



July 13, 1931, carnage a dark chapter in Kashmir history: Mushaal

While paying glowing tributes to the martyrs of July 13, 1931, Mushaal Husseain Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, reaffirmed commitment that the people of Kashmir would continue their righteous struggle against the Indian illegal occupation until they achieved liberation. (Details on Page 3)



My message to the new world: By Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian

On May 19, 2024, the untimely passing of President Ebrahim Raisi - a deeply respected and dedicated public servant - in a tragic helicopter crash precipitated early elections in Iran, marking a pivotal moment in our nation's history. Amidst war and turbulence in our region, Iran's political system demonstrated remarkable stability by conducting elections in a competitive, peaceful, and orderly manner. ... (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Fateha

RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha for Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad Shaheed, during his visit to Shaheed's family home on Saturday.



Photo: PID

President visits residence of Captain Osama bin Arshad Shaheed to offer condolence

Spokesman Report
RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday visited the family home of Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad Shaheed, who was martyred in a firefight with terrorists in North Waziristan and offered heartfelt condolences to his family members. Speaking with the father of Shaheed Captain Osama, the president paid tribute to the martyred who laid down his life for the country. President Zardari also commended the bravery, patriotism, and services of Captain Osama Shaheed. He offered Fateha for Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad Shaheed and prayed for the elevation of ranks of the departed soul in Jannah. He also prayed for grant of courage to the bereaved family members to bear this loss with patience.

Govt will decide on Monday whether to challenge reserved seats decision: Asif

City Desk
SLAKOT: The government would decide on Monday whether to challenge the Supreme Court's reserved seats decision, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Saturday. "It will be decided in Parliament whether to challenge the Supreme Court's decision or not. The government will consult its allies," he told reporters in Sialkot on Saturday. A day earlier, the apex court declared Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities. The majority verdict was given by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Irfan Saadat, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said the SC granted relief to the PTI despite the fact that they had not filed a petition for reserved seats. Parliament has the authority to amend the Constitution, Asif said and added that the judiciary cannot rewrite it.

PM-IMF

PM expresses satisfaction over IMF staff level agreement for \$7bln loan

Spokesman Report
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed his satisfaction over reaching of Pakistan's staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new \$7 billion loan programme. The prime minister said for the country's economy, they had taken harsh and difficult decisions and owing to these decisions, positive outcome was being achieved in form of economic stability. "IMF programme proved vital in steering Pakistan out of financial straits," PM Office

Media Wing, in a press release in Urdu language, quoted the prime minister as saying. The IMF has agreed to extend \$7 billion loan to Pakistan, spanning over a period of 37 months. The prime minister observed that the new loaning programme would further strengthen the economy of Pakistan, ushering in a new era of economic prosperity and end to foreign loans. The prime minister thanked the IMF for its support in the difficult times and said that the government was continuing efforts towards strengthening of economy. He said under IMF programme, steps would be



taken for strengthening of the financial and monetary policy

besides, broadening of tax net base. During the previous one year, the country's foreign reserves had swelled leading to economic stability, he noted. The prime minister also appreciated efforts of Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, financial team and the provincial chief ministers. He also expressed his resolve to stabilize Pakistan and take it to sustainable development, adding that they could achieve success on the day, once they get rid of loans. The prime minister further underlined the government's

efforts at economic agenda and said these measures were paving ways for putting the country's economy on strong foundations and for the durable progress and prosperity of the citizens. The government strictly adhered to the policy reforms and meeting the financial targets and thus supported the low income segments of society, he added. "We have stabilized the exchange rate for the economic stability and taken steps for sustainable growth," he said, adding that now onwards, a journey of progress and prosperity would be completed under these reforms.

Malala calls for Pakistan to stop deporting undocumented Afghans

News Desk
ISLAMABAD: Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai called for Pakistan to stop deporting undocumented Afghans, saying she was especially concerned about the "dark future" awaiting women and girls sent back. "It is deeply concerning that Pakistan is forcing Afghan refugees based in Pakistan back into Afghanistan, and I'm deeply concerned about the women and girls," the activist, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, told AFP in an interview on Friday. Despite extending leave for Afghan refugees with permits to stay in Pakistan for another year, Islamabad this week said it would remove illegal migrants. More than 600,000 Afghans have fled Pakistan since Islamabad last year ordered undocumented migrants to leave or face arrest.

Hopes for release of Khan, Bibi dashed as both arrested in new state gifts case

Bureau Report
LAHORE: Hopes for the release of former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were dashed on Saturday as the national-graft buster arrested them in a state gifts reference hours after a court acquitted both in the unlawful marriage case. The Lahore police have also arrived at the Adiala Jail, where the PTI founder is imprisoned, to arrest Khan in another case related to May when protesters vandalised state properties after his first arrest in 2023. Earlier in the day, an Islamabad district and sessions court acquitted the two in the Iddat case. Judge Afzal Majoka overturned their sentences and ordered them to be released at the end of a speedy retrial ordered by Islamabad High Court. PTI Chairman Gohar Khan claimed that the party would take Khan and Bibi back home after the verdict, however, the situation did not turn out as planned. A two-member NAB team led by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon had arrived at the prison to arrest them.

FIR registered against several Baloch Yakjehti Committee supporters, Mahrang Baloch

Bureau Report
QUETTA: A first information report (FIR) has been registered against human rights activist Dr Mahrang Baloch and several members of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee for allegedly damaging the government property, interfering with government affairs, and raising anti-state slogans. The complaint, which was registered on July 11, invoked sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees, 123-A (condemnation of the creation of the State, and advocacy of abolition of its sovereignty), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups, etc), and 324 (attempt to commit qatl-i-amd) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Israel attacks on Gaza 'safe zone' kill 71

Reuters
GAZA: An Israel airstrike killed at least 71 Palestinians in a designated humanitarian zone in Gaza on Saturday, the enclave's health ministry said, in an attack that Israel said targeted Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif. It was unclear whether Deif was killed. "We are still checking and verifying the results of the strike," an Israeli military official told reporters. The Islamist group Hamas said in a statement that Israeli claims it had targeted leaders of the group were false and aimed at justifying the attack, which was the deadliest Israeli attack in Gaza in weeks. Displaced people sheltering in the area said their tents were torn down by the force of the strike, describing bodies and body parts strewn on the ground. "I couldn't even tell where I was or what was happening," said Sheikh Youssef, a resident of Gaza City who is currently displaced in the Al-Mawasi area. "I left the tent and looked around, all the tents were knocked down, body parts, bodies everywhere, elderly women thrown on the floor, young children in pieces," he told Reuters.

US, Pakistan committed to strengthen security ties, focus on counter terrorism, law enforcement

City Desk
ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador Donald Bloom during his meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday discussed matters of mutual interests and strengthening of bilateral relations with each other. The meeting focused on issues such as enhancing cooperation in combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking and bolstering security. Both sides agreed to hold a joint 'Law Enforcement Dialogue' in coming October this year. Minister Naqvi emphasized the significance of US support in strengthening Pakistan's law enforcement agencies. He also highlighted the recent discussions in New York to foster collaboration between the Islamabad Police and the New York Police Department. A delegation from Islamabad Police will soon visit New York to explore further opportunities for cooperation including training programs. Naqvi reiterated the Pakistani government's commitment to protecting all minorities while emphasizing their equal rights under the Constitution. He also stated that all those accused in the recent Jaranwala tragedy have been arrested and brought before the court. Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Ali Randhawa and IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi were also present during the meeting.



All-Party Hurriyat Conference pays tribute to Kashmiri martyrs of July 13, 1931

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: A seminar was held in the office of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference under the chairmanship of convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi. The speakers paid great tribute to the martyrs of July 13, 1931 and said that this is an unforgettable historical day which can never be forgotten. It is a milestone in the history of Kashmir.

On July 13, 1931, 22 Kashmiri Muslims were martyred outside the Srinagar Jail by Dogra Maharaja's forces firing on peaceful protesters.

The martyrs were civilians who had gathered outside Srinagar's Central Jail on the occasion of the trial of a man named Abdul Qadeer Khan (who had called on the Kashmiri people to raise a flag revolt against the Dogra Raj). That on July 13, 1931, when a Kashmiri youth started giving adhan at the time of Zuhur prayer, the Maharaja's soldiers shot him dead. After that, another person stood up to complete the call to prayer, and he was also martyred.



In this way, 22 Kashmiri shopkeepers sacrificed their lives until the Azaan was completed. This is a unique incident of martyrdom which has no precedent. After this sad tragedy, agitation spread among Muslims. And protests against Dogra Raj will begin across the state. After that, the Dogra government imposed a curfew in Srinagar. This brutal incident created the

spirit of freedom in the hearts of Kashmiris. Which is still going on with the same passion.

The speakers said that even today, Kashmiris are being martyred by the Indian army. Today, Indian state terrorism has reached its peak in the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir. Rights are revoked. Whoever tries to raise his voice against this brutality, India is putting him behind bars by setting up false cases through its agencies. Lands and jobs are being taken away from people. Houses are being bulldozed. 10 Millions of Indian soldiers have established an atmosphere of terror in the state. India is doing all this to subjugate the Kashmiris and to induce the Kashmiris to be its slaves. They are standing like a rock to get freedom. And they will continue their struggle based on this right until they get freedom.

On this occasion, the speakers appealed to all the human rights organizations and the United Nations to Take notice of the ongoing Indian persecution in Kashmir and provide

the Kashmiris with the opportunity of self-determination that they have been promised. So that they can decide their political future of their own free will. And sustainable peace can be established in South Asia. The seminar was attended by Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Altaf Hussain Wani, Faiz Naqshbandi, Mir Tahir Hussain, Ghulam Nabi Butt, Khatib Hussain, Haji Muhammad Sultan, Ijaz Rahmani, Imtiaz Wani, Hasan Al-Banna, Sheikh, Javed Jahangir Butt Abdul Mutain, Raja Khadim Hussain, Dawood Khan, Sanawallah Dar, Khurshid Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Syed Kifait Hussain, Adeel Mushtaq, Muhammad Ashraf Dar, Sheikh Abdul Majid, Zahid Mushtaq, Ofser Khan Ofser, Najabullah Al Ghafoor, Rais Mir, Manzoor Butt, Malik Ghulam Hasan, Mian Muzaffar, Nisar Mirza, Syed Gulshan, Nazir Karnai, Iqbal Baloch, Muhammad Afsar Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Benazir Sahiba, Qazi Imran, Imtiaz Butt, Abdul Ghani, Abdul Hameed Lone, Atta Allah participated.

