



I'm the most qualified person to run for president: Biden

US President Joe Biden defiantly insisted Thursday that he will run for another term and win, as a series of verbal gaffes while leading a major summit threw a harsh new spotlight on his fitness. The 81-year-old president sought to show himself in command as he led the NATO summit in Washington two weeks after a disastrous debate performance raised fears among Democrats that he may lose to Donald Trump.



PTI should not blame ECP for its own blunders in reserved seats issue: Tarar

Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaulah Tarar on Friday said the PTI should better confess its blunders, instead of maligning the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in a matter related to the reserved seats in the Parliament. Rejecting the PTI's propaganda against the ECP, the minister said it was the PTI which failed to hold intra-party election in accordance with the law. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Luncheon

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari hosted a state luncheon in the honour of President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Friday. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion.



Photo: PID

Pakistan, Azerbaijan affirm commitment to expand bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have affirmed their commitment to further expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of bilateral interest, especially energy, trade, connectivity, defence, and people-to-people linkages.

These topics were discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday.

Welcoming President Ilham Aliyev, President Asif Ali Zardari said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and had a great scope of further improving ties in various areas of mutual interest.

He underlined the need for more regular engagements between the people and businessmen of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to cement bilateral ties.

He highlighted the importance of Gwadar port, suggesting that Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan could benefit from

it for promoting regional trade, connectivity and tourism, besides bringing shared economic prosperity to the region.

President welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, mines and minerals, science and technology, law & justice, and culture.

President highlighted that the East had the potential to

lead the world towards prosperity. He added that Pakistan wanted to build a sustainable and result-oriented engagement with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ilham Aliyev said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed a high frequency of people-to-people exchanges and both the countries needed to promote business-to-business relations for enhancing economic relations. He stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan could also explore the

possibility of working together in the renewable energy sector.

Later, the President also hosted a banquet in honour of President Ilham Aliyev and his delegation, which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and journalists, at the President's House. The President expressed his warm greetings for the people of Azerbaijan and reassured Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan.

PM directs preparing action plan for PASSCO's privatisation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan for the privatisation of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Cooperation (PASSCO).

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and PASSCO, also instructed to carry out the restructuring of the Wheat Board.

He said the restructured Wheat Board should include representatives of farmers, Land Information Management System and PASSCO.

The prime minister called for taking effective measures to enhance the yield of wheat and other crops.

He asked the relevant authorities to formulate an alternate strategy for wheat procurement by the federal government and holding consultation with the provincial governments and also those of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as relevant departments.

The participants of the meeting were briefed about the ToRs and restructuring of the Wheat Board, and also on increasing the crops yield as well as reforms in the PASSCO.

Federal cabinet members including Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaulah Tarar, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

SC decision granted 'unmasked for' relief to PTI: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) have expressed their reaction to the Supreme Court's decision regarding reserved seats, which granted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) the right to these seats in both the national and provincial assemblies.

Addressing a press conference, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar stated that the Supreme Court granted relief to the PTI despite the fact that they had not filed a petition for reserved seats. The petition was originally filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council seeking relief, but the court ultimately granted it to the PTI.

"The PTI didn't even seek this relief. These seats should have gone to the Sunni Ittehad Council," Tarar said, adding that the law regarding reserved



seats exists, and the court itself determined that the PTI had 80 members eligible for these seats.

Tarar further pointed out that these 80 members never approached any forum to claim their right to the reserved seats.

Despite the ruling, Tarar assured that the government is not threatened, as they still hold a majority with 209 members. He also mentioned that the full decision regarding reserved seats has not yet been reviewed.

Tarar concluded by saying that the government has not yet decided whether to file a review petition.

Supreme Court declares PTI eligible for reserved seats

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a major legal victory for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan overturned the denial of reserved seats to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict on a petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), an ally of the PTI.

Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Muneeb Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar Ayesha Malik, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Irfan Saadat Khan ruled in favour of the PTI.

The top court nullified the Peshawar High Court's order wherein it had upheld the ECP's decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC.

In its order, the apex court said that the Election Commission of Pakistan ECP's decision of allocating reserved seats to the ruling coalition was unconstitutional.

The bench accepted SIC's petition and ruled that the party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The apex court accepted PTI as political party and asked Imran Khan-led party to submit reserved seats candidates list to ECP within 15 days.

"Candidates of the PTI cannot be declared independent candidates, nor representatives of any other party," the verdict said adding that the ECP had incorrectly declared members of PTI as independents. The court had reserved its verdict on Tuesday after closing the hearing on a set of appeals moved by the SIC.

The full bench led by CJP ISA, also comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.



The reserved seats issue came to limelight after over 80 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidates emerged victorious in the February 8 elections.

The SIC then approached the ECP on February 21 seeking allocation of reserved seats.

However, the PTI suffered a setback after the electoral body, citing the party's failure to submit its list of candidates, denied allocating the reserved seats to the SIC via its 4-1 majority verdict on March 4.

The election commission distributed the reserved seats for women and minorities among other political parties.

The PTI-backed SIC had approached the court after the ECP refused to allocate the reserved seats due to the party's failure to submit its list of candidates before the deadline. The Peshawar High Court (PHC) upheld the ECP's decision, leading the SIC to appeal to the Supreme Court.

In the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly – according to a notification, the ECP allocated one

reserved seat each to Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Pakistan, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

In Sindh Assembly – allocated reserved seat for women to Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and PPP. PPP's Samita Afzal and MQM-P's Fouzia Hameed elected on reserved seats.

Furthermore, PPP's Sadhu Mal alias Surinder Valasai secured minority seat in Sindh Assembly.

The ECP allocated three reserved seats for minorities to PML-N, PPP and JUI-F – which were claimed by Sunni Ittehad Council. PML-N's Neelam Meghwar, PPP's Ramesh Kumar and JUI-F's James Iqbal were elected on the minority seats.

Subsequently, the PHC ruling allowed the ruling coalition, comprising the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and other allies, to gain a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly. This decision increased the PML-N's seats to 123 and the PPP's to 73, while the SIC held 82 seats.

Reserved seats verdict not a 'conspiracy' against govt: Sanaullah



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Advisor on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah said that the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan's decision in the reserved seats case cannot be termed a 'conspiracy' against the government.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad, Rana Sanaullah said that the judges are also human beings and their opinions can be disagreed with. The PM's advisor said the federal cabinet will decide availing the option of filing a review petition into the matter, adding that the legal team will be consulted to file a review petition in the apex court.

"If the government does not file a review petition, the suspended members of the assembly may file review appeals," he added.

ECP reacts to Supreme Court's verdict

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reacted to Supreme Court's (SC) verdict on Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) appeal, declaring Imran Khan-founded PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.

ECP insiders told ARY News that the election commission never stated PTI is not a political party and is listed as such on its website.

Referring to top court's verdict, the commission said it has not misinterpreted any decision, noting that the bat symbol was taken away after PTI's intra-party elections were not recognised.

The election watchdog further said that the individuals who were declared PTI

MNAs did not disclose their party affiliation in the required documents, adding that having a party ticket and declaration is essential to become a party candidate.

However, it was not possible for the Returning Officers (ROs) to declare the individuals as PTI candidates, sources quoting ECP officials said. It has also emphasised that giving specific seats to PTI is "beyond their understanding".

Furthermore, the ECP has stated that the 41 candidates who were given independent status did not submit any party affiliations, and therefore, could not be considered as party candidates. The commission has also clarified that these independent candidates did not submit any party tickets or declarations.

Chairman of Senate stresses the need for effective governance in order to achieve sustainable development

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani addressed participants of the 35th Senior Management Course at the National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad, highlighting the critical need for effective governance amidst Pakistan's socio-economic challenges.

The Hon'ble Chairman Senate emphasized the role of a professional and dynamic bureaucracy in advancing national development goals.

Drawing from his experience as Prime Minister and Senate Chairman, he underscored the transformative impact of dedicated public servants on sustainable national progress. He stressed the integration of global Sustainable Development Goals into Pakistan's development agenda, emphasizing that good governance is essential for achieving these goals.



The Hon'ble Chairman Senate also noted positive strides in governance, including enhanced parliamentary representation for women, citing these as crucial for a prosperous Pakistan. He urged course participants

to leverage their training to drive inclusive development and adapt to evolving domestic, regional, and global dynamics.

Acknowledging NIM's role in professional training, the Hon'ble Chairman

commended the institute's commitment to excellence.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to course participants from diverse occupational backgrounds.

Victory

ISLAMABAD: Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party flash victory sign after the PTI reserved seats case outside Supreme Court in the Federal Capital, The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday declared Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Samina Khan Kayani says that extra-curricular activities develop students

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: ICMA International Joint Director Samina Khan Kayani has said that extra-curricular activities develop students and provide them with opportunities to advance. No one is denying the usefulness of accounting education, only well-educated teachers and the best environment are needed. He expressed these views while addressing

the summer gala ceremony yesterday and told the students that ICMA is the only institution providing higher education in accounts which works day and night for the welfare of students. Well, highly qualified teachers are imparting higher education to the students and under the leadership of Joint Director Samina Khan Kayani, the institution is progressing double day and night. And other students addressed me.



