



Turkish Embassy marks eighth anniversary of failed coup attempt, pays tribunes to heroes

Turkiye's Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçacı said that this year's commemoration ceremony for Democracy and National Unity Day centers around the theme of "Victory of the Nation." It marks eight years since the July 15 coup attempt orchestrated by members of ... (Details on Page 5)



Petrol price jacked up by Rs9.99 per litre for next fortnight

The petrol price in Pakistan has been jacked up by Rs9.99 per litre for the next fortnight in the light of the rise in oil rates in the international market, effective from July 16. The federal govt also increased the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) from Rs277.45 per litre to Rs283.63 with an increase of Rs6.18. The Finance Division issued a notification for the latest fuel prices worked out by the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) for the next fortnight.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Wo Jo Mit Gaya Wo Yazed Tha, Jo Na Mit Saka Woh Hussain Hai

ISLAMABAD: Devotees of Imam Hussain (R.A) are holding religious mourning procession in memories of martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), in connection of 8th Muharram-ul-Haram, at Karachi Company, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online Sultan Bashir

Gov't committed to invest in modern skills, professional education for youth: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the government was committed to investing in modern skills and professional education for the youth.

In his message in connection with the World Youth Skills Day, the prime minister said the greatest strength of Pakistan was its talented youth and equipping them with modern skills was the need of the hour to secure the future of the country.

He highlighted that the government was equipping its youth with modern education, equal development opportunities as well as modern professional training to compete with the world.

The prime minister reiterated the government's resolve to send 300,000 youth for vocational training in the field of information technology and 1000 for modern agriculture to China.

In this context, he said the government was prioritizing the women and the youth belonging to remote and backward areas of the country.

The prime minister said



training programs in the field of information technology were also continued at the national level. "Millions of students are honing their skills in and outside Pakistan after completing their education under these programs."

He said the government had also started bringing reforms in the institutions under National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC).

He remarked that with NAVTTTC and its partner institutions, the government is ensuring the provision of marketable skills and professional training to thousands of youth. He said the government would ensure modern skills and professional training to the youth for their development and dignified employment in every field of life.

PTI to be banned, decides federal government

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The federal information minister Ata Tarar has announced that government has decided to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Addressing an explosive presser, Ata Tarar said Article 17 of the constitution empowers the federal government to ban a political party.

He said there is credible evidence to support a ban on the PTI and cited the party's involvement in foreign funding, the May 9 incident, its role in the resettlement of terrorists in Pakistan, the cipher episode, and the resolution passed in the United States.

Attaullah Tarar stated that a reference will also be filed against former President Arif Alvi, former



Prime Minister Imran Khan, and former Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri for violating the Constitution when the assemblies were dissolved following the no-confidence motion against the PTI

government. He said the reference will be forwarded to the Supreme Court after approval by the federal cabinet.

The minister said there are certain lobbies sitting abroad

which promote an anti-Pakistan agenda, support separatist movements and conspire against the country's security and institutions. He mentioned the government has decided to take strict legal

action against them, which may involve blocking their passports and identity cards.

He maintained the government and its allied parties have also decided to file a review petition against Supreme Court's judgment in the reserved seats case. He emphasized that the judgment has legal lacunae and that they have strong legal grounds to file the review. He pointed out that the PTI had not sought relief in the case.

Ata Tarar said the government will complete all these processes while remaining within the domain of law and constitution. He said these matters will be taken forward so that in future nobody could dare to violate the constitution, hurt the national interests and attack the defense institutions.

Attack on Bannu Cantt repelled, clearance operation underway

Spokesman Report

BANNU: A terrorist attack on Bannu Cantt was foiled by security forces on Monday. No loss of life has been reported in the incident so far.

According to sources, the terrorists approached the Cantt at 4:40 am on Monday in a car with an improvised explosive device rigged to it. The terrorists tried to breach the Cantt's through the IED explosion targeting the area between the outer wall and the supply depot.

However, timely response from the security forces foiled the attack and cornered the terrorists.

Earlier reports had said that a massive explosion had been heard near Bannu Cantt followed by intense gunfire.

Ban on political party will be concern for us, says US after Pakistan decides to ban PTI

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller addresses a press briefing in Washington on July 15, 2024. Screenshot via YouTube/Department of State Daily Press Briefing

The United States administration has stated that the Pakistani government's decision to ban the PTI was a complex political process but added that it would be concerned if a political party were banned.

"Our understanding is this is the beginning of what would be a complete complex political process, but certainly banning of a political party is something that would be a great concern to us," US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said at a press briefing on Monday.

He was asked about the US



administration's reaction to the federal government's decision to move a case in the apex court to ban Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, days after twin court decisions that favoured the former leader. Former prime minister Imran Khan and his PTI got major relief last week when an Islamabad judge overturned his illegal marriage conviction while the top court

awarded the former ruling party more parliamentary seats.

Both cases were considered a major blow to the coalition government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Shari as many believed the decision would end the treasury benches majority in the National Assembly.

In response to another question, Miller said: "We support the peaceful upholding of constitutional democratic principles including respect for human rights and freedom of expression. We support democratic processes in broader principles, including the rule of law and equal justice under the law."

He went on to add that the administration would monitor the court decisions.

"As those internal processes continue to play out we will monitor these decisions any further decisions by the courts."

PTA receives 11 EOIs for improvement of next-generation Mobile Broadband Services

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A total of 11 expressions of interest (EOIs) were received from various reputed consulting firms through EPADS on the release of the IMT (International Mobile Telecommunications spectrum) spectrum to enhance Next Generation Mobile Broadband Services in Pakistan 2024.

PTA invited bids through advertisements published in national and international media and on the PPRA website.

PTA will shortlist the firms and accordingly RFP will be issued to the short-listed consultants, said a news release.

Islamabad's election tribunal says IHC stay order will have to be vacated before proceedings

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court Election Tribunal, headed by Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, has adjourned the hearing of election rigging cases in National Assembly constituencies NA-46, NA-47, and NA-48 until July 24.

The delay stems from a stay order issued by the Islamabad High Court, preventing the tribunal from proceeding with the trial.

During the hearing, Justice Jahangiri expressed his readiness to proceed with the trial daily. He added that the High Court has issued a stay order on the trial but the petitioners need to get the stay order vacated.

The tribunal had previously summoned all three MNAs involved in the cases and had ordered a daily trial. However, the stay order has stalled proceedings.

The petitioner's lawyer,

Shoaib Shaheen, argued that the parties involved have yet to comply with the court's orders, including the submission of election records by the Returning Officer.

Justice Jahangiri acknowledged the situation, stating that the Chief Justice is scheduled to hear the matter on July 22. If the stay order is lifted, the tribunal will resume the trial.

It is important to note that on July 11th, the Islamabad High Court issued a stay order, halting the regular trial proceedings in the three National Assembly constituencies.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has challenged the election results in these three Islamabad constituencies before the Election Tribunal.

The petitioners include Amir Mughal, Shoaib Shaheen and Ali Bukhari.

The Election Tribunal will now reconvene on July 24th to determine the next steps in the case.

Dar extends congratulations to UAE's Sheikh Abdullah on his new appointment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Monday congratulated United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister.

In his message, Dar prayed for success in fulfilling the significant responsibilities entrusted by UAE leadership.

He also expressed prayers to Almighty Allah for Sheikh Abdullah's success in his dual



roles and the trust placed in him by the UAE's leadership.

Additionally, Ishaq Dar extended congratulations and best wishes to Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on his appointment as Defence Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE.

