

Ahsan launches 'Key Findings Report' on first-ever digital census-2023

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday unveiled the "First Ever Digital Census Key Findings Report," compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The report, which marks a significant milestone for Pakistan, provides comprehensive data crucial for the development of urban and rural areas and effective disaster response.



Donald Trump's granddaughter Kai makes first political appearance

Kai Trump, eldest granddaughter of former United States president Donald Trump, stole the show as she made her political debut on the Republican National Convention (RNC) stage on Wednesday. The 17-year-old daughter of Donald Jr, the oldest son of the former president, and his ex-wife, Vanessa, delivered a short but personal tribute to her grandfather, NPR reported. The 78-year-old Republican presidential candidate smiled through her heartfelt speech.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Review meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the reforms and digitisation of the Federal Board of Revenue on Thursday.



Photo: Online

President Zardari wishes speedy recovery

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday expressed good wishes for the early recovery of President Joseph R. Biden of the United States of America, who has tested positive for COVID-19.

President Zardari conveyed his sincere hopes for President Biden's good health and well being, according to a President House statement.

Earlier, in a statement, the White House confirmed that



President Biden has tested positive for COVID-19.

PM Shehbaz wishes President Biden's swift recovery from COVID-19

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday extended good wishes to United States President Joe Biden for his "swift and complete" recovery after he tested positive for COVID-19.

"Wishing President Biden swift and complete recovery from COVID. Good wishes," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

President Biden's Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, in a statement, said that the president tested positive for COVID-19 following his first event in Las Vegas, where he was scheduled to address a crucial electioneering event ahead of the presidential poll due in November.

The president, who is vaccinated and boosted, is experiencing mild symptoms. He will self-isolate and will continue to



carry out all of his duties fully during that time, the press secretary added.

"His symptoms remain mild, his respiratory rate is normal at 16, his temperature is normal at 97.8 and his pulse oximetry is normal at 97%. The President has received his first dose of Paxlovid. He will be self-isolating at his home in Rehoboth," according to a note by President Biden's doctor issued by the White House.

PM-Briefing

PM Shehbaz directs increase of Appellate Tribunals to 100 for accelerated tax case handling

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday instructed that the number of Appellate Tribunals be increased to 100 to expedite the resolution of tax cases.

Chairing a review meeting on reforms and digitization in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the prime minister also directed an increase in the number of Appellate Tribunals for Customs cases and the creation of a dashboard to evaluate the performance of Tax Appellate Tribunals.

The prime minister stated that tax refund fraud amounting to Rs 800 billion was uncovered in the past four months, and emphasized further improvements to the tax refund system.

The prime minister expressed that increasing revenue was achievable through reforms in the FBR. He lamented the unfortunate and unnecessary delays in many of the FBR's reform projects.

The prime minister emphasized zero tolerance for delays in sales tax refund payments and instructed the immediate formulation of a strategy to recover

unlawfully issued refunds.

The prime minister directed the complete digitization of the Fraud Detection and Investigation Department of the FBR and the development of a strategy to centralize all ongoing reform projects within the FBR.

The prime minister instructed the relevant authorities to employ the latest technology and the best personnel for the digitization of the FBR.

Shehbaz Sharif instructed the implementation of a unified sales tax system for all taxpayers by October 2024.

The prime minister was

briefed that a unified sales tax return system, successfully implemented by the telecom sector, was being introduced for taxpayer convenience. FBR aimed to integrate with revenue authorities across the country through a unified sales tax platform.

During the briefing, the PM was informed that since April 1, 2024, 150,000 retailers have been registered using the FBR Trader Friendly mobile phone application.

The PM instructed to maintain consultations with retailers to enhance the effectiveness of this system.

Present in the meeting were Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for Finance Ali Parvaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb, Khan, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ihsan Afzal, Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, and other senior government officials.

Law minister throws weight behind ad hoc judges' appointment

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar has defended the appointment of ad-hoc judges to the Supreme Court, stating that the Constitution allows for such appointments.

Speaking on Spot Light on Aaj News on Thursday, Tarar clarified that the Judicial Commission of Pakistan, not Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, will be responsible for making these appointments.

Tarar further explained that the Judicial Commission, which includes five senior Supreme Court judges, a retired judge (Justice Manzoor

Malik), representatives from the Pakistan Bar Council, the Law Minister, and the Attorney General, will appoint these judges to address the backlog of cases and complete the required number of judges in the Supreme Court.

The minister emphasized that the current number of Supreme Court judges (17) is insufficient and that the appointment of four ad-hoc judges will fill this gap.

He expressed confusion about the ongoing debate surrounding the issue, particularly considering that Justice Musarrat Hilali, who was previously on leave for medical reasons, is now available.

Oman mosque attackers were 'influenced by misguided ideas'

Agencies

MUSCAT: The three gunmen who shot and killed six people at a mosque in Oman's Muscat city in an attack claimed by Islamic State this week were all Omani nationals, police said on Thursday.

The assault began on Monday evening at the Ali bin Abi Talib mosque in the Wadi al-Kabir neighbourhood of Oman's capital Muscat as Shi'ite Muslims gathered.

The Royal Oman Police said the three gunmen were brothers and "were killed due to their insistence on resisting security personnel". It said that police investigations had indicated the three gunmen were



"influenced by misguided ideas."

The six people killed by the gunmen were four Pakistani nationals, an Indian, and a police officer responding to the attack, which Islamic State later claimed responsibility for.

Pakistan has labelled the assault a terror attack.

Islamic State on Tuesday said that three of its "suicide attackers" fired on worshippers at the Muscat

mosque on Monday evening and exchanged gunfire with Omani security forces until morning.

The militant group also published what it said was a video of the attack on its Telegram site. It has claimed responsibility this year for high-profile attacks in Russia and Iran which inflicted mass casualties and is active in Afghanistan. It had not claimed an assault on the Arabian Peninsula for several years until the attack in Oman.

Its operations have indicated the group is attempting a comeback after it was crushed by a U. S.-led coalition following its occupation of large swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria and declared a caliphate.

Atta Tarar grieved over demise of 'autistic Palestinian'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Thursday joined the global condemnation call made to disapprove demise of Mohammed Bhar, a 24-year-old Palestinian with Down syndrome and autism, by the injuries reportedly inflicted by "a combat dog of the Israel Defence Force (IDF)".

According to the story, also shared by the minister on social media to grieve the demise of Bhar, said "Mohammed Bhar was left for dead after being mauled by a combat dog of the Israel Defence Force (IDF)



on July 3, during a raid on his family's home in Shejaiya."

The minister, in his post that has Bhar's picture, said, "He had Down syndrome and Autism. Their dogs attacked him and left him to die. At a loss of words, can't explain the pain."

He also prayed for the mercy of the Allah Almighty.

Another judge declines SC ad-hoc judge role

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: After Justice Mushir Alam, another retired judge Justice Maqbool Baqar on Thursday declined an offer to serve as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court.

Bakar has become the second

judge to refuse the appointment as Justice (r) Mushir Alam had turned down the offer to work as an ad hoc judge for a three-year term.

Justice Bakar, and Alam were nominated for the ad hoc position in the upcoming Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP)

meeting scheduled for Friday, July 19.

The JCP, chaired by Chief Justice Isa, will consider appointing four retired judges — Mushir Alam, Maqbool Baqar, Mazhar Alam Miankhel and Sardar Tariq Masood — as ad hoc members of the Supreme Court.

Justice Alam retired from the Supreme Court on Aug 21, 2021;

Justice Baqar, who served as the Sindh chief minister during the last caretaker set-up, retired on April 4, 2022; Justice Miankhel retired on July 13, 2022; and Justice Masood on March 10, 2024.

In a statement today, Justice (retired) Baqar said that he was deciding an ad hoc judge offer due to "personal reasons".

However, Bakar termed the appointment of ad hoc judges to the apex court is in line with the law and rejected the "baseless" criticism.

Palestine ministry calls for international intervention to protect the holy sites

Spokesman Report

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns the storming of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque today by the extremist minister in the Israeli government, Itamar

Ben Gvir, with the participation of extremist followers and with the protection of the occupation police.

The Ministry considers this intrusion to be an official Israeli cover for the ongoing

Continued on Page 8

Sardar Owais Khan Leghari meets Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani at Parliament House

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and Owais Khan Leghari discussed the existing political situation.

While giving a briefing to Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, the Federal Energy Minister said that as per the ruling of the Senate Chairman, I will give a detailed briefing on the department and power projects in front of the Committee of the Whole House.

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During Discussion Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and Sardar Owais Leghari, the Indus Highway from Rajanpur to Dera Ismail Khan via Jampur, Dera Ghazi Khan Double Road project and to secure (Hill Torrents) and benefit millions of acres



of agricultural land. A consensus was reached on making a comprehensive plan in the form of a dam.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani and Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Owais Khan Leghari

will soon take a briefing from the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission in this regard.

World Biggest Tazia

Multan For a long time, the Tazia of Ustad and Shagird is taken out on the 10th Ashura Muharram Procession in Multan.



Photo: Asim Tanveer

Raja Ashfaq Safer Shaheed buried with military honors in his native village Banyan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Constituency 5 Khawra Union Council Thirman. Raja Ashfaq Safer was martyred in the terrorist attack on 15 July in the darkness of the night on which Bannu army camp was attacked by terrorists. In this attack, 8 soldiers of Pakistan Army were martyred, 3 of them belong to Muzaffarabad Division, Muhammad Shahzad belongs to Neelum, while Muhammad Soban Majeed belongs to Saleh Gally and Raja Ashfaq Safer belongs to Banyan Circle, Khawra, Muzaffarabad. Before the cremation, the Pakistan Army troops saluted the martyr's funeral and the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Chief of Army Staff and the relevant units laid flowers on the grave and hoisted the green crescent flag after the cremation. A large number of people participated in the funeral prayer. At the time of Ashfaq Safer's burial, every eye was filled with tears while his military comrades were sady. The martyr's father, Raja Muhammad Safir Khan, said, "I also retired from the Pakistan Army, but my son I am grateful to Allah for the position he has attained while performing his duties. After the funeral prayer, Speaker Legislative Assembly of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar will visit the house of Shaheed and express his condolences to the heirs of Shaheed Ashfaq Safer a month ago. There he was wedded a second marriage and he went to duty from home 5 days ago.

