tier leadership might represent PTI in the APC. This leadership, consisting of political figures from KP province and lawyers, is deeply embroiled in internal strife, leg-pulling, and is busy hurling abuses and counter-abuses. They do not have deep roots among the people at the grass-roots level across the country, and largely lack the political sagacity, acumen, and leadership qualities necessary to participate meaningfully in the APC, where the seasoned, senior, and first-tier leadership of other parties would be present to present their points of view, support or oppose the operation, and at the same time safeguard their narrative and maintain their public support.

The participation of PTI in the APC is like walking on a thin rope high in the sky. Any wrong move, lack of focus, misstep, or miscalculation will leave PTI highly bruised and wounded. Therefore, the PTI founder must think carefully before assembling a team to represent the party in the APC. He should consider forming a team headed by former President Dr. Arif Alvi, who, with his experience in dealing with delicate and sensitive issues, has become adept at choosing his words carefully and avoiding controversies that could arise from the wrong use of words, regardless of intent. He is sagacious, a committed PTI worker, and a wise man.

The team should also include a top PTI leader from Balochistan, preferably an ethnic Baloch, a seasoned politician from KP Province, and a top leader from Punjab who are adept at sensitive and critical political and administrative negotiations and are familiar with the art and science of effective communication. Additionally, the lawyers and ideological experts should develop different scenarios and intelligently craft the party's narrative suited for each one of them. Former Press Secretary to the President

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

Pak-China Joint Lab for AI to intelligentize Pakistan's agriculture

The Pakistan China Joint Lab for Artificial Intelligence and Smart Agriculture (AI&SA) has been established at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

Punjab Province, as Pakistan's main agricultural production area, its annual grain output accounts for about 76% of the country's total annual grain output.

Both parties agreed that it has unique advantages to carry out pilot applications of high-throughput crop monitoring projects here. In this province, about 600 farmers have joined the pilot application.

Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor UAF, noted lately that in the 25,000 villages across Punjab, if drone spraying technology could be adopted on a large scale, it will help increase productivity, reduce costs and greatly promote the development of intelligent agriculture.

"We use drones equipped with visual recognition equipment to fly around the fields to achieve intelligent management of crop monitoring, cultivation management, pest and disease analysis, and agricultural production, including growth determination, crop health monitoring, water requirement analysis, fertilization, as well as pesticide application," Dr Wu Jun, the Chinese Director of the lab, introduced.

Mohammad Malik, a local farmer who has been growing wheat, sugarcane and other crops in Punjab for more than 30 years, is one of the participants in the pilot project. At first, he had many doubts about the project. "This technology is too complicated for farmers like me, and I doubt its effectiveness and practicality."

The project team members promptly explained it, "We could produce a text guide and audio-visual materials of the vegetation health map written in the local dialect and send them to your son's smartphone application."

"We now have a more accurate grasp of the water and fertilizer needs of crops, which avoids over- or under-watering as we did in the past, thus reduces input costs," said Malik, with joy, he has learned how to use these techniques. "Now our whole family is looking forward to this innovative technology helping us increase the yields."

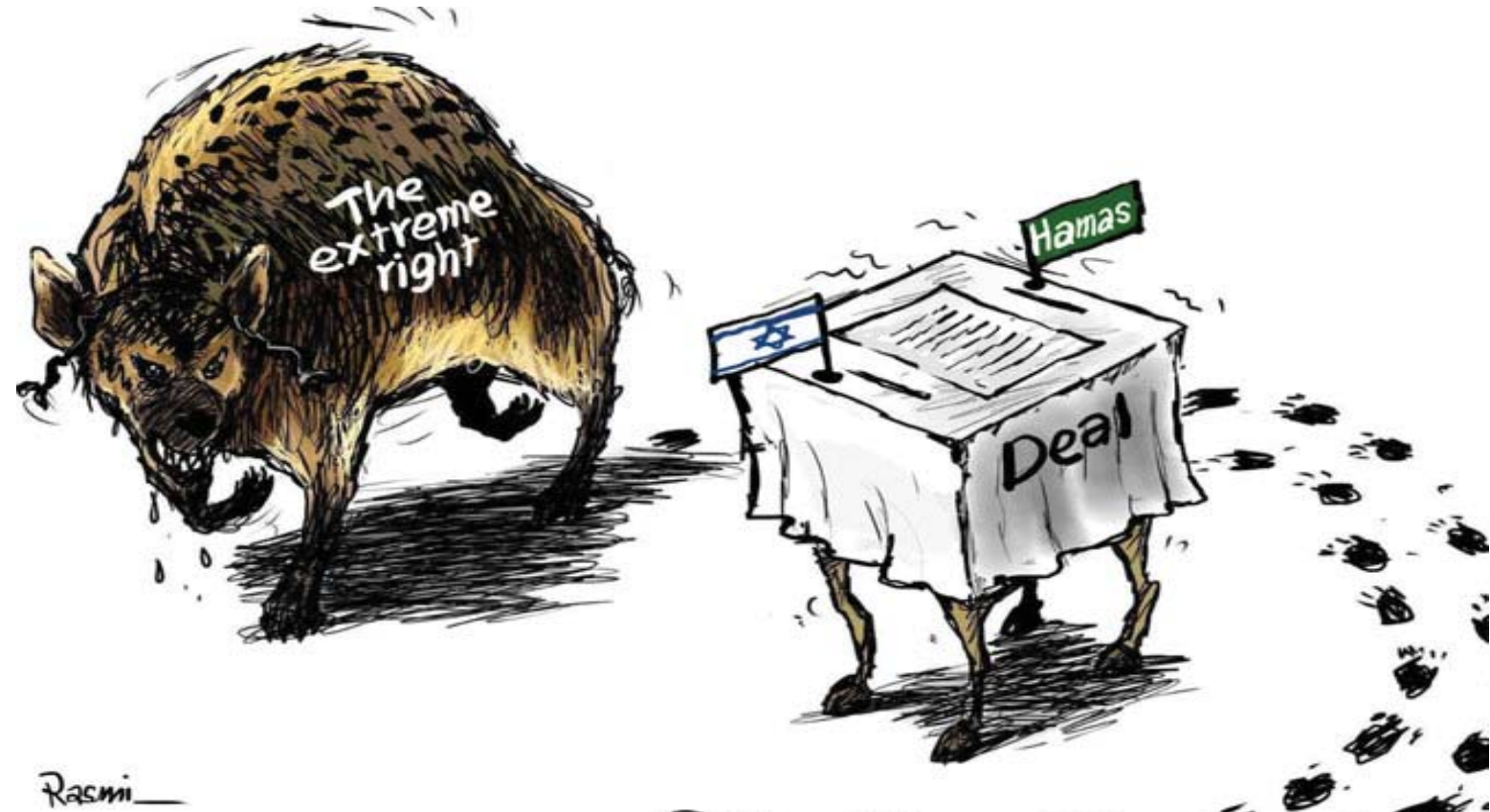
It is well known that the biggest difficulty facing traditional farming is the unpredictable natural climate and the impact of pests and diseases, which leads to the dual instability of food production and income. Pakistan, is one of the world's top ten wheat and rice producers, with agriculture accounting for about 18.9% of its GDP and employing 44.2% of the country's labor force.