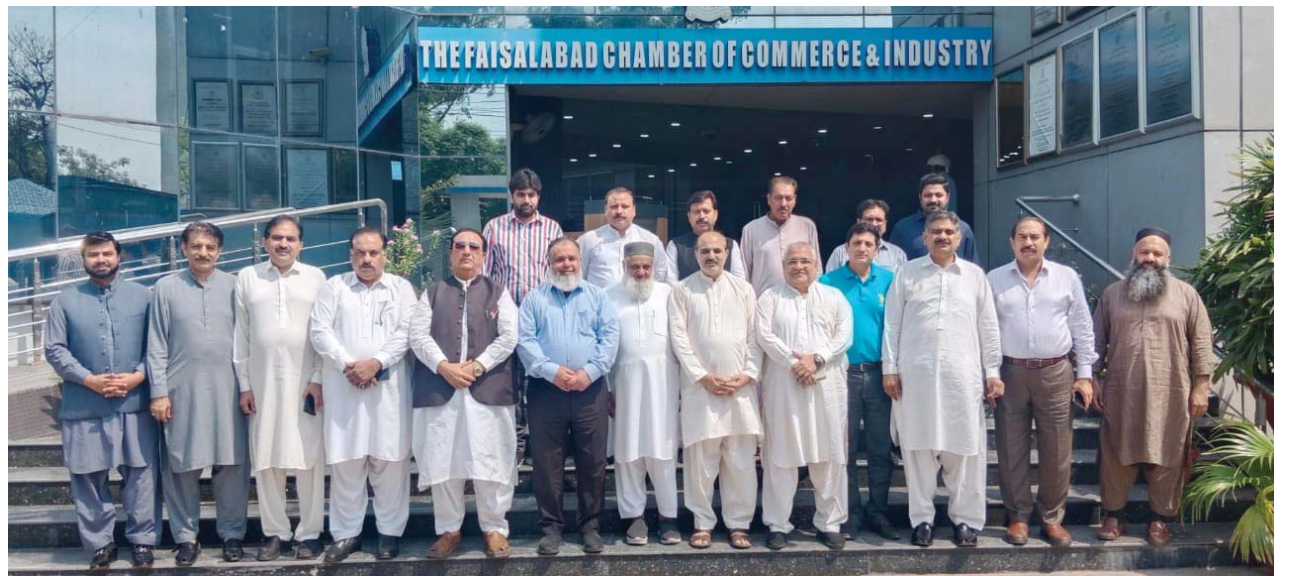
Alhaji Naseer Yousuf Vohra demands to end trader-friendly scheme

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaji Naseer Yousuf Vohra said that this system should be designed again and again and in this regard tax should be taken on the basis of income instead of fixed tax. Expressed concern that institutions portray rulers contrary to the ground realities, which creates unnecessary conflict not only between the business community and governments but also between institutions. Dr. Sajjad Arshad, Senior Vice President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has said that the business community wants to pay tax, but no one is ready to pay fixed tax under the businessman-friendly scheme. While addressing the seventh meeting of the standing committee, the President of the Small Chamber was also attended by the officials of various traders and business organizations of the city. He termed the fixed system under the trader-friendly scheme as unrealistic and said

that the business of those doing business in the same market is not the same. Some will earn a lot but in the same market there will be people who barely make ends meet. He said that the entire business community has to adopt the same stand in this regard and if the court has to be approached in this regard, it will not be avoided. Businessmen will have to struggle to achieve collective interests above mutual differences. He said that the prices used to increase once in the first year, but now the prices of electricity and petrol are being increased every month. He said that people from 118 trades, sectors and sub-sectors of the city are associated with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. However, those who have not yet taken the membership of the Chamber should do so immediately so as to strengthen this institution. He said that Pakistan's revenue is given by the business community but they are practically discouraged due to which 8300 businessmen have registered in Dubai Chamber. He said that due to the defects and inconsistency of economic

policies, foreign investment is also not coming. Vice President Haji Mohammad Aslam Bhalali said that the Trader-Friendly Scheme was originally meant for retailers to collect tax from traders who were not paying tax. He said that 70% of wholesalers are paying tax. Faisalabad Small Chamber President Mian Zafar Iqbal said that there are 15 Small Chambers in Pakistan and he is in touch with them. While for 2 years FBR has also been talking about businessmen friendly scheme. He said that he created a form to register non-filers but it did not include already tax payers. He termed Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry as Mother Chamber of Faisalabad and said that according to his proposal only Rs 500 per month was to be given to non-filers. President of Anjuman Tajran Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka said that the scheme should be applied only to non-filers who are already paying electricity and telephone taxes and there is no justification for its implementation. He said that the notification in this regard was issued yesterday. He is in contact with business leaders across the country against it and a movement will be launched at the national level in this regard. About Naeem Mir, he said that he has become a tool of the government. And all possible cooperation will be done in this regard. Standing Committee Canon Chaudhry Talat



Mahmood said that the FBR has asked them to give an immediate response after consulting about the businessman-friendly scheme, but the facts on the ground are that not a single businessman from across the country has agreed to this scheme. He said that Naeem Mir tried to approve this scheme by showing

the tax of Rs 1200, although Rs 1200 is the minimum tax which can go up to Rs 60 thousand depending on the area and it has to be paid on a monthly basis. He said that the FBR has provided a valuation chart which will help the businessmen of each region to estimate their tax value. He said that a report will be prepared and sent to the FBR in the light of the suggestions and opinions of the business representatives. Former Vice President of the Chamber, Ayub Aslam Munj, Obaidullah, Rana Arshad, Rehan Bhara and Naseer Yusuf Wahra also spoke on this occasion and expressed their views about the Trader Friendly Scheme.

Protest

KARACHI: A view of massive traffic jam at Liaqatabad area due to protest against water shortage in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Open Courts were held at the Sub-Division Level in MEPCO Region

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Under the direction of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Islamabad, open courts were held at the sub-division level in Mepeco region. More than 300 officers under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer Mepeco Engineer Nasir Ayaz Gurmani listened to the complaints of consumers in the open courts. offices while XEN and SEs heard the complaints of customers in the open court held in different sub-divisions. Chief Engineer O&M Mepeco Shehzad Rai suddenly reached the open court held in Cantt Sub-Division Multan to solve the problems of the customers. issued orders for. Most of the complaints in the open court were related to supply of new connections, replacement of



burning meters, prorata billing software, reconnection order and electricity bills. SE Multan Amjad Nawaz Bhatti and XEN Musa Pak Division Ghulam Mohi Uddin Maitla, Wapda

Town Sub-division, Akram Javed, XEN. Cantt Division, Industrial Estate Sub-division, XEN. City Division, Musab Ali Salimi, City Sub-division, XEN. Mumtazabad Division, Fayyaz

Hussain Khokhar held an open court in Kasba Marral Sub-Division and redressed the complaints of consumers. The Superintending Engineers of Operation Circles Vehari, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, DG Khan, Khanewal, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar and Muzaffargarh set up open kitchens. MEPCO engineer Nasir Ayaz Garmani said that the purpose of establishing open kitchens is to solve the problems of consumers immediately, and the omission is unacceptable. On the direction of the Ministry of Energy, open offices will be organized in the subdivisions on a daily basis from 11:00 to 1:00 in which Circle Monitors, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers will monitor and all complaints related to electricity of consumers will be resolved on a priority basis

Month of Muharram gave us brotherhood and unity: Syed Zohaib Gillani

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Sajjada Nashin Makhdoom Syed Zohaib Gilani said that Hazrat Imam Hussain and Hazrat Imam Hassan (peace be upon him) sacrificed themselves and their family members on the land of Karbala and saved the religion of Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the knowledge of truth and righteousness. Raised the religion of Islam and gave it to the end of the world. The eternal and great sacrifice of Hazrat Imam al-Maqam was not only for Muslims but for all religions of the world, through which he taught true peace and equality. The month of Muharram gave us brotherhood and unity. He taught these thoughts while addressing the mourners before the departure of Hazrat Amir Qasim's funeral procession at Darbar Hazrat Musa Pak Astana Hamid Shahwala. Photo Gilani, Syed Fahad Gilani, Ijaz Gilani, Dilawar Abbas, Hasan Murtaza and others were participants. Makhdoom Syed Zohaib Gilani, the worshiper, added that the martyrs of Karbala along with their slain martyrs for the survival of the religion of Islam in Karbala are remembered for the resurrection. Shias and Sunnis will be kept, they are brothers and sisters, they should unite as usual during the ten days of Muharram and maintain the atmosphere of unity, brotherhood, peace and brotherhood so that the forces hostile to Islam and Pakistan do not succeed in their evil ambitions



Eight people died and 11 others injured in a road accident

Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: Eight people including two brothers were killed and 11 others injured in a road accident between mazda and troller at Thana Bula Khan interchange on M-9 motorway in Jamshoro district.