All law enforcement agencies praised for the foolproof security arrangements on 10th Muharram Ashura Day



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Member Cantonment Board and District Peace Committee Multan Muhammad Yaqoob Shera expressed his gratitude to all law enforcement agencies for the foolproof security arrangements on Ashura Day including Multan Cantonment Board Area, Pak Army, 1122, Security Agencies, Police and Traffic Police.

Thanks to the efforts of all the institutions, Ashura processions reached their destination safely and ended. Special thanks to Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan, RPO Multan Captain (R) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary for the best security arrangements in Muharram Al Haram. Multan Cantonment Board Executive Officer Farast Ali Shah, Wasim Aamir Secretary, DC Multan Wasim Aamir Sindhu, CPO Sadiq Dogar and Multan CTO Multan deserve special congratulations.

Congratulations to all the officers and officials of law enforcement agencies including police and traffic police whose tireless services did not cause any untoward incident from 1st of Muharram to 10th of Muharram Ashura Day. The officers and officials were busy in performing their duties, I am also thankful to the doctors, paramedical staff, provincial and local government administration and scouts who were on duty on Ashura Day, who performed excellent services on Ashura Day.

Muhammad Yaqoob Shera further said that The members of Aman Committee Culbe Abid Khan, Ghazanfar Malik Lisandar Ali Asghar Rizvi also praised the procession arrangements, we are also grateful to all the scholars who played a great role in promoting communal harmony and religious unity during Muharram.

Two people killed and 8 injured after vehicle accident in Neelum Valley

Bureau Report

NEELUM: Out of the 14 people in the car that met with an accident on Ratigali Road, the dead bodies of 2 people and 8 injured people have been brought to the District Headquarters Hospital.

The remaining 4 people in the vehicle are still missing. Administration and local volunteers are present at the site of the accident and the search for the missing persons is going on while the injured deceased

1: Ahsan Sheikh, son of Ashraf Sheikh, resident of Rawalpindi, 2: Muhammad Bachal son of unknown nation Attar resident of Nowshera Feroze Sindh

Name of injured persons:

- 1: Musab Siddiqui, son of Abu Bakr Siddiqui, resident of Karachi
- 2: Second wife Musab Siddiqui resident of Karachi, 3: Usman, son of Muhammad Riaz, Mughal nation, resident of Wazirabad, 4: Abdul Rahman, son of Muhammad Sulaiman, native of Wazirabad, 5: Abdullah Mumtaz, son of Mumtaz Qureshi, resident of Rawalpindi, 6: Subhan, son of Muhammad Naeem, Qureshi, resident of Wazirabad, 7: Mehwal Attar, son of Muhammad Ishaq Qum Attar, resident of Nowshera Feroze Sindh, 8: Saddam Hussain, son of Muhammad Saleh, resident of Nowshera Feroze Sindh

Missing persons

- 1: Imran son of Muhammad Buta Qoum Sheikh Sakna Wazirabad, 2: Asrar Ahmad, son of Awsin Khan, Abbasi tribe, resident of Nowshera Feroze Sindh, 3: Dildar tour operator resident of Chehla Bandi Muzaffarabad

Another accident took place involving a tourist car coming from Neelum Valley to Muzaffarabad at Dhani Noseri that killed two people, including a man and a woman. Four people were injured. Rescue operations are ongoing by Pakistan Army and local administration.

AJK minister expresses deep sorrow over traffic accidents in Neelum valley

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Information Minister of the Azad Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, has expressed great sorrow and regret over the traffic accidents that took place in Rati Gali area of the Neelum valley yesterday and today on the Neelum Dhani Nausiri highway and said that the people, especially the tourists, have lost their lives and property. Ensure compliance with traffic rules to ensure safety, avoid speeding and overloading and discourage such elements. No one can be allowed to play with human lives, the vehicle that is fully fit and complies with the law and regulations will be seen on the road. Comprehensive reforms are going to be brought. A report is being compiled to determine the causes of the jeep accident in Rati Gully, an operation is underway to confiscate the altered vehicles in Wadi Neelum and remove the extra grille/wood from them. Make sure to follow the instructions issued by the government and travel according to the weather conditions. The Information Minister said that very soon Khatara and unfit vehicles will not be seen on the road. The government will take all possible measures to ensure the safety of people's lives and property. The Minister of Information prayed for patience and for the families of those who died in both the accidents.



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari pays glowing tributes to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto on his 39th Martyrdom Anniversary

Faheem Soomro

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tributes to Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto on his 39th martyrdom anniversary.

Chairman PPP emphasized the enduring legacy of Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto, highlighting his

revolutionary thoughts and unwavering struggle for democracy. He added that Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto's legacy is a beacon of light. "Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto's martyrdom day reminds us of the numerous sacrifices the Bhutto family has made for democracy in Pakistan," he said.

He reiterated PPP's commitment



to the ideals Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto championed, affirming that the party will continue to strive for a robust democracy, equality, and a progressive society. "The dream of Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto was to see the establishment of a democratic, prosperous, and egalitarian society, and PPP remains dedicated to making this dream a reality," he said.

Students from the historic government-run school showcase models in a science exhibition

Rafullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: Students of the historic Government Model High Secondary School put on display their projects and scientific models during the annual 'Science Exhibition 2024' held here in the northern part of Balochistan. Deputy Commissioner Zhob Mehboob Ahmad Achakzai was the chief guest, while District Education Officer Sheikh Musa Khan Mandokhail presided over the event.

Deputy Commissioner flanked by the principal Wazir Khan Nasar,

academic staff and guests turned up, evincing keen interest in the projects and appreciated the students for exhibiting their capabilities. Total 42 models in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology and geography were put on display and 73 students participated in the competition.

The principal in his welcome remarks said that organizing the scientific exhibition was aimed at providing an opportunity to the budding scientists to prove their mettle in the field of science.

"All the students who produced their

projects themed on different subjects received great applause from the officials and visitors. The students feel encouraged as the appreciation boosts their confidence," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Director BUTTEMS Dr Abdul Salam Lodhi, Divisional Director Education Gul Rehman Mandokhail, DEO Sheikh Musa Khan Mandokhail, DEO Sherani Taza Khan Nasar, DDO Asadullah Mardanzai, Chairman Municipal Committee Shah Baran Kakar, Divisional president GTA Muhammad Ayub Mandokhail, principal high

school Wadh Sheikh Khan Azeem Khan Mandokhail, Deputy Director Livestock Dr Naseebullah Kakar and Rozi Khan Mandokhail emphasized the importance of science and appreciated the young talent and its ingenious application of science in skillfully prepared projects.

Additional Director Education Wali Khan Nasar, NCHD head Muhammad Naeem Mandokhail, Deputy Chairman MC Dawood Khan Mandokhail, DPM BRSP Quttub Khan Afaqi, DDO Abdul Sattar Sherani, President GTA Syed Mashhood Shah, Principal high school



Khan Alam Aziz Sherani, Principal high school Appozai Abdul Ghaffar Mandokhail, GTA Sherani leader Sher Muhammad Sherani, government officials, parents and people from all walks of life attended the exhibition.

The winning students were given

trophies and cash prizes, while the guests were presented souvenirs and shields. Journalists Rafullah Mandokhail, Adam Khan Kibzai, Faiz Muhammad Hamdard Sherani, Mal Tarkai, and Daulat Khan Hariphall were also awarded honorary shields.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:31 am
Zohr	12:14 pm
Asr	5:11 pm
Maghrib	7:17 pm
Isha	8:57 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Youm-e-Ausher in Attock observes with religious solemnity

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Youm-e-Ausher was observed red with religious solemnity in Attock also like other part of the country and Azadar bring out several Zuljannah procession through out the dist. to remember the great scarifies of Imam Hussain (A. S) at Karbala. Police and other law enforcement agencies kept strict vigil on the entry routes of these processions. The main Alam and Zuljannah procession was carried out from Imam Bargah Hussainia Kamalpur Sayadan in Attock and ended peacefully at Karbala Haleem Shah at 4 o'clock several small processions were merged in it during its journey. under the supervision of Sipah e Abbas namaz zohrain Was offered at fetah jang chowk, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, DPO Dr. Gayias Gul, Assistant Commissioner Shagufta Jabeen, ADCG Aneel Saeed, SDPO, Sana ullah, SHO city muhammad safdat, SHO cantt Mujahid Abbas CSO Taimoor Khan, Chief officer TMA sadar Aftab and other district administration officer's monitored and maintained the procession. Faithful were much disciplined in the procession and was server by water, tea, milk and food were arranged in the routes of procession. Ambulances and paramedical staff of DHQ hospital Attock and rescue 1122 for providing a medical aid to mourners. Police source said on Youm-e-Ashura. 70 majalis held and 49 Alam-o-Zuljannah processions were carried out in five tensile of the district and ended peacefully.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat reaffirms commitment to Kashmiri Rights and Self-Determination

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmed Bhat, marked the historic significance of 19th July, commemorating the resolution passed in 1947 that aimed to secure Jammu and Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. On this solemn occasion, Chairman Altaf Ahmed Bhat reiterated the unwavering stance of the Kashmiri people against Indian rule, emphasizing their steadfast determination for self-determination.

Our forefathers, with unwavering resolve, laid the foundation stone by passing the resolution to accede with the newly born Pakistan. Their vision was rooted in the ideals of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, seeking to fulfill the dreams of the visionary poet, Allama Iqbal. This historic decision echoed their deep commitment to shape a future aligned with the aspirations of a united nation under the banner of Pakistan.

Chairman Altaf Ahmed Bhat highlighted the pivotal moment in history when Kashmiri people, through a resolu-



tion in Srinagar, expressed their unequivocal desire to not coexist with India. This act, occurring just weeks before Pakistan's formation, symbolized Kashmiri aspirations for independence, free from Indian control.

