



**President Tokayev unveils strategic vision for SCO members as Kazakhstan's Chairmanship concludes**

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev outlined critical strategic directions for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states during his address at the 24th summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State on July 4 in Astana. (Details on Page 5)



**Country losing market share at alarming pace: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari**

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the ICCI, has urged the government to devise a viable solution to boost industry and businesses by providing affordable electricity and imposing nominal taxes. In a statement issued on Monday, he highlighted that exorbitant taxes, high power costs, and a poor law and order situation severely impact the economy and could further accelerate unemployment. (Details on Page 3)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Funeral prayer**

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir carrying the coffin of captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed after funeral at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi. Captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed, resident of District Rawalpindi who embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in North Waziristan District.



Photo: ISPR

**PM, Army Chief, top brass attend funeral of martyred soldier in Rawalpindi**

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers of Captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed (age: 24 years, resident of District Rawalpindi) who embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in North Waziristan District, was offered at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defence Minister, Information Minister, COAS and a large number of serving and retired military officers, soldiers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.

At the occasion, the PM remarked that these sacrifices reaffirm our resolve to defeat terrorism in all its forms for a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. He said that the nation stands resolute against these foreign-abetted terrorists and their facilitators and these adversaries of Pakistan will be comprehensively defeated through a multi-domain strategy based on whole-of-the-system approach, InshAllah.

The Shaheed will be buried at his native home town where he will be laid to rest with full military honours.

**President expresses deep grief over Shahadat of Captain Osama Bin Arshad**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over Shahadat of Captain Osama Bin Arshad of Pakistan Army who laid down his life during an exchange of firing with terrorists in Waziristan. The president prayed for the departed soul and for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.



The president said that the nation would always remember Shaheed Captain Osama's sacrifice. He said they paid tribute to their Jawans who were ready to give sacrifices for the defence of the country, adding that terrorists would be dealt with iron hands.

**PM Shehbaz deeply grieved over martyrdom of Capt Osama in Waziristan**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his deep grief over the martyrdom of Captain Osama Bin Arshad of Pakistan Army in exchange of firing with terrorists in Waziristan.



The PM prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of martyred captain's status in paradise and granting strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss. "The war against terrorists will continue till the elimination of terrorism in toto. The whole nation salutes the soldiers staying strong to thwart the nefarious designs of terrorists," he remarked.

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**PM-Energy-Package**

**PM announces Rs 50b relief package to benefit 25 m domestic power consumers**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced Rs 50 billion package to provide a relief of up to seven rupees per unit to around 25 million domestic power consumers, falling in the protected category for three months till September. "Today, an amount of Rs 50 billion has been allocated to provide a relief of Rs 4-7 per unit as a concession to our protected category consumers using up to 200 units a month for three months period from July to September. This will benefit around 25 million domestic power consumers which constitute around 94% of the total consumer base," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony held to discuss the prevailing issues related to electricity bills and reforms in the power sector. He said that the federal government had scraped the said amount from its development budget to realise its commitment to public

relief, contrary to the hollow claims of the previous governments. He also assured the people of further relief as the government got a fiscal space consequent to its ongoing measures of taxing the elite class, expanding the tax net, closing the non-performing entities and plugging the holes, causing financial leakages. He told the gathering of federal ministers and senior government officers that during its previous 16-month stint, the coalition government saved the country from default by putting its politics at stake. Referring to the PTI-led government in the past, the prime minister recalled the tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300 billion from abroad. Instead, he said the sugar and wheat scams surfaced and the 190 million pounds coming from the UK through the NCA could not land in the national kitty as was supposed to be done. Similarly, the same government

announced a sudden decrease in oil prices causing loss to the national kitty, just for political gains, at a time when the prices were skyrocketing in the global market. The prime minister said that under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the incumbent government took responsibility for public service and would collectively face the challenges to put the country on track to progress. He said the government was going to sign a three-year programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and had also taken it on board about the relief announced for the domestic power consumers. He said on Monday, the federal and Balochistan provincial governments had reached an agreement to solarise around 28,000 tube-wells in the province to save annual Rs80-90 billion as the consumers were defaulting payment of power bills.

During the last decade, around Rs 500 billion went down the drain this way, therefore the government decided to disconnect their power connection and solarise all the said tube-wells costing Rs 55 billion to be borne by the federal and provincial governments with 70/30 proportion respectively. "The same model will be launched in other provinces as around a million tube-wells are being run on imported oil having a financial implication of \$3.5 billion on foreign exchange," he said and told the participants that a business model was being prepared in this regard. Prime Minister Shehbaz said in the annual budget, new taxes have been imposed on the real estate sector to generate around Rs100 billion and that the salaried class was justified to protest the tax burden. The time has come for the elite class to pay back to the country, he remarked. Mentioning the \$5 billion being

spent annually on freight of import and export, he said the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation was running a fleet of only 12 ships against an annual budget of Rs 5 billion, contrary to hundreds of ships in the fleet of other countries like Bangladesh. "In the future, there is only one way of getting relief—save billions and trillions going to corruption," he remarked. He also highlighted that taxes worth Rs1200 billion were being evaded on Karachi Port, in addition to another Rs2700 billion worth of tax claims pending with the courts. "These are the challenges and parasites which are eating up the country. If we have to make the country prosper, we will have to get rid of loans and begging. The only way is to make efforts and make the elite class pay back to the country," he added and also called for exploiting the immense potential in agriculture, information technology, mining and mineral sectors.

**Govt decides to call APC to discuss plan of operation for peace, prosperity of Pakistan: Asif**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said that government had decided to call all parties conference (APC), to discuss plan of operation "Azm-e-Istekham" to flush out terrorism and bring complete peace and prosperity for the people of Pakistan. Opposition parties should come forward for comprehensive talks with the government so that all important national issues like terrorism could be addressed in a proper manner, he said while talking to a private television channel. Comprehensive dialogue with Opposition is essential for achieving the progress,

he said. Intelligence based operations are already continuing in various parts and our armed forces "Jawans" sacrificing their lives for this country, he said. We have made tremendous success in fighting war on terror, he added. The entire nation and the political parties including Opposition will support the operation Azm-e-Istekham, being launched to eradicate menace of terrorism from this country, he said. Commenting on behavior of the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said, we had offered PTI to sit on the table for talks but the leaders of that party rejected the offer made by the government for resolving political issues.

**SC reserves verdict on SIC's plea for reserved seats**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved verdict on Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea, seeking reserved seats. A 13-member full court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, heard the plea. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, were also the part of the bench. Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) counsel Faisal Siddiqui on Tuesday submitted before the Supreme Court that he would prove that the Election Commission (ECP) has not fulfilled its responsibility.

He submitted that he would be brief and take 15 minutes to argue his point. Advocate Siddiqui stated that they [ECP] argued that the SIC did not participate in the elections, did not submit the list of candidates for reserved seats. He argued that the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) did not win any seats in 2018 but got three reserved seats. The ECP submitted a prejudiced response regarding the BAP election. The issue was raised before the ECP before moving the Supreme Court, he submitted and added that the ECP claim was contrary to its own documents. Isn't it distortion [of facts]? Justice Mandokhail asked the lawyer was the ECP decision in accordance with the Constitution? He replied that [in 2018] it was in accordance with the law. Justice Minallah inquired him

whether the ECP decision on the BAP reserved seats was challenged. Advocate Siddiqui said that the ECP would have admitted that there was a mistake. But it acted as if the decision regarding the BAP did not exist. The SC after hearing arguments from the respondents reserved its verdict. On May 6, Supreme Court suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Peshawar High Court (PHC) verdict on Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seats. The three-member bench headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah suspended the verdict pertaining to the allocation of reserved seats to other political parties. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that the case has been fixed for hearing and "we are suspending the ECP and PHC verdicts."

**Nothing new': Tarar confirms cabinet permitted ISI to track phone calls, messages**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar speaks on the floor of National Assembly on July 09, 2024. Photo via Facebook/National Assembly of Pakistan. Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar defended the federal cabinet's decision to grant call tracing powers to the country's premier spy agency, stating that the government has authorised the use of the tool for the purpose of counter-terrorism and national security. "This is nothing new. This is nothing unusual. It has been invoked for the last 28 years," he said on the floor of the National Assembly on Monday. The federal government has

given the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) the authority to intercept and trace phone calls and messages. The federal cabinet has approved a circular that allows a designated ISI officer of grade 18 or higher to carry out the tracing of calls under Section 54 of the Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996, media outlets including BBC Urdu reported on Tuesday. "The federal government in the interest of national security and in the apprehension of any offence is pleased to authorise the officers to be nominated from time to time by ISI to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any communication system," Ministry of Information issued a notification on Monday.



# PM AJK says resettlement of ex-migrants first priority

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that permanent settlement of post 1990 Kashmiri refugees was his government's first and foremost priority.

"The AJK government in collaboration with the federal government will use all resources for the resettlement of the Kashmiri refugees", the PM said this while speaking the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony regarding the construction of 750 houses for the post 90s refugees here today.

Reiterating his commitment of rehabilitating the Kashmiri refugees, the PM said the government would never leave in lurch the members of the migrant community who were forced to leave their homes and hearth by the Indian occupation forces.

"Refugees are our brothers. Providing all the basic facilities to them is our first priority", he said.

Addressing the ceremony, the PM Haq said, "We salute the people of Occupied Kashmir for their courage and resilience in the face of Indian oppression".

The PM said that the government and people of Azad Kashmir would continue to support their brethren till they achieve their cherished goal of



freedom.

"Kashmiri people have never accepted India's illegal occupation of their motherland by India nor will they ever bow down to India's oppression", he added.

The PM, on the occasion, also thanked the Government of Pakistan

and other donor organizations for their significant contribution in initiating the landmark project.

The function was also addressed by Minister for Rehabilitation Javed Iqbal Badhanvi and attended by other ministers including Waqar Ahmad

Noor, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Raja Muhammad Siddique Khan, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Malik Zafar Iqbal, Ms. Taqdees Gilani, Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich and others.