ChairPerson BISP met with the delegation of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: ChairPerson Benazir Income Support Program Center Ms. Rubina Khalid met with the delegation of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir under the leadership of Shaukat Javed Mir, Deputy Secretary People's Party, Tehsil Lipa and Iqbal Raja Muzaffar Khan. Shaukat Javed Mir gave a detailed briefing on the difficulties caused by the survey in the remote and difficult hilly areas of Hattian Bala district and the obstacles in providing aid to the beneficiaries, especially the problems with women in Pandu Sector, Nadjian, Gujjar Bandi, Gurthama Pahil, Goharabad, Lumnian Lipa Valley. Drawing attention to justice, she said that women have to travel through difficult mountain routes to reach the huts for the survey, due to which they have to incur huge expenses in addition to travel difficulties. The delega-



tion visited Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Ms. Rubina Khalid in Muzaffarabad. She accepted the invitation and promised to come to Muzaffarabad after Muharram, before which Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar also met Ms. Rubina Khalid and informed her about the complica-

tions of the Benazir Income Support Program in Azad Kashmir. While talking to the party delegation invited, Ms. Benazir Income Support Program announced to send survey teams for the facilities of the people and women in the remote areas of Circle Seven and said that we are creating services for the people

without specialisation. Cooperation is very important. He said that what kind of negligence will not be tolerated with the public. Those who violate the rights of the beneficiaries should be targeted. She said that we are going to conduct a survey at the Union Council level very soon. They have given orders to conduct a special survey up to Circle Seven of the Line of Control. They have given the policy to the Regional Director Dr. Abdulaziz Qureshi over the phone and reforms are being made by bringing major revolutionary changes. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is taking special interest in providing relief to the people, while Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Ms. Faryal Talpur have instructed to visit the four provinces and the northern areas of Azad Kashmir to solve the problems of the people at their doorsteps.

July 13 incident cornerstone of ongoing freedom struggle: DFP

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has paid rich tributes to July 13 martyrs, who on this day in 1931 were gunned down by the Dogra army outside the Srinagar Central Jail premises.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal, while recalling the supreme sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs, said that the valiant struggle of Kashmiris against despotic Dogra Maharaja was a cornerstone of the ongoing struggle for right to self-determination.

Reiterating Kashmiris' resolve to carry forward the mission of martyrs he said that the Kashmiri youth who have taken the mantle of resistance were fully determined to take the ongoing struggle to its logical conclusion.

Reiterating his party's support to APHC's call for a complete strike on the day, the spokesman urged the people of Kashmir to hold prayer meetings on the day and visit the Martyrs' graveyard to pay homage to the brave sons of the soil. Stressing the need for an early and amicable solution of Kashmir dispute the spokesman said that a just and equitable solution of the lingering dispute was essentially imperative to ensure durable peace in South Asian region.

Dr Rubina Akhtar says Imran Khan's ideas won with SC verdict

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Tehreek-e-Insaf's NA-148 candidate Dr Rubina Akhtar said Imran Khan and the Voters of Tehreek-e-Insaf Have Won with the Verdict of the Supreme Court. Dr Rubina Akhtar further said that today 12 July will be remembered in history because the courts and the Supreme Court have given us justice in the true sense, because it was not our women who got reserved seats, but it should be seen that the entire justice has been won. Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and National Assembly candidate Dr. Rubina Akhtar said that truth has won today and the ideas of Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan have won because the Supreme Court has accepted the position of Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan as true. In the election 2024, certain seats were held by Tehreek-e-Insaf



And now we have got special privileges, it is a victory of the constitution and law. First of all we are grateful to our Lord and also to the honorable high courts for hearing this case as a larger bench and the larger bench of the Supreme Court. Justice was done by 8 honorable Supreme Court judges against 5, which will always be remembered in history and will have good results for the country. The women that Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan will bring on specific seats will be the workers of Tehreek-e-Insaf in the true sense and we appeal to Imran Khan to give representation to Tehreek-e-Insaf ideological and loyal educated qualified women on specific seats. I am truly a loyal worker of Tehreek-e-Insaf

Dr. Rubina Akhtar further said that Rana Sanaullah and Mohsin Naqvi, under a well-thought-out conspiracy, registered dozens of false cases against Imran Khan, the founder of Tehreek-e-Insaf. Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders and workers. Dr. Rubina Akhtar further said that Allah Almighty will take account of the perpetrators for the oppression and torture on the jailed Tehreek-e-Insaf founder and other leaders. The rulers who took the fake mandate and looted the wealth of Pakistan and grinded the people of Pakistan in the mill of inflation, will be imprisoned in the coming days.

Jammu and Kashmir martyrs laid foundation of freedom movement: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the freedom movement of Kashmir martyrs of July 13, 1931 laid the foundation of the freedom movement with their blood and determined the future paths of future generations. These sacrifices of the people of Kashmir against Dogra tyranny are now continuing with a new style and passion. In Abdul message on the of Martyrs Day 13th July 1931 Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the people of Occupied Kashmir are still making sacrifices following the footsteps of martyrs of Kashmir. Like the Dogra rulers, India is crushing the right and truth of the Kashmiris by force. He said that the Kashmir issue has become a flash point in South Asia Will not reach completion. The martyrs of Kashmir are the benefactors of the nation. The goal they set for the Kashmiris by sacrificing their lives outside the Srinagar Central Jail is still in front of the eyes of the entire nation and the series of sacrifices to achieve it continues. And the day is not far when these sacrifices will pay off and the people of Occupied Kashmir will breathe free air. He said that on July 13, 1931, twenty-two people sacrificed their lives in front of the Srinagar Central Jail to protest against the desecration of the Quran. Wali was gathered on the occasion of Abdul Qadeer's trial and when it was time for Zuhur prayer, one of the crowd started giving azan, he was shot and martyred by Dogra soldiers and 22 people sacrificed their lives to complete this azan. This day is celebrated in memory of this great sacrifice. The movement which was founded by the sacrifice of twenty-two martyrs is still going on in Occupied Kashmir. These sacrifices will not go in vain and Kashmir will be free he added.

Pakistan one-year extension of unregistered Afghan Refugees a welcome first step: Amnesty International Official

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Responding to the announcement on Wednesday that the Government of Pakistan has agreed to a one-year extension to more than 1.45 million Afghan refugees who held UNHCR-issued Proof of Registration (PoR) cards in the country, Thyagi Ruwanpathirana, Regional Researcher for South Asia, Amnesty International, said

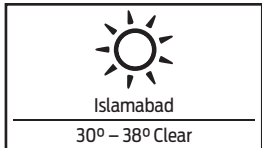
The decision by the Pakistan government to extend the stay of PoR cards holders for another year is a welcome development. However, Amnesty International urges the Government of Pakistan to extend this lifeline to all Afghan refugees in Pakistan and formally suspend the 'Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan'. The uncertainty hanging over the future of more than 2.1 million Afghan refugees must end.

The current measures still place Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders and those who remain undocumented at risk of imminent forced return and continued harassment. The Pakistan authorities need no further reminder of the possible threats the refugees face, in particular women and girls, if forced to return to Afghanistan.

"We, once again, urge the Government of Pakistan to stop all forcible returns, in line with the principle of non-refoulement, ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and develop a national legal framework for asylum and other forms of international protection, as per international law. They must act on this immediately to rectify the precarious situation that the Afghan refugees find themselves in."

Background

In October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced the 'Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan'. Since then, Amnesty International has documented a complete lack of transparency, due process and accountability in the detentions and unlawful forcible returns of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, which were exacerbated by increased harassment and hostility towards them. Since September 2023, the UNHCR reports over 639,000 Afghan refugees have left Pakistan to return to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:26 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:12 pm
Maghrib	7:20 pm
Isha	9:01 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249

Hungarian Envoy to Pakistan calls on National Assembly Speaker

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that Pakistan and Hungary enjoy a long-standing friendly relationship based on a shared commitment to global peace and sustainable development. It is crucial to further enhance these relations for the mutual benefit of the people on both sides, he remarked, during a meeting with the Hungarian Envoy to Pakistan, H. E. Mr. Béla Fazekas, who called on him at the Parliament on Friday.



While discussing parliamentary cooperation, the Speaker emphasized regular interaction between parliaments, mainly through parliamentary friendship groups and the exchange of parliamentary delegations, in order to share and learn from each other's experiences. The Speaker also under-

scored the need to expand cooperation in other areas of mutual interest including trade, investment and education.

The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Speaker for his kind remarks and reiterated that Hungary views Pakistan as an important regional stakeholder. He also presented the invitation letter of the Hungarian Speaker to National Assembly Speaker, inviting him to lead parliamentary delegation to Hungary. The envoy also committed to actively pursue all matters focused at further strengthening of linkages in areas of mutual interest, in addition to fostering parliamentary and cultural exchanges.

Big Catch-up Programmes restore after Covid-19



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Big Catch-up (BCU) is a global initiative launched in April 2023 to close immunization gaps caused by the backsliding of immunization coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic, restore global immunization levels, and strengthen immunisation systems so that catch-up activities become an integral part of immunization programmes.

The Divisional level workshop is organised by Provincial EPI Sindh with support WHO Sindh Office. Dr Parvez Ahmed Shaikh Deputy Director General Health Services Sindh on behalf DG Health Services Sindh chaired the event. Dr. Muhammad Naem Project Director EPI and Dr. Sohail Raza Shaikh started workshop by opening remarks at Karachi and Hyderabad. Presentations are being given by Dr. Nouman from WHO Federal Office, Dr. Waqar Soomro WHO, Dr. Ramesh Kumar WHO, Dr. Amjad Ansari UNICEF, Muzafar Bhurt, Aijaz Jamali, Fahad Fehmi, and Sunel Raja.