Chairman Bhat emphasized that this historical struggle continues to define the resolve of the Kashmiri people today.

Addressing the current situation in the region, Chairman Bhat condemned India's unilateral and unlawful actions,

particularly the revocation of Articles 35A and 370, which he described as illegal, immoral, and apolitical. He called upon the international community to denounce the ongoing brutality inflicted by Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir and urged for justice against those responsible for human rights abuses.

In his statement, Chairman Bhat called upon Pakistan to escalate its efforts in providing political, moral, and diplomatic support to Kashmiris in their pursuit of self-determination. He underscored the urgent need for a free and impartial referendum under international supervision to ascertain the will of the Kashmiri people regarding their future.

Recognizing the sacrifices made by Kashmiri martyrs, prisoners, and the general populace, Chairman Bhat paid homage to their resilience and unwavering spirit in the face of adversity.

He reiterated JKSM's commitment to safeguarding the fundamental human rights of Kashmiris, emphasizing their struggle over the past seven decades against what he described as India's forced occupation and cruel tactics.

Reward and recognitions

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria, Andrea Wicke presenting a certificate of commendation to Ashraf Khan protocol officer of the embassy on Thursday for his 30 years long service at the embassy.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Tribute to Faisalabad Police, Administration for Providing Excellent Duty During Muharram: Kaleem Vohra

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed, RPO Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh, CPO DIG Kamran Adil for making efforts for harmony between religions and Masalik in Muharram. Administra-



tion and the Pakistan forces pay tribute to, this was said by the prominent businessman leader of Tata Bazaar factory area Lal Mills Sheikh Muhammad Kaleem Vohra while talking to the media.

He has further said that the businessmen of Faisalabad have served the public in Muharram processions and

gatherings. Allah will reward them fully. The citizens of Faisalabad have also supported the administration, police and forces of Pakistan for practical measures to increase inter-religious and inter-ethnic tolerance in the united country. We are extremely grateful to the business people, administration and forces of Pakistan.

An session on QS Rankings



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An enlightening session on QS Rankings by Mr Rami Awad, Regional Manager QS (Middle East, Africa & South Asia) at Riphah International University Campus (Gulberg, Lahore).

Attended by Riphah Leadership from different National Campuses (Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad & Sahiwal), Faculty members and QS focal persons. A truly interactive session focused on the Ranking parameters and criteria, highlighting the importance of Subject rankings and methodologies required to improve the overall Ranking for the HEIs.

AIOU launches programs for skilled workforce and employment opportunities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University has instructed all the four faculties of the university to introduce programs that produce a skilled workforce in line with market demands, aiming to secure honourable employment for students upon graduation. This directive aligns with his vision and mission to modernize the university's educational programs and introduce job-oriented programs.

In response to these instructions, the Faculty of Sciences has introduced new programs for the Autumn Semester 2024 admissions, including BSc (Honors) Agriculture, BS Physics (with a Data Science minor), BS Health and Physical Education, and BS Information Technology, along with new certificate courses in AutoCAD (Civil) and the manufacturing of surfactant-based products. Admission forms and prospectuses for these new programs are available on the university's website www.aiou.edu.pk. Students are advised to refer to the prospectus for eligibility criteria and other details.

New programs from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies will be offered in the second phase of admissions, which will commence on September 1, 2024.

Cantonment Board Peshawar ensures smooth Muharram proceedings

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Cantonment Board Peshawar (CBP) provided extensive services to facilitate the Muharram Ul Haram processions and gatherings in the Peshawar Cantt area, showcasing their commitment to public service. The board undertook repair and maintenance work on routes leading to Imambargah Hussainia Hall wa Imamia Masjid, installed additional lights, and conducted road marking and cleanliness activities.

According to the details, the CBP ensured the provision of portable washrooms and water supply to meet the basic needs of the participants. Moreover Sanitation services were also deployed to maintain cleanliness in the area, with sanitation workers working tirelessly to ensure that the surroundings were kept clean and hygienic.

In addition, the fire brigade crew was deployed with three vehicles to tackle any emergent situation. The fire brigade crew was equipped with necessary equipment and personnel to respond to any emergency situation that may arise.

Medical and para-medical staff were also on standby with ambulances to handle any emergent situations. Irfan Ahmed, Cantonment Executive Officer, developed a comprehensive plan to ensure seamless services.

Earlier On the eve of Muharram Ul Haram, Station Commander Peshawar and President of the Cantonment Board, Brigadier Omer Saeed, had given directions to the CBP to ensure the smooth execution of Muharram Ul Haram proceedings in the Peshawar Cantt area. Irfan Ahmed cantonment executive officer framed a comprehensive plan for executing all the activities in efficient manner by assigning responsibility to different officers and officials.

In this connection Mr. Yadullah Khan Bangash, Vice President of the Cantonment Board, along with elected members Osaid Sethi and Naeem Bakhsh, paid visits to Imambargah Hussainia Hall wa Imamia Masjid to ensure the needs of the community were being met. Bibi Amna Zafar, Additional Cantonment Executive Officer, remained in the field to ensure activities were carried out as planned.

The community widely appreciated the CBP's dedication to ensuring a peaceful and smooth Muharram. The successful execution of the proceedings was a testament to the CBP's commitment to public service and their ability to work under pressure.

In a statement, Irfan Ahmed, Cantonment Executive Officer Peshawar, said, "The CBP is committed to providing basic facilities to the community, particularly during significant religious events like Muharram. Our team worked tirelessly to ensure that all necessary arrangements were in place, and we are proud of our efforts the officer said.

Over fifty thousand people in Gondal Mandi deprived of needed health facilities due to inordinate delay

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: More than fifty thousand people of inter provincial bordering locality of Gondal Mandi and its adjoining areas of district Attock are deprived of their fundamental rights of health care facilities due to inordinate delay of six years in the re-construction and up-gradation of collapsed building of rural health centre Gonda Mandi as trauma centre despite earning Rs.220 million income per annual to the national exchequer. The socio-political figures of the locality Gondal Mandi, Madrota, Fatoo Chak, Ziarat while talking to our scribe told that this issue was also taken with the Chairman district monitoring committee Attock MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, PML(N)'s ticket holders Mr. Hameed Akbar, former provincial minister Punjab Mr. Jahangir Khanzada to expedite the construction of the building without further of time. They further told that earlier an amount of Rs.550 millions were also allocated by the previous government of the Punjab with the blessing of the then provincial minister Punjab Syed Yawar Abbas Bokhari in 2020-21 but the project of public importance was kept held in abeyance during the change of regime. The people of the area told that the dilapidated building was turned in a pond of flooding water and the doctors along with para medical staff life saving drugs were found missing putting the lives of the patients at stake. The socio-political figures of the locality Gondal Mandi, Madrota, FatooChak, Ziarat include Qazi Badar Manzur, ex-general councillor Mr Fiaz Ahmed Awan, former naib tehsildar Malik Abdul Rasheed have demanded of the chief minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz to interference in the situation for in-ordinate delay in the re-construction and up-gradation of rural health centre GondalMandi, as trauma centre, they added.

As per instructions of CM Punjab Senior officials monitored the security of Ashura in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryyam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Information Minister Uzma Bukhari and Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq and Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed were continuously working to monitor the arrangements for Ashura Day. Provincial Ministers Commissioner, RPO Dr. Abid Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh and CPO Kamran Adil visited Central Imam Bargah Dhobi Ghat, Chowk Ghanta Ghar and other routes of Ashura to take stock of the security issues and while taking stock of the security issues on the routes of processions and congregations, the security staff and They issued instructions to the security guards to



be extra vigilant. They also checked the presence of security personnel on the roofs of the buildings located on the routes of the Ashura processions. Additional measures were taken for this. The provincial ministers and the commissioner were informed about

the route of the main procession of Ashura Muharram and the situation of the processions coming from other areas and the processions of rescue 1122 emergency services, ambulances, bomb disposal vehicle and other security equipment. Provincial Minis-

ters, Commissioner, RPOs also monitored the Ashura procession from the roof of the Municipal Library and kept the security matters in check. Checked. He urged to ensure checking of those joining the procession routes through metal detectors.

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Misconceptions About Judiciary's Ranking - I

The government, analysts, thinkers, and media persons have been criticizing the judiciary for incompetency, chronic delays in deciding cases, indecisiveness, and political bias. To validate their claims, they often refer to the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index-2023, where Pakistan's judiciary ranks 129th out of 140 countries. Within the South Asian region, Pakistan's judiciary is second last, just above Afghanistan.

Before delving into the judiciary's dismal ranking, it is important to examine whether its performance aligns with other significant national performance metrics. A closer look reveals that the judiciary's performance is indeed in step with other rankings. For instance, in the Corruption Perceptions Index, Pakistan ranks 133rd out of 180 countries, highlighting pervasive corruption issues. Similarly, in the Economic Freedom Index, the country is ranked 152nd out of 178, indicating severe constraints on economic freedoms. The Human Development Index places Pakistan at 154th out of 189, reflecting poor outcomes in health, education, and income.

Additionally, Pakistan struggles with press freedom, ranked 145th out of 180 countries, and faces significant security concerns, ranking 150th out of 163 in the Global Peace Index.

According to the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) by the World

Bank, Pakistan performs poorly across various dimensions of governance, including political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and control of corruption. In the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) 2024, which evaluates the capabilities and effectiveness of 113 governments, Pakistan also ranks near the bottom.

Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) in its 2023 ranking was downgraded by 11 places in global ranking making it the biggest regression in the Asian region — its score falling to 3.25, which downgraded it from 'hybrid regime' to 'authoritarian regime.'

These rankings collectively indicate systemic inefficiencies and challenges across various domains, suggesting that the judiciary's performance is consistent with broader national issues.