A businessman of Tando Allah Yar was on the way to Karachi with mazda full of fruits and it was collided with a troller on its back side as a result of seven persons died and eight others injured

They were immediately shifted to LUMHS Jamshoro from where the deceased and injured have been referred to the Civil Hospital, Hyderabad.

Two brothers are also included among deceased.

28-year-old Naiji son of Long Kachhi, 30-year-old Amer and his brother 25-year-old Ramoo son of Ramesh 45-year-old businessman Imdad Hussain Khoso, 32-year-old Ramesh and 25-year-old Chetan Kachhi, Karim Hasan.. All the people are said to be residents of the nearby area of Sultanabad of Tando Allah Yar.

The conditions of injured was stated to be serious..

SHO Lonikot Sikandar Rodhnani said that, the accident occurred due to the negligence of the troller driver, the driver fled the scene and the troller was taken into custody.

Another the accident took place at Nooriabad on M-9 in which the residents of Kotri Karo Kahoo area were going to Karachi in a car when the car collided with the Mazda while reversing, as a result of which the 30-year-old Mazhar Jat died on the spot while Five persons including, Abu Bakar, Sajid, Sheryar, Allahyar, Ramzan were injured and they were shifted to LUMHS Jamshoro and where after postmortem the body of the deceased was shifted to Kotri.

The police took the Mazda and car into custody and started investigation.

FATA budget highlights need for accountability in bringing uplift of tribal areas

Since the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) in 2018, the allocation and utilization of the region's budget have been pivotal in fostering development and integration. This merger aimed to bring the historically marginalized FATA regions under the same legal and administrative framework as the rest of Pakistan, thereby extending constitutional rights and unlocking new opportunities for growth. The budget allocated to these areas post-merger plays a critical role in addressing long-standing infrastructural deficiencies, improving public services, and

promoting economic development. Key sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare have received targeted investments to uplift the standard of living and promote inclusive growth.

Transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of the ex-FATA budget have been crucial in ensuring effective governance and public trust. The KPK government has implemented measures to enhance transparency, including public disclosure of budgetary allocations, robust expenditure tracking mechanisms, and regular audits. These efforts not only empower local communities to monitor the use of public funds but also

strengthen institutional mechanisms to prevent mismanagement and corruption. Civil society organizations and the media play a vital role in scrutinizing budgetary processes, advocating for transparency, and holding authorities accountable for the effective use of resources.

The National Finance Commission (NFC) award plays a significant role in determining the financial allocation for provinces and regions, including ex-FATA, from the federal divisible pool. This allocation

is based on various criteria, such as population size, revenue generation capacity, and development needs. The

NFC award ensures a fair distribution of resources, allowing historically marginalized regions like ex-FATA to receive their equitable share of funds for socio-economic development. However, challenges

such as bureaucratic delays and administrative inefficiencies can hinder the timely disbursement and utilization of allocated funds, impacting the implementation of development

projects despite adequate financial provisions.

The allocation and utilization of the ex-FATA budget, supplemented by the NFC award, have yielded positive development outcomes in the region. Improved infrastructure, expanded access to education and healthcare services, enhanced governance structures, and increased economic opportunities are tangible results observed post-merger. Despite these gains, sustaining development momentum requires continuous efforts to streamline administrative processes, strengthen local institutions, and address socio-economic disparities. Future prospects for ex-FATA hinge

on leveraging budgetary resources strategically to achieve sustainable development goals, empower communities, and bridge developmental gaps with other parts of KPK.

The transparent allocation and effective utilization of the ex-FATA budget, coupled with the impact of the NFC award, are pivotal in shaping the socio-economic landscape of the region post-merger. As Pakistan continues on its path of inclusive growth and governance reform, ensuring equitable distribution and prudent management of resources in ex-FATA remain critical for fostering prosperity, stability, and integration within the broader national framework.



Abdul Waheed Wazir



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:28 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:19 pm
Isha 8:59 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 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5556311-4
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

High Court Bar Association Multan condemns, Court Fees Price 2 Rupees to 500 Rupees Per Ticket



Quaratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: High Court Bar Association Multan President Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla Advocate and General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi Advocate in their joint statement condemned the Punjab government's amendment of the Court Fees Act to set the price of Rs 2 tickets to 500 Rupees per ticket. While doing this, he said that due to the increasing inflation in the country, burdening the citizens who turn to the courts to seek justice by making such legal amendments is cruel to them and an attempt to keep them away from seeking justice. Demand that the amendments made in the Court Fees Act be immediately withdrawn so as to reduce the burden of inflation on Ceylon.

KP Sharma Oli appointed Nepal's new prime minister

Shehbaz Sharif felicitates KP Sharma Oli for taking oath as Nepalese PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: KP Sharma Oli, leader of the left-wing Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) CPN-UML, was appointed the country's new prime minister on Sunday, ending a weeks-long political crisis, local media reported.

President Ramchandra Paudel appointed Oli premier for a fourth term, local English daily the Kathmandu Post reported.

First serving as prime minister in 2015-2016, Oli was also head of the government from February 2018 to July 2021, in two separate terms.

Oli won the appointment after he staked a claim with the support of 166 lawmakers, including 88 from the Nepali



Congress and 78 from the UML.

The minimum number of seats needed in the 275-member House of Representatives to form a government is 138.

Under the country's Constitution, Oli needs to secure a vote of confidence from parliament within 30 days of appointment.

The small Himalayan country was plunged into a political crisis last month following the ouster of Oli's predecessor Pushpa Kamal Dahal after the UML withdrew its support for the ruling coalition.

Meanwhile: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday congratulated KP Sharma Oli for taking oath as the Prime

Minister of Nepal for the fourth time.

"Congratulations to H. E. KP Sharma Oli on taking oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the fourth time," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

The prime minister wished him every success and said that he looked forward to working with him to further strengthen bilateral ties and promote regional cooperation between the two nations.

Nepal's Communist leader KP Sharma Oli was sworn in as the prime minister for the fourth time on Monday. He succeeded Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives on July 12, leading to the formation of the new government process.

Security Alert

ISLAMABAD: Security personnel placed heavy shipping containers between the roads at sector G-6 for blocked road due to 9th Muharram Ul Haram procession in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab administration striving to ensure Muharram is peaceful

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Commissioner Rawalpindi Engineer Amrathik has said that the Punjab government is taking vigorous steps to make the ten days of Muharram Haram peaceful. The best arrangements have been made by the concerned authorities to provide fool-proof security and municipal services on funeral and procession routes. The peace established in Attock district is the result of joint efforts of all stakeholders. Which should be kept permanent. He said this on the occasion of his visit to Attock. He was accompanied by RPO and Babar Sarfrazalpa, Deputy Commissioner Rao Ataf Raza, District Police



Officer Dr. Ghiyath Gul Khan, ADCG ARQas Aslam Marth, ADCG Anil Saeed and other district officers. Commissioner Rawalpindi RP and Ulpindi. On this occasion, he said that the arrangements are being

monitored on the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, therefore, the vision of the Chief Minister is to establish sustainable peace and order under the best arrangements and a peaceful Muharram.

The practical university is being implemented. Attock district is an example of peace. He said that the district administration should keep a close eye on the situation. Be alert to deal with any potential untoward incident. Until the last moments of Ashura-Muharram, provision of municipal services and implementation of the issued SOPs should be ensured. 145 processions and 754 Majlis will be held till 10th of Muharram, while a detailed briefing was given about clean lighting, openness and public health emergency facilities on the routes of the Majlis procession. DPO Attock gave a briefing about the security arrangements. Expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

Newly elected British MP Ayoub Khan pledges unwavering support to Palestinian cause

News Desk

LONDON: Newly elected Pro-Palestine independent MP from Perry Barr, Birmingham, constituency, Ayoub Khan has reiterated his unwavering commitment to championing the Palestinian cause, dedicating his victory to the resilient people of Gaza. Khan lambasted the global community's hypocritical stance on the issue, vowing to persistently raise awareness in the British Parliament.

He said this during an exclusive session in London with prominent Pakistani business leader, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari.