Despite its favorable agricultural planting foundation, Pakistan is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and one of the ten countries with the largest number of people facing severe sudden hunger, CEN reported.

Today, the Joint Lab has 9 doctors and several masters and engineers working on the development of high-throughput crop monitoring projects. Pakistan has also sent several postdoctoral fellows to Guangzhou, China, to learn AI technologies.

"I come from a farmer's family thus I totally understand the problems faced by our farmers. By now, severe heat waves and water shortages have become our main challenges. I joined the team to provide farmers with real-time data to help them optimize their planting decisions and ensure community food security," Saqib Ali, a Pakistani researcher at the lab, mentioned.

"Bringing AI technology to Pakistan and applying it to agriculture to help local farmers solve the problem of hunger is the most important thing as well as our biggest goal," said Dr. Wu. By now, the World Bank and the Asian Disaster Management Center has provided funding support for the project, emphasizing the importance of this innovative solution in addressing climate challenges and enhancing agricultural sustainability.



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

Young Generation: The Nation's Greatest Asset - I

Throughout history, the torch-bearers of progress and change have consistently been the younger generation. They are the architects of tomorrow, the drivers of innovation, and the guardians of societal evolution. Undeniably, the significance of youth cannot be emphasized enough; they represent the dynamic force propelling civilizations forward. From challenging norms to spearheading advancements in technology, science, arts, and activism, young people stand at the forefront of transformative movements.

Youth offer fresh viewpoints, boundless energy, and a fearless attitude toward addressing complex issues. Their inclination to challenge conventions and push boundaries cultivates a culture of innovation and adaptability. Whether advocating for environmental



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

action, promoting social justice initiatives, or spearheading entrepreneurial ventures, youth lead the charge in tackling the pressing challenges of our era. Their inherent creativity, unburdened by traditional constraints, drives breakthroughs across various domains.

By nurturing environments that foster curiosity, critical thinking, and risk-taking, societies can harness the full potential of youth-driven innovation. In our increasingly interconnected world, the perspectives and contributions of young people are essential for bridging generational gaps. Their proficiency with technology and social media platforms enables them to initiate dialogues,

amplify voices, and mobilize communities like never before. Through intergenerational collaboration, societies can blend the wisdom of experience with the dynamism of youth to address complex issues comprehensively.

As stewards of the planet, youth play a crucial role in advocating for sustainability and environmental preservation. Their deep sense of interconnectedness and urgency in addressing climate issues drive grassroots movements, policy reforms, and sustainable innovations. Their dedication to conserving natural resources and promoting eco-conscious lifestyles is pivotal for fostering harmonious coexistence with the environment.

The values and principles of a society often reflect the ideals upheld by its youth. As agents of cultural change, young people challenge ingrained biases, champion inclusivity, and advocate for equality, contributing to the creation of fairer and more compassionate societies. Empowering youth isn't just a moral obligation but also a strategic investment in the future. Providing them with access to quality education, vocational training, mentorship programs, and economic opportunities empowers them to realize their potential and make meaningful contributions to society.

In the current situation in Pakistan, youth can play a significant role by offering innovative ideas to help the government navigate the financial crises

and progress toward improvement. Innovation has always been recognized as the engine driving progress and development. In every corner of the world, visionary individuals have ignited transformative changes through their creative ideas and entrepreneurial zeal. Within the context of nation-building, the contributions of youth in generating innovative solutions are particularly invaluable. Empowering young minds to propose and implement innovative ideas not only fosters a culture of creativity but also serves as a catalyst for positive change and national advancement.

Youth possess a distinct perspective and a natural inclination toward innovation. Unbound by conventional thinking, they approach challenges with fresh perspectives and a readiness to challenge the status quo. The innovative ideas conceived by youth, ranging from utilizing technology to address societal challenges to pioneering novel approaches in governance and policymaking, possess the potential to redefine the course of nations. A key strategy in harnessing the creative energy of youth involves establishing platforms and initiatives that foster ideation and collaboration. Events like hackathons, innovation challenges, and incubator programs provide young innovators with the necessary resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities to realize their ideas. By cultivating an ecosystem conducive to innovation, governments and organizations can tap into the latent talent of youth and unleash a wave of transformative solutions.

To be continued

"Haq Do Awam Ko" Protest Calls for Justice and Change

The current situation in Pakistan is dire, with the country grappling with an array of severe issues that have left the populace in a state of distress. The most pressing concerns are the ongoing electricity and gas load shedding, the alarming increase in prices for these essential utilities, and the overall economic inflation that is crippling the lives of ordinary citizens.

The electricity sector in Pakistan is facing its worst crisis in recent memory. Prolonged and unannounced load shedding has become a daily ordeal for millions of Pakistanis. The situation is further exacerbated by the steep increase in electricity tariffs, which has placed an unbearable financial burden on households already struggling to make ends meet. The government's lack of effective measures to address this crisis has only deepened the public's despair.

Similarly, gas load shedding has become a common occurrence, with many regions experiencing long hours without gas supply. The situation has worsened by the rising prices of gas, which have hit the poor and middle-class families the hardest. These families are now forced to make difficult choices, often having to prioritize basic needs over other essential expenditures.

The rate of inflation in Pakistan has reached unprecedented levels. Basic commodities such as food, fuel, and healthcare have become increasingly unaffordable for the average Pakistani. The poor, who constitute a significant portion of the population, are bearing the brunt of this economic downturn. Despite these hardships, the government appears more focused on maintaining its luxurious lifestyle rather than addressing the needs of its citizens.

Pakistan is a country blessed with abundant natural resources, including petroleum, natural gas, minerals, and rivers. However, due to rampant corruption and mismanagement, these resources remain underutilized. The wealth generated from these resources could have significantly improved the country's economic situation and the lives of its people, but corruption has turned this

potential boon into a bane.

Adding to the country's woes is the mounting external debt, which has reached unsustainable levels. Servicing this debt has diverted resources away from crucial public services, further exacerbating the plight of the poor. The country is also grappling with issues like unemployment, inadequate healthcare, and failing educational systems. These problems reflect a broader governance crisis that requires urgent and comprehensive reforms.

In this backdrop of widespread discontent and suffering, Jamat-e-Islami, under the energetic leadership of Engr Hafiz Naeem Ul Rahman, has emerged as a beacon of hope. The party has called for a sit-in in Islamabad on July 12, 2024, named "Haq Do Awam Ko," to protest against the government's corruption, illegal decisions, and neglect of the poor. This protest aims to highlight the plight of the common man and demand accountability from those in power. Millions of people are expected to participate in this sit-in, demonstrating the collective frustration and demand for change from the populace. The protest is not just against over billing and load shedding; it is a call for justice and a demand for a government that prioritizes the welfare of its people over its own luxuries. Jamat-e-Islami's stance against corruption and its commitment to addressing the grievances of the poor resonate deeply with the suffering masses.