## Mujahid-e-Awwal is founder of Kashmir Azadi Movement SG Maherunisa

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**



MUZAFFARABAD: Secretary General of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Mrs. Maherunisa has said that Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was the famous founder of Kashmir Azadi Movement and the idea of annexation of Pakistan. In 1947, when two independent states were established in the subcontinent, the state of Jammu and Kashmir where Maharaja Hari Singh ruled, the people were given the right to decide their own future according to the formula of the partition of India. It was known that the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir would never be ready to join India and India also entered the state in the name of an alleged agreement with the Maharaja in view of the geographical importance of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, Mujahid-e-Awwal declared rebellion against the Maharaja and started a war of independence against the Dogra Indian forces. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan is recognized as the Mujahid-e-Awwal of the Azad Kashmir movement, as it is his position that Mujahid e Awwal started the war against the Maharaja's government by announcing Jihad at Nila Butt.

## Joint meeting of Divisional Peace Committee and Inter-Religious Harmony Committee held on Muharram



**Javed Shouket Vaince**

SAHIWAL: joint meeting of Divisional Peace Committee and Inter-Religious Harmony Committee was held at Sahiwal Commissioner's Office to maintain peace and order during Muharram. In which Molina Shafi Qasmi, Qari Basheer Ahmed, scholars of all schools of thought and other leaders including Bishop Abraham Daniel of the Christian community participated. The meeting was presided over by Commissioner Sahiwal Division Shoaib Iqbal Syed. RPO Mehboob Rasheed, Additional Commissioner Coordination Shafiq Ahmed Dogar, Deputy Commissioners Saima Ali and DPO Sahiwal Faisal Shahzad were also present in the meeting. In the joint declaration of the meeting, it was said that communal and inter-religious harmony and brotherhood is the most important need of the hour for which scholars of all schools of thought will continue to play their full role.

So that the conspiracies of anti-peace elements can be thwarted together. The scholars appreciated the measures taken across the division to protect the Majlis and Zul-Jinnah processions during Muharram. Expressed concern over the incidents of abuse and appealed to set up a foolproof system to prevent such incidents so that no victim is abused and the atmosphere of fear among the minorities ends. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Shoaib Iqbal Syed said that without peace, no society or country can develop, so it is important that every individual should continue to make efforts to establish peace and eliminate hatred to give a better Pakistan to the next generation.

RPO Mehboob Rasheed said that foolproof arrangements have been made for the security of all the Majlis and Zul-Jinnah processions held throughout the division during Muharram. I have taken 3 levels of special security measures for Category A gatherings and processions.

## Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference says it has been fortunate to benefit from Mujahid e Awwal's leadership

**Bureau Report**



MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan has said that Mujahid e Awwal has been started the Kashmir Azadi movement idea of an annexation to Pakistan, stability of Pakistan, state identity, establishment of Islamic and democratic welfare society and construction in across the state. The great struggle of development which was started will be continued. That historical, versatile and far-sighted figures like Mujahid e Awwal are not only born in centuries, but the effects of their teachings, thoughts and ideas span centuries. The existence of these great personalities is a symbol of the dignity and happiness of any nation. These figures are not only limited to a particular region, nation or country but are a source of pride for human communities. All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference is fortunate in that it had the opportunity to benefit from the wise, faithful and unparalleled leadership of Mujahid e Awwal continuously for almost sixty years. From the beginning of Jihad Azadi Kashmir on August 23, 1947 from Nila Butt and from this leadership phase to the President of the Muslim Conference, the Supreme Head and the President and Prime Minister of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Mujahid e Awwal wonderful and historic performance. The residents are a beacon of light for the state of Jammu and Kashmir and a pillar of the region's history.

## Majlis

KARACHI: Famous Pakistani Shia Scholar Allama Shahenshah Naqvi addressing during Majlis at Nishtar Park in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Fakhar Imam: There is dire need for foreign investment to pave way for stability

**Khalid Chaudhry**

MULTAN: Former Speaker National Assembly, Senior Politician Syed Fakhr Imam Shah has said that there is a dire need for foreign investment for economic development and stability in Pakistan and to improve the law and order situation in Pakistan to pave the way for foreign investment. It is necessary that due to inflation, the people are facing difficulties and their daily life needs are



not being met. It is the duty

of the government to give relief to the people due to inflation. Today, every Pakistani is worried about the increasing prices of electricity, gas and petrol. The government should give relief to the people immediately. During meetings and meetings with personalities at places. Syed Fakhr Imam Shah expressed his condolences to the families of those who died in the Kabirwala bus accident and besides praying for the forgiveness of the deceased, Syed

Fakhar Imam also expressed his regret to Rana Khalil for the killing of his grandson in Sarai Sidhu. I apologize. Mian Nazim Sargana's wife's condolence in Barj Sargana, Fatiha reading from Master Mumtaz Murali in Pipal Murali on the death of his brother. On the death of Bashir Hussain Mughal's son-in-law and his brother and grandson of Amin Khan Baloch in the bus accident. Tariq Al-Madinah of Fatiha Khawani expressed his condolences on the death of

the father of the mobile shop owner, while meeting with Rav Tasadeq Thakur and Rav Imran Mani. At Khokhranwali, the Fatiha was recited on the death of Chaudhry Javed Sahoo's mother.

Multan: Former Speaker of the National Assembly and senior politician Syed Fakhr Imam Shah is expressing his condolences to the families of those who died in the bus accident in his constituency Kabirwala and praying for the forgiveness of the deceased.

# Privileged class use free electricity and common man pay heavy electricity and sui gas bills: Hafiz Naeemur Rehman

**Asim Tanveer**

LAYYAH: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naeemur Rahman while addressing the inaugural meeting of Al-Khidmat Hospital Layyah said that what kind of justice is it in which the privileged class politicians, judges, generals, top bureaucracy use electricity for free and the poor, middle class, oppressed and forced classes pay heavy Electricity and Sui Gas bills. does not believe in this system, against which Jamaat-e-Islami will gather oppressed people from all over the country and hold a dharna in Islamabad from July 12 and will continue protesting until the demands are accepted. Can't leave it to Karma, will give IT education to 10 lakh youth in two years so that the youth can be able to earn jobs

and exchange money in the country, he said, is performing, the size of which is not less than anyone, but the unfortunate thing is that the elite of the country has made education available for sale, which the state cannot provide the basic needs of the nation, such as education, health and employment, and now electricity, which it is difficult to live without the heavy bill-slab system so-and-so system has forced the nation to commit suicide. Do the rulers want people to jump into the fire, set themselves on fire and commit suicide? It shows that no one should commit suicide and come to the field for their problems. He said that 2 crore 62 lakh children are currently in school but they are not going to school every year despite reaching the age of 15. 4 million children are fueling the furnace of

unemployment, who are turning to crime and mafia because of lack of employment. But the governments do not have any sense about this great national loss that the youth do drugs, steal, commit robberies, and the rulers are stealing the pleasures of power. They were already doing enmity with education and they have failed to provide basic facilities like employment and health to the nation despite the heavy taxes. What is it? He said that Jamaat-e-Islami has proved that it has a talented team which is serving the country and the nation selflessly as sincere workers, so the country's police station, country's health system, education, employment are under control. It should be handed over to Jamaat-e-Islami so that the nation can have a chance to live a dignified life.



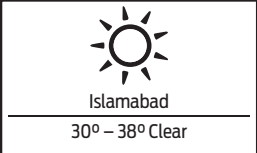
He said that for 77 years the system of the country was not in the hands of the ignorant. But the levy tax of 70 rupees is actually a thug tax of the rulers, now the nation can no longer be a slave to the rulers. We will have to stand together, he

added that Jamaat-e-Islami's Banu Qal program, after raising the flags of success in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, is now entering southern Punjab through Peshawar. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that due to the current oppressive system,

the poor and the oppressed cannot get their rights.

Therefore, we have to move forward to change the system. The performance of 55 hospitals of Al-Khidmat is in front of the whole of Pakistan. Machines are working in a center in Karachi worth Rs. On his way, he strongly condemned the Israeli occupation in Gaza and said that Israel is attacking camps, hospitals, and houses, but despite these attacks, Rafia's zeal could not defeat them despite the sacrifices of Muslims Al-Khidmat Foundation 10. At a cost of more than a billion rupees, it is helping the injured in Rafah and Dr. Hafeezur Rahman was with the Palestinian children of Ghaza along with the adults on Eid al-Adha. We will do it. We cannot leave the oppressed alone. The whole ummah is one body.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:23 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  
DHO ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886

# Country losing market share at alarming pace: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has urged the government to devise a viable solution to boost industry and businesses by providing affordable electricity and imposing nominal taxes.

In a statement issued on Monday, he highlighted that exorbitant taxes, high power costs, and a poor law and order situation severely impact the economy and could further accelerate unemployment. Bakhtawari pointed out that there is no justification for maintaining exorbitant interest rates at 20.5% when inflation has already dropped to 12%.

He stated that providing electricity to the industry at a rate of 9 cents/kWh would increase exports by \$6 billion, add over 300 megawatts to the grid, generate Rs. 500 billion in revenue, and reduce debt servicing by Rs. 240 billion.

Bakhtawari emphasized that the business community cannot secure international orders when the government



imposes high charges under cross-subsidies. He questioned why international buyers prefer Pakistan over countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh, which offer cheaper energy rates. He warned that the export industry is declining, and Pakistan is losing market share rapidly because electricity is more than twice as expensive as in competing countries.

Bakhtawari criticized the Rs2 trillion in pending capacity payments to

Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which he said have paralyzed the country's economic activities. He described the capacity charges of IPPs as unfair, noting that they are paid even when no electricity is generated. These charges make up two-thirds of the total cost, with fuel costs comprising the remaining one-third. Investigations revealed that IPPs have been enjoying a return on investment exceeding 73% in dollar terms, an unusually high rate compared to international standards. Originally intended to alleviate the energy crisis by attracting private investment, these contracts have instead led to an escalating circular debt, reaching Rs2.64 trillion in February 2024.

He expressed confidence that the country has the capability to overcome these challenges, provided there is adherence to comprehensive, long-term, and well-tailored economic policies. He demanded that the government immediately start consultations with business leaders to devise a workable economic policy.

