



Rana Mashood briefs Secretary General Commonwealth about PM's initiatives to empower youth

Chairman PM's Youth Program, Rana Mashood, while briefing the Secretary General of the Commonwealth about Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's initiative on Friday, said that the government of Pakistan has established a multi-sector partnership program "Generation Unlimited" and a National Youth Council to empower youth leadership.



Biden to push for SC ethics reform, term limits and amendment to overturn immunity ruling, sources say

President Joe Biden is seriously considering publicly endorsing major reforms at the Supreme Court, a move that would make him the first sitting president in generations to back seismic changes to the way the nation's highest court operates, according to two sources familiar with the deliberations. (Details on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Called on

ISLAMABAD: CEO of Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ethan Sun along with a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: PID

CJCSC highlights 'All Weather Friendship' between China and Pakistan

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, NI (M), Friday attended the commemoration ceremony of the 97th founding day of the People's Liberation Army of China as a Chief Guest, read a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Chairman JCSC congratulated the people, civilians and military leadership, and all ranks of the People's Liberation Army, and praised the role of the People's Liberation Army in China's development and its rapid modernisation to become an important force for regional peace and stability.

While addressing the audience, the Chairman JCSC highlighted the close and fraternal



"All Weather Friendship" between China and Pakistan and reaffirmed commitments to further expand and deepen the relationship. During the speech, the Chairman JCSC also underscored Pakistan's firm commitment to work closely with China on CPEC, defence cooperation and regional peace and stability. The ceremony was attended by a large number of civilians and military officers, journalists, businessmen and members of the civil society.

Huawei's Training Program set to elevate Pak IT exports: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan's Information Technology exports will rise with Huawei's annual professional training to 300,000 Pakistani students.

Talking to a four-member delegation led by Ethan Sun, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Huawei Pakistan, the prime minister stressed that collaboration with Huawei was essen-

tial for providing advanced IT training in various fields, especially for young people.

The prime minister emphasized that the government values its sustainable partnership with Huawei in Pakistan's digital economy. The government will prioritize including both women and the youth of Balochistan in this training program.

The prime minister stated that promoting the digital economy requires building a strong foundation of talented professionals

within the country.

The prime minister stated that the recent visit to Huawei's headquarters in China was highly beneficial.

The prime minister emphasized that digitizing government institutions was crucial for implementing a modern, automated, and efficient governance system.

The delegation briefed the prime minister regarding the progress of ongoing projects under the cooperation agreement

between Pakistan and Huawei for the Digital Pakistan Program.

The prime minister was informed that a new Massive Open Online Courses system for IT training has been developed and will be launched with the support of provincial governments.

The delegation suggested backing the development of a national data center in line with Pakistan's national cloud strategy.

This initiative will improve cloud services and lead to consid-

erable cost reductions. Huawei was interested in collaborating

with the Pakistani government to transform Islamabad into a smart city. As part of the Islamabad Smart City project, various services such as traffic management, health care, education, and parking will be accessible through a digital platform.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ihsan Afzal, and other senior officials were also present in the meeting.

JCP okays appointment of two ad-hoc judges to SC



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Friday approved the appointment of Justice (retd) Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice (retd) Mazhar Miankhel as ad-hoc judges to the Supreme Court (SC).

Sources privy to the development said that the Judicial Commission meeting considered the proposals for the appointment of ad hoc judges and approved two names for the roles with the majority of votes.

The sources said that the apex court's Justice Munib Akhtar opposed the appoint-

ment of Justice (retd) Sardar Tariq Masood as an ad-hoc judge.

After Justice Munib Akhtar's disagreement, the name of Justice (retd) Sardar Tariq Masood was approved for the ad-hoc role with a majority of 8-1.

The sources added that three members of the Judicial Commission also opposed the appointment of Justice (retd) Mazhar Miankhel as he was okayed with a ratio of 6-3.

Both the former judges have been appointed as ad-hoc judges for a period of one year.

Besides these two former judges, the names of Justice

Continued on Page 8

Maryam Nawaz urges SC judges to 'let Pakistan progress'

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday urged the Supreme Court (SC) judges to let Pakistan progress following the apex court's verdict on Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) appeals, declaring Imran Khan-founded PTI eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities.

"The one who is being brought back is the nation's criminal," the Punjab chief minister said while apparently referring to PTI founder Imran Khan - who is currently incarcerated in May 9 riots cases.

Maryam Nawaz alleged that when the country starts to stabilize, some individuals become uncomfortable and make decisions that hinder progress.

Mazhar Alam Miankhel becomes 3rd judge to decline ad hoc appointment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former judge of the Supreme Court Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhel also declined to be appointed as the ad hoc judge, days after ex-SC judges Justice Mushir Alam and Maqbool Baqar turned down the offers for the same position.

"Justice (retd) Miankhel has decided not to accept the offer due to personal reasons," sources told ARY News.

Meanwhile, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) met in Islamabad to consider the appointment of four ad hoc judges for a three-year term - Sardar Tariq Masood, Alam, Baqar, Miankhel.

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.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had asked the JCP to turn down a proposal to hire ad hoc judges.

In his letter to the JCP members, PTI's Omar Ayub said that he has "serious reservations" at the recent proposal to appoint ad hoc judges.

PTI reserved seats: ECP decides to implement SC verdict

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to implement the Supreme Court (SC) verdict declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats.

According to the ECP spokesperson, the commission has issued instructions to its legal team to ensure the implementation of the Supreme Court decision.

The spokesperson clarified that the ECP has not misinterpreted the SC's verdict and has not declared the intra-party elections as valid. Instead, the commission has held that the PTI's intra-party elections were not in accordance with the law, and therefore, the candidates who submitted their nomination papers without a party ticket and declaration could not be considered PTI candidates.

The spokesperson emphasized that the ECP is committed to upholding the law and the Constitution, despite any pressure or criticism from political parties.

The commission has also clarified that it has not deviated from its stance on the issue and has not given any unnecessary benefit to any party.

LHC CJ rejects CEC's request for election tribunals' reformation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aaliya Neelum rejected the request of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) seeking the reformation of the election tribunals in the province.

Chief Election Commissioner

Sultan Akram Raja met the LHC chief justice and requested her to reconstitute the existing election tribunals, the sources said.

Justice Aaliya Neelum turned down the CEC's request, maintaining that the present election tribunals will continue to function as usual.

The LHC chief justice said that

the final decision on the election tribunals will be made by the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan.

Earlier on June 20, the Supreme Court (SC) rejected an appeal moved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against formation of election tribunals by the Lahore High Court.

The two-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa and also comprising Justice Naem Afghan, heard the Election Commission's appeal. The commission's lawyer, Sikandar Bashir, and PTI lawyer Salman Akram Raja appeared before the court.

Justice Isa questioned whether the Chief Election Commissioner and the CJP could not meet to resolve disputes. He remarked that if every issue is to be made contentious, then Parliament should be shut down. He asserted that using ordinances is a disregard for Parliament and a violation of its authority.

TLP calls off Faizabad sit-in after successful talks with govt

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) called off its sit-in at Faizabad against the Israeli atrocities in Palestine after successful talks with the federal government.

The announcement was made by the TLP leaders in a joint presser with Prime Minister's Advisor on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Sanaullah said that the TLP had been protesting against Israeli aggression in Palestine, adding that the government also condemns war crimes committed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

He said that the government of Pakistan will continue to support the oppressed

community in Palestine. Rana Sanaullah said that more than 1,000 tons of food and medicine will be sent to Palestine by July 31.

"Israel is a terrorist state, and Benjamin Netanyahu has committed war crimes," the PM's advisor on political affairs added.

Rana Sanaullah said that the bombing of innocent children and civilians in Gaza is inhumane, and no religion allows such terrorism.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also strongly condemned Israel's actions at the Shanghai Conference.

"The government will continue to condemn Israel's terrorism, and all possible steps will be taken to support the Muslims of Palestine," Rana Sanaullah said.

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis visits Workers Welfare Fund Office

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Ch Salik Hussain, visited the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) office today for a briefing on the Fund's operations and achievements. The presentation was led by Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, Secretary of the Workers Welfare Fund.

The Minister expressed his appreciation for the overall achievements of the Workers Welfare Fund and emphasized the need to expedite the processing of welfare grants to ensure that workers benefit in the shortest possible time. During the briefing, the Minister highlighted those major economically developed countries,



including Saudi Arabia, Germany, Korea, and Japan, are experiencing a shortage of skilled human capital. Highlighting the critical need

for skill development globally, the Minister noted that economically strong countries are facing a shortage of skilled human capital. He stressed that Pakistan should seize this opportunity by focusing on skill development for its youth.

The Minister directed the Workers Welfare Fund to prioritize skill development initiatives and proposed collaboration with external companies to establish state-of-the-art skill development institutes.

The Minister's visit underscores the government's commitment to enhancing the welfare and development of workers in Pakistan, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary skills to compete in the global market.

Police officer martyred in Takht Bhai after attack by unknown terrorists

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN (TAKHT BHAI): In the dark of night, unknown terrorists attacked the checkpoint of ancient Takhtbhai ruins with a hand grenade, as a result of which one police officer on duty was martyred and two officers were injured. Police station Takhtbhai has registered a case against the unknown terrorists and started further investigation after reaching the scene of the incident along with a large number of people. Attacked with a grand bomb and later opened heavy fire, as a result of which police officer on duty Umar Nabi Sukna Sanga Londkhor was martyred while police officer Khaldar Shabbir Ahmed son of Wali Muhammad Sukna Kharkai Londkhor and constable Fayaz Khan son of Sher Rehman Sukna Tucker Takhtbhai were seriously injured. Injured, the police also fired back at the terrorists, but the terrorists failed to escape from the scene. The funeral prayer of martyred police officer Umar Nabi was offered at Police Line Mardan and later in his native area of Singa Londkhor, in which the people of the area including top police officials participated in large numbers while the armed police force killed the martyr. Salute to Jasad Khaki



Lower Chitral Youth Office launches Monsoon Plantation Campaign

Correspondent

LOWER CHITRAL: In the context of climate change, the Youth Office of Lower Chitral organized a monsoon plantation campaign here on Thursday under the direction of Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sayed Fakhar Jahan.