In summary the current situation in Pakistan is a reflection of mismanagement, corruption, and a lack of accountability. It is imperative for the government to take immediate and effective measures to alleviate the hardships faced by the people. The upcoming "Haq Do Awam Ko" protest by Jamat-e-Islami represents a crucial step in this direction, highlighting the need for a government that truly serves its people. The voices of the oppressed must be heard, and the leaders must act with integrity and urgency to restore hope and dignity to the lives of millions of Pakistanis.



Analysis
Sohail Ahmad Baber

'Explore the Silk Road, an Ongoing Epic of Civilization'

Nihao! China-2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season kicked off in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Cultural Center in Pakistan and the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan have officially launched Nihao! China- 2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season in Pakistan.



showcase the magnificent natural scenery, diversified ethnic cultures and profound cultural heritage of cities along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and enhance the exchanges, mutual learning and common prosperity among the member cities of the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities.

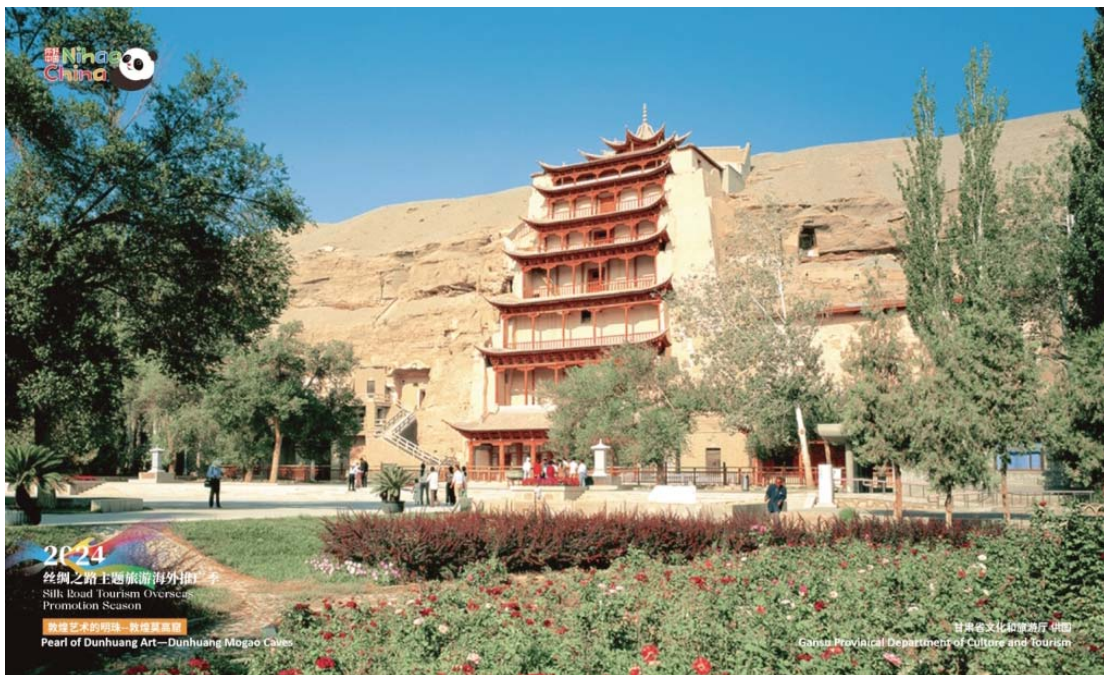
The activities will include the launching ceremony, global broadcasting of themed videos, Glory of Millennia-Silk Road Photo Exhibition, Millennia Silk Road cultural and tourism resources exhibition, and "Nihao! China" overseas promotion events.

To expand the domestic and international influence of the Promotion Season, The Network of International

Culturalink Entities (NICE) in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Radio, Television and Sports of Hainan Province and Sanya Municipal People's Government organized the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season on June 24 in Sanya, Hainan, China showcasing Hainan's abundant cultural heritage, tourism offerings, and promoting Hainan tourism routes and products as well as the latest inbound tourism policies to international audiences.

Hainan, a key hub of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is promoting the strategic alignment of Belt and Road Initiative cooperation and free trade port construction, aiming to establish a more extensive pattern of engagement with the global community.

Viewers in Pakistan can enjoy all these fascinating events on our Facebook, Wechat, Official Twitter (X) handle of Director China Cultural

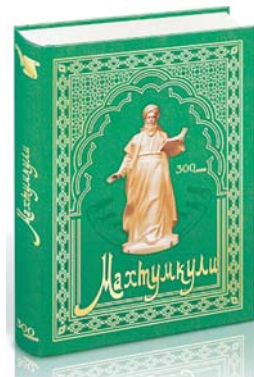


Center in Pakistan H. E Zhang Heqing @zhang_heqing and other social media platforms.

UN General-Secretary Antonio Guterres awarded Turkmenistan's jubilee medal

Spokesman Report

TURKMEN: President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, following talks with United Nations General-Secretary Antonio Guterres, awarded the distinguished guest with the jubilee medal of Turkmenistan «On the 300th Anniversary of Magtymguly Fragi».



you with great pleasure this medal», -said the head of the Turkmen state.

To the applause of those present, this high award was presented to the UN General-Secretary.

The distinguished guest was awarded this jubilee medal for his great personal contribution to strengthening

the independence, sovereignty and neutrality policy of Turkmenistan, expanding and enriching the close ties of our country with world states and international organizations, peace, friendship and brotherhood between peoples and the development of mutually beneficial humanitarian cooperation, as well as on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the classic Turkmen poet Magtymguly Fragi.

Having expressed gratitude for the high honor, the head of the authoritative international organization emphasized the relevance

of the philosophical views of the great son of the Turkmen people-the outstanding poet and philosopher of the East Magtymguly Fragi, who called through his poems for unity, friendship and humanism, the triumph of peace throughout the Earth, which is completely in tune with the main goals and objectives of the UN.

Also, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was presented with a sovereign badge and the book "Magtymguly", prepared on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great son of the Turkmen people, Magtymguly Fragi. The book "Magtymguly", which contains selected poems of the great poet, was published as separate books in Turkmen, Russian and English.

French voters deliver a win for the left, a blow for Le Pen and a hung parliament

France faced potential political deadlock after elections on Sunday threw up a hung parliament, with a leftist alliance unexpectedly taking the top spot ahead of the far right but no group winning a majority.

Voters delivered a major setback for Marine Le Pen's nationalist, eurosceptic National Rally (RN), which opinion polls had predicted would win the second-round ballot but ended up in the third spot, according to pollsters' projections.

The results were also a blow for centrist President Emmanuel Macron, who called the snap election to clarify the political landscape after his ticket took a battering at the hands of the RN in European Parliament elections last month.

He ended up with a hugely fragmented parliament, in what is set to weaken France's role in the European Union and elsewhere abroad and make it hard for anyone to push through a domestic agenda.

Talks between President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and UN General-Secretary Antonio Guterres

Spokesman Report

TURKMEN: Today, in the Turkmen capital, negotiations were held between the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov and the General-Secretary of the United Nations Antonio Guterres, who arrived in our country on a visit the previous evening.



The meeting of the President of Turkmenistan and the UN General-Secretary, which opened a new page in the history of bilateral relations, took place in the capital's fashionable «Oguzkents» Hotel.