The MP also drew parallels with the occupied Kashmir region, high-



lighting the similarities in the struggles faced by both populations. He acknowledged the critical role of social media in amplifying the Palestinian narrative, leveraging graphics to convey the severity of the situation.

In contrast, Khan noted the technological limitations hindering the Kashmiri people's ability to share their stories, resulting in relatively less global attention.

Ayoub Khan reassured the Kashmiri community that they have a strong advocate in the British Parliament, pledging to vocally support their cause and echo their concerns.

He also expressed his desire to strengthen UK-Pakistan relations, bridging the gap between the two nations through enhanced business connectivity and cultural exchange.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General of the United Business Group, briefed Khan on Pakistan's investment opportunities and the business community's role in youth development through industry-academia linkages. Bakhtawari extended an invitation to Khan to visit Pakistan and explore its tourism potential, which he accepted.

Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, Inaugurates Computer Labs Funded By Saudi Arabia



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Monday, inaugurated the newly established Saudi funded software engineering, computer labs in the Faculty of Computing & Information Technology at male and female campuses of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) separately.

These Saudi Funded Labs have been equipped with 210 Computers. In this endeavour, the Department of Software Engineering has been provided with 40 computers on each side. It includes computers AI of Artificially Intelligent Software Lab at Female Campus) and Aspire Software Engineering Lab at Male Campus. Similarly, Department of Computer Science 40 computers for each lab and same gadgets were provided for

NextGen Computer Lab at Female campus and Digital Frontiers Computer Lab at Male Campus.

On the occasion, President IIUI, Dr. Hathal, said the inauguration of these latest labs equipped with the latest technology that are established with the cooperation of Saudi funding is an important step to strengthen our efforts which will enhance academic uplift and it will support the university's mission to adopt modern educational trends. He thanked the Saudi government for the continuous support of IIUI.

He emphasized the importance of formulating a comprehensive strategy to meet the technological needs and cope with the upcoming challenges in the present era.

Talking about the strategic planning, he stated it is vital to address the university's challenges and ensure its continued growth.

Dr. Hathal expressed optimism about the positive impact of these labs that will help students for their academic development.

The IIUI President stressed upon the faculty to utilize these facilities. Dr. Hathal reiterated his resolve that IIUI would keep providing a milieu of peace and high quality contemporary education integrated with teachings of Islam and latest trends of technology. He hailed the hard work of the faculty and staff to support the culture of research among the students, while he also assured of all possible support. He opined that Faculty of Computing would help in contributing to the progress of the university in the best manner.

During the visit, the Dean Faculty of Computing & (IT), Dr. Asmat Ullah Khan and Dr. Salma Imtiaz, In-Charge Software Engineering Department and other Departmental heads of the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology (IT) at male and female campuses provided a brief of the ongoing activities of students and faculty at campus.

Dr. Asmatullah, Dean of the Faculty said that the initiative of the IIUI President to facilitate the students and faculty members is our prime objective. He thanked the IIUI President for his keen interest in the solution of the problems of the IIUI students as well as he vowed that it will be ensured to provide an ideal friendly environment to students. On the occasion, the officials also shared the feedback on providing logistic and administrative support by the university administration.

Later, The IIUI President also visited labs for the BioInformatics department where 50 computers from Saudi fund are given to the Department.

AIOU announces admissions for Autumn 2024 Semester

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced admissions for the Autumn 2024 semester's first phase. The last date to apply for Matric, FA, and I. Com programs is September 5th, while for MBA, BS, MS, MPhil, and PhD programs, the deadline is August 20th. Application forms for Matric, FA, I. Com programs can be obtained from the University's main campus, regional offices, liaison offices, and prospect selling points. For MBA, BS, MS, MPhil, and PhD programs, admissions are strictly online, and application forms and prospects are available on the University's website.

International students residing worldwide can also apply for Matric, FA, and I. Com programs. Other programs for international students will be offered in the second phase starting from September 1st. The University is facilitating international students through an online management system where they can submit assignments and take exams online. International students can download admission forms and prospects from the University's website at <http://online.aiou.edu.pk>.

According to Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, in previous semesters, 1200 international students from 37 countries have enrolled, and the university aims to increase this number to 50,000.

NDMA Alert: Heavy to very heavy rainfall expected in Central Punjab, Southern Sindh

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) anticipated heavy rainfall in central Punjab and southern Sindh in the next 24 hours.

The NEOC anticipated heavy rainfall in Lahore, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Okara, Jhang, and Sheikhpura areas of central Punjab, with 50-100 mm of rainfall expected in one to two hours, the NDMA news release said.

Similarly, heavy rainfall with thunderstorms and strong winds is expected in Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Thar, Umerkot, Badin, Islamkot, Mithi, Tando Allah Yar, Tando Muhammad Khan, and Kotri areas of Sindh. The rainfall may cause urban flooding and increased water levels in nullahs, and strong winds and lightning strikes are also expected.

OGRA takes action against mixing of CO2 with LPG

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has taken serious note of the issue of mixing carbon dioxide (CO2) with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by illegal decanters.

OGRA conducted a high-profile meeting chaired by Masroor Khan, Chairman OGRA, and authority members, enforcement, legal, and LPG teams.

The meeting addressed the potential life risks associated with this dangerous practice and urged provincial Chief Secretaries, the Attorney General, and provincial Advocate Generals to take appropriate action against the illegal decanters, said a news release issued here on Monday.

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A Girl Who Became a Threat to National Security

Who would have thought that behind the innocent baby face, glittering and sparkling eyes, and enchanting smile of a 31-year-old young married woman lies a hardcore criminal, a terrorist, a lawbreaker, and a violent person who would become one of the biggest threats to national security and safety? The entire state machinery and law enforcement personnel has deployed all the arsenals at their disposal to keep this criminal and terrorist girl in jail, despite release orders from various courts in the country, the latest being from the Lahore High Court on July 10, 2024.

Sanam Javaid, who can deceive anyone with her innocent face and legendary defiant smile, which adorns her face like bright sunshine, could have fooled anyone—but not the all-powerful state of our country. The state, rightly so, slapped her with multiple charges and arrested her several times since the events of May 9, 2023, aiming to deprive her of that bright smile. Unfortunately for the state, it has so far failed to do so, but it will continue to use whatever power it has to achieve its objectives.

This tiny but deceptive girl has been charged under Sections 435 and 439 of the Cr. P. C. and under FIR No. 823/23 dated May 10, 2023. She faces charges for offenses under Sections 302, 324, 353, 427, 431, 186, 148, 149, 505, 188, and 109 of the PPC, read with Section 16 of the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960, and Section 7 of

the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Of course, if her smile did not break after these punitive measures, the state would continue to use one weapon after another until she agrees to trade her smile for her freedom. Interestingly, her smile becomes even brighter with each passing day, presenting a further challenge to the state.

The state, in all its cleverness, played a game of cat and mouse. The IG of Punjab Police, who has mastered the art of retaining his coveted position and has become indispensable to the government due to his ability to keep all declared enemies of the state behind bars, committed to the Lahore High Court that the girl with the smile was involved in only two cases. Yet, he successfully circumvented court orders by registering seven additional cases on similar charges in different police stations only in Lahore. He, being very wise, circumvented Section 177 of the Cr. P. C., which clearly states, "every offense shall ordinarily be inquired into and tried by a Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction it was committed."

But when she was bailed out in all of them, she was dragged first to Mianwali, then to Musakhel, followed by Sargodha, and then Gujranwala. When she got her release from Gujranwala by the Lahore High Court, she was again arrested and taken to Islamabad, and later she may be shifted to Quetta, Balochistan. Her ability to be present at various places miles apart

and commit similar crimes simultaneously clearly reflects that she either has a time machine, can make copies of herself, or possesses some kind of extraterrestrial powers. We are fortunate that the state has arrested her and clipped her powers; otherwise, the country could have suffered irreversible losses by now.

In its duet versus Smile case, the state might consider taking her to AJK, GB, or even a foreign country, despite knowing that a person who allegedly commits a crime in one jurisdiction cannot commit the same crime at the same date and time in various jurisdictions miles apart.