AIOU organizes Open House 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Computer Science-Allama Iqbal Open University organized the "Open House 2024," where final year BS (Computer Science) students showcased their projects addressing societal needs. A total of 77 students participated, presenting 27 projects. These included a gas leakage detection project, a rural emporium (e-commerce platform), a system for cleaning and protecting wheat from pests, a battery-powered modern wheat harvesting machine, a PC watch tower, and a 3D driving tutor, among others. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Dr. Hajra Ahmed. On this occasion, Dr. Hajra inspected all the projects, and the students gave presentations and demonstrated their projects. Dr. Hajra stated that all these projects are useful and align with today's societal needs. She mentioned that the students' projects demonstrated that they possess ample talent. Dr. Saleem Iqbal mentioned that under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, they organized this event to showcase the students' projects with the primary aim of informing market and industry experts about the students' capabilities, so they can receive job and internship opportunities. Dr. Moizuddin Ahmed stated that the university's golden jubilee celebrations are ongoing, and this open house is a part of those ongoing celebrations.

Dr. Abrar congratulates students on outstanding performance in matriculation results

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain, on the occasion of matriculation results for the year 2024 issued by the Federal Board, arranged private educational institutions for the outstanding performance of male and female students of private educational institution Congratulated to parents, teachers and children, and he said that the promotion of quality education is key for the economic, social and political development of the country. In this regard, the private education sector is playing an active role in the educational development of the country and the nation in the real sense.



He expressed these views yesterday when All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Central Senior Deputy Rana Sohail Ahmed's School Future Foundation student Aqsa Farooq took the first position in the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad. He also Congratulating the students, parents and all the officials and members of the institution. Federal Board Member BOG and Association General Secretary Muhammad Ashraf Haraj, Irfan Muzaffar Kayani, Malik Deen Muhammad Awan, Javed Iqbal Raja, Zulficar Ali Siddiqui, Raja Ilyas Kayani, Malik Hafeezur Rahman, Muhammad Ibrahim, Qasim Abbas, Antak Hussain, Asrar Bukhari, Sajid Ilyas Chaudhry, Haji Abdul Rahim and other officials also congratulated Rana Sohail Ahmed. Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain further said that the results have been better prepared by the Federal Board. Future Foundation student Aqsa Farooq's position is an honor for the private education sector. He said that private educational institutions perform better in every examination despite the adverse conditions and government inattention. The private education sector is one such sector which is wasting the government's time in improving the country's future and providing quality education to the young generation. The government should patronize the private sector for a better future of the country and to make the literacy rate as per international standards.

French National Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Parliamentary Leader of PPP, in Senate Senator Sherry Rehman, Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, Farooq Sattar and others stands in honor of national anthem of both countries during national day ceremony at residence of France Ambassador, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Farooq Chaudhry met Commissioner Punjab Revenue Authority

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Commissioner Punjab Revenue Authority Khalid Yamin Sati said that the installation of POS (Point of Sale) system is very important to include the citizens in the tax net. We congratulate the representatives of Rawalpindi Restaurant Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association of Pakistan for cooperating with the government institutions. This country is ours which we all have to beautify together. We hope that Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association Pakistan will assist Punjab Revenue Authority in organizing awareness seminars. President of the association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry expressed his best wishes to Khalid Yamin Sati on the appointment of as a Commissioner Punjab Revenue Authority.



Yesterday, an important meeting was held with Commissioner Punjab Revenue Authority Khalid Yamin Sati and Additional Commissioner Saima Younis under the chairmanship of President of Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry. Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, General Secretary Raja Adnan Mehmood, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zahid Mehmood, Senior Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Munir, Vice President Nadeem Kayani, Executive Member

Shakir Sharif and Chaudhry Irfan Mustafa were present with him on this important meeting. In the meeting, the installation of POS system of Punjab Revenue Authority, the collection of sales tax and the organization of awareness seminars were discussed in detail. On this occasion, Commissioner Punjab Revenue Authority Khalid Yamin Sati Determined to work with the association to organize POS system installation, awareness seminars to include the citizens in the tax net. At the end of the meeting, Association President Mohammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed and honorable members presented a bouquet of flowers to Khalid Yamin Sati on his appointment as Commissioner Punjab Revenue Authority and wished him well.

Aga Khan University Hospital Awarded Platinum Performance Achievement Award for Treatment of Heart Attack Patients

City Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) has received the Chest Pain - MI Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2024. This is an award by the American College of Cardiology's (ACC) National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR). It places the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi among the world's top hospitals for offering high-quality cardiac care to heart attack patients.



The Chest Pain - MI Registry empowers healthcare providers to consistently treat cardiac patients using the latest science-based guidelines. It establishes a national standard for better understanding and improving the

quality, safety, and outcomes of care for patients with coronary artery disease, particularly those at high risk of heart

attack. This award recognises AKUH's success in bringing a higher standard of care to heart

attack patients. To receive the Chest Pain - MI Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award, the AKUH has demonstrated sustained achievement in the Chest Pain - MI Registry and performed at the highest level on specific performance measures. "This award reflects our dedication to delivering top-tier cardiac care to our patients. It reinforces our commitment to the health and well-being of our patients and the community. Our doctors, nurses and staff continue to strive for excellence to ensure our patients receive the highest standard of cardiovascular care," said Dr Farhat Abbas, CEO, AKU Health Services, Pakistan. Full participation in the registry engages hospitals

in a robust quality improvement process that uses data to drive improvements in adherence to guideline recommendations and overall quality of care provided to heart attack patients. AKUH has met ACC's rigorous standards for treating heart attack patients, demonstrating AKUH's commitment and dedication to continuous improvement in the quality of care and patient outcomes. "This award is not only a recognition of our achievements but also a motivator for our future endeavours," said Dr. Javed Majid Tai, Director Cathlab and site Director for NCDR. "We remain committed to advancing our cardiac care services to provide top-quality, guideline-driven care for heart attack patients."

GMCWU purchases 2 new buses to ease travel for female students

Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad has purchased two new buses to solve the travel problems of its students. These buses will provide modern and comfortable travel facility for the university students, which will facilitate their academic journey.

The vice chancellor of the university, Prof. Dr. Zill-i-Huma Nazli, handed over the keys of the buses to Transport Officer Hafiz Kaleem ullah Shakir in today's special ceremony and said that the purchase of these buses will significantly reduce the travel problems of female students, especially the female students from remote areas. Keeping in view the travel problems, their routes will also be included.

He further said that these buses are equipped with modern facilities. Transport Officer Haz Kaleemullah Shakir said that after the summer vacation, these buses will start running on different routes and will provide the best travel facilities to the students. On this occasion, a cake was also cut along with the teachers and staff of the university.

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Tormenting Voiceless

It is true that the current state of stray animals, particularly dogs, cats, chimpanzees, and others in Pakistan is deplorable either in rural or in urban areas. They are frequently being killed, tortured, and culled without exposing any sentiments. The country where there are no rights for human beings can be more dangerous for the animals as well. It is evident from the fact that Pakistan is rated as a poor performer ("E") as far as the Animal Protection Index (API) is concerned.

Currently, astray animals in Pakistan are exposed to disease, injuries, malnutrition, and culling, due to lack of an animal-friendly environment and widespread negligence. The fact can be analyzed from the recent shocking camel incident in Sindh province; where the leg of the camel was chopped off when it had strayed into the fields influential for grazing. After significant uproar and outcry, a weak case has been registered against the culprits. Unfortunately, a similar case of animal cruelty emerged in Sindh province, when another camel was found dead with all four legs amputated. Likewise, another donkey was brutalized in Hyderabad, Sindh, and its ears had been chopped off. Now, it can be said without much contradiction that the country has become home to unbridled animal cruelty.

As a matter of the grim reality, a number of stray animals, particularly dogs, are killed each day. Karachi alone is home to 200,000 stray dogs. In spite of global conventions and pledges, more than 50,000 dogs die on the streets of Pakistan every year. Contrarily, the performance of Pakistan is also poor in its region. Coun-

tries like India, the US, and the UK have not only enacted animal welfare laws but also established animal welfare divisions, Boards, and National Institutes for Animal welfare and supervision.

In this connection, the country is also lacking the legal framework for the protection of stray animals. The Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals Act, 1809 remains in force but has not been amended since its enactment. Moreover, the Act being a remnant of British rule, merely acknowledges the pain and suffering of animals. It does not legally recognize their sentience or provide them with remedies. There is either no or very little application of it. However, it only describes partial enforcement of the penalties. It accounts for obsolete practices having no penalties for culling. On the other hand, India's legislation has undergone consistent reforms that recognize animal sentience and impose penalties for cruelty.

Furthermore, Pakistan is not a member of the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW), a formal entity of principles protecting the rights and welfare of animals. In this respect, the lack of political will has further deteriorated the situation. There is neither an entity nor a proper institution to take action and form legislation that may bear fruitful results for animal welfare. In contrast, neighboring India has not pledged support to UDAW and does not prohibit the killing of non-captive wild animals. But, it has enacted similar legislation for animal

welfare through the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals Act, of 1960.

Moreover, the severe shortage of resources to protect stray animals has also added fuel to the fire. There are not adequate shelters and veterinary services for their care. Sadly, many animals remain hungry and untreated for their injuries or illnesses. They are not being spayed or neutered, leading to further population growth.

Another factor that has made the situation more vulnerable is the lack of general awareness about animal welfare. Most of the country's population views stray animals as a nuisance, threat, or even a danger. There is no concept of the humane treatment of stray animals in Pakistan. Besides, cultural attitudes towards animals are also pathetic.