During the meetings in a narrow format and in an expanded format with the participation of members of the delegations, President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and UN General-Secretary Antonio Guterres discussed issues of developing partnership in various areas.

As is known, the comprehensive development and strengthening of multifaceted partnership with the UN is one of the key vectors of the foreign policy of sovereign Turkmenistan, which is invariably committed to the principles of openness, peacefulness and active international cooperation in the common interests.

Heavy monsoon: 300mm rain paralyzes life in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Life in India's mega city and Bollywood capital Mumbai has been left paralysed due to heavy monsoon rains which saw the metropolis receiving more than 300 millimetres of downpour in a matter of few hours.

The city, home to some 12 million people, received 11.8 inches of rain six hours till 7am in the morning, civic officials said in a statement.

More than two million people are said to have been affected elsewhere due to overflowing rivers, whereas flights were also disrupted flights and schools and colleges faced closure due to rains in the metropolis.

With forecasts of more heavy showers and a high tide of 4.40 metres (14 feet) in the coastal city, schools and colleges shut for the day as a precaution, the authorities added.

"There is heavy traffic on the roads and rail lines too have been affected," Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the western state whose capital is Mumbai, said on X, urging people to stay indoors unless necessary.

Commuters waded through knee-deep water that partially submerged vehicles in many areas, while traffic clogged the city's Eastern and Western Express highways.

Water on the tracks forced railway authorities to cancel some long-distance trains, they said, while television images showed some suburban passenger trains, a critical means of daily transport for millions, halted on inundated lines.

The rains, coupled with low visibility, prompted airport authorities to suspend runway operations for more than an hour, said the airport sources.

NUST think tank holds seminar on "US-China Strategic Competition: Options for Pakistan"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) organised a seminar on "US-China Strategic Competition: Options for Pakistan". The keynote speaker, Ambassador Dr Raza Muhammad, President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), emphasised that Pakistan faces both challenges and opportunities amidst US-China strategic competition. He said success consists in maximising opportunities and minimising challenges. President IPRI highlighted Pakistan's unique geostrategic location as a trade and energy hub, its youth

bulge as a potential asset, and its natural resources worth trillions as key anchors of a comprehensive approach to national development, regional connectivity, and diplomatic success.

In the second keynote, Ambassador Zamir Akram, former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, stressed that in the contemporary geopolitical scenario, Pakistan's options are constrained, making balanced relations between the US and China unfeasible due to a lack of strategic convergence with the US. He pointed out that the Indo-US alliance has strengthened Pakistan's strategic

partnership with China, leading to the latter's unmatched support in political, defence, economic, and technological spheres, notably through CPEC, worth \$24 billion since 2013. He advised that China's status as Pakistan's strategic partner, largest trading partner, and the major source of FDI demand a pragmatic and coordinated approach for sustained common development and security.

In the discussion afterwards, the participants including members of diplomatic community, scholars and academia shared insights into the need for geopolitical and geoeconomic innovation to deal

with challenges of the 21st century, the dialectics of domestic national management and foreign policy management, the emergence of powers of different magnitudes in the evolving international system, etc.

Earlier in his opening remarks, DG NIPS Dr Khan noted the climacteric changes taking place in the contemporary international system, like the great-power competition between the United States and China, the rise of new major powers, the increasing vulnerability of the world to conflict and various kinds of disruptions, and the emergence of new transnational integration and multilateralism mechanism like BRICS.

AlHuda CIBE: Mission to Strengthen Islamic Banking and Finance in West Africa

Francophone markets dominated with Muslim Population have huge potential for Islamic Finance Industry Development; Muhammad Zubair

DUBAI: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) top management visited the heart of Francophone markets Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mauritania and Guinea. The key objective of the visit was to analyze, evaluate and understand about financial markets, adoptability and scope for Islamic Finance Industry. West Africa based on 16 Nations, among 5 are English speaking Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana where AlHuda CIBE has in-depth foot prints, rest 11 Nations are French Speaking, overall, approximately 55% population is Muslim. In financial sector, Islamic finance industry is early stage of penetration, where big players are sitting as back benchers yet, but at the same time governments are play-

ing significant role through issuance of Islamic Bonds (Sukuk) for mega projects to deploy cash flow from public.

The interest from government and big francophone institutions like Coris Bank, Burkina Faso, Afriland First Bank, Cameroon, Bank for Commerce and Industry (BCI), Mauritania offering Islamic finance products through window operations regionally, Bank Islamic Senegal, Bank Islamic Guinea, Bank Islamic Niger, and Bank Islamic Mauritania are full-fledged Islamic Banks. There are some Takaful (Islamic Insurance) players as well through window operations like Leadway and Saar Assurance etc. Other than francophone, English speaking countries like Nigeria and

Gambia are good with Islamic Banking, Takaful and Microfinance through window and full institutional practices.

During mission to West Africa, Mr. Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer AlHuda CIBE meet with high level officials in Ivory Coast from Banking, Insurance, Microfinance and Fintech, also with Multilateral organizations associated organs. In Senegal he met with Islamic Banking, Capital and Money Market experts. He also met with Waqaf Authority, Takaful operators and microfinance sector. In Mauritania he met with top management of Central Bank, banking, microfinance, and capital market-oriented professionals. In Guinea, he met with Central Bank, banking

and Microfinance officials. After having an in-detail interaction with Islamic Finance experts and the players who want to enter in this particular business area, he said that francophone Africa has huge potential and a strong regulatory support from regulators like BCEAO and individual central banks. As an expert with global experience, he observed and highlighted the gap areas and approach to overcome the gaps.

As per our global presence and networking activities, he shared his intentions for two major activities to be organized by AlHuda CIBE significantly for francophone markets to play our role for bridging the gap in market. AlHuda CIBE will host an international conference in the heart of French speaking coun-



tries Dakar, Senegal in October 2024 the purpose is to create a platform for international partnerships, awareness and way forward for adoption of Islamic Finance through leadership. He also said that AlHuda CIBE will organize study and exposure visit programs for French players to any of the developed market where Islamic Finance Industry is very well established.

During the Year it was our first

Mission to West Africa where we went to Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea and Ivory Coast, in second phase we will be going to Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali in the month of August. In his concluding remarks he said, "Our mission to West Africa highlights AlHuda CIBE commitment to fostering the growth of Islamic banking and finance across the continent. The region holds immense potential, and

our engagements with key stakeholders have been incredibly productive. We are excited about the future of Islamic finance in West Africa and look forward to expanding our efforts to include other countries in the next phase of our mission. This initiative is not just about financial growth but also about promoting economic justice and financial inclusion through Islamic finance principles."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 80,566.20 | 80,212.79 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 80,737.70 | 80,192.31 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 8,592,844,037 | +353.41 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.44% | 8 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 8,193.49 | -10.44 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.13% | 8 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 39,344.79 | -31.08 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.079% | 8 Jul, 4:13 pm GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 40,780.70 | -131.67 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.32% | 8 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 | 203.25 | 205.25 |
| China Yuan | 38.3 | 38.7 |
| Danish Krone | 40.08 | 40.48 |
| Euro | 294.45 | 297.75 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.60 | 35.95 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.33 | 3.43 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.9 | 1.98 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 907.65 | 916.65 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 58.89 | 59.69 |
| New Zealand \$ | 169.24 | 171.24 |
| Norwegians Krone | 26.04 | 26.34 |
| Omani Riyal | 722.87 | 730.89 |
| Qatari Riyal | 76.34 | 77.04 |
| Saudi Riyal | 73.50 | 74.30 |
| Singapore Dollar | 202.15 | 204.15 |
| Swedish Korona | 26.4 | 26.7 |
| Swiss Franc | 309.11 | 311.61 |
| Thai Bhat | 7.57 | 7.72 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 75.15 | 75.95 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 350.25 | 353.25 |
| US Dollar | 279.9 | 280.65 |