The state has skillfully circumvented Article 9 of the Constitution, which guarantees that no person would be deprived of life or liberty save in accordance with the law. It has also frustrated Article 10, which safeguards citizens from unlawful arrest and detention. Furthermore, it has offended Article 13, which provides that no person shall be prosecuted or punished for the same offense more than once. It has set aside Article 9, covering personal liberty, and Article 4, which enshrines the inalienable right of every citizen to enjoy the protection of law and be treated in accordance with the law. The state has successfully kept the Girl with a Smile imprisoned by entangling her in a series of criminal cases regarding a single act, usurping her fundamental rights guaranteed by the

Constitution. This girl, armless but armed with a killing and defiant smile and a twinkle in her eyes, perhaps had a bigger ideology, a greater commitment to her cause, and bigger dreams for her country. These qualities eventually made her the biggest threat to national security and safety. With her outside the jail, she could have been one of the biggest threats the country had ever faced. Therefore, the state, in all righteousness, frustrated the Lahore High Court's order. The court had declared that there was no incriminating material to connect the petitioner with any or all charges leveled against her and observed that these cases were registered against her with mala fide intentions and ulterior motives, aimed solely at defeating the judicial system.

The state also disregarded the quotes of English philosopher John Stuart Mill, who said, "...a State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficent purposes - will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished."

The Girl with a Smile must learn her lessons and seriously consider trading her smile for the promised freedom, thus saving the country from imminent obliteration. But sadly, she seems too stubborn and may never trade her smile, no matter what is offered.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Ballots, Not Bullets

On Saturday, a profoundly sorrowful and dark chapter in the history of the US was written; a day that will be remembered with heavy hearts and grave reflection. The entire nation was left in a state of shock and disbelief as news spread of an unimaginable act of violence against one of its most prominent political figures.

Former president and current Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump found himself the target of an assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally. This heinous act occurred mere days before he was set to officially accept the Republican nomination for a third time, an event eagerly anticipated by his supporters. The rally, meant to be a celebration of democracy and political engagement, was instead plunged into chaos and terror as a sudden barrage of gunfire erupted.

The sound of gunshots reverberated through the crowd, setting off a wave of panic and fear. Attendees screamed out of fear for their own lives and that of their leader. Amid this commotion, a bloodied Trump, struck by a bullet that grazed his ear, was quickly encircled by Secret Service agents.

In the immediate aftermath, Americans across the country were glued to their televisions, laptops and phone screens, anxiously seeking updates. The harrowing images of the crowd and the relentless sound of gunfire played over and over, etching themselves into the collective memory of the nation. Each frame, each cry, each echo of violence was a chilling reminder of the fragility of the American democratic institutions and the real dangers that political leaders face.

This is not the country its citizens know and love — a nation founded on the principles of freedom, liberty and democracy. Such an atrocity is fundamentally incompatible with the core values they hold dear. The very essence of the republic is challenged when political violence rears its ugly head. It is imperative that no one, for even a moment, believes this is acceptable or justifiable.

In a statement on Truth Social, Trump articulated the collective disbelief and condemnation felt by many. "It is incredible that such an act can take place in our country," he wrote. Trump further detailed the traumatic experience, stating: "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," before describing the immediate pain and shock as the bullet tore through his skin.

This assassination attempt brings back painful memories of past political violence in America, most notably the attempt on President Ronald Reagan's life in 1981. It also recalls the tragic assassinations of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and his brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, in 1968. The echoes of history stretch further back to the assassinations of Presidents Abraham Lincoln in 1865, James Garfield in 1881 and William McKinley in 1901, as well as the attempt on Theodore Roosevelt's life in 1912. These moments of national tragedy remind us of the profound impact that such violence has on the collective American psyche.



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

Province, Independence or Accession - II

Pakistan has historically been a natural choice for Kashmiris, with a majority favoring accession to Pakistan, which promises several benefits. In the intricate landscape of international relations, small states often encounter distinct challenges, ranging from economic vulnerabilities to limited geopolitical influence. Accession, the act of aligning with a larger and more influential country or bloc, can offer significant advantages for small states aiming to fortify their economic, political, and security foundations.

Joining a larger economic entity grants small states access to broader markets and economies, stimulating economic growth and development. Participation in economic blocs or bilateral trade agreements can lead to reduced tariffs, expanded export opportunities, and increased foreign direct investment (FDI). Accession agreements also facilitate the exchange of technology, knowledge, and best practices, crucial for advancing industries, boosting productivity, and fostering innovation.

Aligning with a larger country or regional alliance enhances the political influence of small states on the global stage. Accession empowers small states to amplify their voices in international forums, influence policy decisions, and strengthen diplomatic ties with other nations. Participating in diplomatic

alliances enables small states to tackle common challenges such as climate change, security threats, and humanitarian crises through collective action and coordinated diplomacy. Security remains a critical concern for small states, especially in regions prone to instability or conflict. Accession agreements often include provisions for mutual defense and security cooperation, offering small states enhanced military capabilities, intelligence sharing, and joint military exercises. These partnerships contribute to regional stability, deter aggression, and bolster collective security, thereby safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of small states.

Accession also promotes cultural and social exchanges between small states and their larger partners, fostering mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Initiatives in cultural diplomacy, educational exchanges, and collaborative projects in healthcare, education, and cultural preservation strengthen interpersonal connections and promote social cohesion. These exchanges contribute to a more interconnected and harmonious global community, enriching the cultural tapestry of small states.

Aligning with technologically advanced countries or regional alliances facilitates the transfer of technology, expertise, and innovative practices to small states. Accession agreements

support research and development, promote digital connectivity, and advance sustainable development objectives. Embracing technological advancements helps small states improve infrastructure, enhance public services, and boost economic competitiveness in global markets.

The potential accession of Kashmir to Pakistan could provide the region with a more stable political framework aligned with Pakistan's governance structures and administrative systems. This alignment may foster greater political stability and effective governance in Kashmir. With historical, linguistic, and cultural ties to Pakistan, particularly in the Kashmir Valley where the majority of the population is Muslim, accession could strengthen cultural identity and heritage preservation efforts, nurturing a sense of belonging among Kashmiris. Integration with Pakistan could unlock economic opportunities for Kashmir, including access to larger markets, foreign investment, and infrastructure development, ultimately improving living standards and creating employment opportunities for the local population. Accession to Pakistan could potentially strengthen security cooperation, intelligence sharing, and defense capabilities, thereby contributing to regional stability and addressing security challenges in the volatile region.

Another proposal under discussion is mostly a speculation is for Kashmir to become a province of Pakistan. The advantages of being part of an established nation cannot be overstated.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Strengthening the SCO Through Strategic Media Collaboration

As the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) expands its influence on the global stage, the importance of mass media cooperation among its member states has become increasingly evident. This collaborative approach to media offers a powerful tool for fostering mutual understanding, countering misinformation, and advancing the organization's objectives across its diverse membership.

Established in 2001, the SCO now includes ten (10) Eurasian nations, with a focus on security, economic, and cultural cooperation. However, creating unity among such a diverse group presents significant challenges. Strategic media cooperation is seen as a potential solution to this issue, offering numerous benefits. To delve deeper, we need to understand what strategic media cooperation is and how it relates to the SCO. Strategic media cooperation involves a coordinated and purposeful approach to collaboration between media outlets, often across national boundaries or within multinational organizations. In the context of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), member states collaborate to align their media efforts towards common goals. This collaboration can include sharing news content, joint reporting on regional issues, collaborative fact-checking initiatives, and coordinated responses to disinformation campaigns. Showcasing SCO Achievements: Collaborative media efforts can highlight successful joint projects in areas such as counterterrorism, trade, and cultural exchange. This approach can build public support for deeper SCO integration and strengthen the organization's role in global governance.

Combating Disinformation: In an era of rising false narratives, coordinated efforts between SCO media outlets can serve as a bulwark against attempts to sow division among member states. By presenting factual, balanced coverage of regional affairs, SCO media can establish itself as a trusted information source. To effectively combat the threats posed by misinformation and disinformation in the digital age, the SCO could implement several innovative strategies:

Establish a joint fact-checking network to quickly identify and debunk false narratives.
 Develop rapid information-sharing protocols to preempt

the spread of disinformation. Implement collaborative media literacy programs to build resilience among citizens.