All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference to celebrate Pakistan Accession Week from 13th to 19th July

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has announced to celebrate Pakistan Accession Week from 13th July to 19th July like every year under the supervision of Chairman Youth-Wing Muslim Conference Sardar Usman Ali Khan. All events have been canceled from 13th to 17th July due to Muharram. The President of the Muslim Conference According to details revealed by chief organizer Muslim Conference Raja Saqib Majeed Khan he said that the all preparations have been finalized to celebrate the historic day when the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference adopted the resolution the fate Kashmir State accession to Pakistan on 19th July before ten days emergence of Pakistan. He said that the day of July 19 is in the heritage of the Muslim Conference. Like every year, the Muslim Conference will celebrate Pakistan's Accession Day on the 18th of July. Tehsil headquarters will hold the celebrations of accession to Pakistan, while on July 19, the main event organized by the Muslim Conference Youth Wing will be held in Muzaffarabad. Wali Abdul Qadeer was being tried for sedition on charges of inciting the Kashmiris against the Dogra ruler in a gathering at Khanqah Mulla on June 21 of that year. Shot dead by the police, another member came in his place and was also shot, a total of 22 men stood up to give the Azaan in full and all were shot. Kudos to the Kashmiris. The President Muslim Conference said that Kashmir Martyrs' Day is a day to remember the great sacrifices of Kashmiris for achieving the inalienable right of self-determination given by the United Nations.

Insaf Lawyers Forum Multan celebrates Supreme Court's Iddat verdict



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The district president of Insaf Lawyers Forum Multan, Ehtishamul Haq and Other Advocates distributed sweets in celebration of the Supreme Court's decision on the specific seats in favor of PTI and the acquittal of Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Iddat case. Addressing the said that without any pressure by the Supreme Court for giving the decision of the specific seats in favor of PTI, this is a historic decision and compliance with the constitution and law today is the victory of law and right. He demanded that the Election Commission of Pakistan resign immediately and no power in the world can stop Imran Khan from becoming the Prime Minister of Pakistan again. Khush Bakht Khan, Aurangzeb Janjua, Abdul Sattar Malik, Ramzan Bhatti, Syed Bukhari, Anwar ul Haq, Sheikh Naveed, Aurangzeb Baloch and others also addressed the event.

DC Sujawal Express Grave concerns over crumbling state of education



Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL: Deputy Commissioner Zahid Rind has expressed grave concerns over the crumbling state of education in Sujawal district, urging civil society to play its role in social development. Addressing the closing ceremony of a two-week summer camp at a community-based school in Sujawal, he said that education is the only way to progress and prosperity in today's era, and it has no replacement.

"I have visited different areas of the district where I witnessed a lack of awareness regarding the importance of education among children as well as their parents," he added, saying that this state of affairs was quite alarming for him as the chief executive of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of Ismaili Youth Services, Aga Khan Education Board, and the school administration for organizing a summer camp to highlight the importance of science education, technology, and artificial intelligence.

Administrator of the Summer Camp as well as Head Mistress of the School Zeba Parveen shared that the camp aimed to foster interest in scientific education among students, improve their extracurricular skills, and attract them to the importance of the English language in their professional journey.

She said that it was the second camp of its kind, with the first camp held by Aga Khan Education Board in December last year.

The chief guest inspected projects presented by students and was briefed about their 15-day journey at the camp.

Protest

LAHORE: Vice President of All Lahore Realtors Association (Registered) Mian Naeem along with his colleagues is holding a protest press conference against LDA in the press club of the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

Chaudhry Riaz appeals for national unity on Kashmir

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party central senior leader Chaudhry Riaz while paying homage to the martyrdom of July 13, 1931, appealed to celebrate the 19th July Declaration Day of Pakistan's accession with national unity and said that the people of Kashmir have political and ideological affiliations Above all, Pakistan and the ideology of stability of Pakistan will never allow all kinds of negative propaganda and mental innovation-based luxury against Pakistan to grow. He did not become a part of any conspiracy against the country and did not allow palace conspiracies to succeed. People's Party and the Bhutto family offered sacrifice



es of their four generations including countless Jiyaals. Peoples Party Azad Kashmir's Central Deputy Secretary Information nominated candidate for

Assembly Constituency Seven Shaukat Javed Mir, Acting President Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Muqds Iqbal, Raja Muzaffar were talking to party officials

and workers from all over Azad Kashmir. Chaudhry Riaz said that Pakistan Three wars have been fought for the freedom of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. People's Leader Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto vowed to fight for the freedom of Kashmir for a thousand years. On the issue of Kashmir, I cannot make a mistake even in my dreams. Chaudhry Riaz said that India cannot bulldoze the issue of Kashmir by force. Bloodshed, state terrorism of eight million occupying forces, human rights violations are at their peak, India does not abide by national and international agreements and the silence of the international community on violations of the Geneva Convention is causing the collapse of international peace.

Police arrest three suspects in connection with murder of petrol pump owner in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock police have arrested the suspects involved in the broad daylight murder of a petrol pump owner and the injury of the manager. Further investigation is ongoing. Attock police have the capability to bring any serious crime suspect to justice, stated DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghayas Gul Khan. According to details, on 11.06.2024, the complainant Ali Muhammad Sajid stated that he works as a manager at the PSO petrol pump owned by Major (Retd.) Sher Ali, son of Nigah Hussain, resident of Lalazar Colony, Askari 7, Rawalpindi, located on Kohat Road, Fateh Jang. Major Sher Ali had come to the petrol pump with his son Haider Ali. While Major retd Sher Ali was sitting in his office and Haider Ali was engaged on the phone in front of the office, two unknown individuals arrived on a Honda



125 motorcycle and started indiscriminate firing. Major retd Sher Ali was hit in the neck and succumbed to his injuries, while I was hit in the elbow, fortunately surviving the attack. The Fateh Jang police registered the case. District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghayas Gul Khan, took notice of the incident and

formed a team under the supervision of SHO Fateh Jang Sub-Inspector Faisal Amin, including the in-charge HiU and other police officers and personnel from Fateh Jang Police Station. The task was to trace and bring the unknown suspects involved in the incident to justice as soon as possible. The police team worked

tirelessly, utilizing professional skills, modern technology, and community policing to trace and arrest the suspects Mehrban Ahmed, son of Ghulam Akhtar, and Arbab Rasheed, son of Abdul Rasheed, residents of Mohalla College Mor, Fateh Jang. From Mehrban Ahmed, the police recovered the 9mm pistol used in the incident along with ammunition, and from Arbab Rasheed, an illegal 30 bore pistol with ammunition was recovered. Separate cases under the Arms Ordinance were registered against both suspects, and their physical remand was obtained for further investigation. Efforts are ongoing to recover the motorcycle and mobile phones used in the incident. On this occasion, DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghayas Gul Khan commended the Fateh Jang police team for their good performance and stated that Attock police have the capability to bring any serious crime suspects to justice.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:26 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:20 pm
Isha 9:00 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 921334-43
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

Sakib Rafiq headed BOM meeting at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The fifth meeting of the Punjab Arts Council's Board of Management was held under the chairmanship of Board President Saqib Rafiq. At the beginning of the meeting, the newly appointed Director of the Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain, was welcomed by all members. The board members Aasma Butt, Muhammad Azeem Iqbal, Hassan Abbas Raza, and Muhammad Aslam Mughal participated in the meeting. Board President Saqib Rafiq stated that Punjab is extremely fertile in terms of literature and culture, and it is a historic cultural center rich in folk heritage. The board is fully active in promoting arts and culture. It was decided in the meeting to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm. The Director of the Arts Council provided a detailed briefing on the programs related to Kashmir Exploitation Day and Independence Day celebrations. Director Sajjad Hussain proposed the establishment of a permanent art gallery in the council, which would showcase the artworks of famous regional artists. The members also agreed on holding a summer camp for young children during the months of July and August.

July 13, 1931, carnage a dark chapter in Kashmir history: Mushaal

Muhammad Amin

ISLAMABAD: While paying glowing tributes to the martyrs of July 13, 1931, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, reaffirmed commitment that the people of Kashmir would continue their righteous struggle against the Indian illegal occupation until they achieved liberation.

In her statement on Kashmir Martyrs' Day observed on Saturday on both sides of lines of control, Mushaal, a former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, called the massacre of July 31 as the darkest chapter in the history of the Dogra regime.

She vowed that the brave Kashmiri freedom fighters would continue to give sleepless nights to the Indian occupation forces and its puppets until they broke the shackles of Indian slavery.

Mushaal stressed the need for a peaceful and just resolution of the decades-old



July 13, 1931: A Dark Chapter in Kashmir's History, Mushaal Vows Continued Struggle for Liberation

Kashmir dispute, as Indian brutal forces should have to realize that they could not break the unwavering resolve of Kashmiris through brutal use of powers.

The hurriyat leader recalled that over four hundred and fifty thousand Kashmiris had achieved martyrdom since 1947 for their resistance against Indian hegemony, while over 96,326 persons were martyred by Indian troops, 7,341 of them in custody

since January 1989.

However, she stated that the fact remained that the worst kind of Indian brutalities had failed to coerce the Kashmiris to surrender their true political demand as they were determined to carry forward the mission of their martyrs and sacrifices of people who remained alive in their hearts and minds.

She stated that the martyrs were guiding lights for the ongoing just freedom movement, which continued to inspire Kashmiris to vociferously resist and challenge the unlawful Indian occupation.

Mushaal vowed that the matchless and unprecedented sacrifices rendered by the brave people of Kashmir for the freedom cause would yield results and they would succeed in breaking the shackles of Indian slavery once and for all.

She urged that the world powers and human rights organizations should intervene and resolve the long-standing dispute as per the UN agreed formula and aspirations of the people of the occupied valley.

Fishing

ISLAMABAD: People busy in fishing at Rawal Lake in the Federal Capital, fishing increased after a decrease in water level in the Rawal Lake.