Chief Collector to resolve genuine issues & expedite digitalization: Acting President FPCCI

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised that Chief Collector of Customs Appraisal (South), Mr. Mohsin Rafiq, has agreed with principled stand of FPCCI to improve ease of doing business benchmarks vis-à-vis customs during clearance at customs appraisal. The only way forward to cut human interaction is to expedite digitalization of the custom appraisal system on a priority, he added.

Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP FPCCI, stressed that the correct, fair and timely imposition of GST and income tax is very critical for the business, industry and trade community – as it directly affects the production and industrial processes for availability and cost of raw materials.

Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, highlighted that business community can provide thousands of real-time and realistic prices to the customs without charging a penny; therefore, customs appraisal should take them onboard.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, pointed out that updated rules of section 203 pertaining to wharfage or storage fee have not yet been drafted; causing tremendous financial losses to the importers in case of any discrepancy or delays.

Mr. Khurram Ijaz, FPCCI President's advisor on FBR affairs, demanded that, clearing agents work in tandem with the customs, their licenses should not be suspended on petty issues and should be given due diligence before any such action.

Mr. Mohsin Rafiq, Chief Collector of Customs Appraisal (South), pledged that grievances of business community and clearing agents are being given the due weightage; and, to improve efficiency and facilitation at customs appraisal, he is focusing on putting a world-class MIS and resolve the issue of HR shortage.

Increase revenue, zero tolerance on corruption: Abdul Aleem Khan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan has directed that the National Highway Authority should be made a profitable and resource increasing organization for which the Government's resources should not be taken as "Mun-o Salwa" and ensure to be self sufficient in future. Moreover, NHA should bring change in its reputation and become a good name for the nation and the country by working with self-reliance, hard work and honesty. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan further said that his first priority in the department is to ensure the construction of a safe and qualitative Motorway from Sukkur to Karachi, followed by the completion of highways from Karachi to Quetta and from Manshara to Babusar Top, as soon as possible. He said that from the commercial point of view, the main target of all our highways and road network should be the countries of Central Asia which will be more beneficial for the country and the nation.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan while presiding over a high-level meeting held at the head Quarters of the National Highway Authority said that he is offering new tasks and departmental plan of action under



which Government funds will not be wasted in any way and there will be zero tolerance on corruption through which maximum benefit could be attained from minimum expenditure. Federal Minister further said that NHA is not behind in capabilities and with a little effort this organization can get contracts for foreign projects in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and in other countries. Abdul Aleem Khan

directed that for the new and ongoing projects of NHA there must be third party evaluation from multinational companies. He said that the National Highway Authority has to avoid the old working system and come forward to compete with the private sector.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan made a detailed review of the progress of National Highway Authority including Gwadar on various

projects in Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Khuzdar to Kuchlak, Sarab to Kalat, Kalat to Mastung, Mastung to Quetta and Quetta to Kuchlak roads. In the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan was informed about the progress on construction of new toll plazas, inter-provincial roads and ongoing projects of NHA and necessary decisions were taken, as well.

Appreciation

KARACHI: Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat awarded to Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Executive Director of Mehran Commercial Enterprises, for his contributions to bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan. In the past, MCE signed a Technical Agreement with a renowned Indonesian auto parts manufacturer to enhance technology and skills development within the MCE team.



Photo: Spokesman

Digitization only option for recording economic activity: Mian Zahid Hussain

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that people are finding it harder and harder to live with this budget.

He said every necessity of life has become very expensive and out of most people's reach.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that while non-filers and tax defaulters find novel ways to avoid taxes, existing taxpayers will be forced to bear the burden of the government's new tax measures to boost collection.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said the volume of the current budget is 18500 billion rupees. Despite the taxes of 12900 billion rupees, an increase of 40%, it has a deficit of 8500 billion rupees.

He said the government must borrow



5700 billion rupees to bridge the gap. The current budget has set aside ten thousand billion rupees for debt servicing. In contrast, next year, 11 thousand billion rupees will be required.

Taxes must be increased by another five thousand billion rupees but the budget deficit will remain the same.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has claimed to work on

pension reforms and the imposition of tax on traders. Still, this work will continue until the next budget, while efforts will be made to save costs by closing some departments.

He noted that if all the economic activities were digitized, the term non-filer would be automatically abolished, the tax base would be widened, and the government would get the tax comfortably.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the measures proposed in the budget, the traders will not come into the tax net at any cost. Still, they will be attracted to the cash economy.

He said that public anxiety is growing in masses and businesses. Still, the government is not ready to follow the suggestions of FPCCI, the largest organization in the business community, which is a mistake.

FPCCI is still prepared to support the government in bringing the country out of economic recession, increasing exports, broadening the tax net, and providing convenience to the people, he said.

Govt, academia, industry troika imperative to gain economic sustainability, development

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The country's growing economic crisis and plummeting industrial development demands the government to come up with a cogent National Industry Policy with embedded effective implementation frameworks that promote realistic regulation and government-academia-industry collaborations to achieve sustainable growth.

This was the crux of a consultative session held by Revenue Mobilisation Investment and Trade (ReMIT)

project and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) with the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to garner key recommendations and expert suggestions for the policy draft to be prepared for National Industry Policy.

Chairman, Executive Committee, and President RCCI, Saqib Rafique said there were alternatives to growing imports of a country to manage its import which was absent in the country and demanded the policy makers to shift its focus on developing indigenous solutions



to it instead of squeezing the already burdened sectors to manage its revenue demands.

He urged that the Industry demanded consistency of

policy to achieve optimum results as there is no effective implementation of already existing policy frameworks.

Senior Vice President,

PSX exercises effective high security measures amidst fire

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) compound was affected by a fire today at a broker's office that caused limited damage to the building housing the brokerage-firms. However, there was no risk or damage to the PSX office building, trading systems, servers and connectivity at the Exchange. Amidst the fire threat, PSX exercised high security alert and caution whereby no one was allowed to enter the main compound of the building except essential personnel, firefighters and fire-fighting crew.

Given the high security measures taken by PSX whereby in the past PSX had faced terrorism threats as well, non-essential persons were not allowed inside the main compound as this may have caused distraction in the firefighting process. PSX duly apologises for this restriction. However, given the sensitivity of the situation, these restrictions were enforced to avoid occurrence of any untoward incident.

PSX requests cooperation from all persons concerned at this sensitive juncture until normalcy is fully restored and routine operations at the Exchange are resumed.