Officials said, this plantation campaign was inaugurated by Director Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Noman Mujahid, on this occasion, along with Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Imran Khan Lower Chitral, Director Muhammad Zubair Khan Khattak, Assistant Director Sardar Muhammad Irfan Ali, and Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir were also present.

A function was held after launching the Monsoon Plantation Campaign, while the youth, women and officers of Lower Chitral actively participated in this monsoon planting campaign and event, and a walk was also organized regarding the plantation campaign.

The participants of the Monsoon Plantation Campaign made a strong appeal to the common citizens, to plant more trees and small plants so that we can cope with this climate change.

Said the participants, because we are facing severe heat waves in our country and planting trees is the only and best solution to this problem.

High Court Bar Association Multan protest against court fee increase



Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: High Court Bar Association Multan President Malik Sajjad Haider Maitla, General Secretary Syed Anees Mehdi, Vice President Ali Raza Alvi, Library Secretary Sardar Rafiq Dogar, Executive Members Khalil Mayo, Nader Murali, Miss Asia, Chaudhry Manzoor and Zohaib Hasan Advocate Addressing to The Press Conference at High Court Bar against the increase in court fees by Finance Act 2024, he said that this act is completely unconstitutional, obstruction of justice and equal to oppression of the poor people. This act was approved by the government of Punjab. It is also against the Sunnah and the Constitution. Increasing it from 100 times to 500 times is cruel to the people. It is restricting the poor people from getting justice. Our country is based on the Quran, Sunnah and the Constitution. He announced that he would challenge the Finance Act 2024 in the High Court, if still not heard, the High Court reserved the right to protest on behalf of the Multan Bar Association.

FCCI demand Presidential Medal for Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak his outstanding services

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq has demanded from all authorities including the President of the State that Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak's service to the country and nation, art and culture, suffering humanity, in recognition of his excellent, exemplary and exemplary services for more than 40 years in travelogues, poetry, anti-narcotics, literature, human rights, social welfare, labor and other fields, this time he should be awarded the Presidential Medal for Good Performance.

Dr. Jafar Hasan Mubarak as the President of Patient Welfare Society Allied Hospital Faisalabad is leading in providing free medicines and unavailable facilities to the poor, indigent, bankrupt and deserving patients while the Standing Committee for Narcotics of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

His services as the Chairman of Control are also unforgettable. Dr. Jafar Hasan Mubarak, Chairman of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Standing Committee on Art and Culture, Regional President of 300 NGOs Network of ANF Faisalabad, District Coordination Council of NGOs in which about six hundred He is also rendering invaluable services as the President of NGOs Shail, Member of the Board of Directors of the Department of Art and Culture.

Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak is the author of dozens of travelogues, books of poetry and literary works, and also has the honor of editing and publishing a large number of different literary books and organizing their launch events. It is worth mentioning here that from 1998 to 2024, every year for 26 consecutive years, Dr. Jafar Hassan Mubarak has been awarded the Anti-Narcotics Force, Social Welfare Department Punjab, Faisal Award for his outstanding public, social, welfare and literary services.

Abad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Art and Culture Department Punjab, Labor Department, sometimes Commissioners, District Coordination Officers and sometimes Deputy Commissioners and other authorities are nominated for the Presidential Medal for Good Performance but unknown every year by the decision-making authorities. Due to reasons, her name is dropped.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Sri Lankan High Commission Admiral (R) Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne on Friday.



Photo: PID

No policy can be successful without the Muslim Conference: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that on July 19, 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference passed the resolution of accession to Pakistan to associate the fate of the Kashmiri nation with Pakistan at the house of Ghazi e Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. The future of the nation was determined by giving the slogan "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" by the Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan. The Muslim Conference is still the guardian of the resolution of annexation of Pakistan. There are national heroes, there are more patriotic Pakistanis than us in the policy-making institutions of Pakistan and they are also interested in Kashmir, but no policy can be made or successful



without the Muslim Conference. The conspiracies that happened in the past to weaken are still happening today, some people are ashamed to mention the name of the Muslim Conference, but they should remember that history cannot be denied, just like Britain's Churchill, America's Abraham Lincoln, China's Mao Zedong cannot be subtracted Muslim Conference from

the history and representation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Similarly, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference cannot be subtracted from the history and representation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The workers of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan with all their strength conveyed the slogan of Pakistan, village to village, street to street, house to house. They expressed these views yesterday to the workers of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference City, Muzaffarabad, Women's Wing and Youth City. Sardar Usman Attique, Raja Saqib Majeed, Sardar Abid Razaq, Ms. Shamim Ali Malik, Ms. Abida Qureshi, Ms. Samia Sajid, Maqsood Sheikh, Sajjad Abbasi from the convention. Sikandar Habib Mir, Zeeshan Anwar Abbasi, Raja Waqar, Yasir Naqvi, Tasoore Mousavi, Mubasher Jahandad, Maimuna Kayani also spoke on the occasion.

Jazz Secures Landmark Credit Facility to Enhance 4G Network and Promote Digital Inclusion Nationwide

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has successfully secured the largest private sector syndicated credit facility, totaling up to PKR 75 billion. The banking consortium was led by The Bank of Punjab (BoP), and this 10-year financing arrangement will significantly support Jazz's ongoing 4G network expansion and technological upgrades while supporting its new ServiceCo model.

The signing ceremony, held at a local hotel in Karachi, was graced by Mr. Kaan Terzioğlu, VEON Group CEO, Mr. Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, and the Presidents of participating banks along with their representatives. The consortium includes prominent financial institutions acting as mandated lead advisors and arrangers, namely Habib Bank Limited, Bank Alfalah Limited, Meezan Bank Limited, MCB Bank Limited, Allied Bank Limited, The Bank of Punjab, Askari Bank Limited, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Soneri Bank Limited, Bank Islami Pakistan Limited and MCB Islamic Bank Limited.

Mr. Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz, remarked, "By investing in cutting-edge digital infrastructure, we are committed to bridging the digital divide and promoting financial inclusion across the nation. This transaction reflects the financial community's trust in Jazz's solid market reputation and our leadership on the digital front."

Mr. Zafar Masud, President & CEO of The Bank of Punjab, stated, "Leading this landmark transaction in the telecom sector exemplifies our strategic focus on digital transformation in Pakistan. Our partnership with Jazz underscores BoP's dedication to advancing technological progress and supporting the growth of the telecom industry."

In June 2021, Jazz secured a PKR 50 billion 10-year syndicated credit facility from a banking consortium led by HBL.

Jamaat-e-Islami Sahiwal protest against inflation and increase electricity price

Javed Shoukat Vaince

SAHIWAL: Hundreds of activists from Jamaat-e-Islami Sahiwal will participate in the Islamabad sit-in on the call of Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. Tayyab Mehmood Baloch Ameer JI Sahiwal.

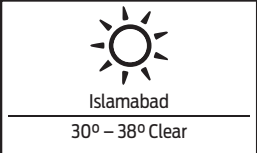
Dozens of Jamaat-e-Islami workers protested strongly against inflation and rising electricity prices in front of the Sahiwal Press Club. The protesters waved electricity bills and shouted slogans. They said that Pakistan has been mortgaged to the IMF. The interference of IMF in our



economy has increased and due to the increase in electricity prices, common people are suffering from severe problems.

On July 26, Jamaat-e-Islami will hold a sit-in against inflation in Islamabad. Hundreds of workers from Sahiwal will participate in

this sit-in. Members of the Jamaat-e-Islami labor wing also participated in the protest and dispersed peacefully after the protest.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:32 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:10 pm
Maghrib 7:16 pm
Isha 8:56 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 16
& Rescue Services 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
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

AIOU announces admission schedule for Fall 2024 Merit-Based Programs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the admission schedule for the merit-based programs for the Fall 2024 semester, and details are available on their website at www.aiou.edu.pk. Applications for BS, BSc, MBA, MS, MPhil, and PhD programs can be submitted online until August 20.

It is noteworthy that admissions to BS, BSc, and MBA programs will be purely on a merit basis, while for MS, MPhil, and PhD programs, passing the entry test is mandatory. The entry tests for these programs will be held at the university from August 22 to 24. The Director Admissions, Syed Zia-ul-Hasnain, stated that under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, special attention will be given to ensure transparency in conducting the entry tests and compiling the merit lists.

Additionally, admissions for Matric, FA, and I. Com programs are also ongoing, with the last date to apply being September 5. Admission forms and prospectuses can be obtained from the university's main campus, regional offices/contact offices, and designated sale points across the country.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Inaugurates Historic 'Model Bazaar Free Home Delivery Project' Across Punjab

Bureau Report

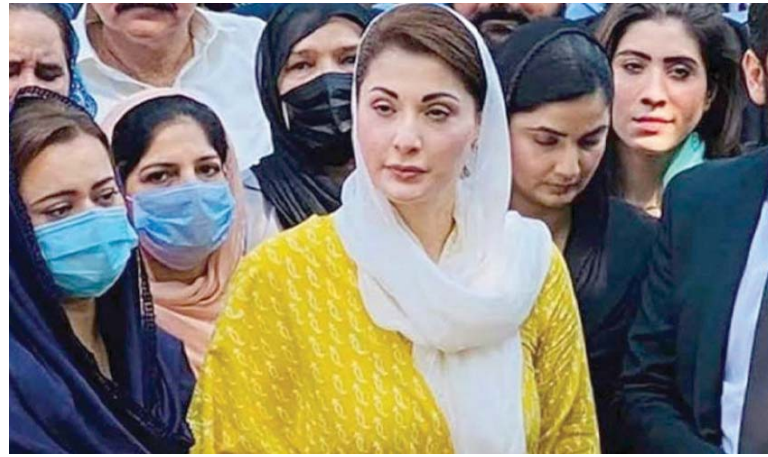
LAHORE: Historic public welfare initiatives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif continue. She inaugurated Model Bazaar Free Home Delivery Project, besides launching the free Home Delivery App for Online Orders, in order to start free home delivery of food items from 36 model markets across Punjab to the doorsteps of people. She also inaugurated the upgraded Township Model Bazaar.