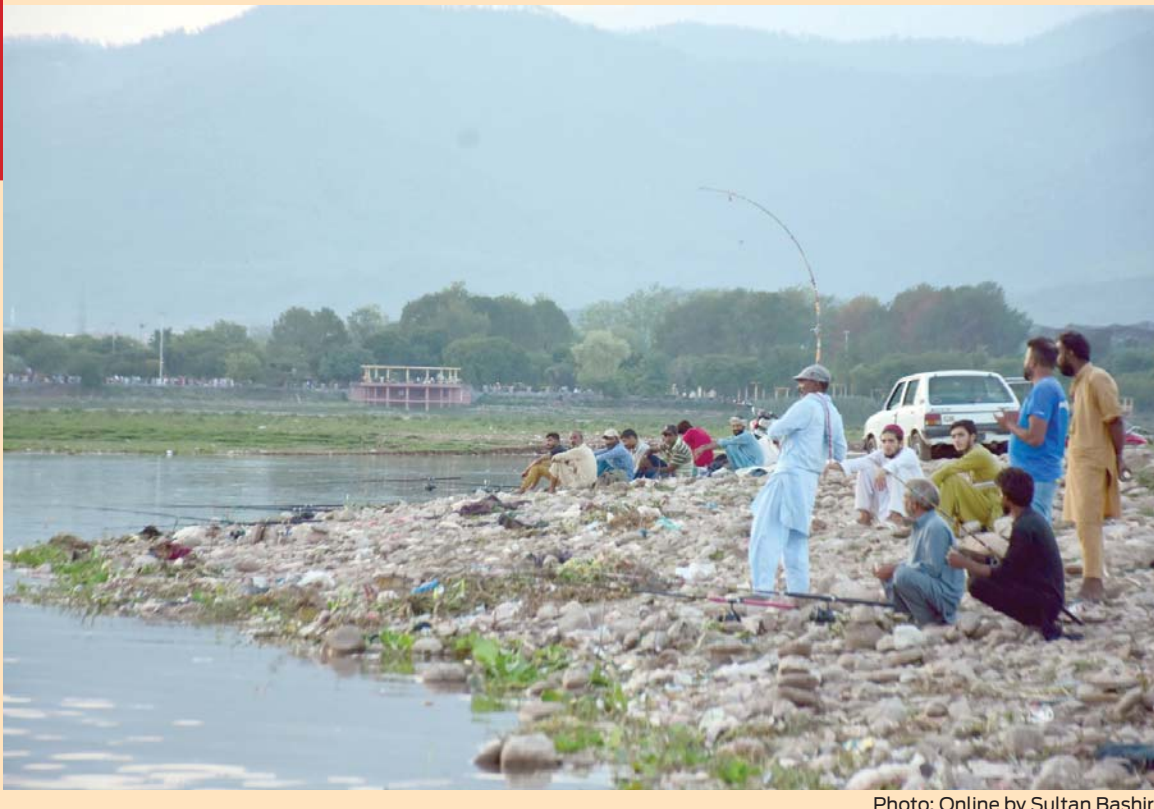


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Commerce minister Punjab visited Gujrat

Anwar Chohan

GUJARAT: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Punjab Chaudhry Shafi Hussain visited Gujarat, presided over a meeting of the members of the National and Provincial Assembly, district administration officers in the Deputy Commissioner Complex, MNA Chaudhry Naseer Ahmad Abbas Sidhu, members of the Provincial Assembly Raja. Muhammad Aslam, Khalid Asghar Gharal, Abdullah Yusuf Waraich, Syed Madd Ali Shah, Chaudhry Ejaz Ahmad Rania, Deputy Commissioner Saifur Hussain Work, DPO Gujarat Mustansar Atta Bajwa, Additional Deputy General Afzal Hayat Tarar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Khizr Hayat Bhatti. Assistant Commis-



sioners Bilal Zubair, Zohaib Mumtaz, Muhammad Akmal, Exxion Public Health Engineering Nadeem Abbas, Exxon Highways Muhammad Asif, CEO Education Dr. Muhammad Arshad was present on this occasion. Regarding the

cameras will be connected to the District Control as well as the Home Department, Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Punjab Chaudhry Shafi Hussain said that And 45 standby generators have been provided for the uninterrupted supply of electricity to the processions, along with the clearance of routes, the best arrangements have been made for cleaning, drainage, sewage lines, the people participating in the procession have been provided by the Punjab Government. Food should be given by. He said that the organizers of the majlis and processions should observe the time, the majlis and processions will be allowed to leave at the fixed times, only the registered and traditional majlis and processions will be allowed to take place.

All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association issues comparative report on school positions after matriculation

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On the special instructions of the Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association Kashif Adeb Javadani, Central Secretary General for Information Mian Azam Ali on the controversial statement of Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan released a comparative report about the positions in the education boards of public and private educational institutions across Punjab. According to the report, the rate of taking the first top positions of students of private educational institutions across Punjab is 67% while the rate of public educational institutions is 33%.



Divisional President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association, Abrar Ahmed Khan further said in his statement on this matter that out of total 179 positions, 120 positions are of private schools. While 59 positions belong to government educational institutions. In this regard, Central President Kashif Adeb Javadani said that our aim is not to humiliate anyone. Rather, the reality is to be enlightened. The unethical campaign launched against private educational institutions after the matriculation results was to be uncovered. He said that Apsma has never made any distinction between public and private teachers and students, but has encouraged good work at all levels, but the statements of Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan revealed the facts. He reminded Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan that he is Punjab Education Minister, not Public Schools Education Minister. Please remove this distinction and issue statements keeping in mind the facts.

Railway Premium Union has announced strong resistance against the decision to privatize the profitable trains

Correspondent

FAISALABAD: The Railway Premium Union has rejected the government's decision to privatize the profitable trains and announced strong resistance against it. The meeting has been convened. Railway Prime Union Chairman Ziauddin Ansari, President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tunyu, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry have said that at the end of the financial year 2023-24 till June 30, the railway has earned a record revenue of more than 88 billion. Which is a 40% increase over the previous financial year. Railways had received a revenue target of 73 billion from the government at the beginning of the financial year. The privatization of such a profitable institution is a conspiracy against the integrity of the country. The leaders said that the privatization of Pakistan's largest charity and welfare institution is tantamount to betrayal of the country and the nation, they will not allow any mother to privatize the railways. 100,000 railway employees and 25 crores of people are being privatized and the people are being subjected to mental torture. The struggle for the rights of railway employees started by the Prime Union under the leadership of the late Hafiz Salman Butt will be continued in any situation. Will provide more profit than private companies. He said that in the name of privatization by using railway engines, bogies and tracks, preparations are being made to raze the railway on a few roads. If private individuals want to run the railways, bring their own vehicles and locomotives and pay a fee for using the railway infrastructure.

Green Pakistan initiative drive by Pak Army with the aim to revitalize Gorakh Hill's

Azad Baloch

DADU: Gorakh Hill is located in the Kirthar range, this natural wonderland, often called the "Murree of Sindh," harbors a rich biodiversity, including its iconic wild olive trees, is set to undergo a green renaissance through a pioneering "Seed bombing" under the Green Pakistan initiative drive by Pakistan Army with the aim to revitalize Gorakh Hill's ecosystem by dispersing 1 Million seed bombs across its landscape.



On June 11/12, seed bombing activity was carried out at Gorakh Hill and its surroundings. It was attended by a large segment of society, including Deputy Commissioner Dadu Faheem Ahmed Chachar, District Forest Officer and the local community along with kids.

Seed balls were dispersed through aerial means, kids using slingshots, and local people of the area. The event drew significant interest from the local populace who actively participated in the activity. Children showed great enthusiasm and were also given sweets. This initiative will not only safeguard the natural heritage of the region but also embodies a collective commitment to preserving and cherishing the splendour of Gorakh Hill for generations to come.

UCP students present UCP Era Expo to highlight the importance of internet and e-commerce

Correspondent

FAISALABAD: Students of BBA, BSCS, BS Psychology, ADP under the auspices of University of Central Punjab (UCP), Faisalabad, presented an academic and departmental expertise-based project "UCP Era". Organized Expo 2024.

In UCP Era Expo, 2024, students were given lectures on IT, Business, E-Commerce, Robolux, and Psychological and Physical Disorders by Professor Abdul Aziz and Vice Chancellor Fawad Humayun.

The purpose of this exhibition was to highlight the importance of internet and e-commerce among students using computer technology and artificial intelligence Participating students not only showcased their untouched, innovative projects but also achieved finan-

cial goals by successfully experiencing these projects in practice, due to which the students also developed an understanding of business and technology usage during their studies.

IT experts, business tycoons, media representatives, social media or marketing experts, e-commerce business professionals, lawyers, parents of students and other citizens participated in this expo. and encouraged the students. On this occasion, Director and Cluster Head of Punjab Group of Colleges Faisalabad Mr. Prof. Rifaat Iqbal, Principal and Director of Academics Ms. Prof. Ayesha Rifaat welcomed the distinguished guests while serving as the head of the table. encouraged.

Prof. Jahanzeb Yusuf, the spirit of the campus, Vice Chancellor, guided the students while supervising the projects.

Campus coordinator Mr. Prof. Aftab Ahmed Butt performed the duties alongside the students.

Among the distinguished guests at "UCP Era Expo 2024" are Mr. Muhammad Asghar Qadri, Chairman, App. Association, Mr. Farhan Tufail CEO Orano Kiss Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Adeel Javed CEO Career Institute, Mr. Malik Mudashri EO App Genie Pvt Ltd, Mr. Zeeshan Ahmed Director National Inquiry Center Faisalabad, Ms. Ayman Shahid Program Manager National Incubation Center Faisalabad, Mr. Rana Abdul Wahab CEO Bab Group of Companies, Mr. Zafar Dogar Bureau Chief City 41 Mr. Abdul Basit Bureau Chief Dunya News, Mr. Shahroz Ibad Bureau Chief Snow News, Mr. Professor Mazhar Hayat EOU. New Marketing and Mr. Prof. Nauman Nazir CEO Maham



Fashion and others were involved. All the distinguished guests congratulated the university management, teachers and students for the successful organization of the Expo and appreciated their efforts.

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Digital Dilemma: Reading habits faded away in tech-savvy world

Fakhar-e-Alam

Technologically-drenched lifestyle has adversely affected reading habits amongst the youngsters as the nonstop usage of social media platforms and online presence had snatched away major chunk of their daily time.

Reading habits, once considered instrumental for critical thinking has slowly faded away even within the educated circles. Though both extensive and intensive reading habits help individuals in many ways to develop their verbal abilities, improve concentration, enhance imagination, boost entertainment, raise tolerance, and reduce stress.

But the omnipresence of technology and the relentless use of social media in today's digital age have significantly eroded reading habits of young people. The constant engagement with online platforms has consumed much of their daily time, leaving little room for the enriching practice of reading books.

The non-stop dissemination of SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook and X messages have adversely impacted the culture of book reading habits as the boom in internet and mushroom growth of social media had started filling minds of the youth by taking free their time.

He said the worst aspect of electronic reading materials is not only exposing young minds to vulgar and obscene contents but it also affecting their eyesight while sitting in front of computers and smartphones for longer hours.

"Sitting too much in front of computers

and smartphones make negative effects on eyes' cornea of children and make them vulnerable to develop large cornea in later stage, which may affect their eye sights operantly," said Professor Dr Ibrar Khattak, head of eye unit Government Hospital Pabbi.

He said at night the brightness of smartphones should be around 50-100 nits, which is around 10 percent of the smartphone brightness slider and on laptops it is usually close to the lowest setting. Dr Ibrar said due to day time in rooms, the brightness should be around 40-60 percent on laptops and 30 percent on smartphones to protect eyes' cornea and avoid permanent disability.

Dr Naeemur Rehman Khattak said Pakistan is home to about 111 million internet users where 188.9 million active cellular connections equivalent to 77.8 percent of the 242.8 million population were currently operating.

He said about 71.70 million people are using social media equating to 29.5% of the total population, adding the country's population has increased by 4.7 million between 2023 to 2024 including 49.6 percent population is female and 50.4 percent is male, which is a matter of concern.

The internet penetration rate stood at 45.7 percent of the total population early this year with 24 million people increased between January 2023 to January 2024 in Pakistan where about 54.38 million social media users aged 18 and above equivalent to 38.9 percent of the total population use different social media tools for education, information and infotainment services.

Dr Naeem said about 44.50 million

people used Facebook, 71.70 million YouTube, 17.30 million Instagram, 54.38 million TikTok, 11.95 million Facebook Messenger, 30.21 million Snapchat, 4.50 million X users and 12 million LinkedIn in Pakistan, affecting books reading culture.