RCCI, Hamza Sarosh said the purpose of the consultative meeting was to provide policy recommendations to ReMIT and SDPI who were preparing a policy draft for industry policy.

Umar Bhatti, Industrial Policy Consultant, SDPI presented a detailed presentation on discussion on national industrial policy.

Bhatti underscored that the country's export sector needs to embrace export diversification, product value addition, modern technology, highly skilled labor on cutting tech-based machines and

targeted policies keeping in view growing regional and international trade rivalries that provide ample space for Pakistan to step in and exploit those economic opportunities.

Senator Mian Ateeq Shaikh said the national policy making process is a sacred duty and stakeholders shared a great responsibility in that regard. He said Pakistan must gain the trust of foreign investors and economic enterprises that are showing reluctance to invest in the country due to the latter's violation of agreements and misuse of treaties done in the realm of industry.

PCB starts fitness tests of cricketers in 104 districts

Sports Desk

LAHORE: In a first, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has started fitness tests of the cricketers in 104 districts across the 16 regions in the country to ensure fitness regime at the grass-roots level.

Over 2,300 players are appearing in the ongoing countrywide fitness tests. These tests are being conducted as per the Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi's vision to ensure a culture of fitness at the grassroots level.

In order to assemble the squads for the Regional Inter District Senior Tournament 2024-25, 23 players in each district have been shortlisted after the Challenge Cup that took place in April



and May 2024. These 23 players in each district are undergoing strenuous fitness and strength testing under the watchful eye of the respective district

and regional coaches and trainers.

The players who qualify the fitness test will be summoned for a 45-day camp in their respective districts leading to the Inter District Senior Tournament in September.

PCB's Director Domestic Cricket Operations Abdullah Khurram Niazi has said the PCB has decided to conduct fitness tests at the district level instead of the regional level starting from this domestic season.

"This initiative will surely push the players to prioritise their fitness right from the start and the culture will then expand to other domestic competitions. With more fitter players participating in the tournaments the quality of cricket will also increase," he added.

25th Men's National Baseball Championship: Army takes the field by Storm defeated Pakistan Wapda by 3 runs

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Army won the 25th Men's National Baseball Championship organized by the Pakistan Federation Baseball. In the final match, Army faced WAPDA in a thrilling contest. Army scored 3 runs while WAPDA could not score any. Faqir Hussain, Wasim Akram and Mohammad Younis scored 1 run. Brigadier Umar (MT) attended the function held at GHQ Rawalpindi Baseball Ground as Chief Guest. Pakistan Federation Baseball General Secretary Syed Fakhar Ali Shah gave him a warm welcome. Dr. Hamood Lakhvi and Moazzam Khan Klair were also present with him. All the players welcomed him with enthusiastic applause.

The day started with a match played between the Higher



Education Commission (HEC) and Islamabad for the third position. HEC scored 5 runs while Islamabad managed to score 3

runs. Rais Bashir, Saeed Akhtar, Ikrumullah, Irfanullah and

Junaid scored 1 runs from the Higher Education Commission. Tariq scored 2 runs and Malik scored 1 from Islamabad.

In the second match, the Pakistan Army team showed their skills and defeated Pakistan Wapda by 3 runs and declared champions. Faqir Hussain, Wasim Akram and Mohammad Younis scored 1 runs from the Pakistan Army.

During the ceremony, General Secretary Syed Fakhar Ali Shah presented a bouquet and honorary shield to the Chief Guest, Brigadier Umar (MT). Colonel Nabil was also present on this occasion. Moazzam Khan Klair thanked the chief guest and congratulated the winning team while encouraging the players. Nasir Abbas Nol, Shahzada Butt, Amjad Nawaz Khan and Hamza Ashraf were also present on the occasion.

Younis Khan reveals must-have trait for a captain

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Younis Khan has discussed the crucial role and necessary traits for a successful captain after Pakistan Champions' victory over India Champions in the World Championship of Legends.

While addressing the media after the match, Younis Khan dedicated the victory to Pakistan fans, who were left heartbroken after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 debacle.

He advised the fans to remain patient and back the team in crucial times.

"The advice to the fans is to stay patient as change cannot happen overnight. We cannot just remove the current players and bring players from outside, this cannot work," said Younis Khan.

Babar Azam-led Pakistan team is facing massive criticism from fans and former players alike over their disastrous performance in the T20 World Cup, with many



calling for a change in leadership.

Talking about the captaincy, the former captain shed light on the qualities of a good captain.

"A captain should be someone who is capable of leading the side, who can handle the pressure. It's not just about batting or bowling, a captain should think of every player, even if the player is on the bench," Khan stated.

"You should know the

player's technique, his energy and skills. Only then, you can get the best out of them," he added.

Moreover, he cited the examples of former Pakistan captains Imran Khan, Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram, who took the best of their players and built a team that served the nation for years.

"We talk about the great Imran Khan, Javed bhai (Javed Miandad), or Wasim Akram. Why were

they good coaches [or captains]? Because they gave us players like Saqlain Mushtaq, Abdul Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, and Shahid Afridi. According to me, a leader should be a good motivator alongside being a good batter or bowler," Khan concluded.

Younis Khan-led Pakistan Champions are currently sitting at the top of the World Championship of Legends standings with eight points from four games.

Djokovic destroys Rune to reach Wimbledon quarter-final



LONDON: Novak Djokovic produced his best display so far at this year's Wimbledon to dispatch Denmark's Holger Rune 6-3 6-4 6-2 and reach the quarter-finals for the 15th time on Monday. The 37-year-old Serb won the opening 12 points of Centre Court clash against the 15th seed and apart from a minor blip at the end of the second set was clinical throughout.

Djokovic squandered six set points as Rune briefly threatened to make a match of it at the end of the second set but the outcome never really looked in doubt.

The 21-year-old Rune showed flashes of brilliance which provoked chants of "Ruunee" from the evening crowd under the roof on yet another rainy day in south-west London. But there were too many errors as his he lost a 10th successive Tour-level match against a top-five opponent. Djokovic, bidding to match Roger Federer's eight Wimbledon titles, will contest his record-extending 60th Grand Slam quarter-final against Australia's Alex De Minaur on Wednesday.

Parents express gratitude on holding summer camp

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab's expert coaches continued to impart training to young camp probables in SBP's Summer Sports Camps at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) here on Monday.

Expressing their gratitude to Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar and DG Sports Punjab Pervaiz Iqbal, the parents of the children said that organising the 40-day Summer Sports Camp in summer vacations is definitely a highly appreciable activity for involving young school going boys and girls in healthy sports activity. "This training camp will also prove to be very important in finding young talented male and female athletes of different games besides playing a key role in polishing the game skills of the school going boys and girls".

More than 40 children of 5 to 16 years age are attending archery camp at SBP Archery Center under the supervision of qualified coaches Shafiqat Niazi and M Taimoor. The coaches taught the young camp probables about the basic techniques of archery including how to use archery game equipment and how to take an aim.

Zone-VI Become Champion of PCB Regional Inter District U-19 (Karachi Region)

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Zone-VI become Champion of PCB Regional Inter District Under-19 (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament after beating Zone-V by 9 wickets in their last group match at KCCA Stadium and Last year Champion Zone-VII secured runner up after winning four Matches out of five.