To further analyze the issue, let us compare Pakistan's performance with that of its immediate neighbor, India, which highlights the disparities and challenges. In the Rule of Law Index, India ranks 79th out of 139 countries, while Pakistan ranks 129th. On the Corruption Perceptions Index, India holds the 85th position out of 180 countries, whereas Pakistan is ranked 133rd. India's superior rankings in economic freedom (121st out of 178, compared to Pakistan's

147th), human development (132nd out of 189, compared to Pakistan's 154th), and business environment (63rd out of 190, compared to Pakistan's 147th) further illustrate the disparity between the two countries.

Now we are in a better position to dilate upon internal and external factors which are responsible for the low ranking of judiciary. The low international ranking of Pakistan's judiciary is driven by both internal and external factors. The internal accounts for 45% of the impact including Corruption (20%), Inefficient judicial processes (10%), insufficient training for judges and court staff (10%) leads to subpar judicial decisions. Barriers to accessing justice (5%), such as high legal fees and complex procedures, also prevent many individuals from seeking legal recourse.

External factors, political interference (15%) compromises judicial independence. Inadequate resources and outdated infrastructure (10%) hinder efficient operations. Political instability (10%) and economic conditions (8%) that limit government support for the judiciary. Security concerns (5%), such as ongoing threats and internal conflicts, divert attention and resources away from necessary reforms and compromise judi-

cial independence. Cultural and social attitudes towards corruption and the role of law (5%). Additionally, negative international perceptions and rankings (2%) impact foreign aid and investment, indirectly affecting judicial performance and reforms.

This comparison clearly reflects that the judiciary is responsible for 45% and the legislature and executive are responsible for another 45% of the low ranking of the judiciary. This implies that if external factors are addressed, the ranking could improve significantly, potentially rising from 129 to 69, which would be slightly better than India's ranking of 79.

Let us dig deeper and try to understand the parameters used by the World Justice Project to judge countries' performance in judiciary and peruse the ranking secured by our judiciary on each of the rankings.

The score of Pakistan for, "Constraints on Government Powers" stands at 0.38, placing Pakistan at 124th out of 140 countries. This indicates considerable limitations in the ability of the judiciary to check government authority. (External Factor)

In the area of, "Absence of Corruption", Pakistan scores 0.28, ranking 133rd. This low score highlights pervasive corruption within the judicial system, significantly undermining its credibility and effectiveness. (Internal)

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Multiple Israeli strikes kill dozens near UN aid hub in Gaza

Multiple Israeli strikes have killed dozens of people in central Gaza, landing just 100 metres from a humanitarian hub, UN agencies said on Tuesday, as thousands continue to face displacement amid the ongoing war.

Reports of strikes landing near an aid centre in Deir Al-Balah came from the UN humanitarian office, OCHA, said UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, who provided updates on the situation in the besieged enclave.

"The (aid) operations are continuing," he told journalists at UN Headquarters. "But, if there's a strike 100 metres away from the place where you work, it just adds to an already overwhelming level of stress for our colleagues not to mention the impact it has on civilians who are routinely killed in these strikes."

Gazans also continued to face numerous evacuation orders from the Israeli military nine months into the conflict, which was sparked by Hamas-led terror attacks in multiple Israeli locations that left some 1,200 dead and more than 250 taken hostage.

Families joined the exodus from Gaza City to Deir Al-Balah, with more than 1,000 people crossing over the past week, mainly on donkey carts, motorcycles or by car, the UN Spokesperson said.

"Many of those people have told us that they have been displaced dozens of times," Dujarric added.

As a result, UN teams have been deployed along the route to provide water, hot meals, food and health services to those fleeing Gaza City, he noted.

In terms of fuel needed to operate humanitarian services, he said shortages persist.

"The lack of fuel continues to hinder the work of basic service providers, including hospitals, ambulances, bakeries and aid trucks," he said. "Over the past two weeks, we've been able to collect over 80,000 litres of fuel per day on average."

While that's an improvement from the previous daily average of 40,000 litres, Dujarric said it falls short of the 400,000 litres needed every day.

He said Israeli authorities are still not allowing the allocation of fuel to key local humanitarian responders, preventing them from transferring supplies within Gaza.

For its part, the UN took possession on Monday of 10 flatbed trucks to deliver aid, Dujarric said.

Despite enormous challenges, including shortages of medical supplies and medicines and the destruction of many clinics due to the war, the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees, UNRWA, continues to provide vital health services, working tirelessly to meet the growing health needs of the displaced.



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

An efficient leader is a symbol of prosperity

An efficient leader plays a vital role in overcoming the political crisis in the country. Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the one and only political leader of Pakistan who struggled for country progress and prosperity. He was a brilliant politician and statesman. Jinnah showed his credibility on the migration issue during the partition of India and Pakistan. Quaid-e-Azam explained political, economic, social, and educational problems in his cabinet. The cabinet was ready to solve problems from the root. They all agreed to formulate uniform policies to address the issues in Pakistan. So, an efficient leader solves the problems of the country forever.

Pakistan is facing crucial economic, political, and bureaucratic problems these days. It is important to understand that this is a challenging situation for the national harmony and economy of the country. Pakistan will not survive in the current scenario without uniform policies and political stability. Political instability is the mother of all crises and insecurity in the country. On the contrary, a poor country can not maintain public security on national and international levels. The challenges facing Pakistan can be eroded with the help of all stakeholders and political parties.

In addition to it, China has a vision of long-term sustainable development projects and launched a special project for the international community, BRI, to attract foreign countries to an alliance with a peaceful environment. They are building foreign relations under the visionary leader of China, Xi Jinping. He has a vision of strong economic growth and the strict implementation of rules and regulations to prevent terrorism and corruption in the country. A strong

political system can defeat all crimes and crises. China's single political party system is a symbol of the peace and prosperity of the country.

Furthermore, Nelson Mandela was African leader and imprisoned in jail nearly twenty seven years. He didn't stop struggling to protect his nation's rights. Mandela faced hardship and difficulties in jail with an open heart. Nelson received 260 awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, and he was the first head of state to back up the majority in the country. He believed that peace was the absolute power in all crises. He pulled out of the country in a new direction where there were no racing or ethnic problems. The Democratic Movement was free to speak regarding government and civil rights in the country. He empowered the political, socio-economic, and bureaucratic systems in the country and adopted the policy of delivering the utmost performance to the people. He expressed that education is the most powerful weapon that can be used to change the world. He was the former president of Africa and the most revolutionary leader in the world.

Singapore is also an Asian country, which is a beautiful island. Lee Kuan Yea was the founder of modern Singapore, who transformed the island into a country. Yea was a great statesman, visionary, and modern leader of the world. Singapore has become the most modern and hi-tech country in the world and has changed the infrastructure of roads, schools, and education. All the innovative features and ideas come from Singapore. They have a democratic system that empowers the political structure and institutions of the country. Singapore is the only country that has the best bureaucratic system to run state institutions. They reformed their institutions

and built a strong education system.

Moreover, the political system in Pakistan is weak and occupied by feudals and industrialists. They secured their personal interests and were unwilling to redress the country's problems. Both feudal and industrialists have the same thoughts and don't believe in meritocracy and transparency in the country. The power of vote is not welcome by this group. They don't answer in front of people and the Constitution. The constitution is implemented by the poor and isn't implemented at the upper level. The law should be equal for all and doesn't build a class system to treat. Equality, meritocracy, and transparency are the only solutions to the problems. Democratic governments are accountable in front of the people, and the masses have the power to change their governments through free and fair elections. Elections show the attitudes of the masses and the trust of politicians in their policies. So, the best form of government is democratic government in the ruling system. Pakistan has to build strong legislation and a strong political system. The uniform policies and reforms should be formulated in the Assembly and implemented by the state institutions.

In the end, a leader can move forward with a strong political system that empowers the political structure and institutions of the country. All the developed countries have a visionary, revolutionary, and charismatic leader. Lee Kuan Yea was a great statesman and the modern leader of the world. He showed his qualities and abilities to build the modern state of the world, which is Singapore. Xi Jinping is the Chinese president who moved his country to the second-largest and strongest economy in the world. Charismatic leaders can overcome social, economic, and political problems.

The writer is a Peace and Conflict journalist. He can be reached Ejazkhan11@gmail.com



Analysis

Ejaz Khan

Karbala: A story of endurance, faith, and unyielding conviction

The sands of Karbala carry stories stained with grief and valor, a narrative that has excelled centuries to remain at the heart of Islamic culture and religious thought. On the 10th of Muharram in the year 680 AD, Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), met a tragic yet heroic end. His refusal to pledge allegiance to Yazid ibn Muawiyah, whom he considered unworthy of the caliphate, set the stage for a conflict that emphasized profound themes of righteousness, sacrifice, and the eternal struggle against oppression.

Imam Hussain's stand at Karbala is a beacon of dedication and spiritual depth, demonstrating firm commitment to principles and faith, even in the face of certain demise. This episode is not merely about the physical confrontation but also about the moral and ethical lessons it imparts.

Dr. Mahmud Ayoub, in his book "Redemptive Suffering in Islam," reflects on the incident, stating, "the martyrdom of Hussain is seen not just as a historical event, but as a symbol of struggle against injustice that resonates in the Islamic conscience." His martyrdom serves as a lesson in the power of conviction and the importance of standing up for truth without submitting to wrongful authority.

Incorporating these lessons, young people can draw inspiration to tackle their daily challenges—whether in their personal lives, within their communities, or on a global scale. They learn the importance of community, solidarity, and supporting one another in times of injustice or hardship. Just as Imam Hussain and his companions stood together, so too can today's youth stand together against modern-day chal-

lenges, fostering a society that values justice, integrity, and compassion.

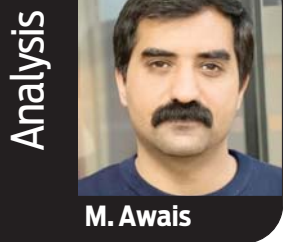
Karbala also exemplifies the importance of faith and spiritual strength. Imam Hussain's untiring faith under extreme adversity is a powerful example of spiritual resilience that resonates deeply with many across the world. This spiritual dimension encourages young people to seek deeper meanings in their lives and actions, anchoring them in values that surpass the material aspects of life.