Additionally, either meager or very low allocation of economic resources and funding for animal welfare is also responsible for the situation. Animal welfare has not ever been a priority of the rulers. Ironically, many people in Pakistan struggle to meet their own basic needs; thus, animal welfare is often seen as a luxury. Therefore, it has become difficult for both individuals as well as on a collective level to secure funding for animal shelters and other initiatives.

Unfortunately, stray animals, in turn, have also endangered the health and lives of the public. Dog bites, rabies, and transmission of potential diseases have become the norm of the day. Astray animals also

cause threats to public safety through incidents such as attacks and road accidents. The sorry state of the affair is that the stray dog population is estimated to be at least 3 million in Pakistan. Hence, they suffer harsh living conditions on the streets making the life of citizens more miserable.

In this respect, there is a dire need for well-balanced reforms and thoughtful strategies. Like useless lands located out of the cities should be devoted to building proper shelters with basic necessities for their welfare. Besides, laws regarding culling and hunting should be implemented in true spirit to minimize the cruelty towards strays. Best practices of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dogs Trust, and others should be adopted. The government should pledge its support for UDAW. It will ultimately enforce the application of protective legislation within the country.

The sum and substance of the matter is that the evaluation and degradation of life, whether animal or human, depict a moral collapse of society. It must be realized that animal rights and human rights are integrated. The strong voice should be raised not only against human rights violations but also against animal cruelty to build a just and compassionate society for all and sundry. Thereafter, the value of life, dignity, and freedom for all beings can be claimed. Hence, it is the need of an hour to act practically for the welfare of all these neglected beings who are exploited, tortured, and killed.

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Analysis

Zahid Karim

Pakistan population to hit over 400 million mark in 2092

A key UN report has placed Pakistan, whose current population is over 245 million, in the group of countries whose population is expected to increase through 2054 and could potentially peak in the second half of the century or later.

According to the current projects in the UN's World Population Prospects 2024 report, Pakistan will reach its peak population in 2092 of 404.68 million people.

It said that Pakistan's population is expected to surpass that of Indonesia in 2048 when it will reach 331.29 million.

Between 1998 and 2017, Pakistan's average population growth rate was 2.40%, the report said. For a population of over 220 million, this is a growth of about 5.28 million people per year.

Pakistan has one of the highest birth rates of 22 births per 1,000 people, it was pointed out. "Very few women use any type of birth control in Pakistan, and the surging population can put too much pressure on water and sanitation systems, result in millions of unemployed people, and overwhelm health and education systems."

Since the year 1947, when the country became a sovereign state, the population of Pakistan has increased significantly, particularly because more and more people felt comfortable moving their families and businesses to the area, the report said.

Compared to the other countries in the region, the growth rate of Pakistan is about 2.1 percent higher, it said.

The report predicted that in about 35 years, if this growth continues, the population of Pakistan will eventually become double of what it was back in 2001. Judging from how the population has grown significantly over just ten years, this "doubled population" figure does not seem to be far off, it said.

The current growth rate in Pakistan is close to 2%, but this is expected to halve to less than 1% by the year 2050 — at which point it is predicted to cross the 300 million threshold.

The report also said that the global population reached nearly 8.2 billion by mid-2024 and is expected to grow by another two billion over the next 60 years, peaking at around 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s.

It will then fall to around 10.2 billion, which is 700 million lower than expected a decade ago. That's just one of the key findings revealed in the report published by the UN Thursday.

However, changes in global population are uneven and the demographic landscape is evolving, with rapid population growth in some places and rapid ageing in others, making reliable population data "more important than ever", said the UN sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA), heralding the report which is published to coincide with World Population Day.



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

Protests of a Civilized Society - III

The People Power Revolution in the Philippines illustrates a non-violent mass movement that ousted a dictator. In February 1986, millions converged at EDSA in Manila, demanding President Ferdinand Marcos' resignation and supporting military defections, ultimately restoring democracy through peaceful demonstrations and solidarity.

The Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia further demonstrates the peaceful overthrow of communist rule in Eastern Europe. Beginning in November 1989, mass protests and strikes demanded political reforms and an end to one-party rule, led by dissident figures like Václav Havel. Hundreds of thousands peacefully gathered in Prague's Wenceslas Square and other cities, contributing to transformative political change. The revolution led to the Communist government's resignation and paved the way for democratic elections. The Baltic Way was an extraordinary display of non-violent protest involving around two million people across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. On August 23, 1989, marking the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, citizens of the Baltic states formed a human chain stretching over 600 kilometers from Tallinn to Vilnius. Holding hands and singing national songs, they peacefully expressed their desire for independence from Soviet rule. The Baltic Way endures as a symbol of solidarity and peaceful resistance against oppression.

In Chile, starting from October 2019, a series of massive protests erupted demanding social and economic reforms. Initially sparked by a hike in subway fares, the protests swiftly expanded to encompass

broader grievances about inequality, healthcare, education, and constitutional reforms dating back to the Pinochet dictatorship. Millions marched peacefully through the streets of Santiago and other cities, participating in demonstrations for months. Following contested presidential elections in August 2020, Belarus witnessed extensive protests against the longstanding regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. Known as the "Revolution of Dignity," demonstrators peacefully assembled in Minsk and other cities, advocating for fair elections, respect for human rights, and an end to authoritarian governance. The demonstrations upheld a commitment to non-violence.

In contrast, the situation in Pakistan diverges significantly from more orderly societies. Unfortunately, Pakistan has experienced several instances of violent protests in recent years. These protests, characterized by their intensity and occasional outbreaks of violence, highlight underlying complexities within Pakistani society and the challenges of addressing these issues through peaceful means. Incidents of violent protests often resulted in casualties and injuries among protesters, law enforcement personnel, and bystanders.

The loss of life and physical harm underscores the seriousness and potential dangers associated with escalated demonstrations. Blockades of roads, acts of vandalism, and damage to public and private property disrupt daily life and essential services. Such disruptions affect businesses, schools, and transportation networks, impacting livelihoods and economic stability. Persistent incidents of violent protests can exacerbate political polarization and deepen social divisions within Pakistani society.

Debates surrounding the legitimacy of protests, responses by authorities, and media coverage can further heighten tensions. Continued unrest and violence may also deter both domestic and foreign investment, potentially stalling economic growth and developmental initiatives. Stability and predictability are critical for sustained economic progress.

It is important to note that Pakistan has laws and regulations designed to protect lives and property, and stringent measures are in place to address instances of violence. These include provisions such as, Obstructing public way (Section 283 PPC), Wrongful restraint or confinement (Section 342 PPC), Criminal intimidation (Section 506 PPC), Assault or violence (Sections 322, 323, 324 PPC), Unlawful assembly or rioting (Sections 141-149 PPC), Causing hurt or grievous hurt (Sections 319-338 PPC), Wrongful occupation of public space or land (Section 297 PPC), Encroachment on public roads or spaces (Section 297 PPC), Creating public nuisance (Section 290 PPC) and Disobeying lawful orders (Section 188 PPC) etc. These offenses related to obstruction of public pathways are punishable under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), allowing police to arrest suspects without a warrant for these offenses. Unfortunately, many people in Pakistan are unaware of these laws, and leaders who are aware often fail to educate the public about them. Leaders of violent protests in Pakistan exploit this lack of awareness among the populace, using them as human shields and leveraging their grievances to manipulate the government for personal gain. It is crucially evident that, despite having all the necessary laws and regulations in place, the State and law enforcement agencies are displaying leniency towards violent elements.

To be continued

New Era of China and Russian relations

China and Russia have decided to strengthen their economies, bilateral cooperation, and mutual interests. Both Russia and China have different ideas and slogans to attract foreign relations. They were not comfortable with each other in the past. Russia had its own ideology to rule the world and protect its alliance in Central Asia. The Chinese wants to engage the world through his concept and initiative of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Xi Jinping has a vision of long-term sustainable development projects and handling matters in a peaceful environment. They are neighbors and have a 2,600-mile-long shared border. They settled their border conflict peacefully in 2008. Military and economic relations are increasing gradually day-to-day. They conducted joint military exercises and drills. Relations have been improved and strengthened to some extent.

Furthermore, they faced crises over multiple problems, including communist doctrine and border insecurity. Consequently, they resolved their border issues and complications. After all this, they are building alliances with foreign countries and strong socio-economic ties. Some strategic experts claimed that they are enhancing economic trade and military power due to the common rivalry of the United States of America.

Moreover, the sanctions had been imposed on Russia by western powers, and Moscow turned the table to central and south Asia. Moscow is trying to establish new international institutions and world order like (BRICS) Brazil, India, South Africa, and Shanghai cooperation. Xi Jinping and Putin met on various occasions and appreciated each other. Jinping called him my colleague, and that gesture led to a close relationship. He appreciated the Chinese president's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which clearly shows the ideology of

the Chinese.

In addition, there is no formal agreement or alliance between China and Russia, and they don't agree to follow the set rules and regulations. And the upgraded version of the strategic partnership can be harmful for Washington. The USA and Europe can take protective measures to limit the strategic alliance of China and Russia. President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that their partnership has "no limits" and agreed to build cooperation on various aspects. Jinping and Vladimir met on forty-two different occasions and praised each other. The Russian President called his Chinese counterpart a "dear friend." And they are concentrating on international institutions to surge the power of the USA and global influence of America. In recent developments, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates joined the BRICS group officially.

Last but not least, China has a single political party system, which is the Chinese Communist Party, and they want to lead the country with single-handed power. They have some similarities with the Russian structure of the political system. Russia has a multiparty system, and the dominant party in the country is Putin's United Russia. Xi avoids conflicts in the region and competes with the world with the help of BRI. He tackles foreign relations carefully and doesn't want to open up the front directly.