## RPO, DPO address Imambargah of Attock after crime meeting



**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Regional Police Officer Rawalpindi, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, visited District Attock. At the DPO Office Attock, he, along with District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan, and SP Investigation Attock, Javeria Jamil, conducted a crime meeting. The meeting was attended by SDPOs, SHOs, and branch in-charges from across the district. RPO Rawalpindi reviewed the performance of Attock Police in detail. He issued directives to resolve serious cases, particularly those involving murder, robbery, and dacoity, as soon as possible on merit and emphasized the arrest of proclaimed offenders. On this occasion, RPO Rawalpindi Babar Sarfraz Alpa stated that ensuring the provision of immediate justice to citizens, upholding merit and the rule of law, and delivering the best service delivery must be ensured at all costs. Meanwhile Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi Range Babar Sarfraz, along with District Police Officer Dr. Sardar Ghias Gul Khan, ASP Farasat, and other staff, visited Imambargah Panjtani. The RPO met with the President of the Imambargah, Raza Naqvi. On this occasion, former Chairman of Attock Press Club and President of Central Traders Association Attock, Sheikh Javed Iqbal, Syed Akbar Kazmi, Syed Mustafa Hussain, Syed Ali Raza Rizvi, Qamar Jafri, Rashid Awais, Rais Baloch, Muhammad Tufail Muhammad Rizwan, and others were also present. RPO Babar Sarfraz discussed security arrangements and other matters with the President of the Imambargah. He stated that it is their primary responsibility to provide security to the public during the days of Muharram and to ensure strict security measures. He urged the President of the Imambargah to keep them informed of any suggestions or difficulties regarding processions and gatherings so that no complaints arise. He emphasized that working together is essential to counter social evils. The RPO also visited the interior of the Imambargah Panjtani. #

## Drinking water situation in capital

ISLAMABAD: People busy in filling their water cans with clean drinking water from filtration plant at sector G-11 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Keys handing over ceremony held at PHA Foundation's I-16/3 housing project site

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Keys handing over ceremony held on Thursday at PHA Foundation's Housing Project site I-16/3, ISLAMABAD. A keys handing over ceremony was held at project site of I-16/3 Islamabad on Thursday 11th July 2024. Honorable Federal Minister for Housing & Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada handed over the keys to the allottees of I-16/3 projects. Federal Minister visited the apartment and appreciated the efforts of PHA Foundation's for successful completion of the projects. He further expressed his concern over the shortage of housing in the country and advised PHA F's management to work on launching more housing projects in order to provide shelter to the lower income groups. Mr. Shahid Hussain CEO PHA Foundation briefed Honorable Federal Minister that PHA Foundation formally launched a Multi-storey Housing project on 17 acres land provided by CDA in I-16/3 on 2015. The project consists of 672 B Type and 912 E type apartments for General Public and Federal Government Employees. The project also includes commercial block which has 51 shops. The Residential apartments have been completed and possession was offered in February, 2023. The possession of 615 apartments has been handed over to the allottees. Moreover 55 families have been shifted. It is also pertinent to mention here that construction of commercial block is also completed and 21 shops have been auctioned through open bidding.

## Mashreq expands Global Mountain Clean-Up and initiates environmental efforts on Pakistan's Iconic K2 and Broad Peak

**City Desk**

KARACHI: Mashreq, a leading financial institution in the MENA region, has announced the commencement of its mountain clean-up mission in Pakistan, as part of Climb2Change, a global initiative integrating the bank's comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) efforts and milestones. Through the initiative, Mashreq has undertaken a mission to scale and clean up 14 of the world's mightiest mountains, with the aim of reaching 7 peaks and the base camps of the remaining 7 mountains. The expedition in Pakistan, spanning from June to August 2024, will witness renowned climbers, Maria Conceicao and Naila Kiani, actively engage in cleaning up two prominent peaks, K2 and Broad Peak (K3), and the base camps at Goro2 and Concordia. Ahmed Abdelal, Group CEO of Mashreq said, "We are proud to advance our global initiative,



Climb2Change, with the expansion of our mountain clean-up expedition to Pakistan, home to some of the world's highest peaks. Tackling the challenges of waste accumulation and ecological imbalance, our mission is to inspire positive change by submitting and cleaning these iconic peaks in the Karakoram range. This effort is a collaborative endeavour with renowned climbers, local communities, and our employees." Naila Kiani added, "As a Pakistani, I am incredibly proud to join forces with Mashreq to advocate for environmental conservation in my homeland. Climbing has always been a personal journey of pushing boundaries, and now, with Mashreq, I aim to catalyse significant change for a brighter and sustainable future. My diverse background, from aerospace engineering to banking and competitive boxing, has prepared me for the challenges of mountaineering and

advocacy. As the first Pakistani woman to summit eleven 8000-meter peaks and to represent the MENA region, I strive to not only climb mountains but also to inspire others, especially women and youth, to pursue their dreams and contribute positively to our planet." During the initial phase of Climb2Change in Nepal, a dedicated team successfully summited LaBouche, Ama Dablam, and Mera Peak. They then proceeded to the next phase, focusing on the cleanup of Annapurna, Lhotse, and Everest Base Camp. These efforts resulted in the collection of high-altitude waste, processed by a local waste management facility. This initiative not only supported 25 local businesses but is also in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this initiative, Mashreq continues to educate the public on environmental conservation and responsible practices.

## Event Marks World Water Day 2024: Promoting Water for Prosperity and Peace



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) in collaboration with UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), and Islamic Relief Pakistan organized a significant event to commemorate World Water Day 2024. Held under the theme "Water for Prosperity and Peace," the event convened key stakeholders and experts to address critical water-related issues affecting Pakistan and beyond.

Dr. Hifza Rasheed, Director-General of PCRWR, emphasized the pivotal role of water in achieving social, economic, and environmental prosperity. She highlighted the importance of shared water resources in promoting cooperation between nations and regions, underlining PCRWR's initiatives to combat water wastage.

A roundtable discussion featured prominent water experts including Mr. Nasir Ghafoor, Dr. Muhammad Riaz, Ms. Saiqa Imran, Dr. Muhammad Waseem, Mr. Zamir Ahmad Soomro, Mr. Khalil Raza, and Mr. Raza Narejo. The panelists stressed the urgency of raising awareness about water scarcity, conservation practices, and improving Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. They advocated for trust-building through data sharing and adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approaches to ensure sustainable and equitable water use across Pakistan.

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, Head of Programmes Management at UN-Habitat, highlighted the importance of water in enhancing community resilience to climate change, citing UN-Habitat's initiatives in this regard.

Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President of ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF), emphasized the promotion of nature-based solutions for water conservation and community engagement, underscoring ECO-SF's role in bridging policy-practice gaps through regional dialogues.

Mr. Kar Hung Antony Tam, Officer-In-Charge at UNESCO Islamabad, reiterated the significance of World Water Day in raising awareness about water-related challenges. He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts for water management and equitable distribution. Mr. Tam also highlighted UNESCO's collaborative initiatives with PCRWR, including the inscription of the Karez System Cultural Landscape (KSCL) in the World Heritage List, aimed at enhancing trust and resolving conflicts related to water resources.

The event also saw the launch of the United Nations World Water Development Report 2024 on "Water for Prosperity and Peace," underscoring the importance of sustainable water management for achieving developmental goals.

## Land Mafia Rules in UC Bhimber Tarar of Islamabad

Target Killers Hired—Political Personalities Supporting the Criminals

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad is the capital of Pakistan and the government claims that it is safe city but reality is total different in the suburbs of Islamabad where land mafia is ruling and human life has no value. The land mafia is facilitator of the housing schemes for grabbing the land of the poor with the connivance of the local officials of Revenue department.

Same is the situation in Union Council Bhimber Taraar near Gulberg Green housing scheme where one Raja Mujahid is the don of the land mafia

who is not only grabbing lands for Gulberg Green but targeting the dissent voices and hiring the killers who shoot the opponents.

His name first came on the surface when the Korang Police arrested one killer hired by Raja Mujahid. The killer is Sajjad of a local village who shot Gul Nawaz Advocate and his Son Khawar Nawaz on 07 Feb when both were going from Bhatti Town to the court in Islamabad. Both were injured but luckily saved.

Later when Police arrested the culprit Sajjad and inquired him on whose behest he fired at the advocate. The

accused mentioned Raja Mujahid used him to do this crime. Sajjad admitted in video statement that Raja Mujahid gave him 6 lakh rupees, one pistol and one bike to follow and attack the advocate.

The accused said in his video statement that as I am a poor person, Raja Mujahid involved me in this crime. Raja Mujahid promised that he will send me to Dubai after I accomplish my task. Raja Mujahid's cousin took pistol and bike back from me after I targeted advocate Gull Nawaz.

This is happening around Islamabad the capital city of Pakistan. Gulberg Green has contract with Raja Mujahid

for providing them the required land for their phase 9 and 10. Raja Mujahid forged the documents of the lands of local people without their consent or presence at the time of transfer.

Advocate Gull Nawaz being the local resident formerly, was helping the local people affected by the forgery of Raja Mujahid. The local people allege that Raja Mujahid is supported by the political people who are in the government and in the parliament.

The victims of Raja Mujahid has appealed to the higher authorities of Police and government to help them as the armed goons of Raja Mujahid have

illegally occupied their lands. They can not grow crops on their ancestral lands.

Here another strange and unique point is that Raja Mujahid is influencing the Police officials through the political personalities of this constituency to change the investigation and release the target killer as innocent.

Whoever stands against him or who ever tries to help the poor affected people is threatened life attempts by the land mafia. Local population is ready to provide proofs and statements against the land mafia but the question here is, the Police, the district administration are also ready to provide justice to the



local people?



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# PTI and Govt's Fate Hinges on Supreme Court's Verdict

Today, during the final day of hearings at the Supreme Court on the extremely critical case of the allocation of reserved seats for women and non-Muslims, Salman Akram Raja, representing both PTI and independent women candidates, outshined every other lawyer. He argued against the deprivation of SIC of the reserved seats for women and minorities in the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies, declaring this act of the Election Commission (EC) unjust, arbitrary, and whimsical. He effectively countered the arguments of the Election Commission and the Attorney General of Pakistan, who contended that since SIC was not a parliamentary party, it could not be allowed to claim proportional reserved seats.

He argued that SIC was a registered and declared political party by the Election Commission and that it became a parliamentary party right after independent candidates joined this party within three days of the elections and took the oath as members of the National Assembly. He stated that the EC's presumption of SIC as not being a parliamentary party had no constitutional or legal basis, but was a self-serving interpretation that does not stand the test of logic. He further argued that their logic, which allows a party to become a parliamentary party, even if it won one seat, but denies the same status, if more than 89 independents join it neither has logic nor the strength of law.