Madam Chief Minister said, "For the first time in a Model Bazaar, Tensile fabric sheds are built which are heat-proof, waterproof and fireproof." She also started a project for the solarization of Model Bazaar. She said, "A 200 KW solar project has been installed in Town-

ship Model Bazar."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inspected the upgraded model market after its construction and rehabilitation. She also inspected the Model Bazaar Customer Care Center, and visited different food stalls. She reviewed the quality and quantity of food items available there.

Madam Chief Minister checked the rate list displayed in the Model Bazaar, and inspected the quality of frozen food and flour. She interacted with the citizens present there to ascertain their opinion about different facilities in the Township Model Bazaar. A senior citizen commented, "Things are getting cheaper, our prayers are with you." A woman told Chief Minister, "The rates of goods in the model market are reasonable and their



quality is excellent." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also talked to the bike riders present at the occasion. She checked their delivery boxes

and inquired them about maintaining the quality of items during delivery.

Madam Chief Minister also visited the Solar Rise Project in the parking area, and appreciated the installation of solar panels on top of the parking shed.

Earlier, PML-N MNA Muhammad Afzal Khokhar, Chairman Punjab Model Bazaar Management Company briefed Madam Chief Minister about the project in detail. Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Ministers Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Sohail Shaikat Butt, MPA Sania Ashiq and Special Assistant Rashid Nasrullah accompanied the Chief Minister. Secretary Industries and other relevant officers were also present on the occasion.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination FPCCI met with Shona Reilly, Director Trade, Calgary Economic Development (CED) at Calgary - Canada. Dr. Umer Farooq, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Energy and Mr. Chad Kultgen, Manager Trade CED are also present at the occasion.



Malik Sohail Hussain met with Calgary Economic Development Team

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail Hussain met Shaona Reilly, director of Canada's Calgary Economic Development Team during his visit to America. On this occasion, Dr Umer Farooq Advisor to Minister for Mines & Minerals Alberta Province, Manager Trade Calgary Economic Dr Umer Farooq Advisor to Minister for Mines & Minerals Alberta Province Development Mr. Chad Kultgen were also present. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on investment opportunities in Pakistan to attract investors.

Talking about investment in Pakistan, Malik Sohail Hussain said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council is making investment safe, Green Pakistan Initiative, tourism sector, mines and minerals, pink salt and rice sectors have wide investment opportunities.

He said that joint measures and proposals have to be made to attract Canadian investors To facilitate investments, trade missions and partnerships in identified sectors. Promotional efforts will be enhanced to create awareness about Pakistan for Canadian entrepreneurs.

The meeting between Malik Sohail Hussain and the CED team was very productive in which both recognized the vast potential for cooperation and investment. The meeting laid a solid foundation for future engagements with a focus on sustainable development, tourism. Both expressed their strong commitment to further explore investment opportunities and work for mutual benefits.

Engro Fertilizers launches Rahbar Helpline for Farmer Support and Complaints

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro Fertilizers Limited, one of the leading fertilizer manufacturers of Pakistan, has introduced the Rahbar Helpline to empower farmers by providing dedicated support and complaint management services.



Accessible via the toll-free number 0800 00110, the Engro Rahbar Helpline ensures seamless communication for farm advisory matters, inquiries, feedback, and complaints related to the non-availability of fertilizer, pricing and product issues. This dedicated call center provides a platform for farmers to voice their concerns and suggestions, equipped with an automated complaint management system and an escalation matrix to ensure every complaint is addressed.

Atif Mohammad Ali, Vice President - Commercial at Engro Fertilizers, commented, "Customer centricity is at the core of Engro Fertilizers' ethos, driving our continuous improvement and innovation. The Engro Rahbar Helpline exemplifies our commitment to enhancing customer satisfaction and service excellence. This initiative will also support the Government's efforts to ensure the availability of fertilizers at the right prices, thus, contributing to Pakistan's enhanced food security."

Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry Delegation's Japan Visit



Spokesman Report

TOKYO: A 10 member delegation from the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) is visiting Tokyo, Japan, from 17 to 22 July 2024.

In collaboration with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SMRJ, and JETRO, the Embassy of Pakistan organized a networking event.

Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar welcomed the participants and encouraged them to explore Sialkot and Pakistan as potential trade partners. The Vice President of SCCI also addressed the attendees, highlighting Sialkot as the industrial hub of Pakistan.

During this event, Japanese businesses had the opportunity to interact with the delegates and view their products through various displays.

This visit aims to strengthen trade ties and foster mutual cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Coca-Cola kickstarts its extended producer responsibility (EPR) Journey with Plastic-Free Gilgit-Baltistan Program

Bureau Report

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) and Coca-Cola Pakistan announced their two-year-long partnership for the Plastic-Free Gilgit-Baltistan Program. With a contribution of over PKR 30 million, the Coca-Cola Company and its bottling partner, Coca-Cola Icecek Pakistan (CCI), (member company of CoRe Packaging Alliance) will install two crushing and baling facilities in the Shigar and Ghizer Districts to recycle PET plastic bottles. Coca-Cola will also support the Government of G-B for setting up waste collection points and launch a robust awareness campaign.

Additional Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Coca-Cola's Director of Public Affairs inaugurated the first crushing and baling facility in Shigar City, a gateway to the Karakoram Mountain range at the foothills of the world's second tallest mountain, K-2. Coca-Cola also organized a collection drive on the trek to the scenic Upper Kachura Lake, which not only helped gather waste strewn around but also encouraged local shopkeepers and businesses to dispose of waste responsibly. Speaking at the inauguration, Addi-



tional Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan, Capt. (R.) Mushtaq Ahmad said, "Gilgit-Baltistan's economy depends on the millions of tourists we receive every year and the waste management has been a serious concern. We are thankful to Coca-Cola for supporting the local administration and encouraging the people of Shigar in adopting better waste management practices."

Dr. Faisal Hashmi, Director of Public

Affairs & Stakeholder Management, Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan Region said, "This public-private partnership is a giant leap towards our Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) journey and we're happy to be doing our part in building G-B's recycling infrastructure and promoting sustainable tourism practices with dedicated awareness sessions for volunteers from civil society and students of Shigar."

Kazakhstan SCO chairmanship promoted Shanghai Spirit, speakers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Center for SCO Studies-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, The Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP), in collaboration with the Embassy of Kazakhstan to Pakistan hosted a roundtable on "Post Astana Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2024: Achievements and Way Forward."

The roundtable provided an in-depth analysis of the outcomes of the SCO Summit 2024 hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana and discussed the future trajectory of the organization under the new chairmanship of the People's Republic of China. The speakers shared valuable insights into the achievements and strategic direction of the SCO.

Dr. Farhat Asif, President Institute



of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, highlighted the significance of the event and shared about various initiatives by IPDS on SCO. Dr Farhat Asif also shared that Pakistan, as the Chair of the Council of Heads of Government will host the meeting in Islamabad in October. The next chairmanship of SCO is now with the People's Republic of China for 2024-25.

While speaking on the occasion, Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan who has meticulously shared about the outcomes of Astana Summit, vision, and mission by the President of Kazakhstan during the whole year of Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in SCO. He has also emphasized that Kazakhstan hosted 150 events and made signifi-

cant contributions towards regional peace and stability through its pro active diplomacy focusing on multilateralism. Dr. Muhammad Munir, Dean of Social Sciences at MY University, while speaking on the occasion, said that SCO is significant for region in mitigating traditional and non-traditional security threats. Dr. Muhammad Khan, Professor of International Relations at International Islamic University, said that SCO is making progress and is striving to reduce global hegemonic exploitation, terrorism, separatism, and extremism Dr Rashid Aftab, Director Riphah Institute of Public Policy, said the Green SCO is an important initiative that is equally important for Pakistan. Large number of diplomats, media representatives, civil society, and students, including faculty members, participated in the event.

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Govt's Offensive: Will it Succeed

It appears that, apart from the establishment, all other influential factors are turning against the government, which is now in a dire and ensnared position with no apparent way out. In its frustration, the government is making successive errors and issuing threats, claiming that any disruption to its rule would spell disaster for the country's stability and survival.

This defensive posture started with a hastily organized and poorly executed press conference by the Information Minister, who announced a ban on the PTI party without proper homework, without any consultation or approval from the cabinet or allies.

Yesterday (18 July), the Defense Minister during an interview presented a surprising and puzzling logic. He claimed that the PTI's criticism of the USA has ironically resulted in the entire US machinery supporting the PTI. If this reasoning holds any truth, the government has a straight-forward strategy at its disposal: immediately begin criticizing the USA even more vehemently than PTI did to garner greater US support.

The fiery Chief Minister of Punjab asserted that any person or party attempting to derail the system would be dealt with severely, implying that the government will complete its five-year term regardless of mandate, legality, or constitutionality. She pledged to hold the Supreme Court accountable for restoring PTI as a political party, accused the judges of bias, and called for judicial accountability.

Mr. Sanaulah of PML(N), who prides himself on quelling the PTI's long march with force and using security forces to silence opposition, pledged to use all available government resources to obliterate the PTI. He termed PTI as "Fitna" (discord) and a threat to the country's safety, security, and integrity.

The ruling elite's narrative is straight-forward. They assert that the country is at a critical juncture where any political upheaval risks default. The government claims to have achieved significant economic stability, successfully securing a staff-level agreement with the IMF for a \$7 billion loan, improving foreign reserves, reducing inflation, and boosting the stock exchange. They argue that these achievements validate their competence to govern, and therefore, all alleged transgressions should be forgiven, if not, the country's survival will be at stake.

The narrative of PTI is fundamentally opposed to that of the ruling elite. They argue that even if the government were to achieve miraculous economic feats, it lacks legitimacy due to a stolen mandate. Therefore, the opposition is determined to use all available means to dislodge what they consider an illegitimate government, regardless of the cost.

However, interestingly, the indicators the government once touted in its favor are turning against it one by one both internally and externally.

Internally, the judiciary has become completely independent. It first restored PTI as a party and allocated reserve seats to it. It is likely to frustrate the government's attempt to appoint retired judges or lawyers as presiding officers in the election tribunals, arguing that the amendment in the Election Act made in 2024 will apply to the next elections. This means that tribunals will make their decisions based on Form 45, which could allegedly result in the demise of PML(N), PPP, and MQM in the parliament.

The government has been touting the boom in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as a key indicator of economic

revival, but the KSE-100 index lost 501.46 points today (July 19, 2024), closing at 73,252.56 amid political and economic uncertainties.