In the wake of increased social media users in Pakistan, he said the attendance of students both in government and private libraries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have decreased significantly in recent years.

"When I obtained admission in IMS at University of Peshawar in 2004, I used to come to Saeed Book Bank and London Book Agency often for purchasing books and selecting appropriate stationary for myself and class fellows in its soothing environment," said Khurshid Khan, Assistant Manager, Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation.

He said it was extremely heartening that these two treasures of books were closed at Peshawar, adding that most of students of KP visit Islamabad and Lahore for preparation of CSS/PMS exams due to closure of libraries in Peshawar.

Director Archives and Libraries, Dr Raheela Hafeez terming books as windows to the world's knowledge, she said the culture of reading is inevitable for knowledge acquisition and lifelong learning besides enrichment of vocabulary.

The recent survey of Gallup and Gillani Foundation Pakistan has revealed that about 75% of the students in the country are not reading any book which signifies that three out four students has never read a book at all except probably the university or college of school textbooks for passing their examination.

Professor Dr Muhamad Ibrahim,

former Director Institute of Education and Research (IER) UoP said students often prefer to go for quick reading and images by avoiding the original text that has negative effects on their studies.

He said that the vicious academic cycle are required to be changed by introducing some incentives for reading books, promotion of teachers and marks for students etc. Professor Naeem underscored the need for a ban on misuse of internet technology and social media platforms in schools to promote a strong reading culture of books. He said collaborative efforts on public-private partnership were required for establishment of libraries for reviving books reading culture in KP.

Ehtisham Qaiser, a BS Urdu Literature at Government College Peshawar said that books do not seem to attract students anymore due to modern innovations of electronic gadgets and contents availability on 4/3 G internet.

Provincial Minister for Higher Education KP, Meena Khan said that the directorate of archives and libraries has planned to establish public libraries in 12 districts of the province to promote books readings.

One library would be set up at each district where the facility was not available and seven libraries in tribal districts. Public libraries are presently available in 18 districts including Upper Chitral, Battagram, Hangu, Karak, Kolai-Palas, Lower and Upper Kohistan, Malakand, Shangla, Tank, Torghar and Upper Dir.

Three more libraries in Peshawar's Hayatabad, Regi and PK-77 areas were planned while land selected for two such projects at Landi Kotal Khyber and Parachinar Kurram districts.

China-Pakistan JVs to boost expansion of Pakistan's leather industry

Pakistan and China are forging joint ventures expected to propel Pakistan's leather industry to new heights.

These collaborations involve setting up manufacturing plants, tanneries, and R&D centers dedicated to leather product innovation, according to Khalid Waleed, advisor to the Pakistan Tanners Association.

In June, the Association of Guangdong Shoe Manufacturers visited Pakistan to explore relocating their operations to the country. These companies are prepared to invest between USD 5 and 8 billion in the local industry.

Pakistan's leather industry, a crucial export-oriented sector and the second most dynamic after textiles, has recently faced competitive challenges. It is the only country in the region to see a decline in leather exports, signaling a critical issue within the industry, as per a media report.

In fiscal year 2022-2023, Pakistan's leather exports fell by 7%, dropping to USD 887 million from USD 953 million the previous year. This downturn was paralleled by an 18% decrease in other leather products and an 11% reduction in leather garments, as noted by the Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

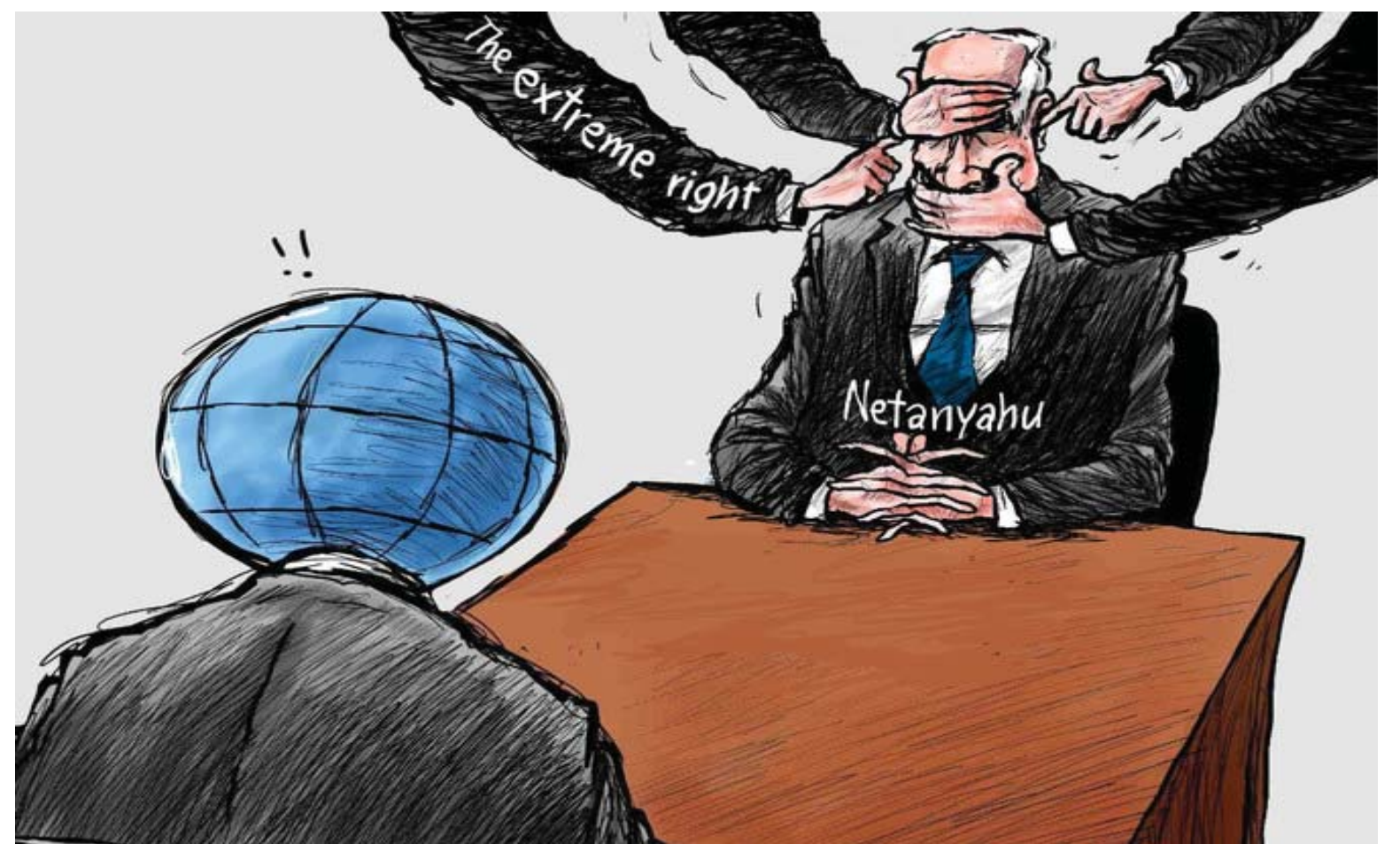
China, a leading global producer and exporter of leather and leather products, manufactures over 4 billion square feet of leather annually. In 2023, China exported leather, fur, and related products worth USD 96.98 billion, according to the China Leather Industry Association.

The synergy between China's production capabilities and Pakistan's advantages—including high-quality leather and lower labor costs—presents significant cooperative potential. Pakistan's market also shows strong consumer demand for fashionable footwear and bags.

Furthermore, preferential import policies for these products create a conducive environment for joint ventures under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

These joint ventures are poised to boost the growth of leather-related small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan, providing opportunities for modernization and technological upgrades through Chinese investment and support.

The enhanced infrastructure and trade routes under CPEC offer Pakistani leather products improved access to the vast Chinese market, promising a boost in sales and increased market presence.



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

Protests of a Civilized Society - IV

In Pakistan, protests frequently occur without obtaining official permissions from the government. In contrast, many democratic nations considered civilized uphold the right to peaceful protest as a fundamental aspect of freedom of expression. However, to ensure public safety, maintain order, and uphold the rights of all citizens, protesters often must obtain permission or notify authorities before organizing demonstrations.

In the United States, the First Amendment guarantees the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of speech. While spontaneous demonstrations or small gatherings may not always require permits, organizers typically seek permits for larger protests that could impact public safety or traffic. Permits are typically issued by local authorities, such as city governments or police departments, to ensure demonstrations proceed peacefully and orderly. This process generally involves submitting an application detailing the planned location, timing, and expected number of participants. Authorities may impose conditions to ensure public safety, such as specifying march routes or setting time limits for protests.

In the United Kingdom, the right to protest is protected under the Human Rights Act 1998, which incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights. Organizers are encouraged to notify police in advance for larger gatherings or protests that may affect public order. Under the Public Order Act 1986, police have powers to impose conditions on protests to prevent disorder, ensure safety, and protect the rights of others. This notification process facilitates coordination between organizers and authorities to ensure protests are conducted lawfully and peacefully.

Germany regulates protests under the Basic Law (Grundgesetz) and the Assembly Act (Versammlungsgesetz). While freedom of assembly is protected, organizers must notify authorities in advance for public demonstrations. This notification allows authorities to assess potential risks, coordinate security measures, and ensure protests do not disrupt public order or safety. Police may restrict or prohibit

assemblies if there are concerns about violence or disturbances, aiming to balance the right to protest with the responsibility to maintain public order and uphold democratic principles.

In Australia, the right to peaceful protest is recognized under the Constitution and various state and territory laws. Organizers may need to notify police in advance for protests in public spaces. This notification process helps manage logistics, ensure public safety, and minimize disruptions. Police have authority to oversee protests to ensure they remain peaceful and lawful. Acts of violence, obstruction, or vandalism during protests can result in arrests and legal consequences under criminal law, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peaceful conduct. In Canada, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. Public assemblies, including protests, are generally considered lawful as long as they remain peaceful and adhere to legal requirements. Organizers may be required to obtain permits or licenses from local authorities for protests that could impact public safety or traffic. Law enforcement agencies collaborate with organizers to ensure protests are conducted safely and lawfully, balancing the rights of demonstrators with the imperative to uphold public order.

In every society, laws and regulations serve as the foundation of order, justice, and societal well-being. They establish norms that govern behavior, protect rights, and ensure accountability at both individual and collective levels. Compliance with these laws is not merely a legal obligation but a fundamental principle that underpins the fabric of a functioning and equitable society. Upholding social order and regulations provides a framework for preserving social harmony and stability. They define acceptable conduct and delineate consequences for violations, thereby fostering predictability in daily interactions. Establishing clear boundaries, laws help mitigate conflicts, reduce uncertainty, and promote peaceful coexistence within diverse communities. Fundamental to

the role of laws and regulations is the protection of individual rights and freedoms. These legal frameworks safeguard essential liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, as well as rights to due process, privacy, and property. By respecting laws, individuals ensure their rights are upheld and contribute to a framework that promotes fairness and equality under the law.