Conduct coordinated investigations to expose foreign interference and disinformation campaigns.

The evolving information landscape presents both challenges and opportunities for SCO media cooperation. By positioning themselves as trusted information hubs, SCO media outlets can shape regional narratives and counterbalance potentially biased external portrayals. Joint investment in digital technologies could allow SCO media to stay ahead of disinformation tactics, while also promoting critical thinking and digital literacy among citizens.

Furthermore, SCO media cooperation can play a crucial role in bridging information divides between different communities and member states. By providing diverse perspectives and fostering dialogue, media can counteract the echo chamber effect often exacerbated by disinformation. Establishing rapid response mechanisms for emerging disinformation threats and promoting transparency in regional governance can further enhance the SCO's ability to combat false narratives.

However, this path is not without obstacles. Differing press freedom standards between member states and concerns about state influence over media narratives present significant challenges. Maintaining editorial independence while fostering collaboration will be crucial to building credibility and ensuring the success of these initiatives.

Despite these hurdles, the potential benefits of enhanced SCO media cooperation are substantial. As the organization continues to evolve, leveraging the power of mass media may prove essential in building the shared values and vision necessary for long-term success. By focusing on creating a unified, trusted information ecosystem, the SCO can strengthen its role as a key player in regional stability and cooperation.



Analysis

Sabah Aslam

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

IS 'Victory of the Nation'

Turkish Embassy marks eighth anniversary of failed coup attempt, pays tribunes to heroes

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye's Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçacı said that this year's commemoration ceremony for Democracy and National Unity Day centers around the theme of "Victory of the Nation." It marks eight years since the July 15 coup attempt orchestrated by members of the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO), resulting in the martyrdom of 251 citizens and injuries to over 2000 others. He Addressing the audience on eighth anniversary of the 2016 defeated coup attempt in Turkiye

The commemoration ceremony took place here in Islamabad attended by Ahmed Naseem Warraich, Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Syed Ali Asad Gillani, Director General (Afghanistan, Iran & Turkey) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan,, Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram, Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Dil ad enol Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin and large number of people including media person were attend the event

He said It has been eight years since the July 15 coup attempt orchestrated by members of the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO) who had infiltrated our army, resulting in the martyrdom of 251 of our citizens and the injury of over two thousand others. FETO is not only a terrorist organization, but also an espionage organization with a "cult" character. FETO was established as a so-called "religious movement". In the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions.

He said that The well-planned and widespread infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law enforcement,



judiciary and numerous government institutions was carried out for decades latently for a full-scale plot, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016.

The Ambassador said The greatest credit for neutralizing the threat posed by FETO on the

night of July 15 goes to the Turkish people, who demonstrated that they recognize no power over their own will and are ready to give their lives to protect their state and its democratic achievements.

He said "It was the night when the territorial integrity, demo-

graphic integrity and cultural integrity of Turkiye, in other words, in every sense, Turkiye itself was protected by its own citizens under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Thousands of civilians took to the streets to stop this heinous coup attempt".

He wishes Allah's mercy upon citizens who were martyred while defending democracy on the night of July 15, and also gives gratitude to veterans. He said Turkiye is resolutely fighting against FETO both domestically and internationally.

In this context, we emphasize with concrete examples that FETO poses a security threat to other countries where it operates, aims to create political and economic spheres of influence, does not hesitate to violate the laws of the countries it is present in, and operates like a criminal and intelligence organization.

It is now becoming internationally understood that FETO is not a social movement involved in education and charity as it tries to



portray itself, but a dark and insidious terrorist organization with political and economic ambitions.

Ambassador Paçacı credited the Turkish people for thwarting the threat posed by FETO that night, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to their sovereignty and readiness to defend the state and its democratic achievements. Thousands of civilians courageously took to the streets to halt the coup attempt, with prayers for the martyrs and gratitude extended to veterans and distinguished guests.

Highlighting the international

threat posed by FETO, Ambassador Paçacı underscored its ambitions to influence political and economic spheres, operating without regard for host countries' laws and functioning akin to a criminal and intelligence organization.

He hailed Pakistan for swiftly acting against FETO affiliates following the treacherous coup attempt, noting Pakistan's designation of FETO as a proscribed organization in December 2018.

He reaffirmed Turkiye's resolute stance against the FETO International Network and empha-

sized the universal fight against terrorism, asserting that terrorism transcends language, religion, and race.

Ambassador Paçacı concluded by honoring Turkiye's historic leaders, including Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, and expressing gratitude to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for his leadership during the coup attempt.

Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Ahmad Naseem Warraich and Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram also addressed to event.



IS Let's keep it up

World Kashmir Awareness Forum will be organized Peaceful protest on August 5, 2024 in Washington

By Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON, D. C.: An important meeting was held at the residence of Sardar Zarif Khan to discuss the possibility of holding a peaceful protest on August 5, 2024 - the day which cast ominous shadow to panic when Narendra Modi abrogated Article 370 & 35 A on August 5, 2019, a decision which was rejected not only by Kashmiri global diaspora but also by Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations. The abrogation was in open contravention of UN resolution #122 adopted on January 24, 1957; # 123 adopted on February 21, 1957, and # 126 adopted on December 2, 1957. These resolutions prohibit any unilateral action to change the disputed nature of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Guterres said on August 8, 2019, that Kashmir issue has to be resolved under UN Charter and under applicable UN Security Council resolutions.

These protest and demonstrations need to be continued for following reasons: India has created a well-oiled propaganda machinery at a global level. These agencies are persistently spreading the word that everything is hunky dory in occupied Kashmir. That misperception needs to be countered and

holding publicized rallies on this day is a step in that direction. Second, there may be elements in our ranks who have given way to dismay due to India's belligerent attitude and malicious propaganda. We need to shake them up and convey to them that there are examples in history where battle for freedom suffers severe bottle necks and cause appears to be lost. We have to gather ourselves and fight it out not in a foolhardy manner but with grit, determination, vigor, valor and appropriate strategy.

Those who attended the meeting included: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Sardar Zarif Khan, Raja Liaqat Kayani, Sardar Zulfiqar Roshan Khan, Sardar Zubair Khan, Sardar Shoaib Irshad, Raja Suhail Saleem, Dr. Muhammad.

Later on, Dr. Muhammad who also attended the meeting and who visited Sardar Zarif before the surgery, during the surgery, after the surgery, at the Rehab Center and now at his residence, provided the chronological account of the treatment and response of Zarif Sahab in these words:

"Brother Zarif initially started with abdominal issues consisting mainly of bloating. He was investigated thoroughly for this complaint. This investigation included Cat Scan of

abdomen and Colonoscopy indicating absence of any significant Gut problems. Zarif Sahab then developed numbness in his legs and abdominal wall followed by weakness in his legs. He Consulted Neurology service and had extensive testing done including MRI of spine. MRI showed diffuse disc problem including protrusion of few discs in his Thoracic and Lumbar spine. The Thoracic spine disc problem was thought to be the most significant by Neurosurgery after consultation."

Dr. Muhammad added that, "All involved in the health management of Zarif Sahab recommended that he should undergo Thoracic spine surgery which he eventually did. His postoperative course was mainly uneventful, and he was discharged to Rehab Center. Later Zarif Sahib developed lazy bowels (Ileus) and was again admitted to the hospital. After an improvement he was again sent to Rehab where he spent almost three weeks and now Alhamdulillah, he is home after he has shown progressive improvement. He still has a long way to go. His progress, however, can be assessed by the fact that he was not able to move his legs soon after the surgery but now he is not only moving his lower limbs but also is able to lift them



from the ground as well. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai said that Kashmiri American community

is missing the professionalism and dedication of Sardar Zarif Khan in organizing any event on

the subject of Kashmir. Everyone is requested to keep Zarif Sahib in their Du'a so that Allah (SWT)

grants him full recovery and he resumes his normal activities. Aameen."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
81,155.60	79,944.09
Day's High	Day's Low
81,428.43	80,743.46
Index Value	Change
16,507,980,616	+1211.51
Percentage	Time
+1.52%	15 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,182.96	-69.95
Percentage	Time
-0.85%	15 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,245.20	+244.30
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	15 Jul, 1:23 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	184.65	186.45
Bahrain Dinar	741.15	749.15
Canadian Dollar	203.75	205.75
China Yuan	38.35	38.75
Danish Krone	40.05	40.45
Euro	301.2	303.1
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	73.6	74.3
Singapore Dollar	202.25	204.25
Swedish Korona	26.4	26.7
Swiss Franc	309.05	311.55
Thai Bhat	7.5	7.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.5	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	355.15	358.65
US Dollar	279.15	280.65

Country cannot afford blunders in privatization of discos: Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the government has decided to tax agricultural income following pressure from the IMF, which is a wise decision.