Externally, the government is under immense pressure. The US Congress passed a resolution deeming the 2024 elections highly rigged and demanded an independent inquiry and the release of the PTI founder. This was echoed by a UN independent group based in Switzerland.

Recently, the European Parliament discussed the elections, expressing serious concerns over widespread rigging and human rights violations, emphasizing the need for Pakistan to uphold democratic principles and human rights.

In the economic and financial sector, the recent Fitch report, vehemently rejected by the Planning Minister, has added further pressure on the government. Fitch painted a dismal picture of the country's economic and financial status and highlighted significant political instability. The report projected that the PML-N-led coalition government would remain in power for the next 18 months, predicted longer jail terms for Imran Khan, and mentioned the possibility of a military-backed technocratic government.

This step will be necessitated, if the election tribunals through their rulings return the stolen mandate to PTI which being unacceptable, the establishment could directly take over the government, dissolving existing political structures and appointing technocrats to key positions. The establishment, in collaboration with compliant political forces, could push for legal changes or emergency measures to justify the appointment of a technocratic government. It may leverage the judicial

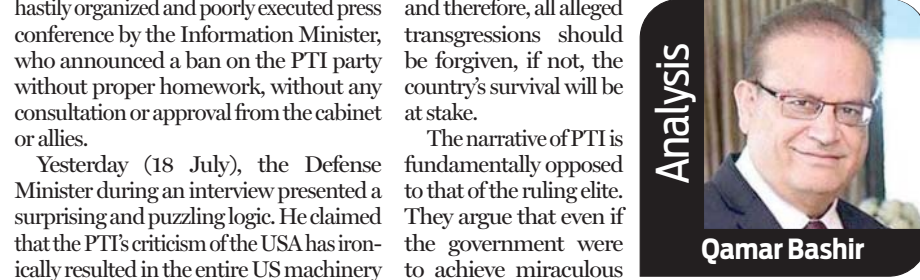
rulings to disqualify elected officials and pave the way for a technocratic administration.

Unfortunately, all parties are calling the others to back off from their positions in the national interest without yielding any ground themselves. They define national interest through their own lenses, forgetting that upholding the national interest primarily involves following the constitution and establishing the rule of law in the country.

If sanity prevails, the government should allow the Election Commission and judiciary to independently reconfigure the election results based on Form 45 and accept the decision. The establishment should reconsider any unconstitutional roles, and the civilian bureaucracy should act as true public servants to resolve issues faced by the people. The opposition should refrain from taking the law into their own hands and seek justice through constitutional means. Success would depend on all stakeholders simultaneously reverting to their constitutional roles; otherwise, nothing will make sense.

However, given the current backdrop of political maneuvering, judicial interventions, and international scrutiny, expecting all parties to align constitutionally may be overly optimistic. The entrenched interests and historical patterns of behavior suggest that while the path of constitutional adherence is clear, achieving it requires unprecedented cooperation and goodwill from all involved parties. Without this, the cycle of political instability and institutional distrust is likely to continue, making the sensible suggestion appear impractical in a system where entrenched interests often move counter-clockwise.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Israeli war in Gaza is a 'war on women,'

More than 10,000 women have died in the Israeli war in Gaza, over 6,000 families have lost their mothers, and nearly one million women and girls "have lost their homes, their loved ones, their life memories," the head of the U.N. women's agency in the occupied Palestinian territories has said.

"Wars are never gender neutral, but no doubt in Gaza one million women and girls are bearing the worst brunt of nine months of war," Maryse Guimond, the UN Women Special Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

"They are losing their lives, they are sick, hungry, exhausted, holding families together despite their constant fear and loss," she said via video link from Jerusalem.

Ms. Guimond recently concluded a week-long mission to Gaza — a place she has visited more than 50 times in her six years in the job, including after previous escalations.

She said she was not prepared for "the total destruction and inhumanity" that she saw this time, her voice choking up with emotion.

"What I witnessed defied my worst fears for the women and girls I have been working with for so many years," she said. "It was unbearable to witness the daily escalation of violence and destruction of a war on women with no end in sight."

The UN Women Representative said she entered a world of devastation and total deprivation when the fence at the Kerem Shalom border crossing closed behind her.

"I cannot underline enough the impact that this war has had on women and girls. I barely recognized women who I knew before the war. The last nine months is embedded on their faces, on their bodies."

Ms. Guimond explained that Gaza is "a war on women" simply because of the numbers who have been killed and injured, and the overall level of devastation that women there are facing.

"We have never seen this before," she said.

Conditions in the enclave are dire. More than half a million women "are severely hungry, eating the last and the least of their families, skipping meals and not eating healthy foods for months and months," she said, citing UN Women data.

Furthermore, people are "living in overcrowded spaces, where infectious diseases are much more rampant". Because there is no water, women have been forced to shave their heads to avoid infections.

"I could not recognize the Gaza I knew," Ms. Guimond said. "Homes, hospitals, shops, schools, universities have been destroyed. Crowds of men, women, children trying to survive and in makeshift tents and overcrowded shelters surrounded by rubble and total destruction."

As most hospitals are no longer functioning, access to healthcare and medical treatment is limited.

Need to be Responsible Online User

Muhammad Farooq

With the advent of the internet, spreading an agenda, whether positive or negative, has become incredibly easy. Content uploaded or shared online can reach millions of users worldwide within minutes. This rapid dissemination poses significant challenges, particularly in controlling highly sensitive content such as blasphemy, violence, harmful, and indecent material that can significantly impact society. As an Islamic country, Pakistan is particularly affected by such unlawful content, facing unique challenges due to the spread of blasphemy and indecent material online. To mitigate the uploading and sharing of unlawful content, it is essential for every citizen to be informed about local laws and the reporting mechanisms available with Social Media companies and regulators.

In the online world, timely identification and removal of unlawful content is crucial in minimizing its impact. Although social media companies use Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms for this purpose, these systems are still evolving and require time to become fully effective. As a result, companies currently depend on a complaint-based mechanism, where the public reports unlawful content, and content

moderators review the reported content to determine whether it should be removed or geo-fencing.

Effective results cannot be achieved without active public participation. To facilitate the instant reporting of unlawful content to the PTA, a state-of-the-art and user-friendly Complaint Management System (CMS) has been developed. It is accessible online at <https://complaint.pta.gov.pk/RegisterComplaint.aspx>, with a mobile app available for download on both the Playstore and Appstore. User can lodge complaints by selecting relevant category, such as Against the Glory of Islam, Hate Speech, Anti-State, Child Abuse or Indecent/Immoral content. The PTA team thoroughly analyzes each complaint and takes up the matter with the concerned social media platform for its prompt removal. For public guidance on lodging accurate complaints, a video titled "How to Report Unlawful Online Content" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZggEw2e5Gdw>) has been uploaded on PTA's official YouTube channel (@ptaofficialpk).

Social Media companies strive to ensure a safe platform for users through self-regulation, which involves establishing community guidelines and standards. It is essential for the public to familiarize themselves with these guidelines, as they provide a framework of rules for uploading and sharing content. Timely reporting of unlawful content directly to

social media platforms is crucial for its prompt removal, and these platforms encourage users to lodge complaints directly with them.

The PTA has provided a list of URLs (https://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/sm_platforms_09032020.pdf) for major social media platforms where complaints can be lodged directly to platform. Additionally, WhatsApp, known for its end-to-end encryption, encourages users to report unlawful content within the app by long-pressing the message and selecting the 'report' option.

In a culturally rich and diverse nation like Pakistan, where individuals embrace various religious beliefs and sects, it is paramount to avoid uploading or sharing content that offends the sentiments of others. Knowledge of local laws is crucial to avoid legal consequences for uploading unlawful content. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Section 37 deals with the removal of unlawful online content related to the glory of Islam, particularly in cases of blasphemy, and Section 11 addresses hate speech and criminalizes any online content that promotes or is likely to promote interfaith, sectarian, or racial hatred.

PTA encourages online users to use digital space responsibly and to report any unlawful content directly to the relevant social media company or to PTA for timely removal. This collective effort will help minimize the negative impact of such content on society at large.

Afghanistan's Economy Struggles Amid Reduced Aid and Narcotics Ban

The fifteenth report from the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team sheds light on the evolving landscape in Afghanistan under the Taliban's rule. Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Amir of the Taliban, has solidified his grip on power, marking a significant transition from insurgency to de facto governance. This consolidation of power brings both stability and challenges, impacting Afghanistan and its regional dynamics profoundly. Under Akhundzada's leadership, the Taliban have brought a semblance of stability to Afghanistan.

Internal peace has improved, corruption has decreased, and opium cultivation has seen a decline. These changes have bolstered the fragile Afghan economy and provided a modicum of public services. However, the governance model remains deeply rooted in a strict interpretation of Islamic law, which raises questions about its long-term viability in addressing Afghanistan's multifaceted challenges. The report highlights the Taliban's limited ability to manage critical issues such as mass migration, natural disasters, water management, climate change, and the humanitarian crisis.

Additionally, the Taliban's efforts to combat terrorism, particularly against ISIL-K and Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), are met with skepticism. While there have been some successes, the Taliban's overall counter-terrorism capabilities are questioned, and their support for TTP is a point of concern for neighboring countries.

Afghanistan's economy, while not collapsing, is struggling under the weight of reduced international aid and the challenges of transitioning from an insurgency to a governing authority. The Taliban's ban on opium cultivation, though intended to curb the narcotics trade, has left farmers without viable alternatives, leading to unrest in regions like Badakhshan Province. The trade in narcotics persists due to sizeable stockpiles, and senior Taliban figures continue to profit from it. The Taliban's governance approach, characterized by tight control and limited adaptation, is not meeting the expectations of the Afghan population or the international community. The needs of women, ethnic and religious minorities, and broader human rights concerns remain largely unaddressed.

The Taliban's non-participation in international dialogues,

such as the Doha II meeting, underscores their insular approach and reluctance to engage with the global community. The report underscores the persistent threat Afghanistan poses to regional and global security. The Taliban's tolerance of various terrorist groups allows these entities to use Afghanistan as a base for operations, projecting threats into neighboring countries and beyond. The ongoing humanitarian crisis, coupled with the management of regional water rights, further complicates the security landscape.