By looking to Karbala, young people also find a guiding light on the path of spiritual and personal growth. In an age often marked by materialism and fleeting pleasures, Imam Hussain's story offers a different narrative centered around spiritual depth and finding enduring satisfaction in upholding one's principles and faith.

In conclusion, the story of Karbala, with its rich lessons of integrity, leadership, resilience, spiritual depth, and community support, offers timeless guidance. It encourages our youth to embody these qualities as they deal with the complexities of modern life. Hazrat Imam Hussain's life and his ultimate sacrifice serve as an ultimate hope and a reminder that even in the darkest times, principles, courage, and faith can brighten the path to a righteous and fulfilling life.

Let us all pledge to incorporate and implement the lessons of Karbala in our daily lives, championing integrity, courage, and compassion in the face of adversity, to honor the enduring legacy of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA).

About the author: "The writer is an engineer by vocation and has a deep, research-based knowledge of Pakistan's polity." He can be reached at awais.army96@gmail.com



Analysis

M. Awais

CPC Central Committee adopts resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively

Xinhua

BEIJING: The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted a resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization at its third plenary session held here from Monday to Thursday.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presided over the meeting. General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping delivered important addresses, according to a communique released Thursday.

At the session, the Central Committee heard and discussed a report on the work of the Political Bureau, presented by Xi on behalf of the Political Bureau, and considered and adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization. Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft version of the resolution.

The overall objectives of further deepening reform comprehensively are to continue improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance, according to the communique.

"By 2035, we will have finished building a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized our system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization," it said.

All of this will lay a solid foundation for building China into a



great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century, it noted.

The reform tasks laid out in the resolution shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th founding anniversary in 2029, said the communique.

The Central Committee made systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively, it added.

In building a high-standard socialist market economy, the role of the market must be better leveraged, with a fairer and more dynamic market environment to be fostered and resource allocation to be made as efficient and productive as possible. Restrictions on the market will be lifted while effective regulation will be ensured to better maintain order in the market and remedy market failures, said the communique.

In promoting high-quality development, the communique urged deepening supply-side structural reform, improving incentive and constraint mecha-

nisms for promoting high-quality development, and creating new drivers and strengths for realizing growth.

"We will improve the institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy, for developing the service sector, for modernizing infrastructure, and for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains," it stated.

In supporting all-around innovation, the Party will deepen comprehensive reform in education, structural scientific and technological reform, and institutional reforms for talent development.

In improving macroeconomic governance, the communique urged pursuing coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors and enhancing the consistency of macro policy orientation, with the national strategic planning

system and policy coordination mechanisms to be improved. On integrated urban and rural development, the Party must promote equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between the cities and the countryside, so as to narrow the disparities between the two and promote their common prosperity and development, according to the communique. Reform of the land system will be deepened, it added.

Describing opening up as a "defining feature of Chinese modernization," the communique said that the Party will "steadily expand institutional opening up, deepen the foreign trade structural reform, further reform the management systems for inward and outward investment, improve planning for regional opening up, and refine the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative."

On developing whole-process people's democracy, it said: "We must firmly stay on the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics and uphold and improve our country's foundational, basic, and important political systems."

On the rule of law, efforts were demanded to ensure full implementation of the Constitution and uphold its authority, coordinate the reforms to promote sound legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, and observance of the law, and improve the mechanisms for ensuring that all are equal before the law.

The communique urged boosting cultural confidence and working to develop advanced socialist culture, promote revolutionary culture, and carry forward fine traditional Chinese culture.

national security, and ensure that high-quality development and greater security reinforce each other, so as to effectively safeguard the country's stability and security over the long term.

On national defense, the communique urged maintaining the Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces and fully implementing the strategy of strengthening the military through reform to provide a strong guarantee for realizing the goals for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army in 2027 and achieving basic modernization of national defense and the armed forces.

In improving the Party's leadership, it said: "We must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era."

The communique stressed that Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. "In foreign relations, China remains firmly committed to pursuing an inde-

pendent foreign policy of peace and is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future," it noted.

Studying and implementing the guiding principles from the session represent a major political task for the entire Party and nation both at the present and for some time to come, according to the communique.

The session conducted an analysis of the present situation and the tasks the Party faces, urging firm commitment to accomplishing the goals for this year's economic and social development.

Both development and security must be ensured, with various measures to be implemented for preventing and defusing risks in real estate, local government debt, small and medium financial institutions, and other key areas, the communique said.

According to the communique, the session decided to accept Comrade Qin Gang's resignation from the Central Committee, and confirmed the Political Bureau's earlier decision to expel Li Shangfu, Li Yuchao and Sun Jiming from the Party.

A total of 199 members and 165 alternate members of the Central Committee attended the session.



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Farewell Ceremony

BAKU: Pakistani Embassy staff posing for a group photo on the occasion of the farewell ceremony of Ambassador Bilal Hayee. He served almost 4 years in Baku and further increased the Bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.



Photo: from X

Thai Airways ranks in top 10 international airlines

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Thai Airways International (THAI) is among the top ten best international airlines, according to a survey by Travel + Leisure.

The national carrier announced on Thursday that it was ranked eighth in the best international airlines category in the survey by the US-based travel magazine.

Airline ratings were based on various criteria including cabin comfort, inflight services and customer service.

"The ranking reflects THAI's commitment and dedication to providing the highest quality service of international standards," the airline said.

According to Travel + Leisure, over 186,000 readers completed its 2024 survey, sharing their opinions on top hotels, resorts, cities, islands, cruise ships,



spas, airlines and more.

In the survey, Singapore Airlines claimed the top spot, followed by La Compagnie, Emirates, All Nippon Airways, Qatar Airways, Korean Air, Japan Airlines,

THAI, Etihad Airways and EVA Air.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to all passengers for their continued support and trust," THAI said. According to the Skytrax

survey released last month, Bangkok Airways was the 27th best airline in the world, climbing two spots from last year, while THAI's ranking leapt eight notches to 33rd.

Build a Stronger SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) stands as a formidable testament to the power of unity and cooperation in an increasingly multipolar world. Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has steadfastly committed to fostering good-neighbored relations, mutual trust, and collective security among its member states. This article explores the path forward for the SCO, emphasizing the principles and strategies needed to build a stronger, more cohesive organization.

The SCO's guiding principles, encapsulated in the Shanghai Spirit, emphasize mutual trust, mutual respect, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and the pursuit of common development. These principles are not merely rhetorical; they have shaped the organization's trajectory and underpinned its successes over the past two decades. The SCO's dedication to these values has fostered a platform for addressing security concerns while promoting economic, scientific, technological, energy, and environmental cooperation.

President Xi Jinping, in the

fourth volume of "The Governance of China," particularly in the chapter "Build a Stronger SCO," reaffirms these principles, urging member states to uphold the Shanghai Spirit as they navigate an evolving international landscape. He emphasizes that mutual political trust is the bedrock of the SCO, advocating for a model of partnership and dialogue that transcends traditional alliances and confrontations.

A key aspect of building a stronger SCO lies in enhancing solidarity and cooperation among member states. The organization's impressive growth and its potential for broader cooperation with international groupings such as the United Nations, G20, BRICS, NATO, and ASEAN underscore its significant role on the global stage. This expansion, however, comes with structural challenges that require innovative solutions.

President Xi stresses the need for strengthening policy dialogue, consultation, and coordination at various levels. He advocates for respecting each other's legitimate concerns and resolving issues promptly to ensure smooth cooperation. This approach is crucial in maintaining the SCO's steady course of development and rein-

forcing its role as a stabilizing force in the region.

The SCO has evolved into one of the most rapidly developing centers of the multipolar world. With its eight member states and an expanding circle of observer states, this organization has grown to encompass broader cooperation with other international groupings. This expansion reflects the SCO's great potential amidst substantial structural challenges. It is a platform where large and diverse nation-states, often with competing geostrategic agendas, come together to forge a path toward harmonious coexistence and sustainable development.

Security remains a paramount concern for the SCO. The organization has been at the forefront of combating terrorism, separatism, and extremism, taking tough actions to curb these threats. The SCO's pioneering role in addressing these security challenges highlights the importance of continued vigilance and

collaboration.

President Xi elaborates on this, calling for a comprehensive approach to regional security that includes tackling drug trafficking, cybercrime, and transnational organized crime. He highlights the need for joint counter-terrorism exercises and enhanced border control operations. Furthermore, the SCO must support political settlements for international and regional conflicts, thereby contributing to global peace and stability.

Economic cooperation is another cornerstone of the SCO's mission. The organization's efforts to promote economic, scientific, and technological collaboration are vital for regional prosperity. The SCO's commitment to fostering an environment conducive to trade, investment, and innovation is evident in its numerous initiatives and agreements.

President Xi, in his comprehensive vision, calls for deeper economic integration among SCO countries. He advocates for

trade and investment liberalization, secure and orderly flow of people, goods, capital, and data, and the creation of growth drivers in areas like the digital economy, green energy, and modern agriculture. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a significant platform in this regard, offering opportunities for member states to synergize their development strategies and achieve shared goals.

The strength of the SCO also lies in the mutual understanding and bonds among its peoples. Cultural, educational, and scientific exchanges play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and shared destiny. Programs such as the SCO University and the SCO Forum on Traditional Medicine exemplify the organization's commitment to people-to-people connectivity.

The SCO's focus on people-to-people exchanges is not limited to academic and cultural initiatives. The organization also supports a range of activities designed to foster mutual understanding and friendship among the peoples of its member states. By encouraging dialogue and cooperation in areas such as traditional medicine, education, and poverty alleviation, the SCO helps to build a

bridge of mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of its member states.

In an era marked by shifting power dynamics and geopolitical tensions, the SCO's commitment to upholding international justice is more critical than ever. The organization's advocacy for multilateralism and opposition to hegemony and power politics is vital for maintaining a rules-based international order that respects the sovereignty and equality of all nations.