The highlights of the days play Brilliant Unbeaten Centuries by Umar Farooq 135 and Zain Jafri 123.

Scores in Brief:

Unbeaten Zone-VI beat Zone-V by 9 wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-V 49 all out in 23.5 overs. M. Hassan 17. Abdul Moiz (rlb) 4/5, Abdullah Hanan (rob) 4/17.

Zone-VI 50/1 in 7.1overs. Haroon Arshad 39 8x4 not out.

In the 2nd Match at Landhi Gymkhana Zone-II beat Zone-I by 113 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Zone-II 311/2 in 50 overs. Umar Farooq 135 17x4 2x6, Zain Jaffer 123 14x4 both not out, Muhammad Shahryar 31.

Zone-I 198 all out in 42.5 overs. Umar Usman 56 6x4, Faiq Hussain 48, Mathew Rizwan 34. M. Ahmed Azeem (sla) 4/39, Abdullah Waheed 2/31, Abdul Rauf 2/53.

In the 3rd Match at UBL Sports Complex Zone-III beat Zone-IV by 3 wickets. Zone-IV 139 all out in 32.2 overs. M. Musa Azad 44 10x4, 23, M. Owais 17. M. Soban Sadiq (ob) 4/17. M. Salman (rlb) 3/16, Abdul Hadi 2/32.

Zone-III 140/7 in 40.1 overs. M. Salman 68 8x4 1x6 notout. Daniyal Niazi (ob) 3/24, M. Sarwar (mf) 3/32.

Mushtaq Ahmed joins England U19 coaching panel



A Sports

LAHORE: Former Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed has signed a contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to join their under-19 cricket team on Monday.

The 1992 World Cup winner will join the England U19 team for a short stint, bringing his extensive experience as a player and coach to the young spin bowlers.

The England U19 team is currently playing the first of a two-match home Test series against Sri Lanka.

Prior to signing with England, Ahmed served as the spin bowling coach of the Bangladesh men's cricket team during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

It's worth noting that Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the CEO of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), expressed his willingness to extend Mushtaq Ahmed's contract.

"We wanted him for a certain number of days. Before we communicated with Mushtaq [regarding the appointment], he had prior engagements till December which included the England U19 job. So we said that we will have him till the [T20] World Cup and then we will sit and sort it out," Chowdhury said.

"That discussion [on renewal] is still ongoing with him. If he lets us know how many days he can be available for us till December in combination with his prior engagements, we will lock him down for those days. After December 2024, we will have a long-term agreement with Mushtaq," he added.

Ahmed has previously served as the spin bowling coach for England (2008-2014), West Indies (2018-19) and Pakistan (2020-22).

Women Talent Hunt under HRCP's Women Empowerment Program in Sept this year

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Talent Hunt under the banner of Women Empowerment Program of Human Rights Council of Pakistan (HRCP) will start in the first week of September where in players from across the province would participate in softball, baseball, cricket and football competitions.

The decision in this connection was taken in a meeting of the Women Working Group (WWG) chaired by Shahid Khan Shinwari here Monday. Senior Vice Chairman HRCP with Miss Najma Qazi, Assistant Operations Manager Pakistan Cricket Board Haseena Khushboo,

Director Sports Sadia Khan, former national athlete Shazia Ayub, Aziza Ehsan and Miss Sumayah Ahmed (Swat) participated in the meeting.

The Women Working Group (WWG), working under the umbrella of Women Empowerment is aimed at bringing the neglected female athletes to the fore in various sports activities.

It was said in the meeting that in various games, teams are formed only from Peshawar who participate in the games at different levels while players from other districts of the province are completely ignored. Shahid Khan Shinwari, who is also the President of FATA Olympic

Association, said that one of the reasons for the decline of sports in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is that the selection of teams has been limited to Peshawar district only.

No attention is being paid to the players of other districts or regions including Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Kohat, Swat, Mardan, Hazara and merged tribal areas.

He said that U23 Games have been organized recently, which is a welcome initiative, but it will not be possible to promote sports in the future, as the age of the player has passed by U23 and

work should be made at the grass-roots level in the age of U14, U16 and U19.

Shahid Khan said that the



will be selected for these games by holding open trials in each region and the deprivation of talented players will be removed.

one team will participate from all seven regions and a team from merged tribal areas.

He said out of that Talent Hunt through competitions, one team would be short-listed to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in various level competitions at National Junior and National Senior levels. He said that six teams will participate in cricket while eight teams each will participate in football and baseball. Players will be selected for these games by holding open trials in each region and the deprivation of talented players will be removed.

Najma Qazi said that the softball event will be played at Board Ground or Hayatabad Sports Complex. All the players will be provided daily allowance and traveling allowance as well as kits, Najma Qazi said. Each team will consist of 12 players and one official, Director WWG Najma Qazi said.

Director players Sadia Khan will look after all the players during the talent hunt while, former national athlete and baseball gold medalist Shazia Ayub and Hasina Khushboo will perform duties of player data record and ensuring facilities including kits and camp training. Najma Qazi said that a total of 72 players will participate in the softball games and the competition

will continue for five days.

Shahid Khan said a coaching and refresher course with the support of Pakistan Softball Federation will be organized to update all KP officials with much needed rules and regulations. He said that he would also meet Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, Education Minister Meena Khan Afridi, Sports Adviser Syed Fakhar Jahan, Secretary Sports and Director General Sports so that this talent hunt can be expanded to other games and the players can be trained for different games under women coaches. He said women athletes of KP could be ensured their rightful place under the banner of Women Empowerment Pakistan.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the CEO of K-Electric Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi and other executives on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM congratulates President-elect of Iran on telephone

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held a telephone conversation with Dr. Massoud Pezeshkian, President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to extend his heartiest felicitations to him on his victory in the recently held Presidential elections.

The prime minister conveyed his good wishes for Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei and congratulated him as well as the brotherly people of Iran on



the successful political transition through the democratic process, a PM Office press release said.

He said that as brotherly

neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran were bound together by shared history, faith, culture and traditions.

Wishing the Iranian Presi-

dent-elect a successful tenure in office, the prime minister said he looked forward to working closely with him to further strengthen Pakistan-Iran relations and enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields, including trade, energy, and regional security.

In this regard, the prime minister added that decisions taken jointly by both countries during the historic visit of the late President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi in April 2024, had laid an excellent foundation for mutually beneficial cooperative partnership

between the two countries.

President-elect Pezeshkian thanked the prime minister for his felicitations, while expressing his desire to further deepen the fraternal ties between the two brotherly nations. The two leaders also discussed regional issues and agreed to continue close coordination and consultation.

The telephone conversation reflected the strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Iran, and their shared commitment to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Military courts case: SC tells govt to ensure families meet relatives in custody

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court adjourned the hearing in a case filed against the trial of civilians in military courts on Monday. The case will now be heard on July 11.

A seven-member larger bench of the Supreme Court, led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, heard the petitions challenging the verdict that declared the trial of civilians in special courts as invalid. The bench includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Wahid, Justice Irfan Sadaq, and Justice Shahid Bilal.