Member States have expressed concerns about the disproportionate spending on security and armed forces by the Taliban.

The ambitions to acquire new military capabilities and the challenges in controlling small arms and light weapons add to the apprehensions about the Taliban's true intent. The potential for terrorist access to these weapons poses a significant threat to regional stability.

The Monitoring Team's report provides several recommendations for improving the implementation of sanctions and addressing the complex challenges posed by the Taliban's governance. There is a need for clarity in handling asset freeze exemption requests and a more robust approach to the arms embargo. Engaging the Taliban in a multi-lateral framework to address these issues and foster international recognition is crucial. As Afghanistan navigates this turbulent period, the international community must remain vigilant and proactive in addressing the evolving threats and challenges.

The Taliban's rule, while bringing some stability, is fraught with complexities that require a nuanced and coordinated response to ensure regional and global security. The fifteenth report from the UN Monitoring Team paints a detailed and sobering picture of Afghanistan under the Taliban. The consolidation of power by Hibatullah Akhundzada has brought both stability and significant challenges. The international community must continue to monitor the situation closely, ensuring that efforts to address terrorism, humanitarian needs, and regional security are sustained and effective. The road ahead for Afghanistan is fraught with uncertainty, and it is imperative that global stakeholders remain engaged and responsive to the evolving dynamics in the region.

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

This is a watershed moment for Palestine, for justice, and for international law

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Israel's occupation has been declared unlawful by the World Court, which has stipulated that it must be terminated completely and as rapidly as possible. This means Israel is under an obligation to end this illegal colonial enterprise unconditionally, and in our view, that means immediately and totally.

The Court also found that illegal Israeli occupation violates the UN Charter, Human Rights and International Humanitarian law, including, in particular, the prohibition of racial segregation and apartheid.

The Court further, unequivocally, declared that all Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are illegal and must be dismantled and that all Israeli settlers must be evacuated. The

Court declared that Israeli illegal occupation not only violates but eviscerates, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in their own land, including the right to their own State.

This ruling couldn't be more timely or sorely needed. The Palestinian people have endured unbearable suffering and injustice for decades. Israel's colonial, expansionist, and genocidal policies are on full, horrific display before the world. The Palestinian people are confronting a ferocious genocide and defending their very right to exist and live. This ruling is a vindication of their steadfastness and perseverance. Today is about the brave and noble Palestinian people and their absolute, non-negotiable right to freedom from colonial control and violence. The Court said this right must no longer be denied or deferred. The Court made clear that the Palestinian



people are the ONLY sovereign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jeru-

salem, and that the international community is under an obligation not just to reaffirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination but to see to it that this right is implemented immediately.

All states and the UN are now under obligation not to recognize the legality of Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to do nothing to assist Israel in maintaining this illegal situation.

They are directed by the Court to bring Israel's illegal occupation to an end. This means—all states and the UN must immediately review their bilateral relations with Israel to ensure their policies do not aid in Israel's continued aggression against the Palestinian people—whether directly or indirectly.

Israel's continued occupation is aggression,

entrenched by apartheid policies, political and cultural persecution, and war crimes and crimes against humanity, that allowed the denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination for over 76 years. It is enabled and prolonged by impunity that has allowed Israel to commit the unthinkable—genocide—which is now unfolding before the world in Gaza and across the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The ICJ fulfilled its legal and moral duties with this historic ruling. All States must now uphold their clear obligations: No aid. No assistance. No complicity. No money, no arms, no trade, no nothing, no actions of any kind to support Israel's illegal occupation. All UN member states are obliged by law to end Israel's presence on the territory of Palestine... That is what international law requires—no more and no less.

Trump selected Ohio Sen. JD Vance, a critic turned ally, as running mate after last-minute push from son

Saqib Saleem Qureshi

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has named US Sen. JD Vance as his running mate, further elevating the Ohio Republican who has adopted the former president's populist agenda after years of pointed criticism of Trump.

"After lengthy deliberation and thought, and considering the tremendous talents of many others, I have decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J. D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

Trump's selection came on the first day of the Republican National

Convention and just two days after he survived an assassination attempt at his campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, over the weekend. On the floor of the convention, shortly after news of Vance's selection broke, delegates celebrating the party's ticket were writing Vance's name onto Trump signs using markers.

Ahead of Trump's selection of Vance, the Ohio senator's supporters, including Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. and conservative media figure Tucker Carlson, had argued that Vance has the strongest relationship with Trump of a group of finalists that also included Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, and would be the most loyal selection, multiple

sources familiar with the discussions said.

They made the case that Vance can appeal to working-class voters viewed as essential to winning the key battleground states in November, given his upbringing in a poor Rust Belt town in Ohio. They also pointed to his wife, Usha Chilukuri — the child of Indian immigrants — as being someone who could appeal to minority voters, the sources said.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, on the convention floor, described Trump's selection of Vance as "a great day for Ohio."

"He is consistent with Trump's appeal to working men and women," DeWine said, adding that he thought it was wise for Trump to pick



someone younger. "Also, someone who shares his desire to expand the base of the Republican Party."

Vance, a venture capitalist and the author of the best-selling memoir

"Hillbilly Elegy," was elected to the Senate in 2022 after receiving a boost from Trump in a contentious Republican primary. It was a reversal from just six years earlier.

Vance was a key voice in the "Never Trump" movement during the 2016 election and has a well-documented history of opposing the former president publicly.

Biden to push for Supreme Court ethics reform, term limits and amendment to overturn immunity ruling, sources say

Saqib Saleem Qureshi

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is seriously considering publicly endorsing major reforms at the Supreme Court, a move that would make him the first sitting president in generations to back seismic changes to the way the nation's highest court operates, according to two sources familiar with the deliberations.

Chief among the changes Biden is planning to publicly back are term limits for the nine justices, who currently serve lifetime appointments. The president is also said to be preparing to throw his support behind an ethics code for the court that would contain an enforcement mechanism, which was notably absent from the code the court adopted last year.

Additionally, Biden is considering whether he should push for a constitutional amendment that would effectively reverse the historic ruling from the court earlier this month that gave presidents immunity for some actions they take while in office.

Biden alluded to the fact that he was considering major reforms on a call with members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus over the weekend, a source familiar with the call told CNN.

He told lawmakers that while he did not want to get ahead of himself, major reforms were likely coming and that he was in the process of consulting



with constitutional lawyers, the source said, adding that Biden did not get into specific details during this meeting.

If adopted by Congress, the changes would represent some of the biggest to hit the court in decades. Progressives

have in recent years been pushing for such dramatic reforms at the court, but Biden has not fully embraced their

proposed reforms, instead taking a much more cautious approach to the court that has included him forming a commission to look at potential reforms during the early days of his presidency.

But as the Supreme Court came under intense scrutiny in 2023 following a series of blockbuster investigative pieces that turned a spotlight on the alleged ethical lapses of several of the justices, Democrats in Congress pushed for meaningful reforms at the court, though the issue never fully gained steam. The nine justices eventually released an ethics code in November that did little to assuage concerns from the court's critics.

The reforms backed by Biden would need congressional approval and the constitutional amendment would require ratification by 38 states in a process that seems nearly impossible to succeed.

The issue of lifetime appointments was illuminated by the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 2020, who was one of just a few justices this century to die while serving on the bench. Her death gave then-President Donald Trump an opportunity to appoint his third justice to the court, infuriating some Democrats who had wanted the liberal icon to step down during Barack Obama's presidency.

The court's decision earlier this month in Trump's immunity case also

drew negative attention to the court from Democrats. Though the opinion penned by Chief Justice John Roberts technically allows special counsel Jack Smith to inch his election subversion case against the former president toward resolution, it left many questions unresolved—making it increasingly unlikely that a trial can get underway before the November election.

A concurrence from Justice Clarence Thomas was then used by Judge Aileen Cannon in Florida in order to throw out the mishandling classified documents case against Trump.

Biden has cited the Roe decision and others in his reelection bid.

Asked about reproductive rights and the Supreme Court in an interview Tuesday with BET News' Ed Gordon that aired on "CBS Evening News," Biden warned about what he believes a future Trump presidency would mean in terms of future appointments to the bench.

"There's probably gonna be two more appointments to the court. There's probably two people who are going to resign—uh resign, retire," Biden said. "Just imagine—if he has two more appointments on that, what that means forever."

News of Biden's forthcoming announcement was met with immediate praise from some progressive court reform groups.

Understanding Kalki

God has created this Universal, some billions of years before. He created man for His worship, and from time to time revealed Himself and His knowledge to man in various forms, through several of His messengers, scattered all over the world. Hence, it would be no peccadillo to say, Enlightenment had found its way in every aspect, weather by sitting under Bodhi Tree, practicing austerities on Mont Meru, or accepting revelations in Mountain of Light.

Islam as the final doctrine of Almighty God finds similarities in all of the major religions of the world, or let's say it was the first and final religion, a mighty river that passed from region to region, taking different turns and names.

Let's consider the philosophies of relative religion, which had advocated by Dr. Zakir Nayak, specially the subject of Kalki Avatar. I believe that is a harsh reality for Hindus, since if they admit it, then there comes no difference, all erased.

Prophesized in Bagwat Purana Khand 12, Adhya 2, Shaloka 18-20, says he (Kalki) will be born in house of Vishnuyas, a noble Brahmin, who is the chief of the village of Sambhla and he will be called as Kalki, mantra 19 and 20 says that he will be the supreme lord of the world, he will be given knowledge and character. And given 8 special qualities, given a steed, a help by the angles and he will ride a horse carrying a sword in his hand, and he will defeat the enemies and will be helped by angles. Further, he was prophesied in Bagwat Purana Khand 1, Adhyay 3, Shalok 25, that he will be born in the Kul Yug, in which the king will behave like robbers and he will be born in the house of Vishnuyas and called Kalki.

Similarly, Kalki Avatar has even mentioned in Kalki Purana in Chapter number 2, Verse 4, which say that he will be born in the house of Vishnuyas, Kalki Purana Chap 2, Verse 5, says he will be helped by 4 companions in spreading his religion, Kalki Purana Chapter 2, Verse 7, it says that he will be helped by angles in the battle

field, Kalki Purana Chapter 2, Verse 11, says he will be born in the house of Vishnuyas in the womb of Sumati and Kalki Purana Chapter 2, Verse 15, says he will be born in the first half of Madhaw month.