Justice Athar Minallah, who has persistently argued throughout all previous hearings, once again reiterated that the will of the Constitution cannot be brushed aside by entangling in procedural lapses and hiccups. He stated that the EC has

committed a serious violation of the Constitution with its biased, whimsical, and obvious behavior to keep one party from contesting the election. He added that by doing so, the constitutional rights of the millions of voters who had voted for PTI have been violated. He repeated his question, asking why this court should not reverse all the malafide actions of the Election Commission and restore the fundamental rights of the people to elect their representatives, rights which were usurped by the use of brute force by the state in connivance with the Election Commission and its appointed Returning Officers.

Mr. Faisal Siddique representing SIC, who was once again brilliant, focused his argument on the intent and will of the Constitution emphasizing one and only one point: proportional representation, not disproportional representation. He argued that it is now proven beyond doubt that during all phases of the elections, the Election Commission committed constitutional hypocrisy by discriminating against PTI, by replacing the proportional allocation to seats set out by the constitution to disproportionate allocation of seats.

He argued that the most glaring violation of proportional allocation was committed in the KP Assembly, where PTI had won 91 seats compared to just 19 seats secured by all other political parties combined. Despite this, not even a single reserved seat was allocated to PTI, while JUI, which had won only 7 general seats, was allocated 10 reserved seats. PML, which had won 6 general seats, was given 8 reserved seats, and PPP, which bagged 4 general seats, got 6 reserved seats.

At this point, the Chief Justice intervened and fielded a question typical of him. He asked whether the Constitution should be interpreted on the basis of fairness or text. Siddique promptly replied, "the text," and stated that the text says "proportional representation. Another honorable judge came to the rescue of Mr. Siddique, asking, "Where in the text of the Constitution is it given that leftover seats may be allocated to other political parties?"

Mr. Siddique promptly replied, "No sir, nowhere in the constitutional text does it allow such an act." He stated that according to the text of the Constitution and the scheme of election laws, such arbitrary and disproportionate allocation of seats is not possible. He referred to Rule 96 of the Election Rules, which clearly stipulates that the Election Commission shall allocate the reserved seats proportionally to each political party. He continued and referred to Rule 96 where the Election Commission had issued a notification in the official Gazette, declaring SIC

a parliamentary party and admitting that all 98 independents had joined SIC within three days after the elections. This consequently meant that SIC was qualified to be allocated reserved seats for women and non-Muslims.

However, as an afterthought, the Election Commission, with an obvious intent to raise the number of ruling parties to a two-thirds majority in the Parliament, acted in bad faith, with malafide intentions, and denied SIC the reserved seats which it rightly deserved. He refuted the argument of the existence of independents in the National Assembly, arguing that after joining the SIC, currently there are no independents in the NA.

An interesting point was raised by another honorable member of the bench, who said that SIC, in fact, received a bonus of 98 members even without contesting the election. To this, Siddique candidly replied, "Thanks to the Election Commission." This was the moment Justice Athar Minallah had been waiting for. He jumped in and said, "Was not all this jugglery, misinterpreting of the Constitution and Supreme Court judgment, and jumping from one position to another done only to prevent one particular party from gaining a majority in Parliament?" Siddique sarcastically replied, "Had the Election Commission acted justly, honestly, and fairly, SIC would have no case at all."

All eyes are now on the Supreme Court's final judgment, which is likely to bring another constitutional, legislative, legal, and administrative storm. This judgment may either put the country back on the constitutional path or...

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Pakistani mud crab exporters eye expansion in China

Pakistan's vibrant seafood industry has made significant strides in recent years, with mud crabs emerging as a star export product.

As Pakistani exporters continue to tap into the global market, they are increasingly focusing on China as a key destination for their high-quality mud crabs, renowned for their rich flavor and succulent meat.

According to Volza's Pakistan Export data, mud crab export shipments from Pakistan stood at 5.5K, exported by 46 Pakistan exporters to 122 buyers.

Notably, China has emerged as the largest market for Pakistani mud crabs, with exports to the country surpassing those to other destinations such as the United Arab Emirates and the United States. Pakistan is now ranked as the third-largest exporter of mud crabs globally, highlighting the country's strong position in the international seafood market, Chinese media reported on Tuesday.

The surge in Pakistani mud crab exports to China can be attributed to the country's commitment to quality and the optimization of supply chains. Pakistani exporters have capitalized on the rising demand for high-quality seafood in China, where mud crabs are highly valued for their culinary appeal and nutritional benefits.

"Our average weight per box net weight of 16 kg. We exported about 3,000 tons of live mud crabs to China over the last 3 years" said Tehseen Patel, CEO of Areeba Enterprises, a leading Pakistani mud crab exporter.

Areeba Enterprises, which started exporting Pakistani mud crabs internationally in 2016, has seen success in the Chinese market, driven by the company's focus on quality control and sustainable fishing practices.

According to China's customs statistics, the import of live, fresh, or cold mud crabs (Chinese Customs code 030633) from Pakistan has increased significantly in recent years.

In 2023, China imported live, fresh or cold crabs from Pakistan (Chinese Customs code 030633) for US \$42,594,065, up 141% from US \$17,658,045 in 2020. This trend highlights the growing demand for Pakistani mud crabs in China and the potential for further expansion in the market.

Driven by the robust appetite for seafood in China, Areeba Enterprises has established a robust supply chain, shipping live mud crabs directly to major cities like Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, and Kunming. The journey from Pakistan's shores to China's bustling markets typically takes between 24 to 48 hours, ensuring the freshness and vitality of the crabs upon arrival.

As the Pakistani exporter continues to tap into the global market, Tehseen Patel is investing in modernization and sustainability to meet the evolving needs of international buyers. Areeba has embarked on a mission to train local fishermen in best practices, invest in state-of-the-art hatcheries and conditioning facilities, and integrate sustainable practices throughout its supply chain.

The Chinese seafood market is a vibrant landscape with a wide array of products in high demand. In the Chinese market, there is high demand for shrimps, fresh and frozen fish (ribbonfish, croaker, and mackerel), crabs, lobsters, scallops, and squid. In addition to mud crabs, Areeba Enterprises also exports a diverse range of seafood products, including shrimps (white-leg shrimp and tiger shrimp), live lobsters, etc.

The company has ambitious plans to further expand its footprint in the Chinese seafood market. "We are committed to diversifying our product range and forging closer strategic partnerships with local distributors, retailers, and e-commerce platforms. By doing so, we aim to not only satisfy the ever-growing demands of the Chinese market but also contribute to the sustainable development of Pakistan's seafood industry," Tehseen Patel concluded.



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

## Young Generation: The Nation's Greatest Asset - II

Youth-led innovation holds significant promise in tackling a myriad of socio-economic challenges confronting nations today. Whether it's combating unemployment through entrepreneurship endeavors, revolutionizing healthcare delivery via telemedicine and digital health solutions, or promoting sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security, youth possess the capacity to drive substantial impact across diverse sectors. In an increasingly digital landscape, access to education and information is pivotal for empowering individuals and propelling socio-economic progress. Youth-driven initiatives aimed at expanding access to quality education, leveraging technology for skill development, and advocating for digital literacy can bridge the digital divide and empower marginalized communities, thus paving the way for a more equitable and inclusive society.

The imperative to address climate change and environmental degradation demands innovative solutions that prioritize sustainability and conservation. Youth-led movements advocating for the adoption of renewable energy, waste management initiatives, and conservation efforts are galvanizing awareness and mobilizing action at the grassroots level. By harnessing the passion and vigor of youth, countries can expedite the transition toward a greener and more sustainable future.

Youth engagement in governance processes is indispensable for nurturing inclusive and accountable governance. Innovative approaches such as participatory budgeting, citizen engagement platforms, and digital democracy tools empower youth to actively participate in decision-making processes and hold leaders accountable. By amplifying youth voices in policymaking, countries can ensure that policies are responsive to the needs and aspirations

of future generations. When contemplating the role of Pakistan, questions often arise regarding its creation and the contributions of its institutions, particularly the military. Some disillusioned or frustrated individuals may voice grievances, questioning the actions of the country and its armed forces. However, in civilized societies, ethical considerations underpin every action, discouraging profanity and baseless accusations. Strict laws against defamation and unsupported claims serve to uphold integrity and discourage unwarranted attacks. Regrettably, our society often overlooks ethical values, fostering a culture of gossip, slander, and unfounded allegations. This pervasive behavior extends to various spheres, including politics, where self-interest often overrides tolerance and mutual respect.

In Islam, love and respect for religion are paramount duties, followed by a similar reverence for the country. Matters such as monotheism and belief in the finality of prophethood are held without question, underscoring the significance of unwavering faith. Similarly, love for the country occupies a revered position, emphasizing the importance of loyalty and devotion to the nation. Adhering to the constitution and laws of the country is not just a requirement but a fundamental aspect of any civilized society.

The armed forces are entrusted with safeguarding the ideological borders of the nation. The Pakistan Army stands out globally as one of the finest forces, owing to the patriotism, professionalism, and unwavering sacrifices of its courageous personnel. Their commitment ensures that our beloved country is respected and protected. The gallant soldiers, sacrificing their rest for our peace and security, rightfully earn the title of heroes. Whether it's the Army, Navy, or Air Force, those valiantly defending our longest and most challenging ideological frontiers epitomize

bravery and honor. Our military intelligence agency also stands as a formidable deterrent to our adversaries.

The Pakistan Army has rendered invaluable services in safeguarding both our external and ideological borders as well as tackling internal threats. The nation acknowledges and appreciates the efforts and sacrifices of the Pakistan Army, which have contributed significantly to the eradication of terrorism and extremism, leading to an improved situation. Moreover, the Pakistan Army consistently takes the lead in responding to natural disasters and aiding the affected.

Their contributions extend beyond security to include preserving our national assets, maintaining law and order, supporting healthcare and education, and infrastructure development. Without the transparent conduct of censuses and elections facilitated by the Pakistan Army's participation and selfless cooperation, such crucial national processes would be challenging.