The SCO's stance on international justice is not merely theoretical; it is backed by concrete actions and policies. The organization has maintained close coordination with SCO observer states and dialogue partners, as well as with international and regional organizations that share its purposes and principles. By working with other members of the international community in pursuit of a shared future, the SCO contributes to the quest for durable global peace and common prosperity.

The SCO stands at a new historic starting point, poised to contribute even more significantly to global peace and prosperity. The organization is more

than just a collective of member states; it is a beacon of hope for those who believe in the power of collective action and shared goals.

The SCO's future success will depend on its ability to adapt to changing global dynamics while remaining true to its foundational principles. By continuing to promote mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity, and the pursuit of common development, the SCO can ensure that it remains a powerful force for good in the world. The SCO's journey over the past two decades has been marked by significant achievements and milestones. Its continued success will depend on the collective efforts of its member states to uphold the Shanghai Spirit and work together toward a shared vision of peace, prosperity, and development. The path to a stronger SCO is clear, and with steadfast commitment and cooperation, the organization can continue to play a vital role in shaping a better future for all.

About Author: The author is a Pakistani well known senior Politician based in Islamabad, Pakistan.



Analysis

Sajid Turi

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
81,839.86	81,155.60
Day's High	Day's Low
81,909.94	81,418.11
Index Value	Change
15,074,204,085	+684.26
Percentage	Time
+0.84%	18 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,204.89	+17.43
Percentage	Time
+0.21%	18 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,898.31	-299.77
Percentage	Time
-0.73%	18 Jul, 12:55 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
40,126.35	-971.34
Percentage	Time
-2.36%	18 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.55	186.35
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	301.25	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	26.4	26.7
Swiss Franc	309.05	311.55
Thai Bhat	7.5	7.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.4	77.15
UK Pound Sterling	354.75	358.25
US Dollar	279.00	280.50

Federal Minister for Finance meets with the Delegation of Pakistan Mobile Phone Manufacturers Association (PMPMA)

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by the representatives of Pakistan Mobile Phone Manufacturers Association (PMPMA) at the Finance Division today. Senior officials from the relevant ministries attended the meeting.

The PMPMA delegation thanked the Finance Minister and highlighted the necessity for a stable and supportive policy environment that encourages local manufacturers. They advocated for measures to ensure that international brands support the domestic industry and consequently, the national economy. The delegation also presented proposals aimed at promoting the growth of the local industry and increasing the exports of the mobile phone



manufacturing industry. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged the valuable feedback and underscored the government's commitment for expanding the entire digital ecosystem in the country. He emphasized the importance of maintaining policy continuity and increasing the focus on the policy framework for exports. The Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment for fostering export-led growth and providing a conducive environment for local manufacturers.

The meeting concluded with a mutual agreement on the need for a strategic and supportive policy framework aimed at fostering local manufacturing and enhancing export potential, thereby contributing to the broader goals of national economic growth and digital transformation.

Get together

LONDON: Haji Abid Hussain, Central President Overseas Pakistanis Welfare Council (OPWC) hosted dinner in honour of Waqar Zafar Bakhtawri, President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman OPWC, Naem Naqshbandi, President Haji Abid Hussain, SVP CH. Aftab Hussain, Councillor Qaiser Chaudhry, President councillors Forum south UK and others posing for a group photo at the event.



SECP Management discusses development of capital market with PSX Board

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The top management of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) met with the Board of Directors of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to discuss the strategy for development of the capital market. The participants from SECP included Mr. Akif Saeed (Chairman), Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich (Commissioner - Securities Market Division) and other senior members of the management.

The participants discussed the challenges faced in the capital market and deliberated ways to address them. The meeting was focused on areas such as enhanced governance, operational compliance, increasing the stock market investor base,

and striving for continuous digitalization in the capital market. The need for coordination among various stakeholders for development of the market, as well as creating awareness among potential investors, was keenly emphasized during the meeting.

In addition, the participants explored ways to strengthen connections between the capital markets of Pakistan and China, and attract greater Chinese investment in the companies listed at PSX. In this regard, engagement with the stock market regulator, exchanges, and notable market participants of China was deemed as the basis for further collaboration and creating deeper linkages between the capital markets of the two countries.

MoU inked to launched Pakistan's first Auto Insurance Repository

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Under the regulatory guidance of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the insurance industry in Pakistan has taken yet another step towards digitalization and data-centric decision making. The establishment of a centralized Auto Insurance Repository, facilitated by the technological support of the Central Depository Company of Pakistan (CDC) is expected to fundamentally change the way auto insurance is underwritten in the country.

A significant milestone in this regard was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CDC and nine general insurance companies. The ceremony took place at the CDC House, Karachi, on July 18, 2024. The companies that agreed to embark on this journey include Jubilee General Insurance Company Limited, Habib Insurance Company Limited, TPL Insurance Limited, IGI General Insurance Limited, Adamjee Insurance Company Limited, Atlas Insurance Limited, Salaam Takaful Limited, Premier Insurance Limited, Asia Insurance Company Limited.

The establishment of this centralized Auto Insurance Repository represents a landmark achievement for the auto insurance industry, laying the groundwork for



further digital transformation. This initiative, which has garnered considerable traction within the insurance sector, aims to streamline access to crucial information, improve underwriting, and enhance risk mitigation. It will empower insurers to make informed business decisions before binding a customer and issuing policies.

The Auto Insurance Repository is expected to bring transparency, speed, and convenience to the industry, aligning with the objectives of Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and enhanced consumer protection.

SECP Chairman, Mr. Akif Saeed, chief guest at the event, expressed his commitment and support for the growth and development of the insurance industry in line with global trends towards digitalization and data centralization.

CEO CDC, Mr. Badiuddin Akber, commented on CDC's state-of-the-art technological platform and extensive expertise in similar projects, which will facilitate the development and operation of the Auto Insurance Repository.

Commissioner SECP-Insurance Division, Mr. Aamir Khan urged the insurance companies to take on the lead and embrace digitalization for the growth of the sector. He assured the forward-looking insurance companies that they will receive SECP's complete support on their journey towards data-based decision making and modernization of their operations.

The event was attended by many prominent senior leaders and veterans of the insurance industry, who expressed their appreciation and support for this initiative

Competition Tribunal maintains penalty for breach under Competition Law

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal has upheld the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) findings in the appeal filed by Reckitt Benckiser (RB) Pakistan regarding deceptive marketing practices for its flagship product, 'Dettol'.

The Commission received a formal complaint from Unilever Pakistan alleging that RB had carried out a misleading, deceptive, unsubstantiated, and unethical advertising campaign for its product "Dettol Soap" through print and electronic media. Following an inquiry, it was concluded that RB failed to substantiate the

claims made in its advertisement specifically that Dettol Soap kills up to 99.9% of germs and provides 24-hour protection against germs, cold, and flu. Consequently, RB was found to be engaged in deceptive marketing practices in violation of the Competition Act, 2010.

In its order dated 26.12.2019, the CCP concurred with the findings of the Enquiry Committee and found RB liable for distributing false and misleading information that was capable of harming the business interests of other undertakings as well as distributing information to consumers lacking reasonable basis with respect to the characters, properties and quality of its products.

Elimination of Forced Labor from the Brick Kilns Sector to Better Working Conditions

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The elimination of forced labor from the brick kilns sector is crucial not only for improving working conditions but also for ensuring the sustainability of businesses and fostering sustainable economic development. This statement was made by EFP Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali during a capacity-building session organized by the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) with support from the International Labor Organization (ILO) under the BRIDGE Project for members of the Brick Kilns Owners Association

Pakistan (BKOAP) in Faisalabad.

The EFP Secretary General expressed gratitude to the numerous members of the BKOAP for their attendance and provided an overview of the session's objectives. He informed participants that this marked the 8th session in a series of capacity-building initiatives organized by EFP, aimed at empowering employers' associations within the informal sector. The session specifically aimed to deepen the Brick Kilns Owners Association Pakistan (BKOAP)'s understanding of their role in advocating for members' interests

and addressing the challenges they encounter.

The members were also briefed on the fundamental labor standards, including those concerning forced and bonded labor. Mr. Nazir underscored the significant role that employers' associations play in advocating for their members, which includes representation in local and international forums, and amplifying the sector's collective voice in policy-making and social dialogue with the government and relevant institutions.

In his opening remarks, Shoaib Niazi, President of BKOAP, expressed gratitude to

the ILO and EFP for their invaluable support in strengthening BKOAP's capacity to foster an ethical working environment within the Brick Kilns Sector. He urged EFP to educate members on labor laws and advocate for legislation tailored to the unique challenges of brick kiln operations. Mr. Niazi highlighted persistent challenges such as unmet commitments regarding Zig Zag technology adoption and the scarcity of skilled labor. He emphasized the systemic dependence of workers on brick kiln owners under the Peshgi System, leading to issues like debt bondage, and proposed

the regularization of this system to ensure both workers' freedom and owners' financial stability.

During the open discussion, Brick Kiln Owners raised several critical issues. These included the declining reputation of the sector, which is deterring interest from the younger generation, as well as challenges such as a shortage of skilled workers and rising manufacturing costs. They underscored the lack of supportive policies and infrastructure, despite the industry's substantial contribution to the rural economy. The owners emphasized the need for official recognition and enhanced infra-



structural support to address these pressing concerns effectively.

Concerns over bonded labor were prominently discussed, with a call to establish a system that safeguards both workers' rights and employers' investments. Participants also highlighted ongoing challenges related to the adoption of Zig-Zag technology and proposed the implementa-

tion of training programs by TVETA (Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority).

There was a strong emphasis on the necessity for sector-specific legislation that integrates social security measures and provides accessible healthcare facilities in close proximity to brick kilns, seen as crucial for fostering sustainable development within the sector.

Shaheens set for red-ball challenge against Bangladesh A in Darwin

Sports Desk

DARWIN: Sahibzada Farhan-led Pakistan Shaheens will take on Bangladesh 'A' in first of the two four-day matches in Darwin, Australia, on Friday.

The second four-day match will commence next Friday (26 July), which will be followed by two One-Day matches on 4 and 6 August, and then the nine-team Top End T20 series from 9-18 August.