Now we have got hold of the Prophecies according to Indic studies, let's focus on them a little more.

Name of father Vishnuyas, if you translate it in English, it means worshiper of God, and we know the father of Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was Abdullah, which means worshiper of God/ Allah. Name of mother is Summate in English which means peace, similarly name of Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was Amina, which also mean peace. Village of Kalki's birth, by the name of Sambhla which translate as place of serenity and peace, whereas, Makka the birth place of Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was known as Dar-ul-Aman, city of peace and serenity. Born in the house of chief of

Sambhla, Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was born in the house chief of Makkah, Quresh family.

Further it says, Kalki will be born on 12 day, on the first half of the month of Madhaw, and we all know first half of the lunar month of Rabi-ul-Awal on the 12 day is when our Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was born.

And finally, that, Kalki will be final messenger, in accordance with Quran Surat-e-Ahzaab Chapter 33, Verse 40, "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the Prophets, the final messenger. Allah has full knowledge of everything."

Prophecy says that, Kalki Avatar will get knowledge from God in a mountain, and Gar-e-Hira was the cave of Jabl-e-Noor where Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) received revelations. Kalki will go towards north and come back besides Muhammad

(p.b.u.h) migrated north towards Madinah and came back to Makkah victoriously, further it says Kalki will be an example for whole world, have an impeccable character, as Allah says in Quran Surah-Al-Qalam, Chapter 68, Verse 4, "And verily, you are of a highest moral character."

Further, in Kalki Purana and Bagwat Purana, his 8 special qualities have defined that are Wisdom, Self-control, Respectable lineage, Revealed knowledge, Valor, Charity, Gratefulness, and Measured Speech, and Muhammad (p.b.u.h) is known for all these 8 qualities. Additionally, it says he will be the teacher of the world, as Allah says in Quran Surah Sabah Chapter 34, Verse 28, "We have sent you forth but as a herald of good news and a warner of all mankind". Further, Kalki has given steed by Almighty God as a present similarly Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was given Burakh by which ride Miraj. It says he will hide horse and carry a sword, and Muhammad (p.b.u.h) took part in most of the battles, even though he was a leader, he physically took part,

rode the horse, and even caught sword in the right hand.

More, that he will be helped by 4 companions is spreading religion and we know 4 Khalifa, Abu Baker, Umer, Osman, Ali p.b.u.h, as Khulfa Rashadin, the rightly guided of Islam. Says he will defeat the enemy and guide people to the right path, Muhammad (p.b.u.h) defeated the enemies and guided the Arabs from Yum-ul-Jahalia towards true path. It was prophesized Kalki will be helped by angles in battle field, whereas Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was helped by angle in a several of battles, including the battle of Badar as mentioned in Quran Surah Al-e-Imran Chapter 3, Verse 123-125, as well Surah Al Anfaal Chapter 8, Verse 8-9.

Finally, the prophecy of Kalki Avatar The last and final messenger, befits no one but the last and final Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h).

Munaza Kazmi holds MPhil in Management Sciences. She's a travel writer, a published author, & co-author of scientific contributions.



Munaza Kazmi

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
80,117.89	81,839.86
Day's High	Day's Low
81,939.83	79,812.69
Index Value	Change
17,938,228,323	-1721.97
Percentage	Time
-2.1%	19 Jul, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,155.72	-49.17
Percentage	Time
-0.60%	19 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
40,349.45	-315.57
Percentage	Time
-0.78%	19 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
40,063.79	-62.56
Percentage	Time
-0.16%	19 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.75	186.55
Bahrain Dinar	741.15	749.15
Canadian Dollar	203.5	205.5
China Yuan	38.35	38.75
Danish Krone	40.05	40.45
Euro	301.35	303.25
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	73.70	74.42
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	76.50	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	354.85	358.35
US Dollar	279.25	280.75

Current electricity rates make business impossible, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that it is impossible to do business in the current situation.

IPPs are draining the country's treasury; they receive an annual payment of 2000 billion rupees as a capacity payment, despite the fact that the closed factories do not generate electricity.

According to Mian Zahid Hussain, the economy can improve if closed IPPs become operational and industries receive electricity at reasonable rates.

The veteran business leader told the business community that setting the electricity tariff for the industries at 25 rupees, or nine

cents per unit, could increase exports to six billion dollars.

Otherwise, the inability to purchase electricity at Rs 60 per unit will force a record number of businesses to close this year, which will impact both government revenues and employment.

He noted that the system will need to run on loans until business and industry become the most profitable sectors of the nation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that there is an urgent need for reforms in the power and energy sectors. We need to revise contracts with IPPs and conduct a forensic audit of all private power projects.

It is necessary to deal immediately with electricity theft, line losses, and bill defaults. The mafia has a high level of involvement in many important matters, such as electricity, the budget, and the tax system, and they will not tolerate any work that contradicts their interests, he observed.



The business leader said that due to a lack of reforms, many important institutions in the country are collapsing, while the FBR has once again failed to meet its revenue target in the last financial year.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the FBR has collected Rs 9.3 trillion against the original target of Rs 9.4 trillion. Top officials are adamant that our system has the capacity to collect more than Rs 24 trillion.

The claims made by FBR to achieve the tax targets are for the revised target, which was Rs 9.252 trillion.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that improving the FBR system necessitates the appointment of appropriate individuals, the implementation of a digital system to record the economy, and the prioritization of transparency.

However, the lack of concrete steps in this regard is regrettable. Mian Zahid Hussain said that, along with FBR reforms, changes in tax structure are also necessary. To succeed in efforts to widen the tax net, digitising the economy is necessary, as it will increase the tax base, reduce corruption, and create transparency.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Atif Bajwa, President & CEO of Bank Alfalah, and Yahya Khan, Group Head of Digital Banking, met with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), at the BISP Headquarters on Friday.



5th DigiBap Summit to Focus on Digital Supply Chain Finance Solutions

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The 5th edition of the DigiBap Summit, focusing on "Leveraging Technology for Digital Supply Chain Finance (DSCF) Solutions," is set for Monday, July 22nd at Mövenpick Karachi. The event will address the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) mandate for banks to extend supply chain financing digitally to SMEs.

The conference will kick off with an address by the chief guest, outlining SBP's vision for enhancing digital supply chain finance. Keynote speakers include Zafar Masud, Chairman of the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) and President and CEO of the Bank of Punjab, who will discuss

strategic measures for enhancing digital supply chain finance and SME growth.

Hamza W. Hashmi, founder and CEO of TerraBiz, emphasized the summit's focus on the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in digital SME lending and retail payment digitization (RAAST P2M). The event aims to offer practical solutions for implementing DSCF as mandated by the SBP.

Monis Rahman, Founder and CEO of Dukan, highlighted the "Digital SME Lending and Retail Payment Digitization" workshop, which will delve into specific strategies for these areas.

The 5th DigiBap Summit is organized by TerraBiz in collaboration with Dukan.

MoU to establish Pakistan's first Auto Insurance Repository inked

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the regulatory guidance of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), nine insurance companies have signed an MoU with the Central Depository Company of Pakistan (CDC) for the establishment of Pakistan's first centralized auto insurance repository. The CDC will provide the technological support for the creation of an automated repository.

The Chairman SECP Mr. Akif Saeed, Commissioner Insurance Mr. Aamir Khan, Chairman CDC Mr. Farrukh H. Sabzwari, CEO CDC Mr. Badiuddin Akber, Chairperson of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Ms. Shamsah Akhter and representatives of the insurance industry witnessed the ceremony. The digital auto insurance repository will facilitate data-centric decision-making and fundamentally change the way auto insurance is underwritten in the country.

The companies signed the MoU 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 Auto Insurance Repository is a significant step forward in the auto insurance industry, aiming to improve underwriting, reduce risk, and streamline access to essential information, thereby enabling insurers to make informed decisions before binding customers and issuing policies. It will also bring transparency, speed, and convenience to the industry, aligning with the objectives of Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and enhanced consumer protection.

At the occasion, the SECP Chairman, Akif Saeed, 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.

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Politics is the most profitable industry in the Third World: Shahid Butt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Friday that how can a country develop from which people and businessmen are fleeing?

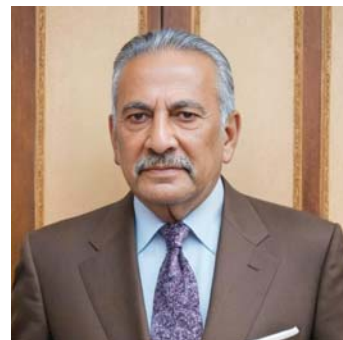
He claimed that politics is the third world's most profitable industry, which explains the reasons behind plight of poor population.

He added that in poor nations, the elite and the people can never

develop together because policymakers are always focused on promoting the elites.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the interests of people are sacrificed for the sake of the elite in poor nations; therefore, these countries cannot run without the assistance of lenders.

Income support programs encourage the poor to stay impoverished. We will achieve better results if we use this capital to set up factories or give people loans to start small businesses.



He claimed that despite the

constant rise in electricity and gas prices, which is devastating to people and businesses, incompetence, politics, and corruption in these sectors remain unchecked.

A commendable step by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is to expand the number of Appellate Tribunals from 50 to 100 to speed up tax case determination and ask the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to tax affluent persons.

The premier met with top FBR officials again to evaluate many tax projects postponed for nearly three

years. The prime minister directed the FBR to accelerate tax system digitalization during many meetings.

He also ordered more Customs Appellate Tribunals and a dashboard to evaluate their effectiveness.

FBR staff notified the prime minister that 83,579 tax cases totaling Rs3.2 trillion were pending in courts and tribunals. Officials said the government has taken steps to settle tax issues. In the past four months, courts decided 63 lawsuits worth Rs44 billion.

Kaspersky guides on strategies for phone number security to protect digital Identity

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: Phone numbers have evolved into essential identifiers, akin to personal IDs and crucial for logging into numerous online services ranging from social networks to banking apps. As such, control over these digits is pivotal, with their loss potentially leading to significant security issues for the owner. These numbers are so integrated into users' digital identities that losing the ability to manage them could open the door to unauthorized access to important personal and financial information.