Indeed, the Pakistan Army serves as a beacon of hope in a nation grappling with corruption and terrorism. However, it's essential to acknowledge that the weight of patriotism is shared among all segments of society. Developed countries often demonstrate full moral support for their armed forces, understanding the symbiotic relationship between the military and the people they protect. While freedom of expression is paramount in civilized societies, even in developed nations, certain limitations exist, prohibiting disparaging remarks against religion, country, and armed forces.

Unfortunately, in Pakistan, there's a trend of targeting religion, country, and armed forces under the guise of freedom of expression, particularly through social media channels. It's disheartening that some intellectuals remain silent on pressing issues like corruption, inflation, and unemployment while directing unwarranted criticism toward religion, country, and armed forces.

*To be continued*

Analysis



Abdul Basit Alvi

## UK and Russia Locked in Diplomatic Standoff over Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine has caused a big disagreement between the UK and Russia. Russia took over Crimea and supports separatist groups, which the UK strongly criticizes. The UK supports Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, leading to a war of words with Russia. The UK imposed sanctions on Russian individuals and entities, and Russia retaliated by expelling British diplomats and imposing sanctions on UK individuals and entities. This has raised concerns of a bigger conflict, with both nations engaging in a high-stakes game of diplomatic brinkmanship.

British leaders call Russia's actions "aggressive" and "destabilizing," while Russia calls the UK's stance "hostile" and "interfering." Russia's military buildup near Ukraine's borders has raised fears of an invasion. The international community urges restraint and dialogue, with the UK supporting Ukraine's defense and Russia warning against external interference.

The UK supports Ukraine because it believes in international law and national sovereignty. Russia's actions violate these principles. The annexation of Crimea in 2014 was widely condemned, and Russia's continued support for separatist groups has made things worse. The sanctions target individuals and entities involved in Russia's actions in Ukraine. However, Russia has responded with expulsions and sanctions on UK individuals and entities.

This escalation raises concerns of a broader conflict.

The international community urges restraint and dialogue. The UK and Russia must work towards a peaceful resolution that respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Another conflict in Eastern Europe would be disastrous, and both nations must find a peaceful solution. The world watches closely as the situation unfolds. The UK and Russia must engage

in constructive dialogue to resolve their differences peacefully. Global stability depends on it.

The situation is delicate, and both sides must tread carefully. The UK and Russia have a long history of diplomatic relations, and it's essential to maintain open communication channels. The international community is ready to support a peaceful resolution, and organizations like the United Nations and the European Union are willing to facilitate dialogue.

The stakes are high, but a peaceful resolution is possible. The UK and Russia must put aside their differences and work towards a mutually beneficial solution. Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, and the international community must ensure that global stability is maintained. The world is watching, and it's time for the UK and Russia to show leadership and diplomacy.

*Writer is a freelance thinker over the international relations.*

Analysis



Syed Laique Haider



# President Tokayev unveils strategic vision for SCO members as Kazakhstan's Chairmanship concludes

Spokesman Report

ASTANA: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev outlined critical strategic directions for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states during his address at the 24th summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State on July 4 in Astana.

Speaking at the summit, President Tokayev stated that the SCO has become an effective mechanism of interstate relations, operating on the basis of the "Shanghai spirit" of friendship, good neighborliness, equality, and mutual support.

He highlighted the significance of the SCO and the event. "More than three billion people live in the SCO space. The organization includes the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, accounting for a third of global GDP. This clearly demonstrates the enormous potential and global role of our organization," he said.

Strengthening mutual trust and cooperation in security

Amidst current global challenges, Tokayev emphasized the need for the SCO to enhance its stabilizing role to counter the erosion of international law, prevent geopolitical tensions and ultimately strengthen peace and security on a global scale.

He affirmed that the SCO has exceptional opportunities to serve as a guarantor of peace and security throughout the Eurasian continent. In this regard, Kazakhstan's Initiative On World Unity for Just Peace, Harmony, and Development has received unanimous support from SCO member states.

Tokayev proposed developing an agreement on confidence-building measures in the military sphere, particularly to combat the "three evil



forces"— terrorism, separatism, and extremism. He also stressed the importance of strengthening cybersecurity by establishing a mechanism for the constant exchange of information and best practices to ensure the stability of the SCO countries' information infrastructure. The Interaction Plan on international information security adopted at the summit aligns with these goals.

Expanding trade and economic relations

Mutual trade among SCO countries is growing, with Kazakhstan's trade with SCO countries increasing by 6.5% last year. Tokayev highlighted the importance of developing special tax, customs, and migration regimes to foster economic growth. Kazakhstan's proposal to create an SCO Economic Preferences framework remains relevant.

"We propose to create a mechanism for financial support of project activities on the basis of the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC). China, Russia, India, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic are already actively working on this site. Overall, 20% of AIFC residents are companies from SCO countries," he noted.

Strengthening transport

connectivity

Tokayev underscored the significance of synergizing China's Belt and Road Initiative with the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route and trans-Eurasian corridors in the North-South direction, including the Central Asia - South Asia vector. He called for practical measures to establish a Partnership Network of strategic ports and logistics centers within the SCO.

Kazakhstan's chairmanship

Kazakhstan, as the current chair of the SCO, has proposed balanced measures to transform the organization into a more effective multilateral cooperation mechanism. This includes strengthening the role of the SCO Secretariat and the Secretary-General.

The Kazakh chairmanship has also focused on enhancing cultural and humanitarian ties. Key projects include the SCO Spiritual Sanctuaries and the first international music festival, SCO Silk Road. Ten tourist territories have also been identified for the implementation of joint projects. Almaty has been designated as the cultural and tourist capital of the SCO.

SCO leaders laud new resolutions in Astana Summit

addresses

President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, praised "a truly solid package of documents and resolutions" prepared with the active participation of Kazakhstan. He supported the idea of resuming the SCO-Afghanistan contact group's activities to normalize the situation in Afghanistan.

He mentioned that the resolutions adopted today to transform the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure into a universal center and to establish an anti-drug center in Dushanbe are aimed primarily at maintaining the security of SCO member states.

President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Japarov, highlighted the importance of unity and joint efforts in overcoming global challenges such as the pandemic, climate change, and economic instability. He emphasized the SCO's commitment to resolving conflicts based on internationally recognized norms and principles.

Japarov also called for reducing trade barriers in the SCO space and recalled the country's initiative to create institutions to finance projects, such as the SCO Development Bank and the SCO Development Fund.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif remarked that Kazakhstan had once again reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the SCO collective goals.

SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming noted that the Shanghai Spirit has been and will continue to be a driving force behind the organization's progress in the past, present, and future. He identified Central Asia as the core of the SCO, closely linking the region's peace and prosperity to the stability and development of the SCO.

He thanked Kazakhstan for



its fruitful work as the SCO President of China Xi Jinping countries to consolidate unity



chair and congratulated China echoed the significance of against interference in internal on assuming this position. Shanghai Spirit, urging member affairs by foreign forces.

## Industrialist Anjum calls for end of 'digital terrorism' in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Group Chairman of SM Food and Volka Food International and member of the National Development Export Board for Agro and Processed Food, expressed his thoughts on the recent Corps Commander Conference statement. He noted that, for the first time, the term "digital terrorism" was used in the Corps Commander Conference. There is no doubt that anti-state elements, under the patronage of external hostile forces, are involved in digital terrorism, which is directed against state institutions.

According to details, a few days ago, the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference was held under the chairmanship of Army



Chief General Syed Asim Munir. This 83rd Formation Commanders Conference emphasized that politically motivated digital terrorism, initiated by their foreign associates against state institutions, aims to create despair among the Pakistani nation and to spread falsehoods to create discord between national institutions, particularly the armed forces, and the people

of Pakistan. The well-known industrialist said he is confident that state institutions working for Pakistan's stability, especially ISI and MI, must have identified the elements being used against Pakistan's state institutions.

In the race for digital media and ratings, lies, hatred, and baseless information are spread in the form of news, which is

condemnable. Illiterate individuals have set up their digital channels without any moral or legal code, participating in the race for ratings and money without awareness of the country's integrity and economic conditions.

The Chairman of SM Food Group said that in his opinion, ISPR and the Ministry of Information should provide daily briefings at the China Center Islamabad regarding this digital terrorism, outlining where digital terrorism is occurring, what topics are being used for digital terrorism, and this briefing should be communicated to the public through the media so that Pakistanis can be cautious of digital terrorism and identify elements involved in negative activities.

## FIA held a solemn dua ceremony for Ahmed Nabi Noor, son of DG Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The gathering, marked by reverence and profound sorrow, brought together FIA officials, including Additional Directors General, Directors, and a large contingent of officers and employees.

The somber occasion was also graced by the presence of Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Maqam, along with a notable presence of civil and



police officers. attendance included Secretary Aviation Captain Saif

Anjum, Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Khalid Gardezi, DG Customs Zulfiqar Ali Chaudhry, former DG FIA Inayatullah Khan Niazi, IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi, and Deputy DG Civil Aviation Authority Nadir Shafedar.

May Allah Almighty forgive the deceased and grant his loved ones patience.

## Pak-German forum calls for bolstering capacity of local scientists, researchers to address urban flooding

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator for the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said the promotion of local scientists and researchers through capacity building and viable opportunities is crucial to drive indigenous sustainable urbanisation to ward off the risks of urban flooding.

Local scientists, researchers' capacity development crucial for promoting indigenous sustainable urbanisation: Romina

She was addressing as chief guest at the one-day workshop on Urban Floods: Implications for Resilience organised by the Pak-German Climate & Energy Partnership and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Romina Khurshid Alam said infrastructure development must keep climate risks in view to sustain climate aftershocks.

She urged the forum to share all recommendations with the Ministry



of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

In her opening remarks, Advisor, Pak-German Climate and Energy Partnership, Sobiah Becker said Pakistan is the first country with whom Germany forged partnership for climate action.

"We believe that the National Adaptation Plan needs a bottom-up and a top-down approach, whereas there is a need to focus on adaptation and resilience, as well as energy transition to mitigate negative climate impacts," she added.

Associate Research Fellow SDPI, Zainab Naem while setting up the background context said country's urbanisation

trend was primarily fueled by migration, instability and economic necessity. Dr Zeba Sathar, Population Council Pakistan said population was crucial to ensure climate resilience interventions but it was extremely neglected internationally.

Dr Irfan Rana, University of Nevada in his case study presentation said there is need to work on risk communication to educate masses on hazards of urban flooding.