The bench ordered the government to ensure that families are able to meet their relatives in military custody.

The bench also accepted a

request by the Lahore Bar Association to become a party in the case.

A five-member larger bench had earlier, on October 23, 2023, declared the trial of 102 civilians involved in the May 9 incidents in military courts as invalid.

The Supreme Court had ruled that all trials of the accused in the May 9 and 10 incidents should be held in the relevant criminal courts and that any trials of civilians in military courts would have no legal standing.

The decision was made by a 3-2 majority, with Justice Yahya Afridi dissenting from the majority opinion.

In response, 17 appeals were filed by the caretaker federal government, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Law, caretaker governments of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and



Balochistan.

On November 17, the caretaker federal government and the Ministry of Defense challenged the Supreme Court's decision to invalidate the trials of civilians in military courts.

The appeals argued that the decision to not hold trials of

and Official Secrets Act as void would cause irreparable damage to the country.

The governments of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had also challenged the decision to hold trials of civilians in military courts. The request argued that the decision to not try the accused of attacks on army installations in military courts should be declared unconstitutional.

Later on November 21, the caretaker government of Punjab also challenged the decision to hold trials in military courts, declaring it against the constitution.

On December 9, the hearing for the intra-court appeals against declaring the trials of civilians in military courts as unconstitutional was scheduled for December 13 in the Supreme Court.

ATC summons Shah Mehmood Qureshi for indictment in May-9 case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi and others for indictment in a case of torching Shadman Police Station during the May 9 violence.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad conducted the trial proceedings at Kot Lakhpat Jail, where PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi was produced after being brought from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. Several other accused, who were released on bail, also attended the hearing.

During the proceedings, the court distributed copies of the supplementary challan (charge-sheet) to Shah Mehmood Qureshi and the other accused, and observed that the indictment would take place on the next hearing date.

The court adjourned further proceedings until July 15 and summoned all the accused, including Shah Mehmood Qureshi, for indictment.

IHC issues notices to three journalists over campaign against Justice Jahangiri

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court adjourned contempt of court proceedings against those involved in a social media campaign targeting Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri.

The court took notice of the campaign and has formed a full court bench to hear the matter. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq presided over the bench, which will include all judges except Justice Jahangiri.

The court issued notices to PEMRA, PTA, FIA and three journalists Gharida Farooqi, Hassan Ayub Khan and Ammar Solangi.

During the hearing, Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb observed that it was an impression that the government was behind the campaign as neither the Attorney



General nor the law minister had said anything.

However, the chief justice remarked that any campaign against judges would not be tolerated.

The decision comes after the

Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) strongly condemned the social media campaign against Justice Jahangiri.

In an emergency meeting of the IHCBA's executive committee, a statement was issued expressing condemnation of the "malicious" social media campaign against Justice Jahangiri, who is described as a "competent and hardworking judge."

The IHCBA highlighted Justice Jahangiri's distinguished career as a lawyer and Deputy Attorney General, emphasizing its unwavering belief in the independence and autonomy of the judiciary.

The full court bench will convene shortly to hear the contempt of court case related to the social media campaign against Justice Jahangiri.

K-Electric asked to improve service delivery in Karachi

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: CEO K-Electric Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi accompanied by CFO KE Muhammad Aamir Ghaziani and Chief Regulatory Affairs Muhammad Imran Qureshi called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division today.

The representatives from K-Electric stated that the agreement signed between the government and KE earlier this year had addressed a number of issues and

KE was now vigorously working on implementing the new generation projects to improve its electricity mix. The delegation raised the issue of delayed payments of KE's consumer bills collected through the post office.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb assured the K-Electric delegation that the matter of delayed payments would be addressed. He asked the KE team to focus on improving service delivery in Karachi and to expedite its plan for adding cheaper generation capacity, so that the cost of electricity could be brought down.

CCP Green-lit Merger of SCL in JKSM

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of M/s. Shamim & Company (Pvt.) Ltd with M/s. JK Sugar Mills (Pvt.) Ltd.

JKSM is a private limited company with the business of production and sale of sugar or related products in Pakistan. JKSM primarily produces refined white sugar, along with three by-products namely, molasses, bagasse, and mud. SCL, since 1967 is into the business of manufacturing and distribution of PepsiCo products across Pakistan.

The Phase-I competition assessment by the CCP identified two relevant markets namely, 'Sugar and by-products' and 'Non-alcoholic beverages'. As per the Scheme of Arrangement, the

transaction involves merger of SCL with in JKSM. Moreover post-transaction, SCL would be dissolved and JKSM would be the surviving entity where the Board of Directors of JKSM will continue to serve as directors of the merged entity.

The assessment further confirmed that post-transaction, SCL's market shares in 'Non-alcoholic beverages' will remain unchanged posing no threat for creation of dominance by JKSM.

The proposed transaction would result in benefits in saving costs through streamlining procedures and reduction in overhead and working expenses. There will be an increase in efficiency after the unified control. Improvement in the operations shall ultimately benefit shareholders, employees, customers and others generally.

Child Protection Bureau being further improved for street children protection: Sarah Ahmad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Child Protection Bureau is being further improved for the protection of street children, said Chairperson of the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau, Member of the Provincial Assembly Sarah Ahmad.

Talking to APP here on Monday, she mentioned plans to interlink Tahaffuz centers and foster homes across districts in Punjab. Additionally, there will be enhanced cooperation between the police and child welfare agencies to rescue victims

of child abuse, forced labor, and violence.

Sarah Ahmad also highlighted the integration of a child protection and rescue monitoring system into the police's central dashboard, aimed at streamlining rescue efforts. However, she acknowledged the challenges faced by the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau due to limited resources.

She said that concerted efforts are underway to strengthen child protection measures in Punjab, despite the constraints faced by the bureau.

Representatives from Pakistan other countries attend Trans-Himalaya Forum in Xizang, China



Spokesman Report

BELJING: Representatives from over twenty countries and regions, including Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan, attended fourth China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation held in Linzhi in Southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region.

The theme of the forum held last week was "Harmonious Coexistence of Humans and Nature. The focus was on implementing the Nyingchi

Initiative, which was launched at the forum last year. Under the initiative, China proposed to work with countries around the Himalayas to improve environmental governance, and address ecological challenges.

Another point was to strengthen the protection of biodiversity, natural resources, and the overall environment of the region. The forum was inaugurated in 2018. The platform focuses on sustainable development, cultural exchange, and economic cooperation for countries in the mountainous region.

Kenyan court announces verdict in Arshad Sharif murder case

Continued from Page 1

Police, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, and the National Police Service Commission (the respondents) to provide her with copies of all documents, evidence, films, photographs, and video recordings in their possession related to Sharif's shooting.

"By shooting the deceased in the circumstances described in this case and which shooting has been

admitted save for allegation that it was mistaken identity, the respondents violated the rights of the deceased," the judge said in an order.

Earlier, Kenyan investigative journalist Brian Obuya raised concerns over the delay in the probe findings into the senior journalist Arshad Sharif murder case.

Brian Obuya had said that the investigators have spent a very long time completing the probe into the Arshad Sharif murder case.