All the provinces have also agreed to tax agricultural income properly, which is laudable and will help to balance the taxation system somewhat.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that taxing agricultural income will reduce irregularities in the tax system. Responsible tax collection will address numerous issues and relieve the general public and industrial sector strain.

Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that if the provinces do not show responsibility, the Centre should deduct from their NFC share.

The business leader said that the provinces sometimes show sluggishness in creating adequate resources to fulfil their constitutional obligations and provide social and economic services, such as law and order, education, health, water, sanitation, etc.

Currently, the agricultural sector collects a negligible tax, which must increase to run the country.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the federal government should make serious efforts to reduce its expenditures. In this regard, a ban on the importation of ninety percent of consumer goods is urgently needed.

Pakistan imports drinks, lassi, carpets, furniture, coffees, chocolates, bulbs, toothpaste, jam, jelly, pickles, decoration items, make-up kits, and hundreds of unnecessary



Items. Investors have also imported more solar panels, which has brought down the price and greatly benefited the public. India can

make solar panels, so why can't Pakistan do the same?

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, electricity distribution companies lose 1200 billion rupees annually due to incompetence, corruption, electricity theft, non-payment of bills, and old infrastructure.

The government wants to privatise them now. However, before doing so, it should study the model other countries have adopted to prevent making the same mistakes twice.

The government should closely monitor the contracts prepared by the bureaucracy to prevent the repetition of blunders in the contracts with the IPPs.

He stated that some IPPs are supposed to get 17 percent profit on zero risk but receive profits ranging from forty to eighty-seven percent, while the public bears the entire burden. He warned that the country cannot afford to repeat such blatant mistakes.

Shaking Hands

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal shaking hands with Mr. Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in Beijing, China on Monday.



Photo: Spokesman

Govt urged to protect SMEs from closure: FBATI President

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The increase in multiple taxes in the recent budget coupled with the high cost of utilities have surged the cost of production of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), threatening the survival of hundreds of business units, leading to possible shutdowns, layoffs, and a decline in exports.

This was stated by President Federal B Area Association of Trade and Industry (FBATI), Syed Raza Hussain, while commenting on the dire situation of industries and SMEs.

The combined impact of high utility costs and heavy taxation is proving detrimental to the SME sector. Many businesses are on the brink of closure, unable to sustain operations under the financial strain, he said and added. The downturn in SME activity is expected to negatively affect Pakistan's exports; as these businesses scale back or shut down, export volumes are likely to decline, exacerbating the country's trade deficit.

"We are struggling to keep our doors open. The cost of electricity alone has increased manifoldly since last year. If

the situation doesn't improve, we may have no choice but to shut down our operations, he remarked."

One of the primary issues SMEs are facing is the escalating cost of utilities, including electricity prices, which have surged significantly over the past year. This is driven by a combination of increased global fuel prices and inefficiencies within the national grid. President FBATI said that water and gas prices have also seen substantial hikes, further straining the operational budgets of small businesses.

He mentioned the government did not announce any financing scheme for SMEs to accelerate economic activities within the country in the budget despite the central bank's proposal for the government to provide risk coverage through funds in the budget to empower banks on their fresh financing to SMEs.

Adding fuel to fire, the provincial government issued a notification for subsoil water extraction without taking onboard the town association of the city, making the situation more challenging for industries to continue their production.

Zong Celebrates Digital Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading mobile network operator, celebrated Digital Day 2024 in grand style at its headquarters today. The event served as more than just a celebration; it was a resounding CEO Zong 4G's vision of 5th July 2024 positioning Zong 4G as an excellent information services and technology innovation company.

While welcoming employees to the Digital Day celebrations at Zong HQ, CEO Zong 4G Mr. Huo Junli quotes "This day was yet another positive step taken towards building Zong as an information services provider and the displays are a testament to that. Today, we align ourselves to our vision of 'Excellent Information Services and Technology Innovation company in Pakistan. From legacy network expansion, setting up state-of-the-art Data Centers as a backbone of cloud services, to building network-neutral product portfolio.

Taking this direction was imperative to the sustainability, success, and market leadership of Zong. We had to adapt to the changing landscape of technology and the dynamic consumer demands. As we entered a new age of Zong, we also embodied our values of Integrity, Openness, Responsibility, and Excellence. In doing so, we were able to drive growth within and beyond the organization - growth that was crucial to the Sci-Tech transformation we wished to



see in Zong.

I am delighted to see the product displays today, we have an attractive portfolio of digital products such as Zong Engage, Zong Road Assistance, and Banking as a Service (BaaS). These innovations, available through the My Zong App, are designed to simplify our customers' lives."

DeCode, a handset manufacturer and Zong are working together to make smartphone technology accessible to all. This partnership offers affordable smartphones and discounted bundled data plans with Zong SIMs which will in turn increase digital penetration.

MedIQ, a health services provider, offers convenient access to on-demand healthcare, both in-person and via a digital platform. The partnership provides a user-friendly

digital platform for managing healthcare needs.

With Zong RoadSide Assistance, you can say goodbye to your on-road worries. This is an Industry First Digital Product to Provide Emergency assistance for Bike and Car issues. Zong Customers can now access this Service via My Zong App As well as by dialing Short Code.

Engage by Zong brings the thrill of gaming to life by enhancing the gaming experience with exclusive content, features, and tournaments on Zong's reliable network.

Zindagi, a digital finance service provider, simplifies financial management by being a one-stop shop for payments, trading, money transfers, app theme personalization and aiming to improve financial literacy.

Unleash Your Potential: A Transformative Capacity Building Symposium



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Recently, A Transformative Capacity Building Symposium* was hosted by Nazeer Hussain University and DG Academy.

On this occasion scholars enlighten the importance of Information Technology and especially on the need of the hour of cybersecurity.

While addressing the audience Muhammad Saleem, CEO of Digital Information Systems said that

Prepare yourself to assist your current capabilities and mapping your growth potential, your essential skills and expertise to future proof your success.

He further emphasized on securing the resources and support needed to achieve the goals, Optimizing organizational structures and systems for maximum impact and cultivating adaptability and sustainability for long-term success.

He also highlighted the importance of investing in cyber security. He introduced the products and services his company offers, which can alter the way businesses and organizations operate. For instance, DIGINO's, DG Academy, DG Magazine, DG Labs and DG Cloud are currently the most talked about products. They are not just ordinary, run-of-the-mill stuff. They are the result of painstaking research and hard work. Anyone subscribing to these would have an experience of using products that are poles apart from the usual.

Engr. Prof. Dr. Bilal A. Alvi, Vice Chancellor, Nazeer Hussain University, highlighted on University's Imitative and progress of the university.

Dr. Masroor A Shaikh, Dean of the

Commerce Minister Chairs Preliminary Meeting on Tariff Rationalization for Export-Led Growth

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan chaired the inaugural meeting of the high level committee formed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to focus on tariff rationalization aimed at achieving an export target of \$60 billion by 2027-28.

Recognizing the complexity and extensive scope of the task, the minister established three subcommittees to expedite the process.

These subcommittees are tasked with providing detailed recommendations to the main committee, which will then present a finalized report to

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, the Commerce Minister emphasized the technical nature of the subject and the need for comprehensive consultation with experts from both the private and public sectors.

"Given the intricacy of the topic, we require ample time for thorough deliberation, incorporating insights from all stakeholders," stated the minister.