China and Russia are permanent members and have veto power in the United Nations Security Council. They don't use veto power against each other. They are neighbors and strengthen their economies through bilateral cooperation, international community alliances, and military power. China and Russian relations are introducing new trends in the world order. The world order can be changed with news blocks.

The writer is a Peace and Conflict journalist. He can be reached at ejazkhan11@gmail.com



Analysis

Ejaz Khan

Renowned business leader Zafar Bakhtawari holds meeting with newly elected British MP

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Newly elected British Parliamentarian Adnan Hussain has said that Pakistan is a beautiful country and has a lot of potential but lacks business and investment opportunities. He said this during a meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari in London.

He said that he hails from Kharian and used to visit Pakistan for the philanthropy work and that he is proud to represent not just Blackburn but also the Pakistani community, adding that he is a Solicitor by

profession.

Elected from Blackburn as an independent candidate in the recently held elections Adnan Hussain termed the election as a significant milestone in which 25 Muslims were elected to the House of Commons up from 19 in 2019. Among those 18 are from the Labour, four independent, two from the Conservative party and one from the Liberal Democrats.

He said that Pakistan enjoys immense potential and can become a leader just like India, adding that it also enjoys a strategic location with immense opportunities but their proper utilization is need of the hour. He further said that terrorism is

badly destabilizing Pakistan and its economy but there is always a solution of every problem and we can find solution of this problem also by eliminating its root causes.

On the Palestine issue, he said that the future of Palestine must be decided by its people, by the stakeholders on ground and that the Palestinians have the right to return to their homes.

On his part former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG congratulated the newly elected MP by saying that his and other Pakistan origin candidates' success is a matter of pride for the entire Pakistani nation.

Both Mr. Adnan Hussain and Zafar Bakhtawari discussed at length



the prevailing situation in Pakistan, prospects for its progress and the terrorism monster which is badly affecting the country especially businesses and investments. Zafar Bakhta-

wari apprised him that entire Pakistani nation is determined to overcome the situation steadfastly to put the country on road to progress. Mr. Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated

the dedication with which Mr. Hussain is committed to serve the community and also invited him to visit Pakistan which will be a matter of great pride for the Pakistani nation.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Mr. XU Hangtian, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday.



Photo: Online

KPK businesses to play key role for promoting Pak- Indonesia bilateral trade: Rahmat Kusuma



APP

ISLAMABAD: Charge D Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan; Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma on Friday said that the role of the business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) will be significant for promoting bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a very vital position for regional trade due to its geography, which can play a key role in the bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan and economic integration with Central Asian states in the future, Charge D Affaires of the embassy of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma said.

The Indonesian Charge d'Affaires, Rahmat Hindiarta said this while in an interactive session with business community and business leader's of KPK including former Governor, KPK Haji Ghulam Ali, former caretaker provin-

cial minister Adnan Jalil and others in Peshawar.

Welcoming the Indonesian delegation, Adnan Jalil was joined by former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, former caretaker provincial minister and industrialist Haji Fazl Elahi, former presidents of the Sarhad Chamber, Ishaq Khan and Sirajuddin, along with Rashid Awan from SMEDA and other notable figures.

Charge D Affaires of the embassy of Indonesia said the volume of bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan is less than its potential, which needs to be further increased and in this regard, businessmen from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can play an important role in the economic and trade integration of Indonesia with the Central Asian states.

The senior diplomat said that Pakistan can become a trade hub of Central Asian states for Indonesia in the future, in which both countries can get economic and trade benefits by following

comprehensive planning.

Rahmat Hindiarta said that Pakistan is a geo-strategically significant country, a natural geo-economic partner of Indonesia and in the future, bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries will increase.

He said that for the promotion of bilateral trade between the two countries, not only the market but also sector diversification is needed, which will increase mutual trade.

He said that there is a need for further promotion of people-to-people relations between the two countries so that the people of the two countries come closer to each other.

The meeting involved a thorough discussion of the successful sectors in both countries and concluded with a decision to work together to strengthen Pakistan-Indonesia relations.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the prospect of enhancing trade, industry, and youth and

cultural tourism to foster closer ties and pave the way for economic stability.

The Indonesian delegation invited former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Adnan Jalil, and other participants to visit Indonesia, an invitation that was warmly appreciated by the hosts.

Meanwhile on the occasion, Rahmat Hindiarta emphasized the need for both countries to exchange experiences in industry and trade to strengthen and expand their commercial relations.

Rahmat Hindiarta, and Economic Attaché Axel-syah R Miraza praised the hardworking and dedicated people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expressed eagerness to collaborate with them.

The meeting concluded with the Indonesian delegation presenting commemorative shields to former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Adnan Jalil, thanking them for their hospitality.

Experts discuss future security outlook of South Asia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Future Security Outlook of South Asia: Trends and Challenges" on 11 July 2024. The event featured distinguished speakers, who addressed the multifaceted security challenges confronting South Asia.

Mr Ameer Abdullah Khan, Senior Researcher, CASS Lahore, commenced the seminar with introductory remarks. Ambassador Aizza Ahmed Chaudhary (Retd), former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, delivered the keynote address, wherein he discussed the theatres of international contestation and the threats posed to South Asia's stability. Emphasising the importance of the maritime



domain, he urged Pakistan to focus on this area. Dr Khuram Iqbal, Associate Professor, National Defence University Pakistan, examined the saffronisation of India's strategic culture and lamented the new regionalism instituted by the country in South Asia. Dr Farhan Siddiqui, Associate Professor, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad,

highlighted India's zero-sum strategy with unachievable goals towards Pakistan and stressed the need to learn from missed opportunities of the past.

In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President, CASS Lahore, highlighted the critical security challenges in South Asia arising from

historical conflicts, political instability, and socio-economic inequalities. He pointed out India's sponsorship of terrorism in Pakistan, especially targeting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He emphasised the importance of a multi-faceted approach, including economic development, diplomatic efforts, investment in defence technologies, and climate resilience, to build a strong and resilient nation capable of achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

The question-and-answer session generated insightful discussions. The seminar stressed the complexity of South Asia's security landscape and highlighted opportunities for peacebuilding and cooperation to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

Hamdard Shura monthly meeting

Renowned economist Dr. Kaiser Bengali calls for national consensus on Pakistan's path to sustainable growth

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Renowned economist Dr. Kaiser Bengali said that there is the need for a national consensus among all stakeholders on the country's defence, diplomatic, and economic goals and interests. He noted that developed countries have a national consensus on sustaining economic and developmental continuity. Policies remain consistent even as governments change.

Dr. Bengali made these remarks as the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Hamdard Shura Karachi, held at the Hamdard Corporate Head Office, titled "Budget 2024-25: Was Justice Done to All Sectors?" Speaker General (r) Moinuddin Haider, presided over the meeting. Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, also attended the meeting.

In his address, Dr. Bengali stated that before 1977, there

was a national consensus on the country's economic development. However, Pakistan later took a wrong direction. The main economic issue of Pakistan is trade and budget deficits. These can only be addressed by reducing unnecessary imports and prioritizing exports. To achieve this, we need long-term policy implementation and detailed strategies to reduce expenditures and boost exports. The recent budget provides no incentives for the poor and middle class.

He further said that according to the economic survey report, all sectors in the country are declining. The economy is stagnant due to the lack of development in the manufacturing industry, which is crucial for economic growth. The budget allocates 400 billion rupees for development projects, but the source of this funding has not been specified. Efforts are being made to collect funds through privatization. During

the Musharraf era, large-scale privatization occurred in various sectors, including the sale of many financial institutions. However, investors later transferred their profits out of the country, leading to negative remittances phenomenon. Following the 18th Amendment, many federal ministries were transferred to the provinces, though many ministries still exist in the federation, burdening the national budget with their civil administration costs.

Esteemed members of Hamdard Shura, Zafar Iqbal, Cdre (r) Sadeed Anwar Malik, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Engr. Ibn-ul-Hassan, Col. (r) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, Dr. Amjad Jafri, Prof. Dr. Tanveer Khalid and Amir Tauseen said that the biggest issue for the poor and middle class is inflation. A person earning 30,000 rupees pays the same price for petrol as someone earning 3 million rupees per month. The

prices of electricity, petrol, and essential commodities should be adjusted according to the buyer's purchasing power to minimize the burden on the lower income households. Subsidies are given so that the price difference is covered by the government, ensuring that producers' incomes are not affected and goods remain affordable for the middle class. The current situation requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted economic policy to address this critical issue.

The interest groups have monopolized each sector through collusion and protect their interests through the power corridors. The entire system is controlled by a few influential individuals. The primary role of industrialists is to create employment, which is why the government offers them incentives. Sadly, the nation's entrepreneurial potential has not been nurtured. That is why there are very few technological startups taking place in



the country, resulting little or no new job opportunities for young human resource. Benefiting privileged classes in the budget that do not contribute to national exports is a disservice to the country and its people. Every employed Pakistani should pay income tax regardless of their sector. Without

this legislation, the tax net cannot expand. Non-filers should face stricter enforcement. The income tax payment process should be simplified for ordinary people, and electronic money transfers should be promoted to reduce the size of cash economy. The real estate sector is a major

cause of inflation, with property prices driven up by speculation. Money that should be invested in industries is instead invested in property projects. International financial institutions, including the IMF, are influenced by global politics and make decisions based on the interests of world powers.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
79,944.09	79,992.35
Day's High	Day's Low
80,321.68	78,611.68
Index Value	Change
12,524,530,044	-48.26
Percentage	Time
-0.06%	12 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,252.91	+29.57
Percentage	Time
+0.36%	12 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,067.59	+313.84
Percentage	Time
+0.79%	12 Jul, 12:43 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
41,190.68	-1,033.34
Percentage	Time
-2.45%	12 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.55	186.35
Bahrain Dinar	741	749
Canadian Dollar	203.75	205.75
China Yuan	38.35	38.75
Danish Krone	40.05	40.45
Euro	301.25	303.15
Hong Kong Dollar	35.70	36.05
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.43
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	908.25	917.35
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	73.65	74.37
Singapore Dollar	202	204
Swedish Korona	26.5	26.8
Swiss Franc	309.15	311.65
Thai Bhat	7.5	7.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.5	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	355.15	358.65
US Dollar	279.00	280.50

Fire of inflation should be put out as it risks everything, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the inflation has been going on for three years. It has left the masses in deep trouble.