This is the first time since 2008 the two development sides of Pakistan and Bangladesh will play against each other. Sixteen years ago, the Pakistan Academy side had toured Bangladesh and won both matches by eight wickets against Bangladesh Academy.

Pakistan Shaheens arrived in Darwin on 15 July after undergoing a six-day intensive training camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi under the supervision of Pakistan men's red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie.

This will be Pakistan Shaheens' third red-ball series in as many years, having toured Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe for a two four-day matches each in 2021 and



2023, respectively. On the last red-ball tour to Zimbabwe, Mehran Mumtaz was the standout bowler with 15 wickets, while Omair bin Yousuf had racked up 348 runs.

Among the current squad, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraire, Omair bin Yousuf and Shahnawaz Dahani have previously represented the Shaheens in red-ball cricket, while Ali, Khurram and

Umar have also featured in Test matches for Pakistan.

The two four-day matches against Bangladesh 'A' in Darwin will be pivotal for the players as these will provide the much-needed experience and exposure to them ahead of a busy red-ball season, which includes Tests against Bangladesh, England, South Africa and West Indies from August 2024 to January 2025. Sahibzada Farhan, Pakistan Shaheens captain said: "I'm delighted to be leading

the Pakistan Shaheens side in the series and I look forward to an exciting challenge which the Bangladesh 'A' team poses in what will be new playing conditions for us.

"The team has prepared very well in the Karachi camp and the training sessions in Darwin have been helpful in acclimatising to the conditions. The presence of Jason Gillespie is a huge boost for the talented bunch of players and we are eager to prove our mettle in both the four-day matches."

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

Bangladesh 'A' squad: Mahmudul Hasan Joy (captain), Aich Mollah, Amite Hasan, Ariful Islam, Hasan Murad, Mahidul Islam Ankon, Maruf Mridha, Md Mukidul Islam, Parvez Hossain Emon, Rakibul Hasan, Rezaur Rehman Raja, Ripon Mondal, Sahadat Hossain Dipu, Shadaman Islam, Sk Pervez Rahman Jobon.

Defending champions Falcons prevail in tense Eliminator as Striker crash out



A Sports

COLOMBO: Defending champions Kandy Falcons secured a narrow two-wicket victory over Colombo Strikers in a tense Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 Eliminator here at R Premadasa Stadium on Thursday.

The Falcons chased down the 160-run target on the fourth delivery of the penultimate over when Ramesh Mendis struck Dunith Wellalage for a four.

But the defending champions had to make hard yards in achieving the total as they lost eight wickets in the process.

The Falcons, after getting off to a dismal start, kept losing wickets at an alarming rate and were consequently reduced to 83/6 in 10.2 overs.

However, a fighting partnership between Kamindu Mendis and Dasun Shanaka pulled the holders out of trouble and in touching distance of the victory.

The duo added an important 69 runs amid their seventh-wicket partnership that lasted with Shanaka's dismissal on the last delivery of the 17th over.

Shanaka scored a brisk 39 off 21 deliveries, peppered with four fours and two sixes.

Mendis followed suit on the next delivery as he was cleaned up by Matheesha Pathirana, briefly after amassing his half-century. He remained the top-scorer for the Falcons with a 36-ball 54, including three fours and as many sixes.

Binura Fernando and Pathirana took three wickets each for the Strikers while Shadab Khan and Isitha Wijesundara made one scalp each.

The Strikers, after being put into bat first, could register 159/8 on the board in their 20 overs despite Sadeera Samarawickrama's half-century.

Samarawickrama took the reigns of Strikers' batting expedition after coming out to bat in the sixth over with his side reeling at 42/3.

He waged a lone battle with a gutsy 62 off 45 deliveries until his departure in the final over.

Besides him, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz (30) and Wellalage (28) made significant contributions.

Mohammad Hasnain was the star with the ball for the Falcons, picking up three wickets for 24 while skipper Wanindu Hasaranga claimed two wickets.

Defending champions Kandy Falcons will now take on Jaffna Kings in Qualifier 2 of the LPL 2024 in a bid to face Galle Marvels in the final on Sunday.

Brathwaite adamant West Indies 'longing' for more Test cricket

Kraig Brathwaite wants the West Indies to play more Test cricket as they look to square their series with England.

West Indies suffered a humiliating innings and 114-run defeat by England in the first Test at Lord's last week, with the hosts wrapping up victory before lunch on the third day as they went 1-0 up in a three-match encounter.

But the difference between the two teams is about far more than on-field performances.

England are one of international cricket's 'Big Three' financial powerhouse nations, together with India and Australia, while the West Indies are one of the economically poorer members of the Test-match elite.

The gulf between England and the West Indies is also reflected in their respective fixture lists, with Tests still largely a matter of bilateral arrangements between competing teams — the International Cricket Council merely specifies a minimum of two matches for a series.

Thursday's second Test at Trent Bridge will be England's seventh of 17 fixtures in the format this year, whereas the West Indies will be playing their third of nine in 2024.

"It's a challenge. I mean, we're longing for more Test cricket," West Indies captain Brathwaite told a pre-match press conference at Trent Bridge on Wednesday.

"I think the more you play it, the faster you will learn. If it's drawn over a long period of time, playing two Tests here, two Tests there, you will take longer to learn. We need more Tests."

The 31-year-old added: "All I can do is keep preaching for it. I don't know how hard it is to put on a Test series for the West Indies but all I can do is keep asking. I just hope the powers that be that may control the schedule pertaining to white ball and T20 tournaments, can fit in five or six more Test matches for us per year."



Nida Dar-led Pakistan gear up for ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup

Sports Desk

DAMBULLA: Pakistan women's cricket team is all geared up to feature in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024 in Sri Lanka following a training camp for the 15-member squad held in Karachi from 5 to 16 July.

The eight-team tournament will run from 19 to 28 July at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Sri Lanka.

The tournament's eight teams are divided into two groups. Group A comprises Pakistan, India, Nepal, and the UAE, while Group B includes Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, and hosts Sri Lanka. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals, with the final set for 28 July.

Pakistan will open their Asia Cup campaign against arch-rivals India on the evening of 19 July with Nepal and United Arab Emirates playing the tournament opener earlier in the day. Pakistan's subsequent matches are scheduled against Nepal on 21 July and the United Arab Emirates on 23 July.

Pakistan were among the top four teams, losing to Sri Lanka by one run in the semifinal of the last edition of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup held in Sylhet, Bangladesh in October 2022.

Pakistan captain Nida Dar sounded



confident about her team's preparations and expressed her belief to do well in the tournament. She said: "As a captain I am looking forward to give my best. We have worked very hard in the camp and tried to overcome all the weaknesses in the team."

"Our aim is to play positive and fearless cricket. We intend to remain positive in our approach and showcase our abilities according to the requirements of the

conditions here."

Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed changes in the team management ahead of the tournament with Muhammad Wasim serving as the head coach, while Junaid Khan and Abdur Rehman were appointed as the assistant and spin-bowling coaches, respectively.

Squad: Nida Dar (capt), Aliya Riaz, Diana

Baig, Fatima Sana, Gull Feroza, Iram Javed, Muneeba Ali, Najjha Alvi, Nashra Sandhu, Omaira Sohail, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan

Pakistan's Group A fixtures (all matches to be played in Dambulla) 19 July: India vs Pakistan (1830 PKT) 21 July: Pakistan vs Nepal (1830 PKT) 23 July: Pakistan vs UAE (1330 PKT)

Galle Marvels beat Jaffna Kings to reach LPL 2024 Final

A Sports

COLOMBO: Dwaine Pretorius' four-wicket haul, followed by half-centuries from Janith Liyanage and Tim Seifert, led Galle Marvels to thump Jaffna Kings and qualify for the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 final.

Set to chase 178, the Marvels knocked the winning runs in style when Seifert smashed Tabraiz Shamsi for a six on the first delivery of the penultimate over.

Seifert oversaw the Marvels' pursuit with an unbeaten half-century after coming out to bat at No.3 with the scoreboard reading 29/1 in 2.2 overs.

He was involved in a quick-fire 41-run partnership for the



second wicket, majorly dominated by Alex Hales, who departed in the sixth over after

scoring 36 off 21 deliveries.

Tim Seifert then joined forces with Janith Liyanage

and the duo combined to put Marvels in touching distance. Seifert and Liyanage added 92 runs amid their third-wicket partnership until the latter perished in the 17th over.

Seifert, on the other hand, carried his bat all the through and returned with an unbeaten 62 off 41 balls, laced up with 10 boundaries including a six.

For the Kings, Azmatullah Omarzai, Fabian Allen and Shamsi made one scalp each.

Put into bat first, the Kings registered a commendable total of 177/7 in the allotted overs with Avishka Fernando leading the charge with a half-century.

Fernando top-scored for the Kings in the LPL 2024 Qualifier 1 with a 33-ball 52 which featured four fours and three

sixes.

Besides him, wicketkeeper batter Kusal Mendis (46) and South Africa international Rilee Rossouw (40) made notable contributions while Omarzai remained the only other batter to amass the double digits, scoring 14 off eight.

Dwaine Pretorius was the star with the ball for Galle Marvels with brilliant figures of 4/23, followed by Isuru Udana, who bagged two wickets.

Despite succumbing to a defeat, Jaffna Kings will have another chance to make it to the LPL 2024 final as they will face the winner of the Eliminator between Kandy Falcons and Colombo Strikers in the Qualifier 2 on Saturday.

Ton-up Pope leads England to 416 against West Indies in second Test

Sports Desk

LAORE: Ollie Pope rode his luck to a hundred as England ended the first day of the second Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge on Thursday in a commanding position at 416 all out.

Both sides had reason to feel frustrated, with the West Indies dropping four catches — Ollie Pope was reprieved twice — and wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva missing a stumping, while several England batsmen gave their wickets away.

Ben Duckett launched the innings with a rapid 71, after fellow opener Zak Crawley fell for a duck, with England racing to 50 in a mere 4.2 overs — the quickest a side have reached that

total in a Test match.