Respect for laws and regulations fosters trust in governmental institutions and the rule of law. When laws are consistently applied and impartially enforced, citizens trust that justice will prevail and their rights will be respected. This trust is essential for promoting civic engagement, democratic participation, and collective efforts to tackle societal challenges effectively.

Moreover, laws provide mechanisms for holding individuals and organizations accountable for their actions. They establish procedures for resolving disputes, addressing grievances, and seeking redress for harm or injustice. By adhering to these legal processes, individuals contribute to a fair and equitable society where everyone is held to the same standards of conduct and where justice is accessible to all.

A stable legal framework supports economic growth and prosperity by offering businesses and investors certainty and confidence. Laws governing commerce, taxation, contracts, and intellectual property rights create an environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment. Compliance with these regulations promotes fair competition, levels the playing field for businesses, and strengthens the overall economy.

It is unfortunate to witness recent violent protests in several parts of Pakistan and AJK. Inflation and poverty are universal challenges present worldwide. However, the solution to these issues does not lie in resorting to violence against the state and its institutions. Instead, there is a critical need for awareness about the laws and regulations of the country. By understanding and adhering to these laws, individuals can avoid actions that harm the country, its people, assets, and properties, contributing instead to constructive dialogue and lawful means of addressing societal concerns.

Digital farming imperative to re-vitalize agricultural growth - I

Iftikhar Ahmed

With the global agricultural economies rapidly transforming to digitalization, sustenance for developing economies is becoming a challenge especially when an economy endeavors to survive with old modes of farming.

Pakistan is the one among such economies where agriculture contributes 24 percent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 37.4 employment opportunities but majority of its farmers still oblivious to latest farming techniques.

According to Economic Survey 2023-24, Pakistan produced 31.4 million ton wheat, 9.9 million tones rice, 9.8 million ton maize, 87.6 million ton sugarcane, 10.223 million bales of cotton production and 2090 ton mango production. But it's lagging behind from most of agrarian countries on international index of progress due to non-usage of modern technologies and value addition is a real challenge.

Therefore, digital farming is imperative to re-vitalize agricultural growth to fully benefit from country's arable land and water resources. Although the government has prepared a comprehensive National Action Plan for agriculture modernization through capacity building and introducing agrarian technology extension, yet our farmers especially the small growers

are shying away from modern technologies due to cost of adoption, access to technology and lack of awareness.

"We witnessed an increase of 16.82 percent in agriculture productivity but it could not significantly contribute to our overall growth as we failed to adopt digital technology and add value to our products," stated Spokesman of Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI).

"If farmers adopt precision agriculture, digitalization of farm data and value addition, it can help revitalize agricultural growth with minimum input cost helping small growers in mitigating financial impact," he said. "Simple example is that we have bumper potato production every year, but still we import potato chips."

At a time when the world nations, after digitalization of their agricultural sector, are now fast adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI), we still live in old ages using manual and old techniques of farming.

"Our farming practices are decades old. Only 10 to 15 percent progressive farmers are applying the latest techniques and technologies and their yield is better than other farmers," stated Dr Saqib Ali Associate Professor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). "Bumper crop is based on three factors; high quality disease resistant seed, use of latest technology and efficient use of plantation, irrigation water and fertilizers."

To be continued

My message to the new world

By Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian

TEHRAN: On May 19, 2024, the untimely passing of President Ebrahim Raisi—a deeply respected and dedicated public servant—in a tragic helicopter crash precipitated early elections in Iran, marking a pivotal moment in our nation's history.

Amidst war and turbulence in our region, Iran's political system demonstrated remarkable stability by conducting elections in a competitive, peaceful, and orderly manner, dispelling insinuations made by some "Iran experts" in certain governments. This stability, and the dignified manner in which the elections were conducted, underscore the discernment of our Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the dedication of our people to democratic transition of power even in the face of adversity.

I ran for office on a platform of reform, fostering national unity, and constructive engagement with the world, ultimately earning the trust of my compatriots at the ballot box, including those young women and men dissatisfied with the overall state of affairs. I deeply value their trust and am fully committed to cultivating consensus, both domestically and internationally, to uphold the promises I made during my campaign.

I wish to emphasize that my administration will be guided by the commitment to preserving Iran's national dignity and international stature under all circumstances. Iran's foreign policy is founded on the principles of "dignity, wisdom, and prudence", with the formulation and execution of this state-policy being the responsibility of the president and the government. I intend to leverage all authority granted to my office to pursue this overarching objective.

With this in mind, my administration will pursue an opportunity-driven policy by creating balance in relations with all countries, consistent with our national interests, economic development, and requirements of regional and global peace and security. Accordingly, we will welcome sincere efforts to alleviate tensions and will reciprocate good-faith with

good-faith.

Under my administration, we will prioritize strengthening relations with our neighbors. We will champion the establishment of a "strong region" rather than one where a single country pursues hegemony and dominance over the others. I firmly believe that neighboring and brotherly nations should not waste their valuable resources on erosive competitions, arms races, or the unwarranted containment of each other. Instead, we will aim to create an environment where our resources can be devoted to the progress and development of the region for the benefit of all.

We look forward to cooperating with Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and regional organizations to deepen our economic ties, bolster trade relations, promote joint-venture investment, tackle common challenges, and move towards establishing a regional framework for dialogue, confidence building and development. Our region has been plagued for too long by war, sectarian conflicts, terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, water scarcity, refugee crises, environmental degradation, and foreign interference. It is time to tackle these common challenges for the benefit of future generations. Cooperation for regional development and prosperity will be the guiding principle of our foreign policy.

As nations endowed with abundant resources and shared traditions rooted in peaceful Islamic teachings, we must unite and rely on the power of logic rather than the logic of power. By leveraging our normative influence, we can play a crucial role in the emerging post-polar global order by promoting peace, creating a calm environment conducive to sustainable development, fostering dialogue, and dispelling Islamophobia. Iran is prepared to play its fair share in this regard.

In 1979, following the Revolution, the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran, motivated by respect for interna-



tional law and fundamental human rights, severed ties with two apartheid regimes, Israel and South Africa. Israel remains an apartheid regime to this day, now adding "genocide" to a record already marred by occupation, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, settlement-building, nuclear weapons possession, illegal annexation, and aggression against its neighbors.

As a first measure, my administration will urge our neighboring Arab countries to collaborate and utilize all political and diplomatic levers to prioritize achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza aiming to stop the massacre and prevent the broadening of the conflict. We must then diligently work to end the prolonged occupation that has devastated the lives of four generations of Palestinians. In this context, I want to emphasize that all states have a binding duty under the 1948 Genocide Convention to take measures to prevent genocide; not to reward it through normalization of relations with the perpetrators.

Today, it seems that many young people in Western countries have recognized the validity of our decades-long stance on the Israeli regime. I would like to take this opportunity to tell this

brave generation that we regard the allegations of antisemitism against Iran for its principled stance on the Palestinian issue as not only patently false but also as an insult to our culture, beliefs, and core values. Rest assured that these accusations are as absurd as the unjust claims of antisemitism directed at you while you protest on university campuses to defend the Palestinians' right to life.

China and Russia have consistently stood by us during challenging times. We deeply value this friendship. Our 25-year roadmap with China represents a significant milestone towards establishing a mutually beneficial "comprehensive strategic partnership," and we look forward to collaborating more extensively with Beijing as we advance towards a new global order. In 2023, China played a pivotal role in facilitating the normalization of our relations with Saudi Arabia, showcasing its constructive vision and forward-thinking approach to international affairs.

Russia is a valued strategic ally and neighbor to Iran and my administration will remain committed to expanding and enhancing our cooperation. We strive for peace for the people of Russia and Ukraine, and my government will stand prepared

to actively support initiatives aimed at achieving this objective. I will continue to prioritize bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Russia, particularly within frameworks such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Eurasia Economic Union.

Recognizing that the global landscape has evolved beyond traditional dynamics, my administration is committed to fostering mutually beneficial relations with emerging international players in the Global South, especially with African nations. We will strive to enhance our collaborative efforts and strengthen our partnerships for the mutual benefit of all involved.

Iran's relations with Latin America are well-established and will be closely maintained and deepened to foster development, dialogue and cooperation in all fields. There is significantly more potential for cooperation between Iran and the countries of Latin America than what is currently being realized, and we look forward to further strengthening our ties.

Iran's relations with Europe have known its ups and downs. After the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action)

in May 2018, European countries made eleven commitments to Iran to try to salvage the agreement and mitigate the impact of the United States' unlawful and unilateral sanctions on our economy. These commitments involved ensuring effective banking transactions, effective protection of companies from U.S. sanctions, and the promotion of investments in Iran.

European countries have reneged on all these commitments, yet unreasonably expect Iran to unilaterally fulfill all its obligations under the JCPOA.

Despite these missteps, I look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with European countries to set our relations on the right path, based on principles of mutual respect and equal footing. European countries should realize that Iranians are a proud people whose rights and dignity can no longer be overlooked. There are numerous areas of cooperation that Iran and Europe can explore once European powers come to terms with this reality and set aside self-arrogated moral supremacy coupled with manufactured crises that have plagued our relations for so long. Opportunities for collaboration include economic and technological cooperation, energy security, transit routes, environment, as well as combating terrorism and drug trafficking, refugee crises, and other fields, all of which could be pursued to the benefit of our nations.

The United States also needs to recognize the reality and understand, once and for all, that Iran does not—and will not—respond to pressure. We entered the JCPOA in 2015 in good faith and fully met our obligations. But the United States unlawfully withdrew from the agreement motivated by purely domestic quarrels and vengeance, inflicting hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to our economy, and causing untold suffering, death and destruction on the Iranian people—particularly during the Covid pandemic—through the imposition of extraterritorial unilateral sanctions. The U.

S. deliberately chose to escalate hostilities by waging not only an economic war against Iran but also engaging in state terrorism by assassinating General Qassem Soleimani, a global anti-terrorism hero known for his success in saving the people of our region from the scourge of ISIS and other ferocious terrorist groups. Today, the world is witnessing the harmful consequences of that choice.

The U.S. and its Western allies, not only missed a historic opportunity to reduce and manage tensions in the region and the world, but also seriously undermined the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by showing that the costs of adhering to the tenets of the non-proliferation regime could outweigh the benefits it may offer. Indeed, the U.S. and its Western allies have abused the non-proliferation regime to fabricate a crisis regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program—openly contradicting their own intelligence assessment—and use it to maintain sustained pressure on our people, while they have actively contributed to and continue to support the nuclear weapons of Israel, an apartheid regime, a compulsive aggressor and a non-NPT member and a known possessor of illegal nuclear arsenal.

I wish to emphasize that Iran's defense doctrine does not include nuclear weapons and urge the United States to learn from past miscalculations and adjust its policy accordingly. Decision-makers in Washington need to recognize that a policy that consists of pitting regional countries against each other has not succeeded and will not succeed in the future. They need to come to terms with this reality and avoid exacerbating current tensions.