Dr Mattia Marconcini in his presentation said there is need to develop a robust platform based on heat maps where risk maps can be placed to identify high risk areas to identify potential vulnerable communities and enable informed decision making.

The workshop included group activity engaging academia, experts and media in addressing challenges pertaining to policy, legislation, capacity gaps to address urban flooding risks that helped in generating thoughtful discussions and recommendations to address these challenges.

## UNHCR calls for greater efforts towards longer-term solutions for Afghans in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Wrapping up a three-day visit, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has called for a bolstering of efforts towards longer-term solutions for Afghans in Pakistan, and support for their host communities.

Grandi visited Peshawar and Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, meeting with Afghan refugees in urban settings as well as in a refugee village. People he met shared a message of anxiety regarding their situation, but also of their desire to contribute to their communities in Pakistan, as well as eventually in Afghanistan.

In Islamabad, Grandi met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for States and Frontier Regions Amir Muqam, along with senior officials from the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs.

During his discussions, the High Commissioner called for the timely extension of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, a critical identity document held by over 1.3 million Afghan refugees. Grandi expressed appreciation that the "Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan" had been suspended and sought assurances that it would remain



on hold. He called for Pakistan's proud tradition of hospitality towards those Afghans with international protection needs to continue.

Recognizing the challenges facing the country and the admirable generosity of the Government of Pakistan over 45 years of hosting Afghan refugees, Grandi called for an urgent reset of the aid model towards solutions and responsibility sharing, including fostering new partnerships and developing innovative approaches to addressing the protracted displacement situation.

"We need to seize this opportunity to accelerate solutions, and have a bigger, broader vision for the Afghan people in

Pakistan," he noted. The High Commissioner offered to work towards a dialogue later this year, which will bring together key stakeholders (including government representatives, development actors, and the private sector) to develop a package of solutions that benefits both the Afghan population living in Pakistan and the host country itself.

Grandi also committed to redoubling efforts aimed at creating conditions conducive for returns to Afghanistan including from the perspective of material conditions, access to services, job opportunities, as well as rights - paving the way for sustainable voluntary returns in the future.



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
80,672.06	80,566.20
Day's High	Day's Low
81,087.42	80,530.85
Index Value	Change
13,781,331,048	+105.86
Percentage	Time
+0.13%	9 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,139.81	-53.68
Percentage	Time
-0.66%	9 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,406.54	+61.75
Percentage	Time
+0.16%	9 Jul, 12:41 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
41,580.17	+799.47
Percentage	Time
+1.96%	9 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.25	184
Bahrain Dinar	740.62	748.62
Canadian Dollar	203.25	205.25
China Yuan	38.3	38.7
Danish Krone	40.12	40.52
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	907.85	916.85
Malaysian Ringgit	58.95	59.75
New Zealand \$	169.24	171.24
Norwegians Krone	26.04	26.34
Omani Riyal	722.87	730.89
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	73.70	74.42
Singapore Dollar	202.25	204.25
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	309.15	311.65
Thai Bhat	7.55	7.7
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	353	356.5
US Dollar	279.00	281.00

# Development budget cuts could have prevented power price spikes

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: On Tuesday, Dr Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said the difference between the major political parties before the budget was not about giving relief to the people; it was about the distribution of resources among legislators. He said that sixteen billion rupees have been earmarked for development projects in the budget, which will be used to please the members of national and provincial assemblies and supporters. In a statement issued today, he said that if there were some reduction in the development budget, electricity tariff would not have to be hiked to unbelievable levels. Still, the rulers are not concerned about people's problems and are busy shaping their future. He said that the government is making

life difficult for the masses through taxes and blaming the IMF, which is not a reality. Dr Murtaza Mughal said that the government had increased its current expenses by 24 per cent, for which the right to live has been taken away from the people and the salaried class. According to a recent survey, 94 per cent of people want to leave the country because they don't see anything here. He asked what the country's future would be if 94% of the people wanted to flee. There is no justice in imposing a withholding tax on flour, a 55% regulatory duty on potato import and a 15% regulatory duty on imported used clothes. Instead, he said, it would have been better if tax was imposed on big properties and mansions worth billions of rupees. Dr. Mughal said that everyone is raising



their voices against IPPs. However, many still consider power plant facilitators their leaders and saviours. He informed that the government is spending almost Rs 5000 per month on each child's education, of which nearly half goes to ghost schools, ghost teachers and corruption. There is a possibility that inflation will continue to rise, unemployment will continue to be a problem, and the gap between the wealthy and the rest of the population may widen in the coming months. Currently, 470 billion rupees of Chinese companies are stuck in Pakistan, and the lives of their experts are also constantly in danger. Despite this grim situation, they are expected to invest in Pakistan, which is amazing, he said, adding that Chinese companies will never go beyond memorandums of understanding under these unstable circumstances.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Nestle Pakistan and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## CAT upholds CCP penalty on collusive bidding

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has dismissed the appeal filed by M/s Creative Engineering against the order of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP). The CCP held in its order that M/s Creative Engineering and four other undertakings were involved in collusive bidding for a Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) tender, thus violating Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010. As a result, the CCP imposed a total penalty of PKR 10 million on the five entities (PKR 2 million each) involved in the collusion. Previously, the Commission took suo moto notice of potential bid rigging in PESCO's tender for the procurement of power distribution equipment. Subsequently, an enquiry was also conducted wherein it was concluded that the five undertakings, including Creative Engineering, colluded to divide the tender quantities amongst themselves and to bid at a uniform price, while giving an impression of a competitive bidding process. The CCP's order established the violation of Section 4(1) read with Section 4(2) (a), (b) and (c) of the Act 2010. Creative Engineering challenged the Commission's order before the Competition Appellate Tribunal. However, due to its persistent failure to appear on the scheduled hearing dates, the Tribunal, vide order dated 27 February 2024, dismissed the appeal for non-prosecution.

## BOP, CARE and Mastercard Center join hands to improve financial access for women entrepreneurs in Pakistan



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Mastercard Strive Women program in Pakistan welcomes a new partnership with the Bank of Punjab (BOP), jointly aiming to improve formal financial access for women-led micro and small entrepreneurs in Pakistan. Strive Women, supported by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and implemented by CARE, bolsters women entrepreneurs in Pakistan, Peru, and Vietnam, and aims to strengthen their financial health and resilience. Strive Women in Pakistan pledges to support 100,000 entrepreneurs, of which at least 70% will be women. The majority (79%) of Pakistan's population operates outside of the formal banking system, World Bank - The Global

Findev Database: 2021], while 82% of women remain unbanked [Women's Financial Inclusion Data, 2022 (WFID)]. The situation poses a serious challenge for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which hold crucial importance for the country's economy due to their role in job creation, innovation, and regional development. BOP, in collaboration with CARE Pakistan and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, will support this segment through its range of financial services and products. In line with its commitment to promoting gender equality, BOP has launched a suite of financial products tailored to women under the name BOP NAAZ. "We are very excited to join hands with Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth

and Care Pakistan to empower thousands of women across the country by providing them with the right tools and opportunities for their inclusion in financial sector and economic growth. BOP, in line with its vision to promote financial inclusion and Banking on Equality, will continue to support such key initiatives," said Nofel Daud, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Punjab. As we sign this MOU, we in collaboration with BOP and Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, reaffirm our dedication to creating pathways for women to thrive in the business landscape. Together with our partners, we aspire to cultivate an environment where women entrepreneurs can flourish, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to our society," said Adil Sheraz, Country Director, CARE Pakistan.

## NTDC achieves another milestone for improvement of its transmission system

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) has achieved another major milestone as the construction of 75 kilometer long, 500 kV Double-Circuit Suki Kinari Transmission Line has been completed to evacuate 884MW cheap Hydropower. This transmission line will facilitate the evacuation of 884 MW cheap and environment friendly electricity from the Suki Kinari Hydro Power project, located on River Kunhar in Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to the interconnection point of existing 500 kV Neelum Jhelum transmission line. Deputy Managing Director (P&E), Engr. Qaiser Khan, Deputy Managing Director (AD&M), Engr. Muhammad Mustafa and Deputy Managing Director (SO), Engr. Muhammad Waseem Younas have congratulated the concerned project team on completion of the transmission line.

## foodpanda enhances delivery partners' work experience with 'panda hearts'

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Leading delivery platform foodpanda is doubling down on its commitment to its delivery partners with 'panda hearts', its flagship programme aimed at uplifting and supporting delivery partners in five core areas: safety, well-being, personal development, community, and welfare perks. "We are committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for our delivery partners, and 'panda hearts' is a key part of that effort. Through 'panda hearts', we aim to build a strong community of partners who feel valued and empowered to succeed. As gig work becomes more commonplace, so does our responsibility to enhance their work experience. It's important that we continually step up the care and support we provide to our frontline heroes," says Muntaqa Peracha, CEO of foodpanda.

## Philip Morris International recognized by Forbes as leading company in Net Zero Efforts

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Philip Morris International (PMI) is proud to announce that PMI has been ranked first in the Forbes 2024 Net Zero Leaders ranking. The acknowledgment highlights the 100 U.S. public companies best positioned to reduce their Green House Emissions (GHG). This acknowledgment underscores PMI's commitment to sustainability and its efforts to transform its business

model. "We are honored to be recognized by Forbes to be ranked first among businesses that are at the forefront striving towards net zero," said, Jacek Oleczak Chief Executive Officer of PMI. "PMI is completely transforming and leaving its legacy businesses behind. Our progress is measured, reported, and real. We are acutely aware that we can only

achieve our purpose by embedding sustainability in every aspect of our business." In line with this, Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited (PMPKL), an affiliate of PMI, prioritizes sustainability in its operations. Roman Yazbeck, CEO of PMPKL in his remarks stated, "Our climate strategy aims to address pertinent climate change-related risks and

build resilience while seizing opportunities presented by a low-carbon future." In 2023, PMPKL's Sahiwal factory generated 15% of its total yearly energy demand from renewable energy. To reduce CO2 emissions, PMPKL introduced barn and furnace improvements to decrease firewood consumption and improved 86% furnaces of its contracted barns. Furthermore, PMPKL installed 5 metallic furnaces successfully at 5 locations during the crop year 2023 which resulted in a fuel saving of 11.54% vs. commonly used venturi furnaces. Through such various initiatives, PMPKL aims to reduce environmental impact and carbon footprint and promote sustainability in Pakistan. PMI continues to push the boundaries of innovation and responsibility. This recognition by Forbes highlights PMI's unwavering commitment to creating a more sustainable world.



PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

*Zong expands its data network with the addition of 400 new 4G sites in H1, 2024*



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, proudly announces the successful expansion of their network with over 400 new 4G sites in the first half of 2024. This significant expansion solidifies Zong 4G's position as the second largest data network in Pakistan. This effort underscores the company's commitment to providing widespread and reliable connectivity. Currently serving 49 million customers, Zong aspires to democratize access to data across Pakistan. Zong 4G's leadership commended the engineering and commercial teams for their relentless hard work and aggressive pursuit of targets. The CEO expressed gratitude to the commercial teams for their field efforts and reaffirmed the engineering department's commitment to supporting business development swiftly and efficiently. While extending his congratulations to the team, CTO Zong, Mr. Lu Jianhui said, "Our recent achievements in network expansion and modernization are a testament to the hard work and collaborative spirit of our engineering and commercial teams. We remain committed to providing exceptional service to our customers and driving the growth of Pakistan's telecommunications infrastructure. We appreciate the continued support from our partners, Huawei and ZTE, as we advance towards a more connected future."



# Chairman PCB seeks advice from former cricketers on team development

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi invited selected former Pakistan cricketers to Lahore and discussed player development strategies for strengthening domestic cricket and performance of the national team.

The former players gave recommendations to improve the performance of the national cricket team. The fitness of the players and their performances in the recently concluded ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 were also discussed.

COO, PCB Salman Naseer, Director High performance, Nadeem Khan, Director International, Usman Wahla, Director – Domestic Cricket Operations, Abdullah Khurram Niazi, Analyst Bilal Afzal and other PCB officials were also present on this occasion. The attendees of the meeting included Abdur Rauf, Aamer Malik, Asim Kamal, Azhar Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Basit Ali, Haroon Rashid, Ijaz Ahmed, Intikhab Alam, Iqbal Qasim, Mohammad Sami, Rashid Khan, Saleem Altaf, Saleem



Yousuf, Salman Butt, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Sadiq Mohammad, Shafiq Ahmad, Shafiqat Rana, Sikander Bakht, Wajahatullah Wasti, Yasir Hameed and Yasir Shah.

In the meeting, it was agreed to improve the infrastructure of the domestic cricket including first-class matches and Under 19 tournaments. It was also mutually agreed upon that PCB

should also arrange more matches in the summer season just like the winter season. Recommendations to establish academies under the PCB's watch in different cities were also floated by the former players. They raised their concerns regarding the need for improvement in the coaching field both in domestic cricket and grassroots level. The meeting participants appreciated

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi's initiatives for the improvement of the game in the country. Chairman PCB assured the former players that their valuable suggestions will be implemented going forward.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi said: "The consultation with the former players will consistently take place to continue the betterment of Pakistan Cricket. The PCB will go to all lengths to uplift the standard of the game in the country.

"As many of the former players mentioned, the focus of PCB will surely be on improving the first-class game and the Under 19 tournaments. To adjust more games during the summer season in our domestic window, we are exploring venues in the northern areas like Abbottabad and Hunza.

"I do fully understand the need for bringing the quality of coaches to International standards and the PCB will take urgent measures to achieve that. We also have quality of the pitches in our mind and they will be improved as well."

## Pak seamer Jamal leaves Warwickshire due to injury

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Warwickshire have parted company with Pakistan seamer Aamir Jamal after diagnosis of a back injury revealed that he would be sidelined for the remainder of his contract.

Jamal joined the Bears in April after a stunning debut on Pakistan's winter tour of Australia where he claimed 18 wickets in three Tests.

However, a back injury has limited his playing opportunities at Edgbaston.

The 27-year-old managed to play in just two County Championship matches and one Vitality Blast game.

Warwickshire Performance Director Gavin Larsen said it's been a frustrating period for Jamal and the Club.



"Aamir has worked incredibly hard with our medical and strength and conditioning team but unfortunately, we've run out of time to get him back on the field and bowling at full pace," Larsen said as quoted by edgbaston.com.

"He was contracted until the end of the Blast group

stage on July 19, but his rehab plan indicated he would not be fit for selection before then.

"It's disappointing because he showed tremendous potential in Australia with his pace and aggression. I know he's very disappointed not to have demonstrated his capabilities to the

Bears fans.

"We can't fault Aamir's attitude during his rehab. I am confident he will return fit and ready to represent Pakistan soon. We wish him all the best."

Jamal expressed his gratitude towards Warwickshire's medical and rehab team for their efforts to restore his fitness.

"This is my first experience with a significant injury, and it's been challenging to accept," he said.

"I'm now focused on getting back to full fitness and resuming play. I would have liked my time with the Bears to have gone differently, but I appreciate the support from everyone at the club and wish them success for the rest of the season, he said.

## Haroon Malik, SCCI discuss promotion of football in Sialkot

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalisation Committee (NC), Haroon Malik visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) regarding the promotion of football in the city.

He was warmly received by President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President (VP) SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh and President Sialkot Football Association Chaudhry Muhammad Ikhtlaq, said a press release.

During the visit, discussions were held regarding promoting football in Sialkot, a city renowned for its export-oriented economy and contributions to Pakistan's international trade.



Chairman Haroon Malik expressed his honor in visiting the Sialkot Chamber and highlighted the initiatives to enhance football activities in the region.

He said PFF, in collaboration with the Sialkot Football Association plans to organize regional and provincial-level tournaments in Sialkot soon.

Additionally, he mentioned that preparations are underway to establish

a football academy in Sialkot, which aims to nurture local talent and further promote the sport in the city.

President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik commended Chairman Haroon Malik for the PFF's efforts in promoting football across the nation.

He also praised the national football team's performance in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the successful organization of the qualifier matches in Pakistan as a manifestation of the Federation's effective leadership.

Chairman PFF NC Haroon Malik also visited Forwards Sports in Sialkot, where he was warmly welcomed by Chief Executive Forwards Sports Khawaja Masood Akhtar. During the visit, Khawaja Masood provided Chairman NC Haroon Malik with a tour of the office and presented him with a souvenir.

## Pakistan's Karachi United and UK's Swindon Town FC Team Up in Historic Sports Diplomacy Partnership, Powered by Prospect Pakistan

Sports Desk

Swindon, United Kingdom/ Karachi, Tuesday, July 9th, 2024] – In an industry first and a major move for football in Pakistan, Karachi United Football Club and the United Kingdom's prestigious Swindon Town FC have entered into an exciting partnership, facilitated by Prospect Pakistan, a pioneering sports platform dedicated to creating global partnerships for Pakistan's sporting ecosystem. The MOU for this collaboration was signed in the UK at the Royal Agricultural University, in the presence of Riz Rehman, Player Inclusion Executive at The Professional Footballers' Association [PFA], where a debut delegation of Karachi United's coaches and players, were also present. Mr

Sarfraz Khan, First Secretary at the Pakistan High Commission to the UK also attended and spoke at the MOU signing.

Indeed, this partnership marks a significant milestone for football in Pakistan, as a strong step for the development of football in the country. This also secures greater footballing ties between the United Kingdom and Pakistan.

The partnership between Karachi United and Swindon Town FC aims to foster the exchange of best practices, open new player pathways, and provide advanced training for coaches at Karachi United. This initiative is set to elevate the level of football in Pakistan by integrating international standards and expertise into local practices, one step at a time.

"We are excited to begin

working with Karachi United, a club who has similar values to our Academy and shared enthusiasm for youth development. The partnership will see us share football programme ideas, coach development strategies and insights in to how our environment caters to the needs of individuals through a variety of disciplines including S&C, Medical, Player Care, Education and Performance Psychology. It has been special to welcome KU to the UK, and even more so to our Academy home. As much as we hope it has brought new experiences for KU Youth, it has certainly brought a different experience for our boys through playing fixtures and building new relationships..." Alex Pike, Academy Manager, Swindon Town FC.

Expressing enthusiasm about the partnership, the Karachi

United ownership group of Taha Alzai, Imran Ali along with Ali Ata, added, "We are excited about this collaboration as it allows us to further our goals for Football Excellence in Pakistan, allows opportunities for our youth to experience global football all the while helping us enhance our coaching capabilities to help build stronger skills set for the beautiful game at the grass roots."

Founder and CEO of Prospect, Rizwan Raees Khan further added, "Pakistan has incredible athletes lacking global and local opportunities. Our partnership between Swindon Town FC and Karachi United aims to change that. We're committed to fostering excellence and creating opportunities for Pakistani athletes and look forward to replicating this success in other sports."

Key components of this part-



nership include: Coaching Development: Swindon Town FC will provide expert coaching workshops and training programs for Karachi United coaches, focusing on modern techniques and meth-

## Secretary Sports chairs important meeting to review progress of new and ongoing sports development schemes



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial presided over an important meeting at Punjab Stadium, Lahore.

The meeting was convened to review progress of preparation and approval of PC-1 of new development schemes, status of ongoing development schemes and handing/taking over of completed sports schemes.

Additional Secretary Sports Farhan Farooq, Deputy Secretary Sports Marhaba Naimat, Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza and Deputy Director Tariq Khanzada participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that 52 new sports complexes will be built and 58 old sports complexes will be restored in the province under Khailta Punjab programme. "Overall, 131 sports projects are being constructed across the Punjab province this year," he informed.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said that several sports projects will be completed from September to December this year. He directed the relevant officials to complete the sports development projects as soon as possible.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that all possible measures are being taken for the development of sports culture among the younger generation.

He directed the officials concerned to secure No Objection Certificate (NOC) before constructing a new sports facility and take control of the sports complexes which are fully constructed.

## Pakistan Women's Cricket squad camp cancelled due to rain



Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Women's Cricket team training camp has been cancelled because of the rain here on Tuesday.

The women players were to take part in the training session at Hanif Muhammad High Performance Center organized in connection with the preparations for the Women's Asia Cup.

Moreover, the women's cricketers would participate in a gym session at a hotel.

## Two members removed from Pakistan men's selection committee – reports

Former cricketers Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaq have been expelled from the seven-member Pakistan Men's Cricket Selection Committee, sources claimed.