It was all very much in the spirit of 'Bazball', the nickname for England's aggressive style of Test cricket under captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

Yet for all his advocacy of such a bold approach, few England cricketers are better at playing a match situation than Stokes, who on Thursday made a measured 69 off 108 balls.

But with West Indies missing pacesman Shamar Joseph who broke down in the last over before tea and the attack seemingly at his mercy, Stokes holed out off Kaveem Hodge to give the part-time spinner a first Test wicket.

Jamie Smith, fresh from a dashing 70 on debut during England's crushing innings and

114-run win in the first Test at Lord's last week, also donated his wicket to Hodge.

Off-spinner Kevin Sinclair returned sound figures of 2-73 in 22 overs despite only being called into a previously announced team on Thursday morning after Gudakesh Motie dropped out with illness.

West Indies delayed taking the new ball until England were 397-8 off 86 overs.

Off the very next delivery Chris Woakes glanced Alzarri Joseph for a four that took England past 400.

West Indies did bowl England out when Alzarri Joseph (3-98 in 15.3 overs) had last man Shoaib Bashir caught in the slips to end play for the day.

Earlier, Pope was dropped on

46 and 54, with Alick Athanaze at backward point and the usually reliable Jason Holder at second slip dropping catches.

Ollie Pope pressed on to a hundred, the 26-year-old completing his sixth century in 45 Tests when he hammered Jayden Seales for a 15th four in 143 balls faced.

His luck ran out when he was brilliantly caught by Hodge, high above his head at first slip, off Alzarri Joseph to end a partnership of 80 with Stokes. West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite won the toss and opted to bowl despite sunny conditions seemingly ideal for batting.

Yet his decision was understandable given the West Indies were dismissed for just 121 and 136 at Lord's.



It took West Indies just three balls to strike on Thursday, with Crawley edging an excellent delivery from Alzarri Joseph low to third slip, where a diving Athanaze held a fine catch.

But England soon regained the

initiative as Duckett struck four successive fours in the second over of the match from Seales.

The left-hander produced a sparkling 59-ball innings on his Nottinghamshire home ground, with 56 runs of his runs coming

in boundaries courtesy of 14 fours.

Duckett was out shortly before lunch, edging a good-length ball from Shamar Joseph to second slip, where towering all-rounder Holder held a fine low catch.

Duckett's exit ended a second-wicket partnership of 105 in 19 overs with Pope.

England are seeking a win that would clinch the three-match series with one Test to spare.

This was their first match since James Anderson retired from international duty with 704 Test wickets — the most by any fast bowler — following the Lord's Test.

It was also England's first home Test since 2012 without either Anderson or longtime new-ball partner Stuart Broad, who bowed out after last year's Ashes.

97th Anniversary of the founding of PLA of China

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, China's Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, Defence Attaché, Major General Wang Zhong, People's Republic of China and others cutting the cake on the occasion of 97th Anniversary of the founding of PLA of China at GHQ.



Photo: ISPR

97th Anniversary of the founding of PLA of China celebrated at GHQ

Chinese envoy hails Pakistan Army for its 'ironclad brotherhood'

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: 97th Anniversary of the founding of People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China was hosted at GHQ today. Mr. Jiang Zaidong Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Major General Wang Zhong, Defence

Attaché, Chinese Embassy officials & Officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event.

General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) while welcoming the Chinese guests, congratulated the PLA and praised PLA's contribution to Chinese defence, security and nation development.

He further added that "Pakistan-China relations are exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other's support".

"Relations between Pakistan Army and Peoples Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation,

demonstrating the iron clad brotherhood between the two countries", COAS concluded.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador thanked COAS for hosting the event for the 97th anniversary of the founding of the PLA.

"Pakistani military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism and has made great sacrifices for

the peace and stability of Pakistan and the region", Chinese ambassador remarked.

"We stand ready to work with our brethren to combat terrorism and firmly believe that no force can destroy the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan and the brotherhood between the two militaries", Chinese ambassador said.

2nd meeting of Standing Committee on Energy (Petroleum Division) held

By Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd meeting of the Standing Committee on Energy (Petroleum Division) was convened today at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 7 (4th Floor), Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Syed Mustafa Mehmood, MNA, and was also attended by the Federal Minister for the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) along with members of the Standing Committee.

The Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), provided a comprehensive overview of the functions of the Ministry and its attached departments. The entire



performance of the ministry was examined during this introductory discussion, with an emphasis on the main problems and possible solutions. The Ministry highlighted several ongoing and

new initiatives by the Petroleum Division aimed at improving services to people across the country.

The meeting was attended by Honourable Members Syed Naveed Qamar,

Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Mr. Shahid Ahmed, Mr. Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhary, Rai Haider Ali Khan, Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Mr. Gul Asghar Khan, Mr. Salahuddin Junejo, Mr.

Muhammad Moin Aamer Pirzada, Mr. Asad Alam Niazi, Mian Khan Bugti, and senior officers from the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) and its attached departments and organizations.

LHC removes objections on Imran Khan's bail pleas in May 9 cases

By Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Lahore High Court has dismissed the objections raised by the Registrar's Office against the bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and chairman Imran Khan in 3 cases from May 9.

A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court, comprising Justice Shehram Sarwar and Justice Amjad Rafiq, heard the petitions filed by Imran Khan challenging the cancellation of his interim bails in the 3 cases from May 9.

The court dismissed the objections raised by the Registrar's Office against the bails of Imran Khan.

The Registrar's Office had objected that the petitions did not contain Imran Khan's thumb impressions, and one petition did not have a copy of the FIR.

ADB's mission visited BISP to discuss modalities of Integrated Social Protection Development Programme

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), has underscored the importance of introducing a quality, international-standard skill training programme for Benazir Income Support Programme beneficiaries and their family members. During a meeting with a delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Ms. Sofia Shakil, Director of Human and Social Development, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that this initiative aims to facilitate the poverty graduation of beneficiary families, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the national economy.

The meeting, held at the Benazir Income Support Programme Headquarters today, included notable participants such as Ms. Xin



Long, Co-Mission Leader/Principal Social Protection Specialist and Mr. Omer Bin Zia, Senior Social Protection Officer.

Ms. Sofia Shakil acknowledged the significance of skill development, praising Benazir Income Support Programme's dynamic and

institutionalized mechanisms. She expressed ADB's commitment for expanding its support on the supply side and looked forward to enhance collaboration with BISP on education, health and nutrition particularly at the provincial level.

Earlier, the ADB's fact-

finding mission also met with Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad, to discuss the modalities for additional financing of the Integrated Social Protection Development Programme. Mr. Laisiasa Tora, Principal Public Sector Specialist, gave a detailed briefing on the programme.

Pakistan Bar Council calls for special court to deal with political cases

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bar Council has revealed that it had requested Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to appoint ad hoc judges in the Supreme Court. It has also demanded that the government should set up a special court to hear political and constitutional cases.

A statement released today announced that Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has called a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan on the 19th, heeding the request of the Bar Councils. The statement praised the temporary appointment of retired judges to the Supreme Court, a practice permitted by the Constitution.

The statement further highlighted that Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa expressed confidence during the



Judicial Council meeting on the 19th that this measure will significantly expedite the resolution of pending cases. With these appointments, permanent benches will be established in the Supreme Court registries.

The statement concluded with the Pakistan Bar Council urging the federal government to amend the Constitution to establish a Constitutional Court in the country. This court would exclusively hear and adjudicate constitutional and political cases.

Palestine condemns the Knesset's decision



By News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Condemns the Knesset's decision and considers it an official confirmation of the rejection of the Palestinian state and hostility to peace

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the approval by the General Assembly of the Israeli Knesset of a draft resolution rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state, and considers it an official Israeli persistence in challenging the international community, by rejecting the Palestinian state and being hostile to peace, and insisting on kidnapping the rights of our people by the occupying force.

The Ministry affirms that the embodiment of the Palestinian state, with its capital, East Jerusalem, on the ground is a legitimate right for the Palestinian people guaranteed by international legitimacy resolutions, international law, and signed

agreements, which the international community must be carefully aware of and initiate effective measures so that the Palestinian state and its embodiment on the ground do not remain subject to the approval of the occupying state or to negotiation with it.

The Ministry holds the extreme right-wing Israeli government fully and directly responsible for the results and repercussions of this decision, and demands that the international consensus on the two-state solution be quickly translated into practical steps to resolve the conflict in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and achieve security and stability in the region and the world before it is too late.

The Ministry reaffirms that the establishment of a Palestinian state is a decision that belongs exclusively to the Palestinian people, and strongly rejects the monopoly of Israel, the occupying power, on this crucial issue.

Release our assembly members immediately, PTI central leader: Asad Qaiser

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader and former Speaker of the National Assembly, Asad Qaiser, expressed deep concern over the abduction of their assembly members, stating that our members are being taken from their homes. He mentioned that our member from Muzaffargarh, Moazzam Jatui, was abducted from his home at night. We have received information that the Anti-Corruption Department has taken him, which is illegal and unconstitutional. He added that last night, a raid was also conducted on the house of MNA Jamsheed Dasti, and the sanctity of his home was violated.

Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Asad Qaiser, questioned how any member can be arrested



without informing the Speaker of the National Assembly. A few days ago, our MNA, Amir Sultan, was abducted from his home in Jhang. He further stated that if such parliamentarianism, one can only imagine the plight of the common man. Asad Qaiser demanded that our members be released, and if there are any cases against them, they should be presented in court.

Palestine ministry calls for ...

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incursions and the Judaization plans against Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the imposition of forced changes on its existing historical and legal reality, as an integral part of the operations to Judaize Jerusalem, change its identity, and empty it of its original owners.

The Ministry also warns of the dangers of Israeli targeting. The continued destruction of sacred

things on the battlefield and in the entire region.

The Ministry holds the Israeli government fully and directly responsible for this provocative intrusion, and calls for urgent international intervention to protect Jerusalem and its sanctities, most notably the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and to translate international positions and demands into actions that force the occupying state to stop its illegal unilateral measures.