The Iranian people have entrusted me with a strong mandate to vigorously pursue constructive engagement on the international stage while insisting on our rights, our dignity and our deserved role in the region and the world. I extend an open invitation to those willing to join us in this historic endeavor

Experts at ISSI Roundtable recommend 'strategic patience' on Pakistan-India relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To analyse the possible future policy approach of India under the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and consider policy options for Pakistan, the India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized a roundtable titled "Modi 3.0 – What to Expect Regarding Pakistan-India Relations?"

The Roundtable was attended by senior diplomats, academics, heads of think-tanks, journalists, and area specialists.

The panellists had the consensus view that at the

moment, given the developments in post-election India and the dynamics of BJP-led NDA government, no major breakthrough was expected as far as relations between India and Pakistan were concerned. They noted that the BJP leadership's sharply anti-Pakistan rhetoric during the Lok Sabha election campaign, relentless smear against Pakistan by Indian Ministers internationally, and continuation of the same security and foreign policy team, clearly indicated that there was no likelihood of a change in New Delhi's general outlook towards Pakistan or of positive movement in

India-Pakistan relations.

The panellists cautioned that statements from Pakistan indicating its willingness to talk to India on all issues were at times misinterpreted by New Delhi as a sign of weakness. They stressed that while Pakistan should remain open to the possibility of constructive engagement, the onus remained on India to create an enabling environment for result-oriented dialogue. They recommended 'strategic patience' while discussing policy options for Pakistan—underlining that Pakistan should pursue good-neighbourly relations

on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality, and peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The participants underscored the importance of upholding Pakistan's principled position on Jammu and Kashmir and proactively pursuing it at all appropriate international fora.

The panellists also underscored that the BJP Ministers' statements about Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan should not be taken lightly; nor the possibilities of a false flag operation orchestrated by the Indian side be ruled out. Many partici-



pants also stressed the importance of shedding the misplaced notion among some circles that Pakistan's economic security somehow depended on re-opening bilateral

trade with India.

The participants were of the view that Pakistan's upcoming term as the elected member of United Nations Security Council

(2025-26) offered a valuable opportunity to further advance Pakistan's foreign policy goals and its contribution to international peace and security.

Palestinian foreign minister hails UNRWA after Jerusalem conference outcome, calls for international support

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomes the outcomes of the annual conference of the United Nations Relief and Works Organization for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which was held at the United Nations–New York, and the international consensus to join the Joint Commitments Initiative launched by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kuwait, and Slovenia in full cooperation and coordination with the State of Palestine, aiming to support the Agency (UNRWA), in facing political and financial challenges, and emphasizing its vital role in providing services to Palestinian refugees, and as a pillar of regional stability.

The Ministry affirms that Palestinian diplomacy continues its efforts to expose the crimes of the occupation and deepen



international, popular and official solidarity with our people at all levels in countries and at the level of the United Nations and its relevant councils, organizations,

institutions and specialized agencies. In this regard, it thanked the countries and international bodies that provided financial contributions, and those that

expressed their support. Political and financial support for the continuation of UNRWA's work at this particularly difficult time, until the legitimate rights of our

refugee people are achieved, most importantly their right to return to their homes from which they were displaced in implementation of Resolution 194.

The Ministry confirms that what UNRWA has been exposed to since the beginning of the genocide, especially with regard to the killing of hundreds of its employees, the destruction of its centers and schools, and the obstruction of its work and ability to move and perform its tasks, especially in the northern Gaza Strip, is considered a systematic implementation of the forced displacement plan, and attempts to change the demographic character in The Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, and its fully known nature, and a direct targeting of the Palestinian cause and the rights of our people, especially the right of return.

The Ministry recalls the historical responsibility of the

United Nations, and the duties of states towards ending the long-standing suffering of the Palestinian people, and considering the issue of Palestinian refugees as one of the longest and oldest tribulations, primarily caused by the illegal Israeli occupation and colonization, and that the continued suffering and absence of justice for Palestinian refugees is the reason for the continued existence of UNRWA, and called for Sustaining its funding until the rights of the Palestinian refugees are achieved, especially their inalienable right to return, and the end of the Nakba of the Palestinian people that has been ongoing since 1948.

The Ministry reaffirms the important role assigned to the United Nations General Assembly to preserve UNRWA, as it is the most important institution to protect, support, develop and develop the lives of Palestinian refugees and their

human security, in addition to preserving it from being undermined, and called for a larger contribution from the United Nations budget, at a time when it is clear that UNRWA is in need. To greater resources from the United Nations, and the need to work to reverse the trend of reducing funding and secure it as quickly as possible so that its services in all fields do not stop, which undermines its existence, and the consequences of this are long-term.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine thanks the countries hosting refugees, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and expressed its deep gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for their efforts in finding a sustainable solution to maintain UNRWA's funding.

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

Solar Panels Taxation

By **Muhammad Asim**

Pakistan faces significant energy shortages and environmental issues, and solar power offers a promising solution. However, the taxes on solar panels play a big role in how widely they are used and their economic impact.

The Pakistani government has recently introduced various incentives to encourage people and businesses to install solar panels. These incentives include exemptions from customs duty and sales tax on solar panels and related equipment, making them more affordable. This policy has led to a growth rate of 25% per year in solar panel installations over the past five years, according to the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB).

A closer look at the costs and benefits shows that these tax exemptions reduce the initial cost of installing solar panels by about 20-25%. This makes solar energy more affordable and accessible.

However, despite this growth, solar energy still makes up less than 5% of Pakistan's total energy supply, indicating that there is much potential for further adoption. The solar industry has also created thousands of jobs and generated significant economic activity. Therefore, maintaining a stable and supportive tax policy is crucial for sustaining this growth.

There have been talks about changing the current tax exemptions to increase government revenue. While this might help in the short term, it is important to think about the long-term consequences. Adding taxes on solar panels could slow down their adoption, leading to higher energy costs and continued reliance on fossil fuels. On the other hand, keeping or increasing tax incentives could speed up the shift to renewable energy, promoting sustainable economic growth and environmental benefits.

Taxes on solar panels in Pakistan significantly influence the renewable energy sector. Current tax exemptions have positively impacted the adoption of solar panels and the broader economy. As Pakistan continues to address its energy challenges, maintaining supportive tax policies will be essential for promoting sustainable growth and ensuring energy security for future generations.

Writer is Student of Public Administration at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad

Business and agricultural sectors are crucial for the advancement of the country: Governor KPK

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi stated that the business and agricultural sectors are crucial for the advancement of the country. He expressed his commitment to promoting these sectors to achieve economic growth and stability. He shared these thoughts during a meeting with a delegation from the Peshawar Traders Chamber at the Governor House in Peshawar. The delegation was led by Provincial President Malik Mehr Elahi, Patron-in-Chief of the Peshawar Traders Chamber Baba-e-Tajran Amin Hussain Babar, and President of the Peshawar Traders Chamber Ghulam Bilal Javed. The delegation included Chairman of the All Pakistan Travel Agents Association Abiduddin, Mohammad Hashim, and presidents and other officials from various market traders' associations in Peshawar.

The participants of the delegation informed the Governor about the traders' concerns regarding income tax. They mentioned that



income tax has been imposed collectively on four to five markets in Peshawar. The delegation suggested that instead of income tax, it should be called property tax or another name and requested relief in this regard. They also requested the Governor to discuss this issue with the Chairman of the FBR and other relevant authorities. The delegation also demanded the solarization of mosques in the cantonment area. They informed the Governor about the issues faced by travel agencies related to Jerry,

and discussed the problems of the industrial sector, particularly small industries, which are being neglected.

The Governor took immediate notice of several issues, including issuing orders to open the U-turn in front of Takht Jamal on Arbab Road on Sadar Road. Regarding the allocation of 100 kanals of land in Peshawar for Indus Hospital, the Governor mentioned that he had discussed this matter with Dr. Bari. He assured the delegation that he would have

a detailed discussion with the Prime Minister about income tax and would also discuss it with the FBR and other relevant institutions.

The Governor highlighted the importance of industrial development for national economic progress and stressed the need to provide all necessary facilities to the industry. He assured that the traders' issues would be addressed on a priority basis. On this occasion, the traders presented souvenirs and bouquets to the Governor.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Naseem Ahmed Usmani Senior Advisor Jay Seven Group, Chinese and Pakistani businessmen posing a group photo on the inauguration of China Brand China Box in JSeven Mall Sector D17, Islamabad.



Businessmen Community play the vital role in country's development: Shahid Qureshi



Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: A Reception was given in honor of the newly elected officials of Anjuman Tajran Sanitary Dealers Association Hassan Parwana Road and Hassan Parwana Colony Dera Ada on behalf of business leader Muhammad Mansoor Shahid Qureshi. Chairman Shahid Iqbal Qureshi said in his speech that businessmen play the role of backbone in the country's development and will always stand for the welfare of businessmen. President Rana Nisar Ahmad said Anjuman Tajran Sanitary Dealers Association Hassan Parwana Road. The newly elected officials of Wahasan Parwana Colony Dera Ada will be present for every spirit of service as possible and will protect the

interests of the businessmen. In the ceremony Senior Vice President Malik Allah Bakhsh and General Secretary Sheikh Imran Naeem, special guest Sheikh Zubair, Muhammad Umar Bhatta, Raheel, Muhammad Imran, Mak Fayyaz and other businessmen participated in full. President Rana Nisar Ahmad, Shahid Iqbal Qureshi, on the occasion of the dinner given by business leader Muhammad Mansoor Shahid Qureshi in honor of the newly elected officials of Anjuman Tajran Sanitary Dealers Association Hassan Parwana Road and Hassan Parwana Colony Dera Ada. Malikullah Bakhsh, Sheikh Imran Naeem, Sheikh Zubair, Muhammad Umar Bhatta, Raheel, Muhammad Imran, Mak Fayyaz and others in the group.

Imposition of WHT denounced, FPCCI supports fixed tax on flour mills

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mr. S. M. Tanveer, patron-in-chief of UBG, has apprised that, in order to broaden the tax base and bring the flour mills under the tax net, the government should revert the illogical, impractical and regressive withholding tax imposed in the federal budget 2024-25. Wheat is the most consumed food commodity the indispensable staple food of the country of 249 million people; and, FPCCI denounces any step to disrupt the supply chain of this essential item, he added.

It is pertinent to note that a high-profile delegation of Pakistan Flour Mills Association (Sindh) conducted a joint meeting with FPCCI to propose changes to the government on taxes imposed on flour mills.

Mr. S. M. Tanveer explained that the WHT has been imposed at a rate of 2.5 percent on non-filer retailers and 5.5 percent on the flour mills - whereas they operate on a meagre profit margin of 0.5 - 1.0 percent. Therefore, this taxation measure is not only counterintuitive for defying any economic sense; but, will also be counterproductive in revenue generation.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, stressed that only a fixed tax in the range of 0.5 - 1.0 percent can work and



add into national tax collection end of the day; and, the prudence behind the proposal is that flour mills will be willing to pay as it will not affect their supply chain; will not hold up their working capital and will be easier to comply.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, reiterated FPCCI's stance that the taxes which are regressive in nature and difficult to comply may give a boost to the practice of flying invoices; as small traders like flour millers may opt for them as the last resort to continue to sell to the retailers - if the government does not listen to their legitimate concerns.

Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman of FPCCI's Policy Advisory Board, highlighted that wheat flour lies in the fast moving

consumer goods (FMCG) category; where liquidity is of paramount criticality for the flour millers. There is no way they can pay 5.5 percent plus 2.5 percent in WHT and remain operational; which will result in closure of thousands of flour mills across the nation, he added.

Chaudhry Amir Abdullah, Chairman of Flour Mills Association (Sindh), maintained that flour mills are already paying turnover tax of 0.25 percent based on electricity units consumed. This tax is calculated on the basis of total grinding done in month as manifested in the electricity bills of the flour millers. It implies that the flour mills are already paying their fair share of taxation as assessed based on their low profit margins of less than 1 percent.

Flour Crisis: RCCI urges FBR to withdraw WHT to end nationwide mills strike



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: A consultative meeting was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on the current flour crisis, and the Withholding tax deadlock between the Flour Mills Association and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The purpose of calling the meeting was to review the situation arising out of the nationwide strike of flour mills and to play a role from the platform of the chamber to resolve the withholding tax deadlock between the flour mills and the FBR authorities.

The participants including representatives from the Flour Mills and RCCI leadership have shown grave concern on the newly imposed 5.5% withholding tax on flour mills and the additional 2.5% taxes on flour sales to wholesalers and retailers and feared that this will significantly increase the cost of flour by approximately Rs8-10 per kilogram.

President RCCI, Saqib Rafiq, group leader Sohail Altaf and former chairman Flour Mills Association Riazullah Khan, Tariq Sethi,

Khawaja Imran, Chaudhry Afzal, including former presidents Asad Mashhaddi, Kashif Shabbir, executive committee members and representatives and chamber members of Anjuman Tajran were also present in the meeting.

After the meeting, President Saqib Rafiq, along with the representatives of Flour Mills Association, while briefing the media in a press conference, said that Rawalpindi Chamber has raised its voice on every important issue including electricity bills, budget.

Government should have constructive talks with flour mills, group leader Sohail Altaf said that the business community is worried after the budget, the government should meet with flour mills and resolve the issue, Rawalpindi Chamber is ready to play a role to solve the flour crisis.

Former Chairman Flour Mills Association Riazullah and Kashif Shabbir said that we will not become withholding agents for FBR to collect the tax and added that the stakeholders are not taken into confidence while imposing such irrational taxes.

ICCI President voices concern over unjust hike in power tariffs

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has expressed concerns that the government's decision to increase electricity prices four times in just ten days to appease the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is both alarming and extremely harsh on the poor. This escalation in prices is making it increasingly difficult for people to sustain their livelihoods, and traders and industrialists are being deprived of their right to conduct business. He pointed out that the government's policies are detrimental to business expansion, investment, unemployment reduction,



inflation control, and achieving tax targets, which raises questions about how the government plans to collect taxes when the economy is faltering. Addressing a business delegation at the Chamber House, Bakhtawari criticized the government for not consulting the business community before finalizing the budget, leading the country towards an economic crisis. He highlighted that inflation has left people struggling to pay utility bills, and the government is not targeting those who should be paying taxes, resulting in severe exploitation.

India curtail Pakistan on 156 in World Championship of Legends Final

A Sports

BIRMINGHAM: Anureet Singh led India Champions' bowling charge with a three-for and curtailed Pakistan Champions on 156/6 in the World Championship of Legends final here at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Younis Khan's decision to bat first after winning the coin toss did not bear fruits for the Pakistan Champions as they put a par total on the board.

Pakistan Champions had a shaky start to their innings as their in-form hard-hitting opener Sharjeel Khan (12) fell victim to Anureet Singh in the second over with just 14 runs on the board.

Sohaib Maqsood then joined Kamran Akmal in the middle for a briefly anchoring partnership as the duo could raise 29 runs for the second wicket.

Maqsood, who tried to counterattack



the India Champions bowlers fell prey to Vinay Kumar in the fifth over after scoring a quick 21 off 12.

Pakistan Champions then lost two

more wickets in quick succession — Kamran Akmal (24) and Younis Khan (7) — and consequently slipped to 79/4 in 11.3 overs.

Shoaib Malik, the leading run-scorer of the World Championship of Legends, took the reigns of Pakistan Champions batting expedition against India Champions and kept the scoreboard ticking with an anchoring knock.

Malik put together brief partnerships with Misbah-ul-Haq (18) and Aamer Yamin (7) before walking back to the dugout on the last delivery of the 18th over.

He remained the top-scorer for Pakistan Champions with a gutsy 41 off 36 deliveries, laced up with three sixes.

Later, Sohail Tanvir's short cameo took Pakistan Champions' total past the 150-run mark.

The all-rounder made an unbeaten 19 off nine while Shahid Afridi made a run-a-ball four and returned not out.

Anureet Singh was the star with the ball for India Champions while Vinay Kumar, Pawan Negi and Irfan Pathan chipped in with a wicket apiece.

President Imran Balwani will take forward the mission of Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Physical Disability Cricket Association (PPDCA) President Imran Balwani has said that PPDCA should use all its resources to take the mission forward. The new president, President Imran Nilwani, expressed these ideas in a meeting with a large number of media representatives at the association's office, and he was accompanied by General Secretary Amiruddin Ansari. And Media Manager Muhammad Nizam was also present. General Secretary PPDCA Amiruddin Ansari said that they are planning to participate in the Physical Disability World Cup scheduled in India in December and other international series. Grade 1 and Grade 2 cricket have been introduced in the Champions. Grade 1 stage has been completed in Karachi, Lahore and Multan. The Grade 2 Cricket Championship is starting from Monday in Quetta with the match between Larkana and Quetta Bolan, the remaining matches will be played in Sialkot and Faisalabad while the final will be held in Karachi.

Pakistan elect to bat against India in World Championship of Legends Final



A Sports

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan Champions have won the toss and elected to bat first against India Champions in the blockbuster World Championship of Legends Final here at Edgbaston on Saturday.

PLAYING XI

Pakistan Champions: Younis Khan (c), Kamran Akmal, Sharjeel Khan, Sohaib Maqsood, Shoaib Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Shahid Afridi, Aamer Yamin, Sohail Tanvir, Sohail Khan and Wahab Riaz.

India Champions: Yuvraj Singh (c), Robin Uthappa, Ambati Rayudu, Suresh Raina, Yusuf Pathan, Irfan Pathan, Pawan Negi, Harbhajan Singh, Vinay Kumar, Anureet Singh, Rahul Shukla. Pakistan Champions beat West Indies Champions by 20 runs in the first semi-final to make their way to the World Championship of Legends Final before India Champions joined their arch-rivals with an 86-run thrashing of Australia Champions.

The two arch-rivals faced each other earlier in the tournament with Pakistan Champions recording a thumping 68-run victory.

Batting first, Pakistan Champions registered a mammoth total of 243/4, courtesy of quickfire half-centuries by Sharjeel Khan, Kamran Akmal and Sohaib Maqsood.

Akmal and Sharjeel hit the India Champions all around the ground and recorded a belligerent partnership.

The duo had taken Pakistan Champions to 132 for no loss at the halfway mark as 250 looked like an achievable total.

Pacer Anureet Singh then drew a much-needed success for India Champions when he finally got rid of threatening Sharjeel.

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

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

He was involved in an important second-wicket partnership with Kamran Akmal, who fell victim to Pawan Negi in the 14th over.

Kamran remained the top-scorer for the Pakistan Champions with 77 off 40 deliveries, laced up with nine fours and four sixes. Maqsood then joined forces with active senior all-rounder Shoaib Malik and formed yet another crucial partnership for Pakistan Champions.

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

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

Chasing a daunting total of 244, India Champions only managed 175/9 in the allotted overs despite Suresh Raina's half-century.

South Punjab Women's Cricket Champions League 2024 Final Match, Challengers Beat Falcons to Win

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: South Punjab Women's Cricket League 2024 final, Challengers beat Falcons to win. As per the description

The final of South Punjab Women's Cricket League was played at DHA Sports Complex Multan. Dr. Abdul Saboor, CEO of Social Organization Lodhran Pilot Project, attended the closing ceremony as a special guest. Other guests included Kashif Mehnaz, Rana Shahid, Mehreen Arif, Shabana Ali, Abdul Rehman, Adil Bin Yameen, Syed Yasir Raza, Asim Mumtaz and other members of the Christian community.

It was organized by Bihar Social Development Organization on behalf of Concern Worldwide and European Union through Lodhran Pilot Project under Champions League Bridge Programme.

The purpose of this grant is to further support the development of the region



and women's sports. The best female cricketers from across the country participated in the Women's Champions League.

The Challengers team, captained by Gul Rukh, performed brilliantly in

the final to win. The Falcon team, led by Sana Gulzar, was the runner-up. LPP CEO Dr Abdul Saboor in his address emphasized the importance of supporting and encouraging women's sports. He said that the successful

conduct of the Champions League is a proof of the extraordinary ability and talent of our women players. It is vitally important that we provide them with the opportunities and resources they need to thrive.

India humble Zimbabwe to take unassailable lead in T20I series

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Yashasvi Jaiswal and India captain Shubman Gill thrashed Zimbabwe's bowlers to all parts of the Harare Sports Club on Saturday to secure a 10-wicket in the fourth T20I and with it claim the series.

Chasing Zimbabwe's 152 for seven, India cruised him with 28 balls to spare to take a 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

The left-handed Jaiswal hammered 93 not out off 53 balls and was named player of the match while Gill made 58 not out off 39 deliveries.

"Chasing was something we talked about," Gill said at the post-match presentation. "We couldn't do it in the first game so it was good to get it done."

Zimbabwe won the first match by 13 runs last Saturday but India have taken charge since then, dominating the next three matches.

Although captain Sikandar Raza hit



46 off 28 balls, Zimbabwe were unable to capitalise fully on their first good start

of the series. Wessly Madhevere (25) and Tadiwan-

ashe Marumani (32) put on 63 for the first wicket after Zimbabwe were sent into bat. But the openers fell in successive overs to part-time bowlers Abhishek Sharma and Shivam Dube.

India again opted to field only four specialist bowlers, including new cap Tushar Deshpande, who claimed the wicket of Raza while conceding 30 runs in three overs.

Raza said he had thought after his team's innings that 160 was a par score but admitted: "The way they batted, 180 would not have been enough."

Jaiswal set the tone in the first over of India's innings, hitting three boundaries off Richard Ngarava.

There was no let-up as India's fifty was posted inside four overs and the hundred inside 10 overs.

Jaiswal hit 13 fours and two sixes, while Gill hit six fours and two sixes.

The series wraps up with the fifth T20 in Harare on Sunday.