The session also saw contributions from Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Industry and Production, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power, both of whom concurred with



the Commerce Minister's approach. They proposed forming working

groups of technical experts from various sectors to handle specific Terms of References (TORs).

The meeting was attended by secretaries of relevant ministries, the Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and other members of the main committee via zoom link.

The committee's TORs include reviewing existing proposals, suggesting short to long-term tariff rationalization measures, and devising a comprehensive plan to reach the export target.

The Ministry of Commerce will act as the secretariat for the committee, which is expected to finalize its recommendations within two weeks.

Credentials presented

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar, Cambodia and Botswana presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credentials ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Photo: PID

Envoys of 7 countries present diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The envoys of Zimbabwe, Tajikistan, Rwanda, Argentina, Myanmar, Cambodia and Botswana presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, during a credentials ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

The President received credentials from the Ambassador-designate of Zimbabwe, Mr Titus Mchliswa Jona-

than Abu-Basutu, Ambassador-designate of Tajikistan, Mr Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, High Commissioner-designate of Rwanda, Ms Hare-Rimana Fatou, Ambassador-designate of Argentina, Mr Sebastian Sayus, Ambassador-designate of Myanmar, Mr Wunna Han, Ambassador-designate of Cambodia, Mr Sok Chea, and Ambassador-designate of Botswana to Pakistan, Dr Batlang Comma Serema.

Later, the envoys also held separate meetings with the President.

Talking to the envoys, the President said that Pakistan had great investment opportunities and foreign countries should benefit from its investment-friendly environment. He highlighted that foreign investors should explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, Information Technology, energy and mining sectors.

The President stated that Pakistan wanted to broaden cooperation with all friendly countries in diverse fields, especially trade, investment, and culture. He remarked that Pakistan attached great importance to expanding economic cooperation and further maximising trade volume with friendly countries to its fullest potential. He also called for increasing contacts among the business communities to boost economic and

trade relations.

President Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the envoys on their appointment as ambassadors to Pakistan and expressed the hope that they would play their role in further improving mutually beneficial cooperation.

Earlier, the envoys were presented guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Armed Forces upon their arrival at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Message of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on World Youth Skills Day



Bureau Report

LAHORE: World Youth Skills Day is a day to recognize the important role of youth in building a sustainable future," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her message

on the day. She added, "Skilled youth is our investment and asset."

Madam Chief Minister said, "Youth must be exposed to the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world." She added, "The Punjab Government is committed to providing vocational training opportunities to its youth."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Information and communication technology is indispensable for the youth to compete in the global job market." She highlighted, "Under Chief Minister's Skills Development Initiative, the number of students will be gradually increased to 40,000 for TEVTA courses."

Madam Chief Minister said, "Middle Tech, Matric Tech and Intermediate Tech are being introduced for students in Information Technology." She added, "It is our vision to make every youth of Punjab skilled to ensure their economic empowerment."

Govt is committed for empowering women: Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that the present government is committed for empowering women as women role is very important for putting the country on the path of development. She was addressing the Webinar titled "Women Shaping the Tech Landscape of Pakistan" organised by Ministry of IT and Telecommunication on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day on Monday.

Shaza Fatima said that steps are underway for empowering women by equipping them with digital skills. The Ministry of IT & Telecom is committed to implementing policies and programs that support skills development and empower women at all levels of the tech industry. It is our vision to create an inclusive and equitable tech industry where women have equal opportunities to succeed, she said.

The Minister of State for IT said it is very important to pave way for more women to join and lead in the tech sector by addressing the key barriers such as safe transportation and workplace inclusivity.

She said with better digital skills



women can also work online while sitting at home. She said that Ministry of IT is focused upon skills development and capacity building of our youth especially women.

Shaza Fatima said that joint efforts

are needed to create future where women are not just participants but leaders in the tech landscape of Pakistan.

She said that seventy percent of Pakistan's population comprises youth which

is our asset. She said in the present era of technology, it is extremely important to equip our youth with latest digital skills to make them enable for employability. Shaza Fatima said that skilled workforce will take the country forward.

May 9 cases: ATC approves 10-day physical remand of Imran Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore approved a 10-day physical remand of former prime minister Imran Khan in a dozen May 9 cases.

Police had requested a 30-day remand to conduct investigations on 12 cases against the PTI founder. Khan

was presented before the court via video call from Adiala Jail while his lawyers Azhar Siddique and Usman Gul opposed the police's remand request, arguing that their client should be presented in person.

After hearing the arguments, the judge reserved his verdict and later announced

the decision, granting the police a 10-day physical remand of Khan. The remand was approved for five cases at Sarwar Road police station, three at Gulberg police station and one each at Race Course, Shadman, Model Town and Mughalpur police stations.

This development comes as the authorities continue their

investigation into various cases against the former prime minister, who has been a vocal critic of the current government since his ouster in 2022.

At the hearing, Khan told ATC Judge Khalid Arshad that he had not called for any violent protests in 28 years. He also stated that no independent inquiry had been

conducted into the May 9th incidents.

Additionally, Khan is also facing cases related to the Jinnah House, the military establishment, and the Shadman Police Station arson attacks. Police had earlier arrested the PTI chairman at the Adiala Jail in these 12 cases.

Treacherous Coup Attempt: July 15, 2016

On the night of July 15, 2016, a treacherous coup attempt was carried out aiming to overthrow the democratically elected government of Türkiye. The Fetullahist Terrorist Organisation's coup attempt began with the blockade of bridges in Istanbul and tanks taking to the streets. Many state institutions and organizations, notably the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the Presidential Complex and Ankara Provincial Directorate of Police, were bombed. It was soon realized that the incident was not an independent case but a coordinated action. FETO's coup units organized an attack aimed at assassinating our President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Our people took

to the squares to defend their democracy upon the call of our president, broadcast on national television. Millions of our citizens fought against the putschist terrorist organization throughout the night. The Turkish Armed Forces, the Turkish National Police, and our nation, steadfast in its democracy, suppressed the treacherous coup attempt on the morning of July 16 and apprehended its plotters. On the night of July 15, heroes such as Martyr Ömer Halisdemir, who resisted at the cost of his life to defend the Special Forces Command and neutralized the general who was part of the coup's brain trust, stood as a barrier against the coup plotters. Our citizens managed to neutralize the coup plotters who intended to take their lives on the blocked Bosphorus Bridge, at the risk of

losing their lives as martyrs. This event is one of the historic moments when the unity and determination of our nation were tested. From the initial moments of the coup attempt, the Turkish government took action to restore order and bring the perpetrators to justice. In the statements made by our President and state officials during this process, it was revealed that the coup attempt was carried out by an illegal group that had infiltrated the Turkish Armed Forces outside the control of the command staff. It is now certain that FETO was behind the coup attempt. It was

revealed that the organization's ringleader, who lives in the United States, carried out this treacherous conduct through his parallel organization within the state. The victory was hailed as one of the noblest resistances not just in Türkiye but also in the history of democracy around the world. Türkiye, which continues its struggle today, expects solidarity from friendly and allied countries, especially in the extradition of FETO fugitives and ringleaders who have fled abroad. While many countries in the international community have expressed solidarity and support for Türkiye, some of our

partner's responses to the coup attempt have been inadequate. Türkiye was also dissatisfied with how the coup attempt was reported in these countries' media. Internationally responsible Western media outlets attempted to simplify the events of July 15. They reported the bloody coup attempt against our country's democracy using the awful phrase "a fight between two factions." After the terrible coup attempt on July 15, despite several attempts for the extradition of the ringleader of the organization based in Pennsylvania, no constructive answer has been obtained from our partner, the United States. This attitude in reaction to a threat to our democracy has upset us. We are aware that FETO continues to operate in many different geographies, including in our allied countries.

We will continue to battle this terrorist organization in all areas, as it endangers the security of not only Türkiye but also all of the countries in which it operates. As a country that has further strengthened its democratic institutions after the treacherous coup attempt, we will continue our fight against the terrorist organization, which aims at the lives of our citizens and the independence of our country in every field. We will continue to honour the memories of our citizens who died on that terrible night by preserving Türkiye's freedom and future.

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Analysis

Prof Fahrettin Altun