According to the "Digital 2024 Global Overview Report" conducted by Kepios, there are now 5.65 billion unique mobile phone subscribers worldwide. This significant figure suggests that the majority of the world's population has at least one phone number, and this trend continues to grow each year. Given these facts, Kaspersky experts highlight the risks and responsibilities associated with managing phone lines, emphasizing the need for awareness and the protective measures that can be used in scenarios where numbers can be compromised.

When a phone is lost or stolen with the SIM card still inside, it presents a distressing scenario. Since SIM cards can easily be transferred to another phone, the absence of PIN protection leaves personal accounts linked to that phone number vulnerable to unauthorized access. In events like these, kaspersky recommends blocking of the SIM card immediately and obtaining a new SIM with the same phone number.

Secondly, when the need arises to switch to a new number – perhaps due to persistent spam or scam calls or unwanted attention from others – it's crucial to manage the transition thoughtfully. The current number likely serves as a username or key recovery option for various important services, including social networks and banking apps.

PCB Regional Skills Development Camp for U19 Cricketers to begin from 4th August: PCB Official

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The PCB has today announced countrywide Regional Skills Development camps for men's U19 cricketers set to commence from 4 August. All 18 teams of the 16 regions will have their separate camps with 20 players each participating.

The 20 players from each regional side will be selected among the top performers of the National U19 tournaments last season as well as the top performers of this year's district cricket tournament.

The four-week long camps will involve rigorous working on skills, game awareness, technical aspects of the game while a standardised fitness culture will be introduced at this level.



In this regard a workshop of regional coaches was held at the National Cricket Academy, Lahore on Friday

led by Director - High Performance, Nadeem Khan. The coaches were thoroughly briefed about the philosophy of the men's white-ball and red-ball head coaches Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie, respectively.

At the regional U19 level, the coaches will work towards nurturing a diverse and highly professional crop of future cricketers.

Director - High Performance Nadeem Khan: "In today's workshop before the commencement of the regional U19 skills camps, we have directed the coaches to work on technical aspects, tactical prowess, fitness and fielding of the U19 players as per Jason and Gary's philosophy."

It is pertinent to invest on this age-group of players so that they turn into highly competitive players in

future as per the directive of the top management of the PCB."

Regional academy venues along with regions are as follows:

Abbottabad (Abbottabad Stadium), AJK (Mirpur Stadium), Bahawalpur (Dring Stadium, Bahawalpur), DM Jamali (Inzamam-ul-Haq HPC, Multan), Faisalabad (Faisalabad Academy), FATA (Jamrud), Hyderabad (Niaz Stadium, Hyderabad), Islamabad (TBC), Karachi* (Hanif Mohammad HPC, Karachi), Lahore* (National Cricket Academy, Lahore), Larkana (Karachi), Multan (Inzamam-ul-Haq HPC, Multan), Peshawar (Shama Ground Peshawar), Quetta (TBC), Rawalpindi (TBC) and Sialkot (Sialkot Academy)

Karachi and Lahore regions have two teams each.

General Body of Chess Federation of Pakistan Impeaches President Hanif Qureshi

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented decision, the General Body of the Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) voted to impeach President Hanif Qureshi during general body meeting of chess federation of Pakistan held at Margala Hotel, Islamabad. This begrudgingly accepted move, driven by allegations of misconduct and constitutional violations, marks a significant turning point for the federation.

President Qureshi faced serious accusations, including the exclusion of legitimate General Body members, financial embezzlement, arbitrary actions, illegal suspensions, failure to hold annual general meetings since June 2022,



formation and encouraging of parallel associations, and refusal to approve FIDE rating for the tournaments held by Punjab and Balochistan chess associations.

Out of the 17-member General Body, 14 members

voted in favor of the impeachment, exceeding the required two-thirds majority. One member abstained from the vote. Following the impeachment, Vice President Shehzada Khurram was appointed interim President until the next election. All decisions made by Qureshi without General Body approval were nullified including suspensions/removals/appointments etc.

A committee was formed to investigate allegations of financial embezzlement against Qureshi and other officials. The DG federal audit will be requested to conduct an audit, and the CFP's bank account will remain suspended during the inquiry.

The General Body requested the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) to appoint an Election Commission to organize new elections within two weeks. This decisive action underscores the federation's commitment to restoring integrity and transparency in its operations.

Khwaja, Usmani, Vallipuram elected as ICC Associate Member Directors

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khwaja, Mubashshir Usmani and Mahinda Vallipuram have been elected as ICC Associate Member Directors following an election process at the ICC Annual Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In line with the Associate Members' Meeting Terms of Reference, the voting was conducted at the Formal Associate Members meeting by way of a weighted secret ballot in which all voters (each Voting Associate Member and each Regional Representative) have three votes, said a press release.

Imran Khwaja was re-elected as Associate Member representative on the Board, with Mubashshir Usmani and Mahinda Vallipuram replacing Pankaj Khimji and Neil Speight.

ICC Chair Greg Barclay said, "I would like to welcome the elected Associate Member Directors onto the Board for the next term. I look forward to working with Imran, Mubashshir and Mahinda to continue to push the sport forward by delivering the strategy and growing the game so that more people can enjoy cricket across the world."

Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh elected President Abid Naeem Secretary General

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Election phase of Sindh Dodgeball Association has been completed. Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh President, Abid Naeem Secretary General and Izhar Ahmed Khazan have been elected as treasurer. According to the details, Sindh Dodgeball Association elections for the next four years were held at Peppercorn Restaurant, Hyderabad, in which Ahmed Ali Rajput, Secretary General of Sindh Olympic Association took special part. Asghar Baloch on behalf of Sindh Olympic Association, District Sports Officer Government of Sindh Maryam Kereo and Pervez Ahmed Sheikh as observer on behalf of the Federation were present on the occasion of the election. Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh elected as President Sindh Dodge Ball Association, Ibrahim Achaa Senior Vice President, Syed Khizr Mehdi, Kashan Ahmed,



Nusrat Afzal and Iram Ibrahim were elected as Vice Presidents, Abid Naeem Secretary General, Muhammad Adam Qureshi Deputy Secretary General and Izhar Ahmed Khan were elected Treasurer. Mohamed Faisal Maqsood Ex Director, Shazia Hasan, Ghazala, Sheher Bano, Babar Ali, Zafar Iqbal,

Sajjad Ali and Ghulam Mustafa Dhoh became the Associate Secretary General and Umer Shaheen elected as Media Co Ordinator. On this occasion, Ahmed Ali Rajput said that the International Olympic Committee emphasizes on increasing the number of women in every sports federation and association,

and I am very happy that women have been given proportionate representation in Sindh Dodgeball Association elections which is commendable, other associations should also emulate it, he said while congratulating the newly elected office bearers. He expressed the hope that Sindh Dodgeball Association will try to promote dodgeball in all the districts and divisions of Sindh. Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh said that we should try working at the grass root level, we will promote the sport of dodgeball in schools and colleges, we will prepare an annual calendar which will include organizing major events at divisional, district, school, college and university levels while also forming clubs. He said that soon coaching courses will be organized in all divisions of Sindh as well as courses for technical officials. Mariam Kereo Congratulated the newly elected officers of the association and expressed good wishes.

Muhammad Usman clinches gold at World Strength Lifting Championship in Kazakhstan

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Muhammad Usman has emerged victorious in the 11th World Strength Lifting and Incline Bench Press Championship held in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan.

Usman, the captain of Pakistan's Strength Lifting Team, secured a gold medal in the 85kg Senior Class, showcasing his exceptional strength and dedication, said a press release.

He further impressed by clinching a silver medal in the Incline Bench Press category, edging out his Indian opponent.

The competition saw participation from ten countries, including India,



China, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Magnolia, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.

Usman's remarkable feat was made even more special by his gesture of solidarity as he dedicated his medals to the people of Palestine, raising their flag alongside Pakistan's in a powerful display of support.

The Pakistan Strength Lifting Federation, led by Chairman Manzoor Shaheen, International Strength Lifter and President Aqeel Javed Butt, International Strength Lifter, and Vice President Waqas Zafar (all International Strength Lifters themselves), are preparing a grand welcome for the returning team upon their arrival at Lahore on July 23.

India thrash Pakistan by 7 wickets in Women's Asia Cup

India women's cricket team thrashed Pakistan by seven wickets in their first match of the Women's Asia Cup 2024, that took place at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Sri Lanka on Friday.

The Indian team continued to remain at the top of their game with the bat as they chased down the 109-run target in just 14.1 overs without much trouble after dominance with the ball.

Shafali Verma (40 off 29) and Smriti Mandhana (45 off 31) put India on top as the two combined for 85 runs before the latter was dismissed by Aroob Shah.

After losing the openers and Dayalan Hemalatha (14 off 11), skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues came to bat and completed the job for the team.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan didn't have a great start as they had lost both of their openers — Gull Feroza and Muneeba Ali — after posting just five and 11 runs respectively, leaving their team at 26-2 in 3.5 overs.

Sidra Amin played valiantly but she got no support from the other hand as skipper Nida Dar (8 off 11) and Aliya Riaz (6 off 11) failed to contribute any valuable runs.

After scoring 22 runs on 35 balls, Amin lost her wicket after which Tuba Hassan took charge of Pakistan's innings and played a quick 22-run knock on 19 balls with three boundaries.

Indian bowlers' dominance made it nearly impossible for the Pakistani batters to score big runs and it looked that the Blues may restrict their opponents within the 100-run mark but Fatima Sana's late 16-ball 22-run knock helped the Green Shirts score 108 runs before being all out in 19.2 overs.

Performance and coaching methods of coaches in Summer Sports Camps are being monitored minutely: Pervez Iqbal

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal presided over an important meeting to review the ongoing Summer Sports Camps 2024 at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore.

Director Admin M Kaleem, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Director Youth Affairs Rana Nadeem Anjum and Deputy Director Chand Parveen attended the key meeting in person while all the Divisional Sports Officers of the province participated in the meeting through video link.