He said that no government has been able to reduce inflation in the last three years. A few months ago, there was some reduction in inflation. Still, inflation is being increased again due to the increase in electricity and gas tariffs and taxes.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that inflation is damaging the economy while the high cost of living frustrates and angers people.

Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that for the first time in the country's history, the wave of inflation has been going on for three years and will continue.

He added that little has been done to combat inflation, and the rulers are trying to appease the people through promises and statistics.

The business leader said that people are currently having problems paying electricity bills. At the same time, their condition will worsen from next month due to additional tax deductions in salaries, an increase in electricity rates, a hike in fixed payments and overbilling.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the people are bearing the brunt of the politicians' wrong policies and the bureaucracy's incompetence, and the masses are made to pay for all kinds of corruption in the energy sector.

The quality of life of the people continues



to be destroyed in the name of economic stability. He observed that businesses are

closing, unemployment is rampant, and public outcry is rising.

There is a strong possibility of a drastic increase in the country's crime rate before the people's patience is exhausted.

Even now, if the fire of rising inflation is not extinguished, it can burn everything, he said, adding that Nepra has approved the imposition and increase of fixed charges from and has also approved an increase of 184% in fixed charges for households and other consumers.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that fixed charges have been increased by 200 rupees for household consumers for using 301 to 400 units per month, 400 rupees for using 401 to 500 units of electricity per month and 600 rupees for using 501 to 600 units per month. In contrast, the burden on commercial, agricultural, and industrial users has also increased, which is commendable.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Official delegation of Azerbaijan held session with Federal Ministers, Abdul Aleem Khan, Dr. Musaddiq Malik, Jam Kamal and Awais Leghari on Friday.



Photo: PID

Engro Corp. business restructuring gets CCP approval

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a merger for capital allocation and resilience portfolio. The approved transaction entails an internal group restructuring through a Court sanctioned scheme of arrangement under Sections 279 to 282 and 285(8) of the Companies Act, 2017.

The group restructuring involves three merging parties, namely M/s Dawood Hercules Corporation Ltd, M/s Engro Corporation Ltd and M/s DH Partners Ltd.

DH Corp is a public listed company that deploys and manages equity investments across a diverse range of sectors in Pakistan. Apart from the capital deployed through its subsidiaries, DH

Corp actively invests in local public equities and money markets and are currently evaluating investment opportunities in the private space. Meanwhile, Engro Corporation is amongst one of the largest Pakistani conglomerates with business expansion in essential sectors like fertilizer, PVC resin, food, energy, LNG terminals, telecommunication infrastructure, chemical terminal and storage facilities.

The proposed restructuring will make Engro Corp the wholly-owned subsidiary of DH Corp. whereas, a carved out portfolio of DH Corp would be transferred to DH Partners.

The CCP's Phase I competition assessment identified 'Investment Services' as the reportable product market.

PARC and ADB organized workshop on low carbon agriculture in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) hosted a workshop on Low Carbon Agriculture in Pakistan at NARC Islamabad. The workshop aimed at piloting of Alternate Wetting and Drying techniques and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Measurement for rice cultivation in Punjab, Pakistan. The workshop was a collaborative effort involving PARC, ADB, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) University of the Philippines, Los Baños (UPLB), Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI).

At the occasion, Dr. Fakhre Alam Irfan, Federal Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research underscored the critical links between climate change and agricultural innovation. Emphasizing the need for sustainable agricultural practices alongside productivity enhancements, federal secretary highlighted ongoing initiatives by the government such as the



conversion of 100,000 tube wells from diesel and electricity to solar power within the next few years.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, warmly welcomed the esteemed guests and participants. He emphasized Pakistan's commitment to combating climate change while acknowledging the country's vulnerability to its effects. Notably, agricultural activities, particularly rice production, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas

emissions. Ms. Noriko Sato, senior Natural Resources Specialist ADB, emphasized the importance of Pakistan's commitment as a signatory to the Paris Agreement in safeguarding the global climate. Ms. Sato highlighted the significance of accurate and region-specific data collection to effectively address climate change challenges and formulate sustainable environmental policies tailored to Pakistan's unique needs and circumstances.

Government must engage business community for effective policy-making: ICCI President

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business community is the backbone of a nation's progress, and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) is committed to supporting its growth and success. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized this while meeting with a delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI) led by its President Sajjad Sarwar at the Chamber House. Bakhtawari reaffirmed ICCI's priority to address the concerns of the business community, creating a favorable environment that fosters entrepreneurship, innovation, and prosperity.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted that the ICCI is actively working towards the advancement and development of the business sector. He underscored that collaboration among all stakeholders would significantly enhance efforts to achieve shared welfare objectives. Unity among traders, he noted, would convey a compelling message to the government, advocating for the facilitation of business operations in the country. Bakhtawari urged the government to



incorporate the insights of the business community into decision-making and policy formulation processes to ensure a favorable and business-friendly climate. He also called for the implementation of streamlined operations to promote business and investment, alongside equitable and amicable tax collection practices.

On his part, ICSTSI President Sajjad Sarwar congratulated the ICCI President and his team for organizing a successful All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference, which united business leaders to discuss community issues and propose solutions to the government.

Sarwar underscored the importance of unity among business leaders, stating that by consolidating their resources, expertise, and experience, they can forge a powerful and unified voice to effectively address community issues and promote business growth and development.

The ICSTSI delegation included former Presidents Saqib Abbasi, Rana Ayuaz, Malik Nadeem Tahir Araian, Chaudhry Saeed, and Waheed Babi. Representatives from the ICCI included Khalid Chaudhry, Akhtar Abbasi, Malik Shabbir, Nisar Mirza, and Shahid Abbasi.

Salt Manufacturers plea to Prime Minister to address transporter looting under Axle Load Regime



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The enforcement of axle load regulations for truck carriage has inadvertently led to increased extortion from traders for the transportation of goods within Pakistan. This exploitation has significantly raised transport costs, severely impacting export activities.

Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, Chairman of the Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan, has appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister of Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to address the escalating issue of transporter extortion. He emphasized the need for strict adherence to the Ministry of Communication's axle load regulations, ensuring fair charges for goods transportation.

Paracha highlighted that transport mafia are exploiting loopholes in the axle load limits, charging traders for loads well beyond the regulated limits of 30 to 32 tons, citing unnecessary fines and delays during deliveries. This unfair practice not only inflates transport costs but also detrimentally affects various sectors, including the salt industry, ultimately hampering export activities.

The SMAP Chairman urged the government to clearly define and enforce axle load limits for truck carriage nationwide, mandating transporters to adhere strictly to government-regulated charges based on the stipulated load limits.

Ethad Group appeals to traders to respect Muharram-e-Ram

Commerce Desk

FAISALABAD: In Muharram-e-Ram, friends of all schools of thought should be tolerant towards each other and protect their religion. This was said by Central President Cloth Board Ethad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra while talking to the media. He has further said that traders should fully cooperate with the administration and security agencies during Muharram-e-Ram. Citizens and administration keep a close watch on terrorists. This month is one of the great sacrifices in human history and the Islamic nation must respect Muharram in every situation. In his special message at the beginning of the new Hijri year, he said that the month of Muharram is a religious and jurisprudential contradiction for the



Muslim Ummah. Instead of getting confused, he teaches respect for each other's beliefs and practices.

The elements who violate the sanctity of Muharram cannot be friends of the Muslim Ummah in any way. He appealed to people from all schools of thought that they On the occasion of Haram, maintain communal harmony, religious tolerance and peace and order, and thwart the conspiracies of the elements who spread provocation and fight among the people on the basis of faith, religion and profession.

FPCCI Celebrates Malawi's Independence Day

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has welcomed the appointment of Mr. Abdullah Zaki as the honorary consul general of the Republic of Malawi on behalf of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan. He emphasized that Mr. Abdullah Zaki is from within the business community; and, FPCCI is confident that he will be able to open the doors of Malawi for Pakistani exporters.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted that Southeast African country of Malawi has a population of 25 million people; but, our exports to them is only \$9 million per year. This makes it clear that we have a substantive potential to increase our exports.

Mr. Abdullah Zaki, honorary Consul General of

Malawi in Pakistan, explained that there is an enormous potential for Pakistani exporters in Malawi in diverse sectors – textiles, rice, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sports goods, construction materials, motorcycles, etc. Malawi is also a great destination for Pakistani industrialists as labor is cheap and taxation is low, he added.

Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the business community of Pakistan should be given visas swiftly and facilitated to explore the Malawian market. He further elaborated that Pakistan should also explore people-to-people and cultural relations with Malawi as some of the Pakistani businessmen have established significant footprint in Malawi and Muslims are in big numbers in Malawi as well.