The shakeup in the national men's team's selection committee is a part of the "major surgery", hinted at by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

With Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaq's expulsion, the selection committee now features Asad Shafique and Mohammad Yousuf, who, are most likely to lose their positions too as the formation of the new selection committee is on the cards.

Following Pakistan's two consecutive defeats in the recently concluded ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, PCB Chairman Naqvi hinted at a major surgery in the team.

Addressing a press conference in New York on June 10, after Pakistan's gut-wrenching defeat to India, Naqvi said the defeat was disappointing in every way.

"It seemed that a minor surgery would suffice for the Pakistan cricket team, but after the extremely poor performance, it has become clear that the team needs major surgery," the PCB chairman said.

He went on to add that he was well aware of what was happening within the team and the reasons for the defeat.

The PCB Chairman mentioned that Pakistani cricket is currently at its lowest performance level. Our biggest challenge is to improve the team's performance.

programs, scouting, and participation in training camps at Swindon Town FC, allowing them to experience competitive football environments abroad. This is a long terms (5-10 year) target of developing Pakistani talent to come and possibly succeed in the UK and globally.

Best Practices Exchange: Both clubs will engage in regular exchanges to share insights on club management, player development, and community engagement, aiming to build a sustainable and progressive football ecosystem in Pakistan.

Cultural and Sports Diplomacy: This partnership will also contribute to strengthening cultural and sports ties between the UK and Pakistan, promoting mutual understanding and collaboration through the universal language of football.



## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: A British delegation led by Sir Michael Barber calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Digitisation, SOEs' privatisation among govt's priority measures for economic revival: PM

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government was taking effective measures for economic revival by carrying out the digitisation of the economy including the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and privatisation of the State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation led by British Educationist and

former Head of British Prime Minister's Delivery Unit Sir Michael Bayldon Barber, said the decades-old ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom were getting stronger with the passage of time.

He said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the UK as being a valued partner, the UK was assisting Pakistan in multiple sectors for which the government was grateful to them.

The prime minister reit-

erated the resolve to further strengthen the bilateral relation.

He told the delegation that the government was pursuing a policy of downsizing and abolishing the low-performing entities to reduce its expenditures.

The prime minister said that the government was taking measures to boost exports and tax base as the country had immense potential for exports related to information tech-

nology and agriculture.

During the briefing, the delegation members were told that a task management system had been established to examine the performance of the federal ministries.

Sir Michael Barber appreciated the government's economic revival plan and said that it was moving in the right direction in its endeavours for economic reforms.

The delegation head expressed the hope that under

the prime minister's leadership, Pakistan would soon get rid of economic challenges and assured the UK's cooperation in all sectors.

Federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb and Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister of State Shaza Fatima Khawaja, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

## President for holistic approach, prudent financial policies for the country's development

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari has called for adopting a holistic approach and prudent financial policies to put the country on the path of development. He said that different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, needed to be developed along modern lines. He added that the government was planning to tax agricultural income as per the International Monetary Fund's conditions, however, the provincial governments would be leading the initiative to tax large land-hold-



ing farmers in accordance with their profitability and expenditures. The President gave these

remarks while addressing the Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar, in Lahore, on Tuesday. A large number of journalists, academicians, political workers, and members of the civil society attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the President highlighted that the media had given power to the people by amplifying their voices, however, recent years had also witnessed a grouping in the media. He cautioned that a strong religious lobby in the world was manipulating and managing perceptions aiming to sow divisions in

Muslim societies.

He said that he was a supporter of the freedom of press and had always tolerated harsh criticism from the media. He said that societies needed to be careful against agenda-driven information. Senior Journalist Hamid Mir, while speaking on the occasion, called for putting an end to the culture of political victimization and upholding the 1973 Constitution in its true spirit.

Senior Journalist Sohail Warraich paid tribute to the services of the late Professor Waris Mir for journalism and democracy.

## Record Cross-Border traffic surge at Khunjerab Pass driven by Pak-China trade

## Spokesman Report

BELJING: The Khunjerab Pass in Xinjiang, China, experienced a significant rise in cross-border traffic in the first half of this year, with 21,000 travelers, representing a 110% year-on-year increase.

On June 11, the port cleared 1,123 people in a single day, breaking the previous record.

The Khunjerab Border Inspection Station, under the Xinjiang Entry-Exit Border Inspection General Station, attributes this remarkable growth to the increasing number of Pakistani traders and cross-border tourists, Chinese media reported on Tuesday.

The enhanced travel enthusiasm among Chinese travelers has been fueled by the National Immigration Administration's revised and optimized entry-exit management policies, which introduced a series of facili-



tation measures.

Pakistani merchants have been actively transporting goods such as pine nuts, herbs, copperware, carpets, and jade crafts to China for sale, while bringing back daily necessities to Pakistan.

Khunjerab Pass is the sole land port between China and Pakistan, playing a pivotal role in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The port's advantageous geographical location, being approximately 270 kilometers from Gilgit and 870 kilometers from Islamabad, positions it as a crucial conduit for international trade and cross-border tourism between the two nations.

## Commerce minister assures PAAPAM, to promote 'Made in Pakistan' manufacturing

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD, JUL 09 (APP): The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) Chairman Abdul Rehman Aziz, and representatives of mobile phone manufacturers met Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and discussed issues impacting local manufacturing of automobiles and mobile phones on Tuesday.

The minister assured the PAAPAM to resolve Post-Budget issues to promote 'Made in Pakistan' manufacturing, said a press release issued here.

Abdul Rehman Aziz, Chairman of PAAPAM, called for the imposition of regulatory duty (RD) across the board on all old and used vehicles.

He explained that 70% of used car imports, which are below 1,300cc, are exempted from the newly imposed RD in the Finance Bill 2024-25.

In the budget for 2024-25, a 15% RD has been imposed on imported used cars exceeding



1,300cc at the request of local assemblers.

However, this RD did not resolve their issue as small vehicles, which are imported in large numbers, are exempted.

Representatives of mobile manufacturers, led by Aamir Allawala, demanded a ban on the import of old mobile phones to support the local industry.

They also requested a specific rate for the General Sales Tax (GST) instead of the current 18% GST based on value, which, according to them, could lead

to misdeclaration of values at the import stage and adversely affect the local industry.

Jam Kamal Khan assured that these concerns would be addressed in consultation with the Ministry of Industry and Production, the Ministry of Finance, and the FBR.

He pledged all possible support to encourage local manufacturing of auto parts and mobile phones and emphasized the importance of keeping export as their primary goal.

## Three soldiers martyred in exchange of fire with terrorists in South Waziristan

## City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Three Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) South Waziristan district on Tuesday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

According to military's media wing, an exchange of fire took place between security forces and terrorists in South Waziristan district.

During the fierce engagement, the ISPR said, three soldiers – Sepoy Asadullah, Sepoy Muhammad Sufyan and Zain Ali – embraced martyrdom.

"Sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area", it said, noting that security forces of Pakistan were determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further

strengthen our resolve.

Earlier in the day, ISPR reported that a Pakistan Army captain was martyred while two terrorists were killed in a gun fight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) North Waziristan district.

"During the fierce engagement, the Pakistan Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as result of which two terrorists were gunned down," the ISPR said.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad, 24, resident of Rawalpindi District, embraced martyrdom.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

## Finance Minister meets with PMLTC CEO, discusses energy sector reforms and collaboration



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met with the President and CEO of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Ms. Zhang Lei to discuss various aspects of energy sector development and cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy CEO Ma Desheng and CFO Wang Bo, said a news release.

The minister acknowledged the contributions of PMLTC to infrastructure development and assured the delegation of required support through relevant government channels.

He highlighted the importance of successfully concluding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program to bolster foreign exchange reserves and underscored the ongoing

reforms in Pakistan's power sector.

Ms. Zhang Lei extended appreciation the government's efforts in driving reforms and structural developments across various sectors.

She provided an overview of China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co. Ltd. (CET) and its ongoing projects in several countries.

Ms. Lei briefed the minister on the progress of the Matiari-Lahore HVDC project and discussed potential opportunities in Pakistan pertaining to hybrid renewable energy and hydrogen production. The delegation also raised some issues related to currency conversion and sales tax recovery from the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC).

Both sides expressed confidence in future collaborations aimed at advancing Pakistan's energy landscape and fostering economic growth.

## Tribunal adjourns petition regarding NA-48 election results

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Tribunal of Islamabad on Tuesday adjourned hearing till July 15, on a petition against the election results in NA-48 Islamabad.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahagiri, hearing the case, remarked that anyone could file application to the registrar office to get a certified copy of the record.

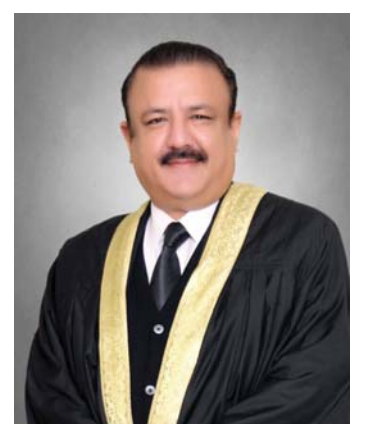
He remarked even a common citizen and journalist could file the application if they wanted to see the record.

The election tribunal said that it was compulsory for the presiding officer to provide form-45 to the polling agent if he didn't do it then he has to write reason for it.

The tribunal said that it would summon the presiding officer and would inquire if he had accomplished the legal procedure. It, however, said there are a total of 261 presiding officers and they all couldn't be made respondents.

The court ordered member national assembly Raja Khuram Nawaz and returning officer to submit form-45, 46 and 47 to the registrar office.

Justice Jahangiri questioned the official of Election Commission of Pakistan regarding the EMS system and asked whether the presiding officers sent forms or not. The ECP's lawyer said that he would inform the court after taking instructions from



the commission.

The court remarked that if the presiding officer wouldn't provide forms to polling agents then action would be taken under Election Act. The PO is supposed to make ten packets and took receiving from agents, he said.

Petitioner Ali Bokhari adopted the stance that no signatures were taken from him or his polling agents. Even he was not allowed to enter, he said.

ECP's lawyer objected on the stance and said that this matter is not raised in the petition. The election tribunal said that it was not a civil suit instead it is a tribunal, we have to go to the depth of the matter.

Justice Jahangiri said that who was responsible if anyone has done illegal act. The further hearing of the case was then adjourned.