All the divisional sports officers briefed the meeting about the Summer Sports Camp activities in their respective divisions. Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal directed the divisional sports officers to increase their efficiency in regard to Summer Sports Camp activities.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal informed that a total of 1,710 male and female students of 5 to 16 years age are getting training in Summer Sports Camp in all divisions of the province. "As many as 838 children are being trained in 12 games in Lahore's Summer Sports Camps at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex."

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that the performance and coaching methods of coaches relating to training of children in the Summer Sports Camps are being monitored minutely. "Sports Board Punjab will select the best performing and highly talented children of Summer Sports Camp and then they will be further nurtured in a training camp to be organised in Lahore."

Entire nation is praying for the success of Arshad Nadeem in Paris Olympics: DG Sports Punjab Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Olympic

javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem called on Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal at National Hockey Stadium on Friday. Arshad's coach Salman Iqbal Butt was also present in the meeting.



Olympian Arshad Nadeem expressed his gratitude to Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal for extending valuable support in regard to his preparation for the Paris Olympics.

Olympian Arshad Nadeem, who has been preparing for the Paris Olympics for the last 3 months at the Punjab Stadium, informed the DG Sports Punjab about his preparation for the grand event. "I am sure that this time I will make the nation proud in the Olympic Games," he added.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal said that Arshad Nadeem is our national hero and the entire nation is praying for the success of Arshad Nadeem in the Paris Olympics. "Sports Board Punjab has provided all possible facilities to Arshad Nadeem for his preparation for the Olympics."

Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal appreciated the hard work and top class preparation of Arshad Nadeem.

Pak Street Child Football team training camp from July 21

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The final training camp of Pakistan Street Child Football team in preparations for the Norway Cup 2024 would be held here at the Pakistan Sports Complex from July 21.



The training camp will continue from July 21 to 25 here in which the selection of the squad for Norway Cup 2024 will be finalized. The national team will fly to Norway on July 25 to participate in the event, said a press release.

Earlier thousands of youngsters participated trials organized by the administration of Pakistan Street Child Football Team last month. Pakistan Street Child Team will be participating in the mega event for the fifth time in the Norway Cup to be held from July 27 to August 3 in Oslo.

The national team finished second in Norway Cup 2015, third in 2016 and second in 2023.

It may be mentioned that Pakistan Street Child Football team was the undefeated team of the event in Norway Cup last year.

In the Street Child Football World Cup held in Doha (Qatar) in 2022, the national team was defeated in the group matches, but the Pakistan team had to face a 4-3 defeat against Egypt in the decisive match. Pakistan team was also the runner-up in the Street Child Football World Cup 2018 in Russia, while was ranked third in 2014 in Brazil.

UK-Funded REMIT Programme

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb is chairing the meeting on the Establishment of Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for the UK-Funded REMIT Programme.



Photo: Online

Ambassador of Oman calls on the Prime Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House today.

At the outset, the Prime Minister strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir district of Muscat, which resulted in the death of six people, including four Pakistani nationals and over thirty injured, nearly all of whom were Pakistanis.

While appreciating Oman's swift response and cooperation with the Pakistan Mission in repatriation of the dead bodies and treatment of the injured, the



Prime Minister said Pakistan had itself been the victim of terrorism for the past several decades.

He offered Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with the menace of terrorism, which must be eliminated in all its forms.

During the course of the meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed his good wishes for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq while fondly recalling his telephone conversations with the Sultan on Eid ul Adha as well as Eid ul Fitr earlier in the year.

The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to His Majesty to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

On the bilateral front, the Prime Minister stressed that Pakistan and Oman enjoyed close, brotherly ties with a shared history, faith and culture.

He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in trade, investment, energy, and defense. In this regard, the Prime Minister thanked the Ambassador for encouraging a trade and investment delegation to undertake a visit to Pakistan next week, while assuring him that the concerned authorities would extend full cooperation to the delegation while seeking mutually beneficial outcomes.

The Ambassador thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him and conveyed the greetings of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman. He reaffirmed his country's desire to further enhance its trade and investment relations with Pakistan.

Finance Minister Chairs Steering Committee for FCDO-Funded Remit Programme

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the first steering committee of the FCDO-funded Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme. British High Commissioner, Jane Marriot co-chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Jehanzeb Khan and senior government officials.

Reviewing the work done by the programme in the areas of revenue mobilisation, investment climate, macroeconomic governance and trade, with cross-cutting themes of gender and climate change, the Minister appreciated the overall progress to date and also emphasized the need for government stakeholders

to be more proactive in taking up implementation. He added that the government intends to take up short, medium and long-term initiatives to ensure the economic revival of Pakistan. He emphasized that the government's focus on inclusive economic growth can be complemented by the support of development partners with a focus on performance and implementation.

The Minister also appreciated the technical assistance provided, stressed on consolidation of interventions and on speeding up on government implementation for impact.

Jane Marriot, thanked the minister for his interest in the programme interventions and commitment to reform that will take Pakistan forward. She assured of FCDO's full support to the government on high priority areas.

Pakistan Navy Ship Yarmook deployed on regional maritime security patrol



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has deployed its warship PNS YARMOOK with embarked helicopter in the Indian Ocean for safety and security of merchant ships bound to and from Pakistani Ports. During the deployment, PN Ship will undertake independent operations as well as combined operations along with other friendly and partner nations to achieve common objectives of safe and secure maritime commons. The ship will also call on regional ports for Naval Diplomatic tasks in line with Pakistan's foreign policy objectives.

Pakistan Navy is committed to

ensure freedom of navigation on high seas and safety of international sea lanes of communication besides safeguarding national maritime interests and trade through sea. Pakistan Navy, cognizant of its national obligations to maintain rule based order at sea regularly deploys its warships on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and also contributes to collaborative maritime security efforts.

RMSPs are conducted as PN initiative to contribute towards maritime security and to support international efforts against menace of maritime terrorism, piracy and narco-arms smuggling.

Romina Khurshid lauds UK support for Pakistan Climate action

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and government of United Kingdom have agreed to enhance collaboration to address climate change and environmental issues in Pakistan.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, and a UK Embassy delegation met her led by Development Director, Jo Moire, on Friday.

She said this collaboration marks a significant step forward in the fight against climate change, and both



countries are committed to working together to address this global challenge.

Khurshid Alam stressed the importance of bridging civil society, academia, and corporate sectors in both nations to tackle the pressing issues of climate change and environmental degradation.

She highlighted the urgent need for tangible actions to mitigate global warming impacts, preemptively address flood risks, and support vulnerable farming communities.

The UK delegation presented a report to the Coordinator aimed at bolstering Pakistan's climate resilience, and both sides agreed to work together to implement sustainable agricultural practices and mitigate future impacts.

Govt to introduce track and trace policy in local cotton, ginning



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industry and Production, National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain Friday said that the government has decided to introduce track and trace system in local cotton and ginning industry aimed at avoiding tax evasion.

Talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, who called on the minister, he said that the cotton industry has a pivotal role in the rural economy and the potential to provide employment opportunities for a large portion of the skilled and semi-skilled workforce in the country.

The meeting discussed matters relating to additional taxation measures on seed cotton and cotton seed

cake in the current budget, said a press release.

The minister said that a track and trace system will be implemented on locally produced cotton bales in order to avoid tax evasion to protect local farming communities as well as the industrial sector of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the representatives of the Cotton Ginners Association apprised the minister about the additional taxation on cotton products and said that heavy taxes were affecting the production of the cotton ginning industry. They urged the need for rationalization of taxation on these commodities for the benefit of the local industrial sector as well as promoting cotton crop output in the country.

Jam visits Ministry's wings focuses on improving work environment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, visited various wings of the Ministry of Commerce in Kohsar Block, to assess office utilization and enhance the working environment.

During the visit, Minister Jam reviewed departmental operations, emphasizing the importance of a conducive work environment for productivity and efficiency.

He issued directives for optimizing office spaces, including modern amenities, and clean workspaces.

"The working environment plays a significant role in the overall performance of the ministry," stated Minister Khan, highlighting the need for comfortable and efficient workspaces to boost employee productivity and service quality.

ICT export remittances surges to US\$3.223b during FY 2023-24

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ICT services export remittances have surged to US\$ 298 million in the month of June, 2024, an astounding increase of 32.44% in comparison to US\$ 225 million in June 2023.

The ICT export remittances surged to US\$ 3.223 billion during FY 2023-24 (July 2023 to June 2024) in comparison to US\$ 2.596 billion reported during the last FY 2022-23.

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima said that steps for increase in IT exports are underway.

She said that this increase in IT exports is the direct result of Prime Minister Sharif's vision, his relentless efforts and the priority given to the IT sector.

She said that IT exports are increasing owing to government's initiatives for ease of doing business.

Shaza Fatima said with the robust support from Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Ministry of IT, Pakistan Software Export Board, and IT industry are committed to boost country's IT exports.

ICT sector exports of US\$ 3.223 billion are the highest among all Services (41.29% of total export of services) with 'Other Business Services' trailing at US\$ 1.550 billion.

US Ambassador Donald Bloom called on Abdul Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan was called on by Ambassador of United States of America in Pakistan H. E. Donald Bloom here in Islamabad. In this meeting they both held detailed discussions on various issues including further strengthening Pakistan-US relations. In this meeting, especially, investment opportunities in Pakistan were came under discussion in which business community from United States of America also interested.

In the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his determination to promote Pakistan-US business relations and said that there are many opportunities in the challenges faced by the Pakistani economy for which various measures are being already taken.



US Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Donald Bloom discussed various matters of mutual interest with Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan. He especially expressed the interest of American business groups in investing in Pakistan and various possibilities were discussed in this regard.

In the meeting, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and American Ambassador Donald Bloom expressed best wishes for each other and expressed hope that the friendly relations between Pakistan and USA will be further promoted in the days to come.

JCP okays appointment of two ad-hoc judges to SC

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(ret'd) Mushir Alam and Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar were also being considered for the ad-hoc role before they declined the offer.

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 Miankhal retired on July 13, 2022; and Justice Masood on March 10, 2024.

Earlier on Thursday, the Pakistan Bar Council called for the formation of more courts in the country through a constitutional amendment.

The council has also expressed support for the appointment of ad hoc judges to help expedite the decision-making process in cases.

"Currently, a significant amount of the Supreme Court's time is spent hearing political cases, and the establishment of a constitutional court would help alleviate this burden," the PBC viewed.