Sahibzada Farhan to lead Pakistan Shaheens in red-ball matches in Australia

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Sahibzada Farhan has been named captain of Pakistan Shaheens for two four-day matches against Bangladesh 'A', that will be played in Darwin, Australia from 19 to 29 July.

28-year-old Sahibzada Farhan has featured for Pakistan in five T20Is. The right-handed batter has also played 58 first-class matches, scoring 4,401 runs, which includes eight centuries and 27 half-centuries.

On the tour, Pakistan Shaheens are also scheduled to play two 50-over matches and nine-team T20 tournament in Darwin. The captain for the white-ball series will be announced in due course.

The 15-member red-ball Shaheens' squad are all set to depart for Darwin in the wee hours of Saturday from Karachi via Dubai. In the squad, fast bowler Hunain Shah has been replaced with spinner Faisal Akram, after the former



was ruled out of the tour due to back injury.

Pakistan red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie is also traveling with the side

to Darwin as the team's head coach. He will return to Pakistan in the first week of August after the second four-day match against Bangladesh 'A', which

concludes on 29 July. Former Australian fast bowler will assume responsibilities as the national side's head coach and commence preparations for the two-Test series against Bangladesh, which will be played in Rawalpindi and Karachi.

Pakistan Shaheens - Sahibzada Farhan (captain), Faisal Akram, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Kashif Ali, Khurram Shahzad, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraira, Mubasir Khan, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Tayyab Tahir and Umar Amin.

Player Support Personnel - Jason Gillespie (head coach for red-ball matches), Abdul Rehman (head coach for white-ball matches and will join the side on 28 July), Mohammad Masroor (Assistant coach-cum-manager), Mohammad Asad (physiotherapist), Imranullah (trainer) and Usman Hashmi (analyst).

Hunain Shah ruled out of Pakistan Shaheens' tour to Darwin



A Sports

LAHORE: Young right-arm pacer Hunain Shah has been sidelined from Pakistan Shaheens' upcoming tour to Darwin due to an injury.

As a result, Hunain Shah was replaced by young all-rounder Qasim Akram in Pakistan Shaheens' squad, led by Sahibzada Farhan.

Earlier today, Farhan was named the captain of Pakistan Shaheens' squad for the four-day matches against Bangladesh A, scheduled to be played in Darwin, Australia.

Pakistan Shaheens will play two four-day matches against Bangladesh 'A', followed by a tri-series with the Northern Territory side and Bangladesh in Darwin. They will also participate in the nine-team Top End T20 Series.

Pakistan Shaheens will depart for Brisbane in the wee hours of Saturday via Dubai. They will travel through Brisbane to Darwin later.

Notably, Pakistan's red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie will travel to Darwin as the team's head coach for the two four-day matches.

Pakistan Shaheens squad

Sahibzada Farhan (c), Haseebullah, Qasim Akram, Kamran Ghulam, Kashif Ali, Khurram Shahzad, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Hurraira, Mubasir Khan, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Tayyab Tahir, Umar Amin and Mohammad Ali.

Player Support Personnel - Jason Gillespie (head coach for red-ball matches, will also supervise camp from 8-13 July), Abdul Rehman (head coach for white-ball matches and will join the side on 28 July), Mohammad Masroor (Assistant coach-cum-manager and camp commandant from 24 June-7 July), Mohammad Asad (physiotherapist), Imranullah (trainer) and Usman Hashmi (analyst).

Schedule (all matches in Darwin)

14 Jul - Arrival in Darwin
19-22 Jul - Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A'
26-29 Jul - Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A'
4 Aug - 50-over match vs Northern Territory (NT)
6 Aug - 50 over match vs Bangladesh 'A'
9-18 Aug - nine-team Top End T20 Series

PCB confirms new selection committee



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday updated the new selection committee on their official website, following the sacking of two selectors earlier this week.

Former cricketers Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razaq were removed from their positions as selectors, while Riaz was also sacked as the senior team manager, along with team manager Mansoor Rana.

The new selection committee consists of former cricketers Asad Shafiq and Mohammad Yousuf, along with the captain and head coach of the respective formats.

Test captain Shan Masood and red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie will join the aforementioned selectors to form the squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, assistant coach Azhar Mahmood, Advisor to Chairman Bilal Afzal, Manager of Analytics and Team Strategy Hassan Cheema, Direct High-Performance Nadeem Khan and Director of International Cricket Usman Wahla are also part of the selection committee as the non-voting members.

Asad Shafiq will also serve as the selector for the women's along with Batool Fatima, captain and head coach. Currently, Nida Dar and Mohammad Waseem are serving as the captain and head coach of the Pakistan women's team respectively.

The ongoing changes in Pakistan cricket are a part of the "major surgery", hinted at by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi last month.

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

Volleyball C'ships prize distribution ceremony held

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The prize distribution ceremony of the national senior and junior volleyball teams who won medals, and made the country proud in the Asian Volleyball Challenge (AVC) Cup and Central Junior Volleyball Championship was held on Friday.

Federal Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Nadeem Irshad Kayani was the chief guest of the event held at a local hotel, while Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, Pakistan Sports Board Deputy Director General Shahid Islam, Saeed Akhtar and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Addressing at the ceremony, the Federal Secretary emphasized the IPC ministry's commitment to promoting sports development in Pakistan. He announced plans to organize a conference on sports



economy to attract sponsors and support various sports.

The ministry aims to prepare a targeted plan for talented athletes, focusing on Olympics 2028, and convert mini stadiums into academies to foster a sports culture.

Kayani said the aim is to convert the mini stadiums into academies and promote the culture of sports. The IPC ministry and PVF will play its positive role for the

successful organization of the volleyball league in the country and will provide all possible support, he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chairman, Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, praised the national team for making the country proud internationally. He outlined the federation's plans for coaches and players, highlighting the need for increased funding to support participation in

international events. He said the more the national team participates in international events, the better results Pakistan will get.

In the event, the players were awarded with cash prizes for winning silver medals in the Asian Senior Volleyball Challenge Cup and gold medals in the Central Asian Junior Volleyball Championship and bringing the name of the country to light.

Babar Azam pays tribute to 'GOAT' James Anderson

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan white-ball captain and ace batter Babar Azam penned a wholesome note to pay tribute to exceptional pacer James Anderson, who concluded his glittering Test career on Friday.

Anderson, playing his 188th and last Test for England, bowled out with 704 wickets, the most by any pacer in the history of the format.

"It's been an amazing week, been overwhelmed with the reaction of the crowd and everyone around the ground," Anderson told Sky Sports.

"I'm just proud of what I've achieved," he added.



The right-arm pacer, who has a plethora of records to his name in the longest format of the game, received massive

praise from the notable figures of the sport.

Among them was Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who said

it was a privilege to face James Anderson's cutters and called him the Greatest of All Time (GOAT).

"It was a privilege to face your swing, Jimmy!" wrote Babar on X, formerly Twitter.

"The beautiful game will now miss one of its greatest. Your incredible service to the sport has been nothing short of remarkable. Huge respect for you, GOAT," he concluded with a salute emoji.

Pakistan's left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi also spoke highly of James Anderson and called the 41-year-old a motivation for the emerging pacers.

"Thank you for serving this

sport for over 21 years James," wrote Shaheen.

"You have been a source of motivation to many of us. Best of luck for your journey ahead," he added. Another Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali, who played alongside James Anderson for Lancashire in the County Championship, congratulated the veteran on an incredible journey.

"Huge respect to [James Anderson] on an amazing test career. You were a beast on the pitch, always keeping the batters on their toes, 704 wickets is insane. Congrats on an incredible journey bhai. You'll be missed," wrote Hasan.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz into Wimbledon final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz reached his fourth Grand Slam final at Wimbledon on Friday when he recovered from a set down to defeat Daniil Medvedev.

World number three Alcaraz beat his fifth-ranked opponent 6-7(1/7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and will face seven-time champion Novak Djokovic or Lorenzo Musetti for the title on Sunday.

Alcaraz defeated Djokovic in the 2023 final in a five-set thriller.

"Obviously it will be a really difficult match. Let's see who I am going to play on Sunday," said Alcaraz who crunched 55 winners to the 31 from Medvedev.

"I feel like I am not new anymore. I know how I am going to feel before the final. I have been in this position before."

He added: "I started really nervous today. Daniil was dominating the match, playing great tennis. It was difficult for me."

Twice Daniil Medvedev, beaten by Carlos Alcaraz at the same stage last year, led with breaks in the first set only to be pinned back.

Such was his frustration that he was handed a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct by umpire Eva Asderaki for an apparent foul-mouthed reaction to a ball called for bouncing twice as he was broken in the ninth game.

The tournament referee and supervisor were even summoned to Centre Court by Asderaki, but Medvedev shrugged off the incident to sweep through the tie-break and take the opening set in which he committed only eight unforced errors to the Spaniard's 15.

It was the third time at this year's Wimbledon that Alcaraz had dropped the first set.

Alcaraz recovered impressively, breaking Medvedev for a 3-1 lead in the second, having come out on top in the previous game on the back of a 27-shot rally.

The 21-year-old then hit 14 winners in the third set, pocketing the only break in the third game.

Medvedev, who had knocked out world number one Jannik Sinner in the quarter-finals, retrieved a break early in the fourth set.

But Carlos Alcaraz kept up his assault, edging ahead again for 4-3 on his way to victory.

Novak Djokovic has equalled Roger Federer's mark by reaching a 13th Wimbledon semi-final and is two wins from matching the Swiss star's record of eight singles titles at the All England Club.