Barbora Krejickova beats Jasmine Paolini to win Wimbledon

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic defeated Italy's Jasmine Paolini to win the Wimbledon women's title on Saturday for her second Grand Slam singles triumph.

Krejickova, the 31st seed, won 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to add the 2024 All England Club crown to her 2021 French Open victory.

Her win comes 26 years after her mentor Jana Novotna, who died of cancer in 2017, claimed the Wimbledon title.

"Before she passed away, she told me to go and win a Slam. I did that in Paris in 2021 but I never dreamed of winning the same trophy that Jana did," said the 28-year-old Krejickova, who secured the title in a nery final service game on a third championship point.

"It's unreal what just happened. The best day of my tennis career and the best day of my life.

"I was just telling myself to be brave. It was such a difficult match, a great final, a great competition and I'm super happy to be standing here enjoying this moment."

Barbora Krejickova, who will return to the top 10 following her victory, came into Wimbledon after a testing season. A back injury and illness meant she went winless on the tour from February until June.

"I was injured and ill and didn't have a good start to the season and now I'm Wimbledon winner. How did that happen?"

"I think nobody's going to believe I won Wimbledon. I still can't believe it. Two weeks ago (first round) I had a very tough match, 7-5 in the third set and I wasn't in good shape."

The result means seventh-seeded Paolini has lost two Grand Slam finals back-to-back after coming off second best to Iga Swiatek at the French Open last month.

"I'm a little bit sad but I try to keep smiling. I have to remember today is still a good day," said Paolini, who had never won a grass-court match in her career until last month.

"I remember watching Wimbledon as a kid cheering for Roger Federer, so to be here now is crazy. It's been a beautiful two weeks."

She added: "Barbora, you played unbelievable. You play such beautiful tennis. Congrats to you and your team."

Barbora Krejickova set the tone at the start of the match by breaking the Italian in the opening game and backing up the advantage with a hold to love.

Paolini, the first Italian woman to reach a Wimbledon singles final, had to save two break points in the third game but she cracked under the strain again as the composed Czech stormed into a double-break ahead for 4-1.

Krejickova moved to three set points in the eighth game and only needed one

as Paolini dumped a backhand return into the net.

The nerve-wracked Italian managed to claim just four points on the Czech's serve in the 35-minute opener. Krejickova hit 10 winners to the Italian's five. Paolini dashed off Centre Court for a bathroom break and returned re-energised.

She had also dropped the first set in her marathon semi-final triumph over Donna Vekic and on Saturday she launched another second set fightback.

Breaks in the second and eighth games levelled the final after a set in which Krejickova made 14 unforced errors to seven for her opponent, taking her double-fault count to a tournament-high of 33.

The Czech managed just four winners in the set as she went spectacularly off the boil.

However, momentum shifted dramatically back in her favour in the decider when Paolini double-faulted to



surrender a break and fall 3-4 behind. Barbora Krejickova held to love for 5-3 but endured a nery conclusion,

requiring three championship points and saving two break points in the 10th game to seal the title.

FBR Visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing officers during his visit to headquarters of the Federal Board of Revenue on Saturday.



Photo: Online

PM directs FBR authorities to gird up loins for revenue generation with dedicated efforts

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) authorities to tighten their belts and serve the nation by formulating a strategy and mechanism coupled with usage of latest technology to broaden the tax net base without further burdening the honest tax payers.

During a visit to FBR Headquarters, the prime minister said that the incum-

ment government had the sole agenda of putting Pakistan on path of progress with consistent improvement in the economic indicators.

For the first time, a prime minister has taken the unprecedented step of addressing the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and clearly outlined priorities and guidelines in a bold and transparent manner.

The directions were loud and clear, the prime minister said that no one was superior to him, and he would resign rather than succumbing to

pressure.

This landmark address set a new standard for leadership, accountability, and policy transparency.

"Though it may be a difficult journey which requires collective and individual efforts, sincerity and sacrifices and putting forth the national interests supreme over all other interests," he emphasized.

PM directs FBR authorities to gird up loins for revenue generation with dedicated efforts, usage of latest technology PM directs FBR

authorities to gird up loins for revenue generation with dedicated efforts, usage of latest technology

Terming the staff level arrangement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a positive omen for the country's economy, he expressed the hope that IMF board would also give a go ahead in this regard.

The prime minister said now it was their responsibility to act speedily and work tirelessly for making the IMF programme as the last one in the country's

history, adding after which a journey of progress and prosperity would commence in the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jahanzaib Khan, Chairman FBR and other senior officials.

Senator Rubina Khalid reviews BISP facilities and inaugurates Dynamic Registry Center in Buner

Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), visited BISP tehsil offices in Mandanr and Gagra, Buner, today. The purpose of the visit was to review the facilities and arrangements provided for the deserving women of BISP who come for registration. Senator Rubina Khalid spoke to the women present, listened to their problems, and instructed the staff to fully guide the women during the registration process to ensure they do not face any difficulties. "It is our responsibility to serve deserv-



ing women and solve their problems," she said.

Senator Rubina Khalid also inaugurated the BISP Dynamic Registry Center in

Gadezai Tehsil. Speaking on the occasion, she said, "With the establishment of the Dynamic Registry Center, poor and needy women will

be able to register themselves in the program in a dignified manner, giving more women the opportunity to join the program."

During her visit, Senator Rubina Khalid also spoke to media representatives. She expressed her thoughts about the program, stating that the Benazir Income Support Programme reflects the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the welfare of poor women in Pakistan. "She founded the program while in exile in Dubai, which was implemented by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008. According to the instructions of the President of Pakistan

and Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, it is our duty to ensure that deserving women receive their complete amount without any deductions and in a dignified manner."

Addressing a public gathering in Shalbandi, Senator Rubina Khalid stated that in the past, various political parties attempted to change the name of the Benazir Income Support Programme, which she considers a reflection of intellectual dishonesty. "This program will always be named after Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. This name is respectable and sacred for all of us," she added.

Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi's acquittal in Iddat case a victory of truth, justice: PTI

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee hailed the acquittal of PTI Founding Chairman Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the most absurd and reprehensible Iddat case as a resounding victory for truth and justice, and demanded their immediate release from unjust detention.

PTI Core Committee held an emergency meeting on one point agenda to discuss the decision in the Iddat case against Imran Khan and his wife threadbare.

The penal strongly condemned the attempts by the mandate-thief government and the brutal state machinery to forcibly deprive Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi of their fundamental legal rights despite their acquittal in all cases.

PTI Core Committee expressed its gratitude to Allah for destroying all the nefarious schemes of tyrants, liars and conspirators by proving Imran Khan and his wife's inno-



cence before the world and vowed to continue its struggle for justice and truth.

The committee also criticized the use of state institutions for political revenge, and demanded an end to the victimization of Imran Khan and his family.

The participants criticized the

attempts to keep Imran Khan and his wife in jail despite the court's orders, and warned that they would be left with no option but to launch a nationwide resistance movement, adding that after the Toshakhana, Al-Qadir Trust, Cipher and Iddat cases, Imran Khan and his wife should be released forthwith.

The committee stated that Imran Khan and his wife had been subjected to political revenge and victimization, and that the state institutions were being used to keep them in jail, which could be judged from illegally use of Toshakhana case for the fourth time to keep Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in prison.

They revealed that Bushra Bibi directly or indirectly had nothing to do with Toshakhana gifts or the cabinet decisions in this regard.

PTI Core Committee stated that Imran Khan took the path of law and justice instead of provocation and knocked at the doors of the courts despite the fact that he had been kept in worst condition in death cell depriving him of all entitled facilities.

The forum insisted that it was now the responsibility of the court to rein in the unbridled barbarians forces running rampant in the country to bring them under law and justice in order to put an end to the dictatorship of the individual to restore the constitution in true sense.

Gilani pays tribute to Kashmir martyrs

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Saturday paid tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir, honoring their sacrifices and struggle against the Indian occupied forces.

In a message on "Kashmir Martyrs' Day," he said that the martyrs of July 13, 1931, laid the foundation for today's freedom movement.

He said that generations of Kashmiris have been making sacrifices and struggling against the Kashmiri Hindutva government's conspiracy to destroy their identity.

Gilani condemned unlawful and tyrannical occupation of Indian forces on Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the right of self-determination of Kashmiris, affirming Pakistan's commitment to supporting



the freedom movement until the liberation of occupied Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that the day to end India's illegal occupation is not far off.

Vast opportunities of investment in Pakistan: Abdul Aleem Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister of Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that Pakistan pays high regards to bilateral relations with all European countries and considers it much valuable. He added that France has vast opportunities to invest in the fields of Minerals, Energy, Agriculture, Information Technology and Defense production. This was expressed by Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan while addressing as a Chief Guest at the ceremony held here on the National Day of France where Federal Ministers, Senators, Members of the National Assembly, Diplomats and prominent political, business and social personalities were present.

Ambassador of France in Pakistan, H. E. Nicolas Galey welcomed all the distinguished guest and briefed them on the historical significance of the French National Day.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan in his address said that bilateral friendly relations between Pakistan and France has great significance as 1.25 lacs Pakistanis are residing in France while thousands

of students are studying there. He said that Pakistan and France can more flourish in Trade, Economy, Education and cultural sectors where bilateral cooperation is being strengthened day by day.

On this occasion, Ambassador of France in Pakistan H. E. Nicolas Galey expressed his desire to increase trade and other affairs with Pakistan.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Senators Sherry Rehman and Saleem Mandviwala, Member National Assembly Dr. Farooq Sattar, Ex Federal Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad and important political figures were also present on the occasion. **



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Romina Khurshid chairs meeting on establishing mountaineering school in Gilgit Baltistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam chaired PM's committee meeting on establishing a mountaineering school in Gilgit Baltistan to promote sustainable green tourism, mountaineering education and local community engagement ensuring environmental conservation.

The committee discussed a thorough plan for the establishment of a mountaineering school, overseeing the implementation process from conception to reality.

Addressing the meeting the PM's aide said the success of the project is in team work and the suggestions of all the participants will be incorporated to finalize the establishment of the mountaineering school.

Romina Khurshid stressed the need for such initiatives that can help slow down global warming and overcome the devastating impacts of climate change, particularly in mountain regions.

The meeting decided to form three sub-committees that will design a

comprehensive curriculum, identify suitable locations, prepare a detailed budget, engage with relevant stakeholders and establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to establish mountaineering school.

The first sub-committee will be headed by Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination will prepare a detailed feasibility, assessing the potential sites, infrastructure requirements, and financial implications, identify suitable locations for the construction of the Mountaineering School, considering accessibility, environmental impact.

Federal secretaries from ministries of Federal Education and Professional Training, Inter Provincial Coordination and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and executive director, NAVTTC attended the meeting while ex-Minister for Tourism, Gilgit-Baltistan, Ghulam Muhammad and Gilgit-Baltistan, and representatives from Ev-K2-CNR, tourism educationists from KIU Hunza and Baltistan University and mountaineers including Naila Kiani participated in the meeting online.