Victory on Friday would take him to a 10th final at the tournament and 37th at the Slams.

At 37, Djokovic could also become the oldest Wimbledon champion of the modern era, an impressive achievement for a man who underwent knee surgery as recently as last month.

This season he has lost his Australian



Open and French Open titles and has yet to make a final on tour.

He was handed a free pass into Friday's last-four when Alex de Minaur withdrew from their scheduled quarter-final with a hip injury.

The Serb has been in feisty mood at Wimbledon accusing fans of disrespecting him in his last-16 win over Holger Rune.

"If somebody steps over the line, I react," he said.

Djokovic has a 5-1 winning record over Musetti, including a come-from-behind five-set victory at the French Open last month.

That third-round match set the record for the latest finish at Roland Garros, with Djokovic completing victory at 3:07 in the morning.

Musetti, 22, also took Djokovic the distance in their first meeting at Roland Garros in 2021, when the Italian won the opening two sets of their last-16 tie before injury scuppered his hopes in the decider.

"He's a legend, especially here at Wimbledon," said Musetti ahead of his debut on Centre Court, where he was allowed to practice on Friday morning.

If Musetti reaches the final, it will be the first time in history that Italian players have reached the men's and women's singles finals at a Grand Slam in the same year.

Italy's Jasmine Paolini will play the women's final against Czech 31st seed Barbora Krejckova on Saturday.

Meeting of Steering Committee

ISLAMABAD: Dar chairs meeting of Steering Committee to outsourcing of airports' operations The meeting were attended by Minister for Finance, Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, Secretary Law, Secretary BOI and Country Director IFC.



Photo: PID

11th meeting of the steering committee on outsourcing of airports

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 11th Meeting of Steering Committee on outsourcing of Airports was held today under chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance, Mr. Tariq Bajwa (Special invitee), Secretary Aviation, Secretary Law, Secretary BOI and Country Director IFC

The Secretary Aviation briefed the Committee that Islamabad airport outsourcing project has attracted interest from various airport operators including those from Europe. Some of these operators have formed consortium with local investors and are undertaking legal and financial due diligence. Their teams have visited Islamabad airport recently. However, in view of

the complexity of the project, four potential bidders have requested for an extension in the bid submission date, fixed for 15th July, with a view to allowing them to complete their due diligence. Such an extension will allow more competition and thus better value for the project. IFC, the Transaction Advisor for the project, supported this proposal.

The Steering Committee

allowed extension in the bid submission date for two months. The Steering Committee further directed that the potential bidders shall be engaged and fully supported by the Ministry of Aviation and IFC for early completion of the due diligence and ensuring maximum participation in the bidding process. Steering Committee further decided to closely supervise this process to

ensure that no further extension is required.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the project for leveraging maximum revenue potential of Islamabad Airport as well as enhancing passenger experience. He undertook to take all measures to ensure that the outsourcing project is completed in the shortest possible time in the most transparent manner.

Shaza, Dr Jack Lau discuss matters of mutual interest

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and President Qatar Science and Technology Park Dr Jack Lau on Friday discussed matters of mutual interest and regarding start-up ecosystem and innovation.

During a meeting Dr Jack Lau briefed Shaza Fatima about Qatar Science and Technology Park and said that slightly large companies from Pakistan are encouraged to establish a strong physical presence in Qatar, as it would facilitate their expansion and provide them with a strategic base in Middle East.

He urged Pakistani entrepreneurs to come and work on cutting-edge foundational



technologies in Qatar, saying that these opportunities are being provided by several

unicorns that are setting up operations in Qatar. Shaza Fatima said present

government was taking steps for promoting entrepreneurship and innova-

tion in the country. She said Prime Minister of Pakistan was focused upon equipping youth with latest tech training and their capacity building.

She said youth of Pakistan has great potential and talent, adding that start-ups exchange program can be started between Qatar and Pakistan.

Ignite and Qatar Science and Technology Park can jointly work regarding this exchange program. The minister also stressed upon arranging visit of Pakistani students in Qatar to Qatar Science and Technology Park. Both Pakistan and Qatar can benefit from each other's experiences in tech sector. Additional Secretary MoITT, Aisha Humera Moriani was also present in the meeting.

UAE woman breaks barriers, becomes youngest to earn heavy truck license

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Fouzia Zahour has become the youngest woman in the UAE to obtain a heavy vehicle license, defying traditional norms.

The 32-year-old Indian native not only drives massive 22-wheeler trucks for a living but does so while wearing the traditional Emirati dress, the abaya.

Hailing from India, Fouzia has been the sole breadwinner for her family since her father passed away before she was born.

She took care of her mother until her passing last Ramadan, viewing herself as the "man of the house" and taking on tough responsibilities.

After obtaining a car license in 2013, Fouzia set her sights on earning a heavy vehicle license, a feat achieved by few women in the country. She passed the rigorous eye, physical, and driving tests with flying colors, surprising even the licensing officials who had rarely encountered a female applicant.

Now employed at a private company in Fujairah, Fouzia transports heavy loads of sand and stones across the UAE, expertly maneuvering the double- and triple-axle trucks. Her longest journey to date has been from Dubai's Jebel Ali to Al Qudra.



Gohar hails 'historic' decision, says path to constitutional amendment blocked

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, chairman, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said that the Supreme Court's decision will be written in history, and the people should offer thanksgiving prayers today. He added that finally, they have received their right, and today is a day of happiness for 250 million people. He also thanked the judges for deciding in favor of PTI.

Earlier, PTI Senator Shibli Faraz said that he pays tribute to the courts, and they have received the reserved seats. He added that the decision has upheld the flag of justice.

Sunni Ittehad Council leader Hamid Raza said that the Supreme Court has given the right to the rightful owner today. He added that the Election Commission tried to steal the mandate, and the Supreme Court has expressed its



lack of confidence in the Election Commission. He demanded that the Chief Election Commissioner resign immediately.

We have won the legal battle, Salman Akram

Salman Akram Raja said that today is the victory of truth and justice, and they have won the legal battle. He added that they will also win the political battle.

On this occasion, Kanwal Shozab said that their leader is being held in prison without any reason. She demanded immediate justice for the founder of PTI. She emphasized that their leader should also be released.

Deputy Prime Minister chairs the first meeting of High-Level Committee on the Requirements and Arrangements for the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting to be held in Islamabad on 15-16 October 2024

On 12 July 2024, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, chaired the meeting of the High-Level Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The High-Level Committee has been constituted in pursuit of the Prime Minister's directive to ensure hosting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad in a befitting manner. The Committee comprises, as its members, Federal Ministers for Economic Affairs, Interior, Information and Broadcasting, and Secretaries of the Foreign Affairs, Cabinet, and Interior as well as Chairman CDA.

Ambassador of Spain meets the Minister for Finance & Revenue



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, H. E. Ms. Jose A. de Ory called on Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division today.

The Finance Minister welcomed the Ambassador and discussed the cooperation and longstanding relations between the two countries. He gave an update on some of the indicators including building up of foreign exchange reserves to USD 9.4 billion, robust performance of the stock exchange, declining trend of inflation rates with CPI inflation clocking in at 12.6% in June 2024, and increase in foreign remittances by 7.7% as compared to last year. He also highlighted the successful conclusion of the 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and apprised about the government's intention to continue with the economic reform agenda under a fund supported medium term program. He empha-

sized the commitment of the government to achieving economic stability by increasing tax to GDP ratio through increasing tax base, as tax collection during FY 2024 increased by 30% as compared to FY 2023, and improving the tax administration through digitization, fiscal consolidation, Energy Sector reforms, SOE reforms, privatization and efforts to increase FDI. It was further emphasized that export-led growth is the agenda of the government for which, along with traditional sector, agriculture and IT sectors are also being encouraged through different policies of the government.

The Spanish Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's macroeconomic stability and the Government's efforts towards the economic reform process for sustainable economic growth. He urged the Government of Pakistan to enhance value addition in exports, emphasizing the potential for deeper collaboration between Spain and Pakistan in value added sectors.

PTI should not blame ECP for its own blunders in reserved seats issue: Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should better confess its blunders, instead of maligning the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in a matter related to the reserved seats in the Parliament.

Rejecting the PTI's propaganda against the ECP, the minister said it was the PTI which failed to hold intra-party election in accordance

with the law. Likewise, the party had not submitted declaration and party tickets to the concerned, he added.

He, in a news statement, said the PTI also failed to join any party which had presence in the Parliament.

"In this case, they did not request to be declared as MNA of the PTI," he added.

After all these blunders, he said the PTI did not have the right to question the ECP's credibility.

Ironically, it was portrayed that all in the country were guilty except the PTI, he added.

WB Mission commends BISP success in achieving CRISP targets



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB)/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Implementation Support Mission for the Crisis Resilient Social Protection (CRISP) project highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

The mission, visited the BISP office on Friday, was led by Senior Social Protection Specialist Amjad Zafar Khan.

The mission included key participants such as Melis U. Guven (Lead Economist/Co-Task Team Leader) and Zaineb Majoka (Economist), among others.

During the wrap-up meeting with Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad, the mission presented its findings for the period Jan-June 2024.

Amjad Zafar Khan highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to various initiatives including innovations to the Social Registry, Biometric Payment Systems, Hybrid Social Protection Schemes, Health and Nutrition Improvements, and School Enrollment Incentives.

He remarked that all targets were met satisfactorily and are on track.

Chairperson Rubina Khalid expressed gratitude to the World Bank mission for their support and assessment of BISP's performance.